

STATE RESOLUTION, February 19th, 2004, concerning rules for the election for the members of the Youth Parliament (Decree Election members Youth Parliament).

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME,

In consideration that in relation with the election of members for the Youth Parliament as representing organ of youth it is desirable to stipulate rules;

Has, hearing the State Council, confirmed undermentioned, by the Board of Ministers prepared State Resolution:

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Article 1

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|----|------------------------|---|
| a. | Minister | : the Minister in charge of the youth policy; |
| b. | Education institution | : an organization where education is provided for; |
| c. | Constituency | : the district where the elections will be held; |
| d. | Districts-Commissioner | : the Commissioner in charge of the supervision of the district where the election will be held; |
| e. | Polling-booth | : the location where there will be voted; |
| f. | Qualifier to vote | : everyone that, according to article 4 of this State Resolution, is qualified to bring out his vote; |
| g. | List of participation | : the list of every qualifier to vote; |
| h. | Voter | : the person bringing out his vote; |
| i. | Identity card | : the evidence of registration that is provided to the pupils and students by different education institutions. |
| j. | List of participants | : the register that will conclude who will participate actively at the elections; |
| k. | List of candidates | : the list of nominations per constituency which are declared valid. |

THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

Article 2

1. There is a Election Committee that has the supervision on the elections of the members of the Youth Parliament as mentioned in article 6 paragraph 2 of the Resolution Installation National Youth Institute and that resolves the results of the elections binding.

2. The Election Committee is composed of at least 7 members and 3 substitute members, all of them recommended by the Minister of Education and Community Development, nominated and dismissed by the President.

3a. The nomination shall take place 1 (one) year before the elections that are to be held and for a period of 18 months.

3b. In deviation of the definition of the aboved mentioned paragraph the term of one year doesn't count for the nomination of the Election Committee who will organize the elections for the first time based on this State Resolution.

4. Out of the members the President will select the chairman and the substitute chairman.

5. To the Election Committee a secretary and also a secretariat will be added. The secretary, on recommendation of the Minister of Education and Community Development, shall be nominated by the President.

Article 3

1. The Election Committee will oversee that the in article 12 of this resolution mentioned list of participation are carefully composed and continously updated.

2. On request of the Election Committee the Minister of Education and Community Development at noting inaccuracies will introduce improvements and replenishments in the list of participation.

3a. The Election Committee will oversee that uniformal instructions will be given, as much as possible, concerning the acting of the different polling-booths in the constituencies and that the polling-booths will execute their activities in the directed manner on the voting day.

3b. The Election Committee is authorized to point out overseers who will conduct the supervision on the coarse of the activities of the polling-booths.

3c. The polling-booths are obliged to supply the by the Election Committee selected overseers the required information for the practice of their assignment.

3d. At complaints about an non-properly functioning of a polling-booth the Election Committee will immediately encounter those measures which are necessary in thier opinion.

4. Within two months after the day an election for the Youth Parliament is being held, the Election Committee will bring out a written report to the President and the National Youth Institute about their conducted supervision on the elections.

5a. The payments on behalf of the chairman and members of the Election Committee and also the fees on behalf of the substitute members, for each meeting their attending, shall be conformed in a decree of the Minister of Education and Community Development.

5b. The salary of the secretary of the Election Committee shall be conformed in a decree.

THE ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT AND THE YOUTH DISTRICTS COUNCILS

Article 4

The members of the Youth Parliament and the Youth Districts Councils will be elected by those who, on the day of the elections, are residents from Suriname, have the Surinamese nationality and are in the age-category 12 up to and including 25 years.

Article 5

They, who are registered in the register of a district, are for the application of this decree, except for evidence of the contrary, considered to have their main- or actual residence in that district.

THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT AND THE YOUTH DISTRICTS COUNCILS

Article 6

1. The members of the Youth Parliament shall be elected per district for a period of three years.
2. They will resign at the point of time when the newly selected Youth Parliament will begin functioning.

Article 7

For the deputation per district to the Youth Parliament the following division counts:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------|
| 1. Paramaribo | 9 seats |
| 2. District Wanica | 4 seats |
| 3. District Nickerie | 3 seats |
| 4. District Commewijne | 2 seats |
| 5. District Sipaliwini | 2 seats |
| 6. District Brokopondo | 2 seats |
| 7. District Marowijne | 2 seats |
| 8. District Para | 2 seats |
| 9. District Saramacca | 2 seats |
| 10. District Coronie | 1 seat |

Article 8

1. The candidates that have been voted on and haven't been placed in the Youth Parliament because of the number of votes brought out on them, are selected for participation in the Youth Districts Councils.
2. The members of the Youth Districts Councils will be elected for a period of three years.

3. They will resign at the point of time that the newly selected Youth Districts Council will begin functioning.

Article 9

He who becomes a member of the Youth Parliament, for fulfillment of a between times opened up seat, shall resign at the point of time at which he whose seat has been fulfilled would have resigned.

THE LIST OF PARTICIPATION

Article 10

Because of the Minister of Education and Community Development a list of participation will be kept up and brought up to date.

Article 11

The identity cards of the pupils and students of the different educational institutions can, as long as they are in relation with the qualifiers, be considered as part of the list of participation and be used as such.

Article 12

In the list of participation from each voter is mentioned, the family name, the given names, the date, year and place of birth, the address and in case appropriate the date of issue of the identity card, the identity number and also the number of the resort.

Article 13

1. Every qualified voter is obliged to announce, at the latest two months before the elections, if he will participate at the voting.
2. Of the announcement mentioned in the previous paragraph a list of participants will be composed.
3. On the ground of this State Resolution there can be defiated from the period mentioned in paragraph 1 of this article, for the elections that are to be held for the first time.

Article 14

1. The Minister or a by him announced official is officially qualified, if necessary, to introduce modifications and/or additions to the list of participation.
 - 2a. Everyone is qualified in writing to ask the director of Youth Affairs for improvement and/or addition of the list of participation on the ground of the fact that he isn't properly mentioned in the list. The director will decide within five days at this request.
 - 2b. This request must be presented at the latest on the day of the nomination.

3. The decision at a request such as meant in paragraph 2 of this article shall immediately be announced in writing to all involved parties.
4. Against the decision of the director as meant in paragraph 3 of this article, appeal stands open at the Minister, within five days after acceptance of the decision.
5. The Minister decides within five days after the presentation of the established appeal with a with reasons motivated decision. This decision shall immediately be announced in writing to all involved parties. The director will immediately grant this decision.

THE CONSTITUENCIES AND THE POLLING-BOOTHS

Article 15

1. For the election of the members of the Youth Parliament Suriname shall be divided into constituencies, of which the borders are equal with the borders of the operative districts division.
2. The buildings of the educational institutions, community centers and recreation rooms shall be adapted as polling-booths.
3. The Minister will take care of the staffing of the polling-booths of which the chairmans shall be pointed out, afore-said, by the Minister.
4. Every voter shall bring out his vote before the polling-booth pointed out for him.

THE MANNER OF NOMINATION

Article 16

1. Everyone in the age-category 15 – 22 years, who is a resident of the Republic of Suriname and has the Surinamese nationality, can nominate himself in his district.
2. The nomination shall take place on the thirty-first day after the closing of the list of participation.
3. On the day of the nomination for the election of the members for the Youth Parliament a signed statement of the nomination by the candidate in person can be delivered at the districts-commissionerships from 08.00 in the morning till 15.00 in the afternoon, which statement should be joined by a list from which it shows that the candidate is supported by at least 1% of the voters who are registered on the list of participants per district. For the elections which are to be held for the first time, there will be defiated from the regualtion that the candidate should be supported by at least 1% of the voters who are registered on the list of participants per district, on the understanding that in that case the demand of 1% of the list of participants will be decreased.

4. At least fourteen days before the day of the nomination the Election Committee timely will announce the day of the nomination. The Election Committee shall also announce the time on which and the place where the forms for the statement of the nomination, without cost, are available for the aspirant-candidate.

5. On the day of the nomination, immediately after the expiration of the time as mentioned in paragraph 3 of this article the Election Committee will have a session to investigate the lists.

6. The candidates will be withdrawn from the list in the following cases:

- a. In case the statement mentioned in paragraph 3 of this article is not signed.
- b. In case the statement mentioned in paragraph 3 of this article is not personally delivered by the candidate.
- c. In case the candidate doesn't fulfil the demands mentioned in paragraph 1 of this article.
- d. In case a person has nominated himself in a constituency which isn't his district.
- e. In case the candidate isn't supported by 1% of the voters who are registered on the list of participants.
- f. In case the candidate doesn't have the Surinamese nationality.

7. Within three days after the day on which the Election Committee has decided about the validity of the nomination and about the maintenance of the candidates, every candidate can register an appeal at the Minister against the decision that has been taken.

8. The Minister decides at the latest on the eighth day after the request for an appeal has been registered, with a with reasons motivated decision. The decision shall be announced to the appellant as well as to the Election Committee.

Article 17

Immediately after the expiring of the period for appeal or in case of appeal, after the Minister has announced his decision to the Election Committee, the Election Committee shall announce the nominations as they have been validated per constituency, in the order assigned by lot, by way of the media.

Article 18

1. The Election Committee shall decide on the day of nomination for the election of the members of the Youth Parliament, in such a manner that between this day and the day of the voting there are at least thirty days.

2. At the settlement of the day of the nomination the Election Committee shall also decide on which day the voting will take place.

THE VOTING

Article 19

1. The voting for the Youth Parliament will take place in every constituency exclusive about the candidates whose names are on the list of candidates.
2. Participating at the voting can only be in person; voting by authorization isn't possible.
3. Before the voting the Minister shall foresee in the indication of a suitable voting-hall for each polling-booth.
4. The Districts-Commissioner will take care of the structure of the voting-hall.

Article 20

1. The voting will begin at 7.00 o'clock in the morning till 19.00 o'clock in the afternoon.
2. The voter votes in the voting-hall of the polling-booth which is appointed to him.

Article 21

- 1a. At every polling-booth sufficient voting-bills should be available.
- 1b. This voting-bills shall be send to the polling-booth in one or more sealed packages, on which the amount of the voting-bills is mentioned.
2. At the voting only the in paragraph 1 of this article mentioned voting-bills should be used.
3. The chairman of the polling-booth will take care that before the voting enough election-ink is available.

Article 22

1. Before the starting of the voting the polling-booth timely will open up the package with voting-bills, will count the voting-bills and close the box(es), after being convinced that it (they) is (are) empty.
2. To the voting only he is permitted that is qualified to participate at the election.
3. The polling-booth shall, before allowing anyone to the voting, require that his/her identity, to the satisfaction of to the polling-booth will be determined.

Article 23

1. The polling-booth will investigate the fingers of the voter on election-ink. In case one of the fingers of the voter, in the opinion of the polling-booth, shows traces of election-ink, the voter won't be allowed to the voting.
2. If there are no traces of election-ink on the fingers of the voter, the voter will then only be allowed to the voting after one of his fingers has been dipped into the election-ink.
3. The chairman clearly and understandably calls out the name of the voter and the number under which he/she is mentioned on the list of participants, after which a member of the polling-booth by signing his initials next to the name of the voter on a copy of the fixed list of participants, makes a note that the voter has participated at the voting.

Article 24

The voter immediately goes to a desk which is not in use and there votes by making the round white area in the black block red with a pencil, placed in the voting area for the name of the candidate of his choice.

Article 25

1. A voter can, if he makes a mistake at the filling in of the bill, ask once for a new voting-bill, provided to return the first voting-bill.
2. The restitutorial voting-bill shall be immediately destroyed by the chairman.

Article 26

The polling-booth can allow that a voter is assisted, in case he/she is bodily invalid.

Article 27

1. The voter that doesn't obey the prescription about the voting, shall not be allowed to the voting-box and is obliged to return the voting-bill, in case it has been already given to him.
2. The returned voting-bill shall be destroyed by the polling-booth.

Article 28

1. The polling-booth is in charge of the maintaining of the order in the voting-hall.
2. Only in his demand and only to the compulsion of disorder, any armed authority can be put in the voting-hall or its entries.
3. The civil and military authorities are obliged to fulfill a by the polling-booth done request.

THE CONCLUSION OF THE VOTING AND THE VOTE-COUNTING

Article 29

1. The doors of the polling-booth will be closed at 19.00 o'clock in the afternoon. The voters that are in the voting-hall can, after the closing of the doors, still bring out their vote.
2. The voting shall be concluded at the moment the last vote has been made.

Article 30

1. Immediately after the closing of the voting, the polling-booth concludes:
 - a. The amount of voters that have announced themselves;
 - b. The amount of the voting-bills that have been handed out;
 - c. The amount of the voting-bills which have been put into the voting-box;
 - d. The amount of the voters that have refused to take in a voting-bill;
 - e. The amount of the voting-bills that have been returned and destroyed;
 - f. The amount of the voting-bills that haven't been used.
2. The amounts, mentioned in paragraph 1 of this article, shall be announced by the chairman to the voters that are present, after what the official-report can be made.

Article 31

The opening of the voting-box(es) takes place within 1 (one) hour after the in the article 30 mentioned actions have been committed at which the voting-hall can't be left and the voting-box(es) stay under the supervision of the polling-booth.

Article 32

Immediately after the opening of the voting-box(es) the voting-bills will be counted and that amount will be compared with the number of the voters, that have participated at the voting.

Article 33

1. The chairman opens the voting-bills and announces the name of the candidate, of each voting-bill, on which a vote has been brought out.
2. A member of the polling-booth will go through the voting-bill while two other members will make notes of every brought out vote.

Article 34

1. The polling-booth decides about the value of the voting-bill immediately once after it is opened.

2. Of in-value are other voting-bills then those which may be used according to this State Resolution.

Besides that the voting-bills that are of no value are:

- a. The names of other persons then the candidates or where other additions have been made;
 - b. In no voting area the round white area in the black block has been made red;
 - c. The indication of a candidate has been made in another manner then has been prescribed by article 24 of this decree;
 - d. If there has been voted on more then one candidate.
3. Under additions isn't meant points, stripes, areas, nailprints, folds, cracks, gaps and stains, unless they have been made deliberately.

4. The chairman immediately announces the reasons of doubt and invalidation and the decision. In case one of the in the hall presented voters wishes to see the bill, it has has to be shown. Of one and another notes are being made in the official-report of the voting.

Article 35

1. The opened, as well as the valid as the invalid announced voting-bills, each sort seperately, shall be put into one or more sealed up packages.
2. Then at forthwith a official-report is being made up of the held voting.
3. The official-report of the voting shall be signed by all the members of the polling-booth and the chairman as soon as possible will bring the sealed packages to the Election Committee.

Article 36

The Election Committee will have a session at the moment all official-reports of the polling-booths have been brought in.

Article 37

The Election Committee concludes:

- a. The amount of brought out votes on each candidate;
- b. Which of the chosen candidates in the Youth Parliament will have session and who will have session in the Youth Resort Council.

- c. In case the same amount valid votes have been brought out on two or more candidates, which are also the highest amount valid brought out votes per candidate, fate will decide.

Article 38

1. The chairman of the Election Committee will thus announce the vested results.
2. By the in the hall presented voters objections can be brought in, which will be noted in the official-report.
3. In case the objections are of such serious character that the justness of it, in the opinion of the Election Committee can result into a substantial difference in the result of the counting, the in article 37 mentioned conclusion will at the time being be suspended and the Election Committee can decide to a recounting of the result of the voting of one or more polling-booths of the involved constituency.
4. At the conclusion mentioned in article 37 the results of the recounting and not the results of the involved polling-booths are taken into account.

Article 39

The result of the election will immediately made public by announcements through the media.

Article 40

1. The elected immediately receives a copy of the official-report out of which his election shows, by the Election Committee. This copy benefits the elected as a credential. The presentation will take place through the Districts-Commissioner.
2. Within fourteen days after receiving the credential the elected will give a written notice to the Election Committee through the Districts-Commissioner, if he accept his election.
3. In case the elected doesn't give the in paragraph 2 of this article mentioned notice on time, he is expected not to accept his election after what the next elected will take his place.

CLOSING PROVISIONS

Article 41

1. This State Resolution can be announced as "Decree Election Members Youth Parliament".
2. It shall be announced in the Statute-Book of the Republic of Suriname.
3. It will be active from the day following of that of his announcement.

4. The Minister in charge of the youth policy is in charge of execution of this State Resolution.

Given in Paramaribo, February 19th 2004

R.R. VENETIAAN

Published in Paramaribo, March 5th 2004
The Minister of Internal Affairs,

U. JOELLA-SEWNUNDUN

STATE RESOLUTION, February 19th, 2004, concerning rules for the election for the members of the Youth Parliament (Decree Election members Youth Parliament).

NOTE OF EXPLANATION

For this State Resolution mostly affiliation is sought with the procedures of the Public Elections, as resolved in the Electoral Arrangement (S.R. 1987 # 73, Valid Text S.R. 1996 # 15).

In practice it was shown that the Electoral Arrangement as mentioned is working good and offers the citizen guaranties by which fraude is minimalised.

In this State Resolution however there is chosen for a simplified method by which lesser time, money and manpower is needed to organise the elections for the members of the Youth Parliament.

To guarantee the legal security and the objectivity a Election Committee shall be installed which will supervise the elections and will resolve the result of the elections binding.

The procedures in reference to the voting, the manner of nomination and the composition of the list of participation are also derived from the Electoral Arrangement as mentioned. In this State Resolution there is chosen for a voting per district to establish a national representation in the Youth Parliament so that the democracy is shown to full advantage.

Also in reference to the ending of the voting and the counting of votes there is chosen for the method of the Electoral Arrangement as mentioned.

Paramaribo, February 19th, 2004

R.R. VENETIAAN