

TEMCO

**OBSERVER'S GUIDE ON THE REGISTRATION OF
VOTER'S IN TANZANIA**

“Based on the National Elections Act, Cap 343”

PURPOSE OF THE GUIDE

This guide is meant to provide for key legal issues to be considered in the registration of voters in Tanzania. The part of the National Election Act, Cap 343, guiding the registration of voters in Tanzania has been simplified in this guide so as observers will find it easier to monitor matters of law relevant for registration of voters.

Hence, every observer while monitoring the registration of voters should take initiatives to monitor whether legal issues outlined under this guide have been adhered to as means of ensuring efficiency in the registration which automatically ensures the right to vote.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR BEING REGISTERED AS A VOTER

A person will only be entitled to vote in the United Republic of Tanzania only if he or she has the following criteria's:-

1. Is a Citizen of the United Republic of Tanzania.
2. Has attained the age of 18 years.
3. Has not been disqualified by the National Elections Act, Cap 343 or any other written law from being registered as a voter.

DISQUALIFICATIONS FROM REGISTRATION AS A VOTER

A person shall not qualify to be registered as a voter for following reasons;-

1. He is under a declaration of allegiance to another country other than Tanzania.
2. He or she has been declared to be of unsound mind by a law in force in Tanzania;

3. Has been detained as a criminal lunatic or detained under the pleasure of the President of United Republic of Tanzania;

4. He or she is under sentence of death imposed by any court of law in Tanzania;

5. He or she is under sentence of imprisonment exceeding six months imposed by court of law in Tanzania or as substituted by competent authority for some other sentence; and

6. He or she is disqualified as a matter of having relations to offences connected with elections under the National Elections Act of any other law in force.

GENERAL MATTER RELATING TO REGISTRATION

1. A commission shall be responsible for setting time for the review of registration of voters in every polling district

2. A voter shall only be registered in the available relevant polling district.

3. Registration of voters in a particular constituency may be suspended by the commission in a period specified if it is desirable to suspend in the eyes of the commission.

4. Upon application for registration, a person qualifying for registration shall fill a prescribed form and shall be issued with a voter's card.

5. A voter registered in one polling district may apply for the change of polling area once he has become a resident of another polling district. Once his or her application is accepted, he or she will be issued with another voter's card.

6. Where a voter's card issued to a voter is lost, defeated or destroyed, a voter has to apply in person for a new voter's card. A voter's card shall be issued again upon satisfaction of conditions. Upon application, a person shall make a declaration in a prescribed form.
7. Upon change of name and other alterations in the voter's card (other than change of residence), a voter registered may apply for a new voter's card and be issued another card upon fulfillment of conditions specified upon application.
8. Voter's register has to be displayed in every ward and any person may inspect Voter's register of any polling district on a day and time specified by the registration officer or Director of Elections.
9. Where a person registered as a voter and holds a voter's card discovers that his or her name does not appear in the register after inspection, he or she will apply to Director of Elections and the director will include the name of the voter once satisfied that the voter was to be included in the register.
10. A person who is aggrieved by the decision of a Director of Elections who has refused to include the name of that particular person in the register, may undergo appeal to challenge the decisions of the director.
11. The Director of elections or any person whose name appears in voter's register may make an objection of retention of his or her name in the register or retention of a name of another person or a person who is dead on a ground of no longer being qualified to be registered.