

**REPRINTED ACT**  
[WITH AMENDMENTS INCORPORATED]

**ELECTORAL**  
REPRINTED AS ON 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2006



**SAMOA**

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**THE ELECTORAL ACT 1963****1963****No. 16**

**An Act to provide for the election of members of the  
Legislative Assembly.** *[19 December 1963]*

**PART I  
PRELIMINARY**

**1. Short title and division into Parts-**(1) This Act may be cited as the Electoral Act 1963.

(2) This Act is divided into Parts, as follows:

Part I - Preliminary (sections 1 to 4).

Part II - Qualifications of Members (sections 5 to 15).

Part IIA - Political Parties (15A to 15F)

Part III- Registration of Electors (sections 16 to 18B).

Part IV - Individual Voters (sections 19 to 25).

Part V - Rolls (sections 25A to 39AD).

Part VI - Offences (sections 40 to 43).

Part VII-General Elections and By-elections (sections 44 to 75).

Part VIII - Procedure after Polling Day (sections 76 to 94).

Part IX - Corrupt and Illegal Practices (sections 95 to 103).

Part X - Election Petitions (sections 104 to 132).

Part XI - Miscellaneous Provisions (sections 133 to 137).

**2. Interpretation-**(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

“Adult” means a person of or over the age of 21 years; and where public notice has been given in respect of a Polling day includes a person who will have attained the age of 21 years on or before that day:

“Assistant” means a person appointed as an assistant under section 25A of this Act:

“Bankrupt” means a bankrupt within the meaning of the laws relating to bankruptcy in force in Samoa:

- “Bribery” has the meaning assigned to that term by section 96 of this Act:
- “By-election” means any election other than a general election:
- “Candidate” means any person who has been nominated as a candidate for election as a Member of Parliament and in Parts IX and X of this Act includes any person who has declared his intention of becoming a candidate:
- “Constitution” means the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa:
- “Constituency” means a territorial constituency constituted under the Territorial Constituencies Act 1963:
- “Corrupt practice” means any act declared by this Act to be a corrupt practice:
- “Costs” includes charges and expenses:
- “Deputy Registrar” means a Deputy Registrar appointed under this Act; and includes any person authorised to exercise the powers, duties and functions of a Deputy Registrar:
- “Deputy Returning Officer” means a Deputy Returning Officer appointed under this Act; and includes any person authorised to exercise the powers, duties and functions of a Deputy Returning Officer:
- “Election” means an election of a Member of Parliament:
- “Elector”, in relation to any territorial constituency, means a person registered, or qualified to be registered, as an elector of that territorial constituency:
- “Electoral Commissioner” and “Commissioner” mean the Electoral Commissioner appointed under section 3, and includes any person appointed as Acting Electoral Commissioner under section 3 and any person authorised by the Electoral Commissioner or Acting Electoral Commissioner to exercise the responsibilities, functions, duties and powers of the Electoral Commissioner or Acting Electoral Commissioner, as the case may require;
- “Electoral roll” means the roll kept by the Commissioner of a territorial constituency:
- “Foreign country” means any country other than Samoa:

- “Gazette” means the Samoa Gazette:
- “General election” means an election which takes place after the dissolution or expiration of the Legislative Assembly:
- “Government” means the Government of Samoa:
- “Illegal practice” means any act declared by this Act to be an illegal practice:
- “Individual voters’ roll” means the roll kept by the Commissioner pursuant to Part IV of this Act:
- “Main roll”, in relation to any territorial constituency or individual voters, means the main roll printed for the territorial constituency or individual voters and for the time being in force:
- “Matai title” means the title which is entered in the Register of Matai established and kept pursuant to the Samoan Land and Titles Protection Ordinance 1934, other than a title held as a complimentary honour only:
- “Member” means a Member of Parliament:
- “Minister” means the Minister for the Legislative Assembly:
- “Nomination day”, in relation to any election, means the day appointed by public notice as the latest day for the nomination of candidates:
- “Offence” means any act or omission for which anyone can be punished under the Crimes Ordinance 1961 or under any other enactment and shall include any crime prescribed by law:
- “Personation” has the meaning assigned to that term by section 95 of this Act:
- “Polling day”, in relation to any election, means the day appointed by public notice for that election for the polling to take place if a poll is required:
- “Prescribed” means prescribed by this Act or by regulations made there under or (for the purposes of Part X of this Act) by rules of Court:
- “Presiding Officer” means the Returning Officer or any Deputy Returning Officer appointed under section 3 of this Act and presiding at any polling place or booth on the day of the polling:
- “Public notice” means publication –



- (a) In the Gazette; and
- (b) In the Savali; and
- (c) In a newspaper published in Samoa, or by means of notices posted in conspicuous places at Apia and at such other place or places in Samoa as the Commissioner thinks fit, or by means of notices broadcast by radio; and “publicly notify” has a corresponding meaning:
  - “Public place” has the same meaning as in section 2 of the Police Offences Ordinance 1961:
  - “Public servant” means a person employed in the service of the Government, not being honorary service; but does not include any person to whom subsection (2) of this section applies; and does not include -
    - (a) Any person by reason of his holding an office for which a salary is payable under the Civil List Act 1964; or
    - (b) Any person remunerated by fees or a commission and not by wages or salary.
  - “Public service law” means any law in force relating to the public sector and includes -
    - (a) the Public Service Act 2004; and
    - (b) the Public Finance Management Act 2001;
  - “Returning Officer” means a Returning Officer appointed under this Act; and includes any person authorised to exercise the powers, duties, and functions of a Returning Officer:
  - “Roll” means an electoral roll, the individual voters’ roll, a main roll, or a supplementary roll, as the case may be:
  - “Speaker” means the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly:
  - “Standing Orders” means the Standing Orders of the Parliament of Samoa;
  - “Statement” includes not only words but also pictures, visual images, gestures, and other methods of signifying meaning:
  - “Supplementary roll”, in relation to any territorial constituency or individual voters, means a supplementary

roll printed for the territorial constituency or individual voters and for the time being in force:

“Territorial constituency” means a constituency constituted under the Territorial Constituencies Act 1963:

“Treating” has the meaning assigned to that term by section 97 of this Act:

“Undue influence” has the meaning assigned to that term by section 98 of this Act:

“Voter” means a person registered, or qualified to be registered, as a voter on the individual voters’ role:

“Writ” means a writ for an election issued under this Act:

“Writ day”, in relation to any election, means the day of the issue of the writ for that election.

A reference to a numbered form is a reference to the form so numbered in the First Schedule to this Act.

(2) Where any person -

(a) Is appointed by the Government, or any department or agency of the Government to be a member of any Commission, Council, Board, Committee, or other body; or

(b) Is a member of any Commission, Council, Board, Committee, or other body of which any members receive any payment out of public money -

he shall not by reason of that membership be deemed to be a public servant, whether or not he receives any travelling allowances, or travelling expenses.

### **Office of Electoral Commissioner**

**3. Electoral Commissioner-**(1) Subject to this section, there shall be appointed by the Head of State, acting on the advice of Cabinet, an Electoral Commissioner who shall have and exercise the responsibilities, functions, duties and powers conferred by this Act and any applicable law.

(2) The Commissioner shall:

(a) hold office for a period of three years on terms and conditions approved by Cabinet;

- (b) be paid such salary, allowances and other benefits as determined by Cabinet, following receipt by Cabinet of a report from the Remuneration Tribunal in accordance with the provisions of the Remuneration Tribunal Act 2003;
  - (c) not hold any other public office or engage in any business or other employment without the prior written approval of Cabinet;
  - (d) at the time of appointment and whilst holding the position of Commissioner, not:
    - (i) be a member of any political party; or
    - (ii) assist, support or endorse any Member, any Candidate and any person who has declared an intention to become a Candidate, other than performing the Commissioner's responsibilities, functions, duties and powers under this Act;
  - (e) be subject to public service law; and
  - (f) be eligible for re-appointment, subject to compliance with this Act and satisfactory performance.
- (3) The office of Commissioner shall be vacated immediately if the Commissioner:
- (a) breaches subsection (2)(c) or (2)(d) or (4); or
  - (b) is declared bankrupt in Samoa or elsewhere; or
  - (c) at the time of appointment and whilst holding the position of Commissioner, has a conviction or is convicted for any offence, in Samoa or elsewhere:
    - (i) under this Act; or
    - (ii) involving dishonesty or corruption; or
    - (iii) where the penalty for such offence includes imprisonment for 1 year or longer (irrespective of whether such penalty has been or is imposed concerning such conviction); or
  - (d) is determined by a medical practitioner to be unable to perform the Commissioner's responsibilities, functions, duties and powers due to any physical or mental incapacity; or

- (e) is absent from duty or Samoa for a period of 5 consecutive days without the Minister's written consent or other lawful excuse; or
- (f) after due enquiry, is declared by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to have engaged in any personal or official conduct or other behaviour in Samoa or elsewhere which the Chief Justice determines, acting in the Chief Justice's absolute discretion, could bring or has brought into disrepute or could or has cast doubt on the integrity or honesty or impartiality of:
  - (i) the office of Commissioner; or
  - (ii) the Samoan electoral process; or
  - (iii) the proper administration of this Act.

(4) Upon appointment and annually thereafter by the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June the Commissioner shall provide the Head of State, the Speaker, the Minister and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly with a Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Convictions in a form approved by the Attorney General.

(5) The Declarations under subsection (4) shall be available for public inspection without cost at the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly during normal business hours.

(6) Where:

- (a) the Office of Commissioner is vacant; or
  - (b) the Commissioner is on leave or absent from duty; or
  - (c) for any other reason the Commissioner is unable or unwilling to perform the Commissioner's responsibilities, functions, duties and powers,
- the Head of State, acting on the advice of Cabinet, may appoint a person qualified to be Commissioner under this section as Acting Electoral Commissioner for a period no longer than 3 months.

(7) An Acting Electoral Commissioner appointed under subsection (6) shall:

- (a) be subject to the provisions of this Act, including this section, in so far as such provisions are consistent with subsection (6);
- (b) exercise the Commissioner's responsibilities, functions, duties and powers; and

- (c) during such appointment, be deemed for all purposes to be Commissioner.

**3A. Responsibilities, functions, duties and powers of the Commissioner-**(1) The Commissioner shall have the following responsibilities, functions and duties:

- (a) To exercise the responsibilities, functions, duties and powers given to the Commissioner under this Act and any applicable law;
- (b) To advise the Head of State, the Legislative Assembly and any Committee of the Legislative Assembly (through the Speaker), the Government and the Minister concerning Samoa's electoral system, policies and laws;
- (c) To provide reasonable and appropriate assistance and advice to the Speaker, Members, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Candidates and persons declaring an intention to become a Candidate as to their compliance with the provisions of this Act and any applicable law;
- (d) Upon written direction from the Legislative Assembly (through the Speaker) or Cabinet (through the Minister) or the Minister or by the Commissioner's own determination, to initiate, sponsor, carry out and publish studies and research on Samoa's electoral system and laws;
- (e) To undertake public awareness and education programs concerning Samoa's electoral system and laws;
- (f) Within 6 months of the end of each financial year to prepare and provide to the Minister an annual report on the work of the office of the Commissioner, such report to include financial statements and accounts and audit report on such statements and accounts in a form approved and audited by the Controller and Chief Auditor;

- (g) Within 6 months from the date of each General Election and each by-election to prepare and provide to the Speaker a report on the conduct and result of such election;
  - (h) To provide, in cases approved by Cabinet, assistance in matters relating to elections and referendums (including the secondment of personnel and the supply or loan of materials) to authorities of foreign countries and international and regional organisations; and
  - (i) To perform such other responsibilities, functions, duties and powers conferred on the Commissioner under any other law.
- (2) Upon receipt of a report under:
- (a) subsection (1)(f), the Minister shall lay the report before the Legislative Assembly forthwith;
  - (b) subsection (1)(g), the Speaker shall lay the report before the Legislative Assembly forthwith.
- (3) The Commissioner shall have the power to exercise all of the responsibilities, functions and duties conferred by this Act and any applicable law.

**3B. Officers of the Commissioner-**(1) Subject to subsection (5), the Public Service Commission may appoint on the recommendation of the Commissioner:

- (a) An Assistant Electoral Commissioner and other Officers and Assistants as required;
  - (b) Returning Officers, Deputy Returning Officers, polling officers, Deputy Registrars and such other officers and clerks as required to carry out the provisions of this Act; and
  - (c) Substitutes for any persons appointed under paragraph (a) to act in case of their sickness, absence, death or removal.
- (2) Substitutes appointed under subsection (1)(b) shall have all the responsibilities, functions, duties and powers of the persons for whom they are acting.

(3) For all purposes the fact that a substitute so acts shall be sufficient evidence that the substitute is authorised so to act.

(4) All persons appointed under this section shall be subject to the authority and direction of the Commissioner.

(5) Subject to subsection (4), every:

(a) Deputy Returning Officer shall have and may exercise in and about the polling place for which the officer is appointed all of the responsibilities, functions, duties and powers of a Returning Officer; and

(b) Deputy Registrar shall have and may exercise all of the responsibilities, functions, duties and powers of the Commissioner.

**4. Duty to report suspected breaches-**(1) All persons employed in the office of the Commissioner or under the authority or direction of the Commissioner shall promptly report to the Commissioner any breach or suspected breach of any of the provisions of this Act or any applicable law.

(2) Where:

(a) the Commissioner receives a report under subsection (1); or

(b) the Commissioner becomes aware of any breach or suspected breach of the provisions of this Act or any applicable law,

the Commissioner shall ensure that such breach or suspected breach is reported to the appropriate authority for investigation, prosecution or other action, as the case requires.

## **PART II QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS**

**5. Who may be candidates for election as Members-**(1)

Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and of this Act, any person who is registered as an elector of any constituency and is the holder of a Matai title is qualified to be a candidate and to be elected as a Member of Parliament for that constituency, and any person who is registered as a voter on the individual voters' roll is qualified to be a candidate and to be elected as a Member of

Parliament representing the individual voters, if in either case, as required by Article 45 of the Constitution, he -

- (a) Is a citizen of Samoa; and
- (b) Is not disqualified under the provisions of the Constitution or of any Act.

(2) Any other person shall be disqualified for being a candidate for, or being elected as a Member of Parliament.

(3) A person shall be disqualified for being a candidate for, or being elected as a Member of Parliament representing a constituency if he loses any qualification required to enable him to be registered as an elector of that constituency or that person has not resided in Samoa for a period equalling or exceeding 3 years ending with the day on which the Nomination paper is lodged with the Commissioner.

(4) A person shall be disqualified for being a candidate for, or being elected as a Member of Parliament representing the individual voters if he loses any qualification required to enable him to be registered as an individual voter or that person has not resided in Samoa for a period equalling or exceeding 3 years ending with the day on which the Nomination paper is lodged with the Commissioner.

(5) A person shall be disqualified for being a candidate or being elected as a Member of Parliament if he -

- (a) Is an undischarged bankrupt; or
- (b) Has been convicted in Samoa or in American Samoa of an offence punishable by death or by imprisonment for a term of 2 years or upwards within the immediately preceding 4 years after the offence or has been convicted in Samoa of a corrupt practice; or
- (c) Is of unsound mind and is subject to an order of medical custody made under the Mental Health Ordinance 1961.

(6) Nothing in subsection (2) or subsection (3) of this section applies to -

- (a) A person who is appointed to a post under the Foreign Affairs Act 1976 and is outside Samoa during the course of that appointment;



- (b) A person who is the spouse of the person so described;
  - (c) A person, who is appointed to a post in an international organisation overseas under Government sponsorship or nomination;
  - (d) A person who satisfies the Commissioner that the person is required to obtain and has obtained medical treatment outside of Samoa for more than 125 days in any one year or more for the consecutive three year period ending on nomination day.
- (6a)(a) The Commissioner shall be satisfied as to the matters referred to in subsection (6)(d) if the person provides the Commissioner with two statutory declarations in a form prescribed by regulation and any other information in a form specified by regulation;
- (b) If any statutory declaration or other information referred to in subsection (6a)(a) is false or misleading the person claiming benefit of the statutory declaration or other information under subsection (2) or subsection (3) shall forfeit such benefit.

(7) For the purposes of this section “resided in Samoa for a period equalling or exceeding 3 years” shall mean a person has been in Samoa for at least 240 days in each year for a consecutive three year period ending on nomination day.

(8) The calculation of the time periods provided in subsection (7) of this section shall not include any temporary absences by persons who are required to be absent from Samoa pursuant to the conduct of official duties where they are the holder of a Government position, post or office or a member or official of a representative body or an organisation which is based in Samoa.

**6. Removal of name from roll without cause** - Any person duly qualified as an elector or voter who has been registered on any electoral or the individual voters’ roll but whose name has been removed from any roll through no fault of his own shall not,

by reason only of not being registered as an elector or voter, be disqualified from becoming a candidate and being elected; but in every such case he shall forward to the Commissioner, at the time when he sends his nomination or consent to nomination, a statutory declaration to the effect that he is not disqualified as an elector or voter, as the case may be, under the provisions of this or any other Act, that he still retains that qualification, and that his name has been removed from the roll through no fault of his own.

**7. Effect of registration on wrong roll -** The nomination of any person as a candidate for election, or his election as a Member of Parliament, shall not be questioned on the ground that, though he has chosen and is entitled to be registered as an elector of any constituency, he was not in fact registered as an elector of that constituency but was registered in error as an elector of some other constituency.

**8. Public servants may become candidates or be elected-**

(1) Any public servant who desires to become a candidate for election as a Member of Parliament shall, on application, be granted special leave of absence for the purpose of his candidature.

(2) That special leave shall commence on a day to be selected by him, being not later than nomination day, and in the event of his nomination as a candidate, shall continue until the 7th day after polling day, unless he withdraws his nomination.

(3) During the period of that special leave he shall not be required or permitted to carry out any of his official duties, nor shall he be entitled to receive in respect of that period any salary or remuneration as a public servant except to the extent to which he takes during that period any leave with pay to which he is entitled.

(4) Except as provided in the foregoing provisions of this section his rights as a public servant shall not be affected by his candidature.

**9. Members disqualified from being public servants -** If any public servant is elected as a Member of Parliament he shall,

forthwith upon the date on which he is declared so elected, be deemed to have vacated his office as a public servant.

**Vacancies**

**10. How vacancies created** - The seat of a Member of Parliament shall become vacant on the occurrence of any of the events specified in subclauses (a), (b) and (c) of clause (2) of Article 46 of the Constitution, and in addition he shall be disqualified from holding his seat -

- (a) If on 3 consecutive sitting days he fails, without permission of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, to attend in the Assembly in the manner and for the period prescribed under the Standing Orders of the Parliament of Samoa; or
- (b) If he takes any oath or makes any declaration or acknowledgement of allegiance or adherence to any foreign country; or
- (c) If he does or concurs in or adopts any act whereby he may become a subject or citizen of any foreign country, or entitled to the rights, privileges, or immunities of a subject or citizen of any foreign country; or
- (d) If he becomes a bankrupt; or
- (e) If he is convicted in Samoa or in American Samoa of a crime punishable by death or by imprisonment for a term of 2 years or upwards, or has been convicted in Samoa of a corrupt practice; or is reported by the Supreme Court in its report on the trial of an election petition to have been proved guilty of a corrupt practice; or
- (f) If he becomes a public servant; or
- (g) If on an election petition the Court declares his election void; or
- (h) If he becomes of unsound mind and subject to an order of medical custody made under the Mental Health Ordinance 1961; or

- (i) If being a Member representing a constituency he ceases to be qualified to be a candidate to represent that constituency, or if being a Member representing the individual voters he ceases to be qualified to be a candidate to represent them; or
- (j) If the Member acts in accordance with the provisions of section 15F(4)(a) and (b); or
- (k) If while he is a Member of Parliament he is guilty of conduct unbecoming a Member of Parliament;
- (l) If he is proved to the satisfaction of a Committee of the Legislative Assembly to have acted for commission or other reward as agent on behalf of the owner or for any other person having an interest in any land for the purpose of securing the purchase or acquisition of that land by the Government.

**11. Proof of disqualification-**(1) If and as soon as the Speaker has reason to believe or suspect that any Member of Parliament has become disqualified from holding his seat on the grounds set out in paragraph (k) of section 10 of this Act he shall charge that Member with such disqualification, and if the Legislative Assembly is then sitting shall do so orally in the Assembly.

(2) If any Member of Parliament other than the Speaker charges any other Member with having become disqualified from holding his seat on the grounds set out in the said paragraph (k) other than in a sitting of the Legislative Assembly, he shall immediately notify the Speaker of that charge.

(3) If the Speaker or any other Member of Parliament charges any other Member with having become disqualified from holding his seat on the grounds set out in the said paragraph (k), and that other Member does not admit the charge in writing (by cable if he is not in Samoa) within 7 days of it being brought to his attention, the Speaker shall refer the charge to the Supreme Court by motion, and it shall be determined by that Court pursuant to Article 47 of the Constitution.

(4) The Speaker shall give notice of his motion to the Member charged, and to any person with whom the Member charged is alleged to have misconducted himself, unless in any case he is excused by the Court on special grounds from so doing.

(5) Any person with whom the Member charged is alleged to have misconducted himself, as the case may be, shall be entitled to be treated as a party to the motion and to be heard thereon.

(6) On the Speaker referring a charge to the Supreme Court by motion under this section, the Assembly may by resolution suspend the Member charged until the motion has been disposed of.

(7) A Member suspended under this section shall not during the period of his suspension be entitled to sit in or otherwise take part in the proceedings of the Assembly or any Committee thereof, to perform any of the functions or powers of a Member or have any of the privileges or immunities of a Member.

(8) A Member suspended under this section shall not be entitled to any pay or allowance for the period of his suspension unless the Supreme Court holds that he is not disqualified.

(9) If the Speaker is charged by any other Member with having become disqualified from holding his seat as a Member on the grounds set out in the said paragraph (k), the Deputy Speaker shall perform the functions and duties of the Speaker under the foregoing provisions of this section.

**12. Registrar of Court to notify cause of vacancy in certain cases-**(1) The Registrar of the Supreme Court shall, within 48 hours after adjudication as a bankrupt of a member of Parliament or after his conviction of an offence punishable by death or by imprisonment for a term of 2 years or upwards or after he has been convicted of a corrupt practice notify the fact to the Speaker or to the Head of State if there is no Speaker or if the Speaker is absent from Samoa.

(2) Every Registrar who fails to send any notice required by this Section commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding 1 penalty unit for every day during which he fails to send such notice.

**13. Registrar of Births and Deaths to notify Speaker of death of Member** - The Registrar of Births and Deaths by whom the death of any Member of Parliament is registered shall, within 24 hours of making the registration, notify the fact to the Speaker.

**14. Offence for disqualified member to sit** - Every Member of Parliament who sits or votes therein being disqualified under the provisions of this Act and knowing that he is so disqualified or after his seat has become vacant under this Part of this Act shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 1 penalty unit for every day on which he so sits or votes.

**15. No person to be elected for more than one constituency-**(1) Where a Member of Parliament for any constituency is also elected as a Member of Parliament for any other constituency his election for that other constituency shall be void.

(2) Where at election held on the same polling day any person is elected as a Member of Parliament for 2 or more constituencies, his election shall in every case be void.

## **PART IIA POLITICAL PARTIES**

**15A. Registration of Political Parties-**(1) Subject to this part of this Act, an eligible political party may be registered for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Commissioner shall establish and maintain a Register known as the Register of Political Parties, containing a list of Political Parties registered under this Part of the Act.

**15B. Application for Registration-**(1) An application for the registration of an eligible political party may be made to the Commissioner -

- (a) By the Secretary of the party; or
- (b) By a Member of Parliament who is a current financial member of that party.

(2) An application for the registration of an eligible political party -

- (a) Shall be in writing; and
- (b) Shall be signed by the applicant; and
- (c) Shall -
  - (i) set out the name of the party; and
  - (ii) if the party wishes to be able to use for the purposes of this Act an abbreviation of its name; set out the name of that abbreviation; and
  - (iii) set out the name and address of the applicant and the capacity in which he or she makes the application; and
  - (iv) where the applicant is not the Secretary of the party set out the name and address of the Secretary of the party; and
  - (v) be accompanied by a declaration made by the applicant in the manner provided by section 19 of the Oaths, Affidavits and Declarations Act 1963, that the party has at least 100 current financial members who are eligible to enrol as electors or voters.

(3) Upon the receipt of an application for the registration of a political party, the Commissioner shall deal with the application in accordance with this part of this Act and determine whether the party can be registered.

(4) No application for registration will be accepted after the day on which the writs for a election or by-election are issued.

(5) No application for registration will be accepted where in the opinion of the Commissioner the name of the proposed party or any proposed abbreviation of such -

- (a) Is indecent or offensive; or
- (b) Is excessively long; or
- (c) Is likely to cause confusion or mislead electors; or
- (d) Contains any reference to a title or honour or similar form of identification.

**15C. Registration-**(1) Where the Commissioner determines that a political party should be registered, the Commissioner

shall -

- (a) Register the party by entering in the register -
    - (i) the name of the party; and
    - (ii) if an abbreviation of the name of the party was set out in the application, that abbreviation and;
  - (b) Give written notice to the applicant that the party has been registered; and
  - (c) Cause notice of the registration of the party to be published in the Gazette.
- (2) When an application for registration is refused the Commissioner shall give the applicant written notice of the refusal and the reasons for such refusal.
- (3) It shall be the duty of the Secretary of any political party registered to -
- (a) Supply the address for service of all correspondence under this part of the Act to the Commissioner;
  - (b) Notify the Commissioner immediately of any changes in the address for service of correspondence;
  - (c) Notify the Commissioner immediately whenever a new Secretary of the party is appointed;
  - (d) Notify the Commissioner if the number of current financial members falls below 100.
- (4) The Commissioner may amend the details of the Register from time to time when there have been any changes pursuant to subsection (3).
- (5) Where a registered political party seeks to change its name or its abbreviation, no amendment to an existing registered party may be made but a fresh application for registration must be submitted to the Commissioner for his consideration.

**15D. Inspection of Register** – Members of the public are entitled to inspect the Register during working hours on any day on which the Office of the Commissioner is open.

**15E. Cancellation of registration-**(1) The Commissioner shall cancel the registration of any registered political party -



- (a) As the result of a request on behalf of the party made by the Secretary or other office holder;
  - (b) Where the Commissioner becomes aware that the number of current financial members falls below 100.
- (2) Where registration of a political party is cancelled the Commissioner -
- (a) Shall give written notice to the applicant and the Secretary of the political party with the reasons for cancellation;
  - (b) Cause notice of the cancellation to be published in the Gazette.

**15F. Election of Candidates** - Notwithstanding any other law, including but not limited to Standing Orders:

(1) Subject to subsection (3), a Candidate elected as a Member, where the ballot paper for such election cites the Candidate's membership of a political party, shall sit in the Legislative Assembly as a member of that political party during the term for which the Candidate was so elected.

(2) Subject to subsection (4), a Candidate elected as a Member, where the ballot paper for such election cites the Candidate as independent (meaning the Candidate is not a member of a political party at the time of election), may, prior to taking the oath of allegiance, join a political party in the manner provided by Standing Orders and thereafter such elected Candidate shall sit in the Legislative Assembly as a member of that political party during the term for which the Candidate was so elected.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), a Candidate elected as a Member, where the ballot paper for such election cites the Candidate's membership of a political party and upon election, but prior to taking the oath of allegiance, it appears that such political party does not have sufficient membership to be recognised as a political party in the Legislative Assembly under Standing Orders, may, prior to taking the oath of allegiance, join another political party or become an independent in the manner provided by Standing Orders and thereafter the elected Candidate

shall sit in the Legislative Assembly as a member of such other political party or as an independent, as the case may require, during the term for which the Candidate was so elected.

(4) Where:

- (a) a Candidate elected as a Member is or becomes, as the case may be, a member of a political party in accordance with subsection (1) or (2) or (3); and
- (b) the Candidate resigns subsequently from such political party and becomes a member of another political party during the term for which the Candidate was so elected,

the seat of such Candidate as a Member of Parliament shall become vacant and such Candidate shall be disqualified from holding such seat.

### **PART III REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS**

**16. Qualifications of Electors-**(1) Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and of this Act every adult person shall be qualified to be an elector of a constituency if -

- (a) He is a Samoan citizen; and
- (b) His name does not appear on the individual voters roll.

(2) The constituency in which an elector shall be registered shall be determined according to the following provisions -

- (a) If the elector is the holder of a Matai title he shall be registered in the constituency in respect of which the title exists or, if he is a plural title holder, he shall be registered in the constituency in respect of which one of those titles exists, as he may choose once between general elections;
- (b) If the elector is not the holder of a Matai title, the elector shall be registered in:
  - (i) the constituency in which the elector resides; or
  - (ii) if the elector is the spouse or parent or child or brother or sister of a Matai and such elector chooses, the constituency in which

such Matai is registered.

(c) Paragraph (b) of this subsection shall not apply in respect of any Matai title acquired by a brother or sister of an elector from or through the spouse of such brother or sister;

(d) *Repealed*

(e) *Repealed*

(f) *Repealed*

(g) *Repealed.*

(3) Subject to this Act, an elector shall be eligible to transfer the constituency in which the elector is registered once only between general elections.

(4) *Repealed*

(5) *Repealed*

(6) *Repealed*

(7) *Repealed*

(8) *Repealed*

**16A. Rules for determining place of residence within Samoa-**(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the place where a person resides within Samoa at any material time or during any material period shall be determined for the purpose of this Act by reference to the facts of the case.

(2) For the purposes of this Act a person can reside in one place only.

(3) A person resides at the place where that person chooses to make his home by reason of family or personal relations or for other domestic or personal reasons.

(4) Where the property on which a person's home is located is divided between two or more constituencies, that person shall -

(a) If his dwelling is located wholly within one of those constituencies, be deemed to reside in that constituency; or

(b) In any other case, be deemed to reside in the constituency in which is located -

(i) the front door or other main entrance of his dwelling; or

(ii) where his dwelling is an apartment, the

front door or other main entrance of the building in which the apartment is situated.

(5) A person who is detained in any penal institution or hospital by virtue of any enactment shall not, by reason only of that detention, be treated for the purpose of subsection (3) of this section as residing there.

(6) The place where, for the purposes of this Act, a person resides shall not change by reason only of the fact that the person-

- (a) Is occasionally or temporarily absent from that place;  
or
- (b) Is absent from that place for any period because of his service or that of his spouse as a member of Parliament; or
- (c) Is absent from that place for any period because of his occupation or employment or that of his spouse;  
or
- (d) Is absent from that place for any period because he or his spouse, is a student -

even if such absence involves occasional or regular residence at another place or other places.

(7) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, a person who has permanently left his former home shall be deemed not to reside at that place, notwithstanding his home for the time being is temporary only.

(8) A Samoan citizen who is outside Samoa shall be deemed to reside where he had his last home in Samoa; but nothing in this subsection shall affect the application of section 16 of this Act for the purpose of determining the qualification of any person for registration as an elector.

(9) In the case of a person who is appointed to be a Member of the Cabinet, or who is the spouse of any person so appointed, the following provisions shall apply notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, namely -

- (a) So long as he holds that office he shall be deemed to continue to reside at the place of residence in respect of which he was registered as an elector of a constituency (in this subsection referred to as the original constituency), notwithstanding his

absence therefrom at the seat of Government or otherwise, unless and until he duly applies for registration as an elector of another constituency of which he is, apart from the provisions of this paragraph, qualified to be an elector;

(b) Upon being registered as an elector of the other constituency pursuant to an application as aforesaid, the applicant shall cease to be entitled to continue to be registered under this subsection as an elector of the original constituency.

(10) A person whose home is on any ship, boat, or vessel permanently located in any harbour shall be deemed to reside in the electoral district in which the wharf or landing place in the harbour is situated.

**16B. Disqualification for registration-**(1) The following persons are disqualified for registration as electors or voters -

- (a) A person who is detained in a hospital, a prison or some other place of security under the Mental Health Ordinance 1961;
- (b) A person detained in any prison pursuant to a conviction;
- (c) A person whose name is on the Corrupt Practices List made out for any constituency.

(2) The Registrar of the Court in which any order or conviction is made shall not later than the 5th day of the month next succeeding the date of the order or conviction forward to the registrar the name, place of residence and description of the patient or offender and particulars of the order or conviction.

**16C. Detention in prison pursuant to conviction -** Where a person who has been sentenced to a full time custodial sentence is received into a prison in which that person is to serve the whole or part of that Sentence the Gaoler of that prison shall not later than the 5th day of the month next succeeding the date of the conviction forward to the Commissioner a notice showing -

- (a) The name, previous residential address and date of birth of that person;
- (b) The name and address of the prison.

**17. Compilation of electoral rolls-**(1) For each constituency the Commissioner shall compile and at all times maintain an electoral roll, which he shall make and keep as complete and accurate as possible.

(2) Subject to Part V of this Act, the Commissioner shall make such additions to, deletions from and other amendments to each electoral roll as appear to him to be necessary as he receives information relevant to such roll.

(3) *Repealed.*

(4) A person shall not be entitled to be registered as an elector in more than one constituency or more than once in one constituency, notwithstanding that he may be a plural title-holder.

(5) *Repealed.*

**18. Transitional-**(1) Every person who is registered as an elector in any constituency on the 27th day of November 1990 shall without further application be registered on the roll compiled pursuant to section 17 of this Act after that date.

(2) Unless the Registrar in any particular case otherwise determines it shall not be necessary for any person whose name appears on the main or supplementary roll prepared for the purposes of the Plebiscite Act 1990 to comply with the provisions of section 25A of this Act for the purposes of enrolment for any election held in 1991.

(3) Any person to whom subsection (2) of this section applies may be registered as an elector or as a voter by -

- (a) Appearing before the Registrar or an assistant for the purpose of obtaining a certificate of identity; and
- (b) Satisfying the Registrar as to the constituency in respect of which that person should be registered, or, as the case may be, by satisfying the Registrar that he should be registered on the individual voters' roll.

(4) This section shall apply notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in section 25A of this Act.

**18A. Revision of Electoral Rolls-**(1) The Commissioner shall direct an enquiry to be made concerning the particulars of all persons whose names are on the roll.

(2) The Minister may from time to time issue a public notice specifying a period during which the enquiries directed under subsection (1) are to be undertaken and shall where practicable publish such notice in every year in which a Parliament is due to expire.

(3) Where a Parliament is dissolved while an enquiry under subsection (1) of this section is in progress the Commissioner shall not be obliged to complete that enquiry.

(4) Every enquiry shall be in the prescribed form and shall require the person to whom it is addressed to sign and return the form together with any corrections to the Office of the Commissioner.

(5) Every completed form accepted by the Commissioner as being in order shall be deemed to be an application for registration as an elector.

(6) Where the Commissioner receives during a period specified under subsection (2) of this section or within 6 days before the commencement of any such period a duly completed application for registration as an elector that application shall be deemed to be a completed form under this section.

(7) The completed form shall contain the particulars specified in form 1A in the Schedule of this Act.

(8) Where any person fails to respond to an enquiry under subsection (2) of this section the Commissioner shall after making such further enquiry as he thinks fit remove the name of that person from the roll.

Provided that the name of such person shall not be removed where –

- (a) The Commissioner is satisfied that such person is alive; and
- (b) *Repealed*
- (9) *Repealed*

**18B. Compulsory registration of electors and voters-(1)**

Every person qualified to be registered as an elector or a voter under this Act shall (if he is in Samoa), make application in the prescribed form to the Commissioner for registration as an elector or voter within one month after the date upon which he first becomes qualified to be registered as an elector or voter.

(2) Every person commits an offence against this section who being required by this section to apply for registration as an elector or voter, during any period, knowingly and wilfully fails to do so.

(3) No person who applies for registration as an elector or voter shall be liable to prosecution for an earlier failure to apply for registration.

(4) Every person who commits an offence against this section shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one penalty unit for a first conviction and to a fine not exceeding two penalty units on any subsequent conviction.

#### **PART IV INDIVIDUAL VOTERS**

**19. Qualifications of voters-(1)** Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and of this Act every person shall be qualified to be an individual voter and to have his name entered on the individual voters' roll if he is an adult citizen of Samoa not disqualified as a candidate for election by virtue of any of the provisions of section 5 of this Act, and if -

(a) His name was entered on the European electoral roll on the 30th day of November 1963; or

(b) He -

(i) is the child or grandchild of a parent whose name was entered on, or who if alive on the 30th day of November 1963 would have qualified to have his name entered on, the European electoral roll on the 30th day of November 1963; and

(ii) was unborn or had not attained the age of 21 years on the 30th day of November 1963; or



- (c) He acquired his citizenship of Samoa by naturalisation or by registration; or
  - (d) He acquired his citizenship of Samoa by birth and is the child of a parent who is not a citizen of Samoa or of a parent who if alive at the date of the commencement of the Citizenship of Samoa Ordinance 1959 would not have automatically qualified to be a citizen of Samoa by virtue of any provision of that Ordinance; or
  - (e) His or her spouse is registered as an individual voter.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section no person shall be qualified to have his name entered on the individual voters' roll if he -
- (a) Holds a Matai title or is exercising any customary right or privilege in regard to customary land; or
  - (b) Is married to a person holding a Matai title or exercising any customary right or privilege in regard to customary land; or
  - (c) Is registered as an elector.

**20. Registration of absentee voters** - Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this or any other Act, if any person would be qualified to have his name entered on the European electoral roll on the 30th day of November 1963 on application, but it is impossible or difficult for him to claim such entry before the 30th day of November 1963 by reason of absence from Samoa at any time during the period between the first reading of this Act in the Legislative Assembly and the 30th day of November 1963, he may, at any time within 6 months of returning to Samoa, claim to have his name enter his name on that roll, and the Commissioner may enter his name on that roll, and any such entry shall be deemed to have been made on the 30th day of November 1963.

**21. Registration of voters** - Every person desirous of having his name entered on the individual voters' roll shall (unless his name is already on the roll) deliver in person to the Commissioner or an assistant a claim in form No. 2.

**22. Retention on the roll-**(1) Every person whose name is entered on the individual voters' roll shall be entitled to have his name retained on that roll so long as he remains qualified to be an individual voter.

(2) A person who is registered as a voter may by notification to the Commissioner require the Commissioner to remove his name from the individual voters' roll.

**23. Procedure following claim for registration-**(1) If the Commissioner is satisfied that any voter who claims to be registered as a voter is qualified to be registered he shall forthwith enter his name on the roll.

(2) If after making such inquiries as he thinks fit the Commissioner is not so satisfied he shall within 5 days of the receipt of the claim give notice in writing to the claimant setting forth the particulars of which proof is required.

(3) If the claimant fails to furnish proof of his qualifications satisfactorily to the Commissioner within 10 days after the giving of notice to him under subsection (2) of this section, the Commissioner shall refuse the claim and forthwith notify the claimant accordingly.

(4) Within 14 days after the giving to the claimant of a notice of refusal under subsection (3) of this section, the claimant may require the Commissioner to refer his claim to District Court.

(5) The Commissioner shall notify the claimant of the time and place appointed for the hearing of the claim by such District Court.

**24. Voter required to notify Commissioner on occurrence of certain events-**(1) Every person whose name is entered on the individual voters' roll and who takes a Matai title or begins to exercise any customary right or privilege in regard to customary land or who marries a person holding such a title or exercising any such right or privilege shall notify the Commissioner in writing of that event within one month of its occurrence, and on failure so to do shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 1 penalty unit.

(2) On learning of the occurrence of that event the Commissioner shall forthwith delete the name of that person from the individual voters' roll.

(3) In the event of an election being held after the occurrence of that event and before the name of that person has been deleted from the individual voters' roll, he shall not be entitled to vote at that election and any vote he may cast shall be disregarded and shall not invalidate the election.

**25. Voter's name entered or re-entered-**(1) No person whose name has been deleted from the individual voters' roll pursuant to subsection (2) of section 24 of this Act by reason of taking a Matai title or beginning to exercise any customary right or privilege in regard to customary land shall be eligible to have his name re-entered on the individual voters' roll if he should cease to hold a Matai title or to exercise any customary right or privilege in regard to customary land.

(2) No person whose name has been deleted from the individual voters' roll pursuant to subsection (2) of section 24 of this Act by reason of marrying a person holding a Matai title or exercising any customary right or privilege in regard to customary land shall be eligible to have his name re-entered on the individual voters' roll if his spouse should die or they should be divorced or if his spouse should cease to hold such a title or to exercise any such right or privilege.

Provided that a woman whose name was on the European electoral roll on or before the 30th day of November 1963, or was ever on or qualified to be on the individual voters' roll, and who lost her qualification to be on the latter roll only by reason of her marriage, and who has not subsequently been disqualified from being on the latter roll for any other reason, shall be eligible, on the death of her husband or on her divorce from him, to have her name entered or re-entered on the individual voters' roll.

**PART V  
ROLLS**

**Objections and Alterations**

**25A. Registration of electors-**(1) Every person who wishes to be registered as an elector in any constituency shall unless his name is already on the roll make application in person to the Commissioner or to an assistant appointed by the Commissioner to receive such application.

(2) The Commissioner shall appoint and make available such assistants as he considers necessary for the purposes of subsection (1) of this section or of section 21 of this Act and may appoint and make available assistants in any Embassy or Consulate of Samoa in a foreign country.

**25B. Signing and witnessing of applications for registration, etc.-**(1) Every person making any application or declaration in respect of registration as an elector or voter shall do so in form 1A or 2 of the Schedule to this Act, as the case may require, and shall either sign or place his mark on the application or declaration and must add to his signature his occupation and address.

(1A) Subsections (1A) to (1K) inclusive shall apply to Parts III, IV and V of this Act.

(1B) Despite the other provisions of this Act, where there is any inconsistency between this section and the provisions in Parts III, IV and V, this section shall prevail to the extent of such inconsistency.

(1C) At the time of receiving an application for registration or re-registration or transfer of registration as an elector or voter, the Commissioner shall photograph or cause to be photographed the person seeking such registration or re-registration or transfer of registration, as the case may require.

(1D) Subject to subsection (1J), where a person referred to in subsection (1C) is registered or re-registered as an elector or voter or whose registration as an elector or voter is transferred in accordance with this Act, the Commissioner shall record or print the person's photograph on the appropriate roll adjacent to the name of the person.

(1E) Where a roll is used in a General Election or By-election, the Commissioner and all electoral officials shall use rolls prepared in accordance with subsection (1D).

(IF) Where a roll is required by this Act or any other law to be available for public or other inspection or use (howsoever described), the Commissioner shall provide or produce, as the circumstances require, such roll without the photographs required under subsection (1D).

(1G) Where for any reason a person applying for registration or re-registration or transfer of registration as an elector or voter fails or refuses or is unable to be photographed in accordance with subsection (1C), the Commissioner shall not register such person on a roll as an elector or voter.

(1H) Every person registered as an elector or voter as at the date of commencement of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 shall be required to re-apply for such registration in accordance with the provisions of this Act and this section at a time and place and in such manner determined by the Commissioner by Public Notice.

(1I) Every person registered and photographed in accordance with this Act and this section shall be required to be re-photographed in accordance with the provisions of this section at time intervals of not less than 9 years and not more than 10 years from the date on which the person was last photographed under this section at a time and place and in such manner determined by the Commissioner by Public Notice.

(1J) The Commissioner shall substitute photographs of electors and voters taken in accordance with subsection (1I) for previous photographs of electors and voters taken, recorded or printed in accordance with the provisions of this section, as the case may require.

(1K) Every person required to be photographed in accordance with this section who fails to do so without lawful excuse commits an offence punishable by a fine not exceeding 1 penalty unit.

(2) Where a person making an application or declaration in respect of registration as an elector or a voter is physically disabled, the application or declaration may be signed on his behalf by a registered elector or voter who signs by direction of the physically disabled person and who indicates on the application or declaration -

(i) that the applicant or declarant is a physically disabled person; and

(ii) that the application or declaration is being signed by direction of the applicant or declarant.

(3) The place in respect of which registration is claimed must be specified in such manner as to enable it to be clearly identified.

(4) The Commissioner may reject any application or declaration that does not comply with subsection (1) or subsection (3) of this section or fails to supply any of the information required by form 1A or as the case may be, form 2, of the Schedule to this Act.

(5) Every application for registration as an elector shall be witnessed by the Commissioner or an assistant.

**25C. Procedure following application for registration-(1)**

If the Commissioner is satisfied that any person who claims to be registered as an elector or a voter (whether by transfer from another territorial constituency or from the individual voters' roll or otherwise) is qualified to be registered he shall within 5 days of the receipt of the claim forthwith enter the name of the applicant on the appropriate roll.

(2) If after making such inquiries as he thinks fit the Commissioner has reason to believe that any applicant is not qualified to be registered he shall within five days of receipt of the claim give notice in writing to the claimant setting forth the particulars of which proof is required.

(3) If the applicant fails to furnish proof of his qualifications satisfactorily to the Commissioner within 10 days after the giving of notice to him under subsection (2) of this section, the Commissioner shall refuse the application and forthwith notify the applicant accordingly.

(4) Within 14 days after the giving to the applicant of a notice of refusal under subsection (3) of this section, the applicant may require the Commissioner to refer the claim to a District Court.

(5) The Commissioner shall notify the applicant of the time and place appointed for the hearing of the application by the District Court.

(6) *Repealed.*

**25D. Applications received while rolls temporarily closed**

- The Commissioner shall not at any time in the period that any roll is temporarily closed, register any application as an elector or voter that the Commissioner receives after 4 p.m. on the day before the commencement of that period.

**25E. Notice to be given when person ceases to be qualified-**(1) Every person who ceases to be qualified to be enrolled as an elector in any constituency or as an individual voter shall give notice of that fact to the registrar within one month of his ceasing to be so qualified.

(2) Every person who fails to comply with this section commits an offence and is liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding 2 penalty units.

**26. Elector's or voter's objection-**(1) Any elector or voter may at any time object to the name of any person being on the roll for a constituency, or individual voters, upon the ground that

-

- (a) The person is not qualified as an elector in terms of section 16 of this Act; or
- (b) The person is not qualified as a voter in terms of section 19 of this Act; or
- (c) The name should appear on some other roll; or
- (d) The person whose name is objected to is also registered as an elector or voter under the same or another name either on the same or another roll.

(2) Every objector shall make his objection in writing specifying particulars of the objection and the grounds thereof, and shall serve his objection on the Commissioner and a copy thereof on the person objected to.

(3) Unless within 5 days after the service of the copy of the objection the person objected to agrees with the Commissioner that the latter may delete the entry objected to, or satisfies the Commissioner that he is entitled to have the entry objected to retained on the roll, or the objection is withdrawn, the Commissioner shall refer the objection to a District Court, and

shall notify the parties of the time and place appointed for the hearing.

**27. Commissioner's objection-**(1) The Commissioner may at any time object to the name of any person being on a roll on the ground that that person is not qualified to be registered as an elector or voter, as the case may be.

(2) The Commissioner shall forthwith give notice in writing to the person objected to of the objection and of the particulars and grounds thereof.

(3) Unless within 5 days after the giving of notice of the objection to the person objected to he agrees with the Commissioner that the latter may delete the entry objected to, or satisfies the Commissioner that he is entitled to have the entry objected to retained on the roll, or the objection is withdrawn, the Commissioner shall refer the objection to a District Court and shall notify the person objected to of the time and place appointed for the hearing.

(4) Nothing in this section shall affect the provisions of this Act as to the removal by the Commissioner of names from any roll.

**28. Time limit for objections and hearings by District Court after temporary closing of rolls -** When the roll for any constituency or individual voters has been temporarily closed in accordance with subsection (1) of section 34 of this Act -

(a) No objection shall be made under section 26 or section 27 of this Act in respect of any roll unless 21 clear days before polling day remain;

(b) No application or objection referred to a District Court under section 23, section 26 or section 27 of this Act shall be determined by the Court within the period of 14 clear days before polling day.

**29. Procedure on reference of claim or objection to District Court-**(1) The following provisions of this section shall apply with respect to proceedings on the reference to a District Court of a claim under section 23 of this Act or of an objection



under section 26 or section 27 of this Act.

(2) The Commissioner, any claimant, any objector, and the person objected to may appear before the Court either in person or by some person appointed by him in writing or by a barrister or solicitor.

(3) In the case of an objection the person objected to may forward to the Registrar of the Court a statement signed by him giving reasons why the entry objected to should be retained on the roll, and the Court shall take any such statement into account in determining the objection.

(4) If any person objected to does not either appear or forward a statement as aforesaid the Court shall make an order that the entry objected to be removed from the roll.

(5) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the entry objected to shall not be removed from the roll until the objection has been determined.

(6) At the hearing of an objection no grounds of objection shall be taken into account except those specified in the written objection.

(7) In any proceedings to which this section applies the Court may make such order as to costs as it thinks fit.

(8) Subject to the provisions of this section, the ordinary rules of procedure of the Court shall apply.

(9) The Commissioner shall make any additions, deletions, and alterations to the roll that may be necessary to give effect to the orders of the Court.

### **Purging of Rolls**

#### **30. Registrar of Births and Deaths to notify adult deaths**

- The Registrar of Births and Deaths shall within 48 hours after the registration of the death of any adult person notify the Commissioner to enable him to amend any roll if necessary.

#### **31. Registrar of Marriage to notify women's marriage-(1)**

The Registrar of Marriages shall within 48 hours after the marriage of any woman elector or voter send notice thereof to the Commissioner.

(2) On receipt of any such notice the Commissioner shall take all proper steps, after verification of the particulars contained in the notice, to amend any roll if necessary.

(3) If for any reason the alteration is not made in the appropriate roll before polling day the elector or voter shall, if otherwise qualified, be entitled to vote at that election in respect of her former name as appearing on the roll.

**32. Removal of names from roll by Commissioner -(1)**

The Commissioner shall, at any time except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, remove from any roll -

- (a) The name of every person not qualified to be registered as an elector or voter who requests in writing that his name be removed from the roll; and
- (b) The name of every person of whose identity the Commissioner is satisfied and whose death has been notified to him in writing -
  - (i) by the Registrar of Births and Deaths; or
  - (ii) by the spouse, father, mother, brother, sister or child of the deceased and provided that the person so advising the Commissioner is at least 18 years of age.
- (c) The name of any person whom the Commissioner upon enquiry is satisfied has ceased to be qualified to be enrolled on that roll if -
  - (i) the Commissioner has notified that person by delivery to him or (if he cannot be found) by leaving at his last known address a notice of the Commissioner's intention to remove the name of that person from the roll and calling upon him to show cause why his name should not be so removed; and
  - (ii) after twenty one days following the giving of that notice the person has not satisfied the Registrar that he remains qualified to be registered on that roll.

(d) The name of every person whose name is entered on the Corrupt Practices List made out for that constituency or for the individual voters.

(2) Notwithstanding anything in this Act the Commissioner, on being satisfied that the name of any person has been omitted or removed from any roll by mistake or clerical error, or through false information, may restore the name of that person to the roll at any time.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section it shall not be lawful for the Commissioner to enter on or remove from any roll the name of any person after the date fixed for the temporary closing of the roll and before the day following the polling day in connection with which the roll has been closed.

(4) If the Commissioner offends against the provisions of this section he shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 1 penalty unit for every name improperly entered on or removed from the roll.

(5) In addition to other powers of alteration conferred by this Act, the Commissioner may at any time, subject to subsection (3) of this section, alter the roll -

(a) By correcting any mistake or omission in the particulars of the enrolment of a person;

(b) By striking out the superfluous entry when the name of a person appears more than once on the roll.

(6) Where an error made by or on behalf of the Commissioner has resulted in a person being registered as an elector of a constituency other than the constituency in respect of which the person should have been registered; and

(7) Where, pursuant to this section, the name of a person is removed from the roll in the period commencing on the day after writ day and ending on the day before polling day, the Commissioner shall, on removing that name, enter it on a list to be known as the "list of post-writ day deletions."

**32A. Corrupt Practices List-**(1) Where it is proved before the Commissioner that any person who is registered or who applies for registration as an elector or voter has within the immediately preceding period of 4 years -

- (a) Been convicted of a corrupt practice; or
- (b) Been reported by the Supreme Court in its report on the trial of an election petition to have been proved guilty of a corrupt practice, the Commissioner shall enter the name, residence, and description of that person and particulars of the conviction or report on a list to be called the Corrupt Practices List.

(2) The Commissioner shall remove the name of every person from the Corrupt Practices List at the expiration of 4 years from the date of the conviction or report in respect of which his name is entered on the list, or sooner if so ordered by the Supreme Court.

(3) Whenever a main roll is printed for the constituency or individual voters a copy of the Corrupt Practices List for the constituency or individual voters shall be appended to it and printed and published with it.

(4) Whenever a supplementary roll is printed for the constituency or individual voters a copy of so much of the Corrupt Practices List as has not been printed with the main roll or any existing supplementary roll for the constituency or individual voters shall be appended to the supplementary roll and printed and published with it.

**33. Assistance to be given Commissioner** -(1) All members of the Police shall at the request of the Commissioner assist him by informing him of the name of any person who they believe is registered as a voter but not qualified to be so registered and shall give the Commissioner any information he requests relating to the qualifications of any person for registration as a voter.

(2) All members of the Police shall also assist the Commissioner by making such enquiries and obtaining such information as he requests.

### **Closing and Printing of Rolls**

**34. Rolls closed by Commissioner** -(1) In every year in

which a general election or by-election is to be held, all rolls or the roll as the case may be, shall be temporarily closed on a date to be fixed by the Commissioner, and after such date no names shall be added to the roll to which it relates until after that election.

(2) At least 15 days before the date so fixed, the Commissioner shall give public notice thereof.

**35. Main rolls to be printed-**(1) From time to time, the Commissioner shall cause the roll for each constituency to be printed, containing the names, numbered consecutively in alphabetical order according to the English alphabet, of all persons whose names are lawfully on the roll. The roll for each constituency shall be in form No.3 and shall be issued under the hand of the Commissioner.

(2) From time to time the Commissioner shall cause the individual voters' roll to be printed, containing the names, numbered consecutively in alphabetical order, according to the English alphabet of all persons whose names are lawfully on the roll. The roll shall be in form No. 4, and shall be issued under the hand of the Commissioner.

(3) The printed rolls so formed, signed, added to, or altered from time to time as herein provided, shall for the time being be the electoral and individual voters' rolls for Samoa.

**36. Supplementary rolls to be printed-**(1) The Commissioner may from time to time prepare supplementary rolls containing names added to any roll after the printing of the main roll and an indication of names removed from the main roll, and may cause the same to be printed, and every supplementary roll shall be deemed to be a part of the main roll to which it refers.

(2) The names in any supplementary roll shall be numbered consecutively, starting with the number next higher than the last number on the last printed roll for electors or voters, whether main or supplementary.

**36A. Composite Rolls-**(1) The Commissioner may from time to time cause to be printed a composite roll for the

constituency or individual voters which roll -

(a) Shall subject to any additions alterations and deletions made to the electoral roll for the constituency or individual voters contain a list of -

(i) all persons whose names appear on the main roll for the constituency or individual voters; and

(ii) all persons whose names appear on any existing supplementary roll for the constituency or individual voters; and

(iii) all persons whose names do not appear on the main roll for the constituency or individual voters or any existing supplementary roll for the constituency on a date to be fixed for the closing of that composite roll by the Commissioner; and

(b) Shall subject to paragraph (a) of this subsection be printed in the manner prescribed by section 35 of this Act in respect of a main roll.

(2) Where the date for the closing of a composite roll for a constituency or individual voters is writ day in relation to an election in that constituency or for individual voters the Commissioner -

(a) Shall cause the composite roll to be printed as soon as may be after the issue of the writ for the election; and

(b) Shall not be obliged to issue a supplementary roll under the provisions of section 36(1) of this Act in relation to that election.

(3) Where a composite roll for a constituency or individual voters is printed under this section -

(a) The composite roll shall, notwithstanding section 34 of this Act, be the main roll until a new main roll is printed for the constituency under section 34(1) of this Act or a new composite roll is printed for the constituency or individual voters under this section; and

(b) The main roll and any supplementary rolls that were in force for the constituency or individual voters

immediately before the date of the closing of the composite roll shall cease to be in force.

- (4) Nothing in this section -
  - (a) Limits the provisions of section 34(1) of this Act; or
  - (b) Prevents any main roll or supplementary roll that is no longer in force from being examined for the purpose of determining -
    - (i) whether any person's name should appear on the main roll or any supplementary roll for the time being in force for any constituency or individual voters; or
    - (ii) whether any person is qualified to vote in any constituency or individual voters as a special voter.

**36B. Composite rolls required for by-elections** – Notwithstanding anything in section 34 of this Act, the Commissioner shall cause a composite roll for that constituency or for individual voters to be closed and printed as at writ day for the by-election.

**37. Requirement of printing of rolls** - The requirement of printing of rolls may, for the purpose of this Part of this Act, be satisfied by typewriting and any mechanical process of reproducing typewritten copies, and the term “printed” wherever used in this Part shall, where necessary, be construed accordingly.

**38. Inspection of main and supplementary rolls-(1)** Printed copies of the main rolls and of the supplementary rolls shall be kept for inspection by the public at the office of the Commissioner in Apia, at the Post Office in Apia, and at such other convenient places as the Commissioner from time to time directs.

(2) Any person may inspect at the Commissioner’s office without payment at any time when the office is open for the transaction of business -

- (a) The main rolls and the supplementary rolls so kept;
- (b) The applications of any persons who have applied or claimed to be registered as electors or voters but

whose names are not on the relevant roll.

(3) A printed copy of the electoral roll for each constituency shall be kept for inspection by the public without payment at convenient times at the residence of each Pūenuu holding office in the constituency concerned.

### *39. Repealed*

**39A. Dormant file** - The Commissioner shall create a dormant file showing the particulars of those persons whose names have been removed from the roll for the constituency or individual voters as a result of the latest revision of the roll under section 18A of this Act.

**39AA. Removal of names from dormant file by Commissioner** - (1) The Commissioner shall remove from the dormant file -

- (a) The name of any person who registers as an elector after the revision of the roll under section 18A of this Act has been completed;
- (b) The name of every person of whose identity the Commissioner is satisfied and whose death has been notified to him in writing -
  - (i) by any Registrar of Births and Deaths; or
  - (ii) by the spouse, father, mother, brother, sister or child of the deceased provided that the person so advising the Commissioner is at least 18 years of age.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, the Commissioner shall keep, for the purpose of the next election to be held in the constituency or for individual voters to which the dormant file relates, a copy of the dormant file as first created.

(3) Where more than one revision of the roll takes place under section 18A of this Act between 2 successive elections in a constituency or for individual voters, the Commissioner shall keep, for the purposes of the later of these 2 elections, copies of each of the dormant files as first created.



**39AB. Computer compiled list of names on dormant file-**

(1) The Commissioner shall from time to time cause to be printed a computer compiled list showing the names and other particulars of the persons whose particulars are held in any dormant file.

(2) Copies of each computer compiled list printed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall be kept by the Commissioner for the purposes of the next election to be held in the constituency or for individual voters to which the file relates.

**39AC. Purposes of dormant file and computer compiled lists of names on dormant file -** Each dormant file and each computer compiled list printed pursuant to section 39AB (1) of this Act may be used for the purpose of determining whether any persons is qualified, under section 16 of this Act, to vote at any election held in the constituency or for individual voters to which the file or list relates.

**39AD. Inspection of computer compiled list of names on dormant file-**(1) A copy of the most recent computer compiled list printed pursuant to section 39AB of this Act for a constituency or for individual voters shall be kept for inspection by the public at the office of the Commissioner.

(2) Any person may inspect at the Commissioner's office without payment at any time between 9 am and 4 pm on any day on which the office is open for the transaction of business any computer compiled list that is kept for inspection by the public at the Commissioner's office.

(3) The Commissioner may, at the request of any person, make any computer compiled list printed pursuant to section 36B of this Act available for public inspection, under the supervision of any Deputy Registrar if the Commissioner is satisfied that a large number of persons are likely to attend the meeting.

(4) Where a list is made available for public inspection under subsection (3) of this section, that list shall be made

available at such times and places as the Commissioner thinks fit.

(5) In the case of a computer compiled list, neither the power of inspection conferred by subsection (2) of this section nor the power to inspect the list when it is made available for public inspection under subsection (4) of this section includes the power to copy the list.

## **PART VI OFFENCES**

**40. False statements or declarations** - Every person who knowingly and wilfully makes a false statement in any claim, application, declaration or objection for the purposes of Part III, Part IV or Part V of this Act shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 8 penalty units or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

**41. Wilfully misleading Commissioner** -(1) Every person shall for each offence be liable to a fine not exceeding 8 penalty units or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months who

-

- (a) Wilfully misleads any Commissioner in the compilation of any roll, or wilfully enters or causes to be entered thereon any false or fictitious name or qualification or the name of any person whom he knows to be dead; or
- (b) Signs the name of any other person, whether requested to do so or not, or any false or fictitious name, to any form of claim, application, declaration or objection for the purposes of Part III, Part IV or Part V of this Act either as claimant, applicant, declarant, objector or witness; or
- (c) Signs his name as witness to any signature upon any such form of claim, application, declaration or objection without either seeing the signature written or hearing the person signing declare that the signature is in his own handwriting and that the name so signed is his own proper name.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Commissioner to institute a prosecution against any person whom he believes to have committed any offence against this section, or the offence of aiding, abetting, counselling, or procuring the commission of any such offence by any person.

**42. Failure to deliver claim or application** - Every person shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 1 penalty unit who, having obtained possession of a claim or application for registration signed by any other person for the purpose of being delivered to the Commissioner for registration, wilfully or negligently fails so to deliver it so that the claimant's or applicant's name is not entered on the roll in question.

**43. Misfeasance of Commissioner** - Every Commissioner who knowingly and wilfully does anything contrary to the provisions of Part III, Part IV or Part V of this Act or who knowingly and wilfully omits to do anything required by Part III, Part IV or Part V of this Act to be done by him, shall be liable if no other penalty is elsewhere in this Act provided, to a fine not exceeding 1 penalty unit.

## **PART VII GENERAL ELECTIONS AND BY-ELECTIONS**

### **General Elections**

**44. Head of State's warrant for issue of writs** - For every general election the Head of State shall not later than 7 days after the day of the dissolution or expiration of the then last Parliament as the case may be by warrant under his hand direct the Commissioner to proceed forthwith to issue writs for the election of members of Parliament for all Territorial Constituencies and Individual Voters.

**45. Writs for general elections** - On receipt of the Head of State's warrant the Commissioner shall within 3 days give public notice of the writs.

**45A. Content of writ-**(1) In every writ for the election of a member of Parliament there shall be appointed -

- (a) The latest day for nomination of candidates being a date not earlier than the 12th day and not later than the 14th day from writ day; and
  - (b) A day for the polling to take place if a poll is required, being a Friday; and
  - (c) The latest day for the return of the writ being the 45th day after its issue.
- (2) Polling Day shall not be earlier than the 12th and not later than the 14th day after nomination day.

**45B. Repealed**

**45C. No writ to issue pending election petition** – If after the petition has been presented against the return of any member representing a constituency, or individual voters, his seat becomes vacant on any of the grounds mentioned in section 5 of this Act, no writ to fill the vacancy shall be issued until after the petition has been disposed of, and not then if the Court determines that member was not duly elected and that some other person was duly elected.

**By-Elections**

**46. Speaker's warrant for issue of writ-** (1) Where -

- (a) Parliament is not in session; or
  - (b) The Legislative Assembly is adjourned and is not due to meet again for more than 14 days, and it appears to the Speaker that the seat of any member has become vacant, the Speaker shall forthwith cause a notice of the vacancy and of the cause thereof to be published in the Gazette.
- (2) Where the vacancy arises from death or resignation the Speaker shall, forthwith upon the publication of the notice in the

Gazette, by warrant under his hand direct the Commissioner to proceed forthwith to issue a writ to supply the vacancy.

(3) Where the vacancy arises from any cause other than death or resignation, then, as soon as conveniently may be after the expiration of 10 days from the date of the publication of the notice in the Gazette, the Speaker, on its being established to his satisfaction that a vacancy does exist, shall, by warrant under his hand, direct the Commissioner to proceed forthwith to issue a writ to supply the vacancy.

(4) Where a vacancy exists at the commencement of any session and no writ has been issued to supply the vacancy, or where a vacancy occurs during a session, the Speaker shall forthwith upon being ordered to do so by the Legislative Assembly, by warrant under his hand, direct the Commissioner to proceed forthwith to issue a writ to supply the vacancy.

(5) Nothing in subsections (1) to (4) of this section applies in respect of any vacancy that occurs in the period between a dissolution or expiration of Parliament and the close of polling day at the next general election.

**46A. Power to resolve in certain cases that by-election not be held** - Notwithstanding anything in section 46 of this Act, no writ shall be issued for a by-election to supply a vacancy in the Legislative Assembly if -

- (a) The vacancy arises in the period of 6 months ending with the date of the expiration of the Parliament;  
or
- (b) Following the tabling in the Legislative Assembly by the Prime Minister of a document informing the Assembly that a general election is to be held within 6 months of the occurrence of the vacancy.

**46B. Writ for by-election** - The Commissioner shall as soon as reasonably practicable after receiving a warrant, but in any case not later than 21 days after the date of the receipt of the warrant, issue a writ for election to supply the vacancy:

Provided that, in any case in which it appears to the Head of State to be appropriate may, by Order, authorise the

Commissioner to postpone the issue of a writ until such day as may be specified in the Order being not later than 42 days after the date of the receipt of the warrant.

**47. When Head of State to act for Speaker** - Where a vacancy occurs at a time when there is no Speaker or the Speaker is absent from Samoa, the Head of State shall cause a like notice to be inserted in the Gazette, and the like proceedings to be taken as are provided for in section 46 of this Act.

### **Nominations**

**48. Nomination of candidates-**(1) Any person qualified under Part II of this Act may, with his consent, be nominated as a candidate for election for any constituency or for the individual voters, by not less than 2 registered electors of that constituency, or by 2 registered voters, as the case may be, by a nomination paper in form No. 5.

(2) Consent to the nomination of any person shall be given by that person in writing or by telegram, but need not be given at the time when the nomination paper is lodged.

(3) Every nomination paper and every consent shall be lodged with or given to the Commissioner not later than noon on nomination day. The Commissioner shall give a receipt in writing for every nomination accepted by him.

(4) Each candidate shall be nominated by a separate nomination paper in such manner as, in the opinion of the Commissioner, is sufficient to identify the candidate.

(5) No elector or voter may nominate more than one candidate.

(6) Any registered elector or voter may inspect any nomination paper or consent at the Commissioner's office without payment at any time when the office is open for the transaction of business.

**49. Nomination fee** - Every candidate, or some person on his behalf, shall pay to the Commissioner a nomination fee of \$300 not later than noon on nomination day.

**50. Acceptance or rejection of nomination-**(1) The Commissioner shall reject the nomination of any candidate -

- (a) If the nomination paper and the consent of the candidate are not lodged with him not later than noon on nomination day; or
- (a)(i) If the consent of the Candidate does not state that he or she is qualified to be elected a member of Parliament in terms of Part II of the Electoral Act 1963 and of any other enactment;
- (b) If the nomination paper does not state that the candidate is a registered elector of a specified constituency, or, registered as an individual voter; or
- (c) If the nomination paper is not signed by at least 2 registered electors of the constituency for which the nomination is made, or, in the case of an individual voter, by at least 2 registered voters; or
- (d) If the nomination fee is not paid as required by this Act.

(2) In every other case the Commissioner shall accept the nomination:

Provided that nothing in this subsection shall limit the jurisdiction of the Court hearing an election petition.

**51. Advertisement of nomination -** At the hour of noon on the day appointed for the nomination of candidates, or as soon thereafter as practicable, the Commissioner, shall cause the names of all candidates so nominated to be posted in a conspicuous place outside the place named in the said public notice, and shall in each constituency give public notice of the nominations for that constituency.

**52. Withdrawal of nomination-**(1) Any candidate may sign and deliver to the Commissioner, not later than noon on nomination day a paper in form No. 6 stating that the candidate withdraws his nomination. The Commissioner shall give public notice thereof.

(2) No withdrawal of nomination which does not comply with subsection (1) of this section shall have any effect.

(3) If any candidate withdraws his nomination in accordance with subsection (1) of this section, he shall not be capable of being elected at any poll which it may still be necessary to hold.

**53. Procedure where nominations insufficient-**(1) If there is only one member to be elected for any constituency or by individual voters, and if no candidate is nominated or if the only candidate nominated withdraws his nomination, the Commissioner shall, after the expiration of 3 months from polling day, declare the seat to be vacant and thereupon the provisions of section 47 of this Act shall apply.

(2) If there is more than one member to be elected for any constituency or by individual voters, and if no candidate is nominated or if the number of candidates nominated is less than the number of members to be elected, or if any candidate or candidates who have been nominated withdraw his or their nominations and the number of candidates who remain (if any) is less than the number of members to be elected, the Commissioner shall, after the expiration of 3 months from polling day, declare to be vacant any seat in excess of the number of remaining nominations and thereupon the provisions of section 47 of this Act shall apply to each such vacant seat.

### **Contested Elections**

**54. Procedure where election not contested-**(1) The Commissioner shall, by public notice on or before polling day, in respect of any constituency or individual voters, declare that the candidate or candidates shall be deemed to be elected, and report accordingly to the Head of State -

- (a) If there is only one member to be elected and if only one candidate is nominated, or if any candidate who has been nominated withdraws his nomination and there remains only one candidate;  
or



- (b) If there is more than one member to be elected and if the number of candidates nominated is equal to or less than the number of Members to be elected, or if any candidate or candidates who have been nominated withdraw his or their nomination and the number of candidates who remain is equal to or less than the number of Members to be elected.

(2) Thereupon the Head of State shall, by warrant under his hand, declare such candidate or candidates to be elected.

**55. Public Notice of polling day and candidates** - If the number of candidates exceeds the number of Members to be elected, the Commissioner shall forthwith give a second public notice of polling day, and public notice of the names of the candidates.

**56. Form of ballot papers-**(1) The ballot papers to be used at any election shall be in form 7.

(2) Forthwith after nomination day for an election, the Commissioner shall, if a poll is required to be taken, cause ballot papers to be printed in sufficient numbers for the election.

(3) Every ballot paper shall contain a list of all the persons nominated as candidates who have not withdrawn their nominations (which list shall be in the manner prescribed by this Act).

(4) On the ballot paper -

- (a) The names of candidates shall be arranged alphabetically in order of their surnames;
- (b) The given names of the candidates shall follow the candidates surname;
- (c) The surnames of the candidates shall (except in the case of a special ballot paper that is not printed) be in large characters and bold type;
- (d) The name of the political party of the candidate, if any-
  - (i) shall be shown immediately below the candidate's name; and
  - (ii) shall be in characters that are smaller than

those used for the surname of the candidate;  
and

(iii) shall not be in bold type;

(e) Such other matter, if any, as may be necessary to distinguish the names of the candidates shall be shown.

(5) No candidate who seeks election as an independent candidate shall use the name of any political party that contested the last general election or any by-election held since the last general election, but shall have the word “independent” shown on the ballot paper immediately below that candidate’s name.

(6) Subject to subsection (4) (e) of this section, no other identification, such as occupation, title, honor, or degree, shall be included on the ballot paper in relation to any candidate’s name or political party.

(7) A square shall be shown on the ballot paper to the right of each candidate’s name.

(8) Every ballot paper shall have a counterfoil in form 8.

(9) There shall also be printed on the top right-hand corner of every ballot paper and in the space provided in the counterfoil attached thereto, a number (called a consecutive number) beginning with the number 1 in the case of the first ballot paper printed, and on all succeeding ballot papers printed the numbers shall be consecutive, so that No.2 ballot papers for the Constituency or Individual Voters shall bear the same number.

(10) Where any question arises concerning the order or manner in which the names of the candidates or the names of political parties are to be shown on the ballot paper, the Commissioner shall decide the question.

**56A. Name of Political Party** – Where a name is shown on a nomination paper or other document in which a candidate lists a registered political party, the Commissioner may require confirmation of such candidates eligibility to claim that accreditation.

(2) No unregistered political party shall be recognised by the Commissioner.

**Death of Candidate**

**57. Death before close of nominations-**(1) Where a candidate who has been nominated and has not withdrawn his nomination dies before the close of nominations his nomination shall be treated in all respects as if it had not been made, and his nomination fee shall be returned to his personal representatives or, as the case may be, to the person who paid it.

(2) Where in any such case the candidate dies on nomination day or on the day before nomination day the time for the close of nominations in that constituency, or for individual voters (if the candidate is an individual voter), shall be deemed to be postponed by 5 days.

**58. Death after close of nominations-**(1) If any candidate dies after the close of nominations and before the close of the poll or if the successful candidate dies after the close of the poll and before the declaration of the result of the poll, the provisions of this section shall apply.

(2) The election shall be deemed to have failed and the seat shall be deemed to be vacated.

(3) Where the candidate dies before polling day the Commissioner shall, upon being satisfied of the fact of the death, countermand the notice of the poll in that particular constituency or for individual voters as the case may be.

(4) Where the candidate dies on polling day before the close of the poll the Commissioner or the Presiding Officer shall, upon being satisfied of the fact of the death, immediately close the poll and declare it to be null and of no effect.

(5) Where the candidate dies after the close of the poll and before the declaration of the result of the poll, and it is found on the completion of the count of votes or on a recount that the candidate, if still living, would have been elected the Commissioner shall, upon being satisfied of the fact of the death, endorse on the report to the Head of State the fact of the death and that the candidate, if still living, would have been elected.

(6) The provisions of this Act as to equality of votes between candidates shall apply notwithstanding the death of one of those candidates after the close of the poll.

(7) Where the poll is interrupted in consequence of the death of a candidate all ballot papers placed in the several ballot boxes shall be taken out by the several Presiding Officers and, being made up into secured packages, shall be sent unopened to the Commissioner, who shall forthwith destroy them in the presence of a District Court Judge or other judicial officer.

(8) A fresh public notice shall be issued by the Commissioner forthwith for a new election and, except as otherwise provided, all proceedings in connection with the new election shall be had and taken a new.

(9) The main roll and supplementary rolls which were to be used at the election which has failed shall be used at the new election without any amendment or addition.

(10) It shall not be necessary to nominate a fresh any candidate who at the time of the countermand or close of the poll was a duly nominated candidate:

Provided that any such candidate may withdraw his nomination not later than 5 clear days before the new polling day.

(11) All appointments of polling places made in respect of the election which has failed shall continue in respect of the new election.

### **Polling at Elections**

**59. Polling places-**(1) The Commissioner shall by public notice, given at least 7 days before polling day, appoint a sufficient number of polling places in each constituency where an election is being held and for individual voters, for the taking of the poll.

(1a) The Commissioner may also designate polling places for any constituency which may be located outside the territorial boundaries of such constituency where considered appropriate.

(2) No polling place shall be appointed either for the receipt of ordinary or special votes outside the islands of Upolu, Savaii or Manono.

**60. Polling booths, ballot boxes, ballot papers, etc.** - The Commissioner shall provide the following things for taking the poll -

- (a) One or more rooms for polling booths at each polling place, and in each booth one or more inner compartments, separated from but opening into the booth and having no other opening;
- (b) In each inner compartment pencils for use of the electors or voters or other suitable facilities for the marking of ballot papers;
- (c) In each booth one or more ballot boxes having a lock and key and a slit in the upper side by which the ballot papers may be put into the box;
- (d) In each booth one or more copies of the main roll and supplementary rolls for the constituency or individual voters, as the case may be, and a sufficient number of ballot papers.

**61. Allocation of Officers-**(1) The Commissioner shall prescribe the constituency or constituencies in which and the individual voters in respect of which Returning Officers, Deputy Returning Officers, poll clerks and interpreters shall exercise their functions.

(2) A Returning Officer shall have the powers and may perform any of the duties of the Commissioner in the constituency or constituencies or in respect of the individual voters to which he is appointed and shall be subject to the authority and control of the Chief Electoral Officer.

(3) The Commissioner shall exercise supervision over the functions of Returning Officers, Deputy Returning Officers, poll clerks and interpreters, and may give any such officers directions as to the performance of their duties.

**62. Deputy Returning Officers, poll clerks, and interpreters-**(1) The Commissioner shall appoint for each polling booth a Deputy Returning Officer to conduct the poll at that booth and one or more poll clerks to assist the Deputy Returning Officer, and may appoint such additional Deputy Returning

Officers and poll clerks and such interpreters as he considers necessary.

(2) A Returning Officer may himself exercise all the powers, duties, and functions of a Deputy Returning Officer in respect of any one polling booth.

(3) Any Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer may at any time on or before polling day appoint in writing a substitute to act for him in respect of that election in case of his absence from duty.

(4) If the Deputy Returning Officer fails to open the polling at any booth, or if he is absent from duty and has not appointed a substitute, any poll clerk at the booth may act for him and in that event shall be deemed to be his substitute.

(5) Every substitute while acting for any Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer shall have all the powers, duties, and functions of that Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer.

**63. Poll clerks and interpreters to make declaration -**

Every poll clerk and interpreter shall before the poll, and every substitute for a Deputy Returning Officer shall before acting, make a declaration in form No.1 before the Commissioner, Returning Officer, another Deputy Returning Officer or a person authorised to take a statutory declaration by section 21 of the Oaths, Affidavits and Declarations Act 1963.

**64. Scrutineers-**(1) Each candidate may, by writing under his hand, appoint one scrutineer for each polling booth at any election.

(2) Every scrutineer shall, before being allowed to act, make a declaration in form No. 1 before a Returning Officer, a Deputy Returning Officer or a person authorised to take a statutory declaration by section 21 of the Oaths, Affidavits and Declarations Act 1963.

(3) Any scrutineer who during the hours of polling leaves the polling booth to which he is appointed, without having first obtained the permission of the Presiding Officer at that polling booth, shall not be entitled to re-enter the booth or to resume his scrutiny.

(4) Nothing in this Act shall render it unlawful for a scrutineer to communicate to any person information as to the names of persons who have voted.

(5) No candidate shall act as a scrutineer under this Act.

**65. Hours of polling-**(1) The poll at every election shall commence at 9 o'clock in the morning of polling day, and, except as otherwise provided in this Act, shall finally close at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day or at 7 o'clock in the evening of the same day if polling day is a Saturday.

(2) Every elector or voter who at the close of the poll is present in a booth for the purpose of voting shall be entitled to receive a ballot paper and to mark and deposit it in the same manner as if he had voted before the close of the poll.

### **The Ballot**

**66. Ballot box to be kept locked during poll -** The Presiding Officer at each polling booth shall, before the opening of the poll, and in the sight of any of the scrutineers present, see that the ballot box is empty, and shall close and lock it, and retain the key in his possession; and the ballot box shall not again be opened until after the close of the poll:

Provided that, if the lock of a ballot box is damaged or defective so that the box cannot be locked, the Presiding Officer shall securely seal the box instead of locking it.

**67. Persons not to remain in polling booth -** Not more than 6 electors or voters shall be allowed in a polling booth or more than one elector or voter in any inner compartment at one and the same time; and no person shall be allowed to remain in any polling booth except the Presiding Officer and his clerks, any of the scrutineers, an interpreter, and as many constables as the Presiding Officer thinks necessary to keep the peace.

**68. Person not to be spoken to in booth-**(1) No scrutineer or other official or unofficial person shall speak to any elector or voter in a polling booth either before or after the elector or voter

has given his vote, except only the Presiding Officer or poll clerk (with an interpreter if necessary), who may ask the questions he is authorised to put, and give such general directions as may assist any elector or voter to give his vote, and in particular may on request inform an elector or voter orally of the names of all the candidates in alphabetical order.

(2) Every person who offends against this section shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding 1 penalty unit, and may be at once removed from the booth by order of the Presiding Officer.

**69. Questions may be put to elector or voter-**(1) The Presiding Officer may, and if so required by any scrutineer shall, before allowing any person to vote, put to him the following questions -

- (a) Are you the person whose name appears as A.B. in the roll now in force for the (Name) constituency, or the individual voters' roll, as the case may be?;
- (b) Are you still possessed of the qualifications in respect of which you are enrolled?;
- (c) Have you already voted at this election?.

(2) In every such case the Presiding Officer shall require the questions to be answered in writing signed by the person to whom they are put.

(3) Every person to whom those questions are put who does not answer them, or does not answer the first and second in the affirmative and the third in the negative, shall not be permitted to vote.

(4) Every person who wilfully and knowingly makes a false answer to any of the questions that the Presiding Officer may put to him under this section shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 2 penalty units.

**70. Issue of ballot papers-**(1) Every Presiding Officer shall, in accordance with the provisions of this section, issue ballot papers to all electors or voters who apply to vote at the booth in respect of which he is appointed.



(2) The elector or voter shall state his name to the Presiding Officer and shall give such particulars as may be necessary to identify the entry in the printed rolls relating to the elector or voter.

(3) If the name of the elector or voter appears in the rolls a line shall be drawn through his name and number.

(4) If the name of the elector or voter appears in the rolls the Presiding Officer shall then issue to the elector or voter a ballot paper after he has prepared it in the following manner -

(a) Unless a consecutive number has been printed on the ballot paper and on the counterfoil, he shall enter on both the counterfoil and the back of the ballot paper in the spaces provided a number (called a consecutive number), beginning with the number one in the case of the first ballot paper issued by him, and on all succeeding papers issued by him the numbers shall be consecutive, so that no 2 ballot papers issued in the same booth shall bear the same number;

(b) He shall then fold over the corner of the ballot paper on which the consecutive number appears and shall firmly fix a piece of gummed paper over that corner so as effectively to conceal the consecutive number;

(c) On the counterfoil of the ballot paper he shall write his initials, and the number appearing in the roll against the name of the elector or voter;

(d) He shall place his official booth stamp on the perforation between the counterfoil and the back of the ballot paper.

(5) Every Presiding Officer who fails faithfully to perform any duty imposed on him by this section, by reason whereof any of the requirements of the section are not effectively fulfilled, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 2 penalty units:

Provided that, insofar as the failure relates to the duty of fixing a piece of gummed paper over the consecutive numbers so as effectively to conceal it, it shall be a sufficient defence if he

satisfies the Court that he took all reasonable precautions to secure the same.

**70A. Who may vote** - Subject to the other provisions of this Act any person whose name lawfully appears on the main roll or any supplementary roll for a constituency or on the main or supplementary individual voters' roll as the case may be and who is qualified to be registered as an elector for the constituency or as an individual voter shall be qualified to vote at an election in that constituency or as an individual voter as the case may be.

**70B.** *Repealed*

**70C. Special voters** - A person who is qualified and registered to vote at any election in any constituency and wishes to cast his vote for that constituency may vote as a special voter at a polling place outside that constituency.

**70D. Voting by special voters-**(1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Act, a special voter may vote at such place within Samoa, at such time, in such manner, and upon or subject to such conditions as appear in this Act or are as may be prescribed in that behalf by regulations made under this Act.

(2) Different method of voting may be prescribed for different classes of special voters.

(3) The ballot papers for use by special voters or by any class of special voters may be in such form as is prescribed by regulations, and the consecutive numbers of the special ballot papers for any district may be in a different series from that used for the ordinary ballot papers.

(4) Each candidate may, by writing under his hand, appoint one scrutineer to be present at the office of the Commissioner when he is performing his duties in relation to declarations in respect of special votes.

(5) Every scrutineer shall, before being allowed to act, make a declaration in form 1 before a Returning Officer or the Deputy Returning Officer or a person authorised to take a statutory

declaration by section 21 of the Oaths, Affidavits and Declarations Act 1963.

(6) No candidate shall act as scrutineer under this section.

(7) Subject to the provisions of this section and section 70C of this Act, and to the provisions of any regulations made for the purposes of this section, all the provisions of this Act shall, as far as applicable and with the necessary modifications, apply with respect to voting by special voters and to their votes.

**70E. Employees to have time off to vote-**(1) Every elector or voter shall be given reasonable time for the purpose of voting and it shall not be lawful for any employer to make any deduction from any remuneration payable to any such worker in respect of such absence.

(2) Subject to subsection (1) where an elector or voter has not had a reasonable opportunity to vote before commencing work, every employer shall allow such employee to leave his work for the sole purpose of voting not later than 12 noon on a working day for the remainder of the day.

(3) Subject to subsections (1) and (2) where an elector or voter is required to work after 12:00 noon of polling day for the purpose of carrying on any essential work or service his employer shall allow the worker to leave his work for a period not exceeding 2 hours for the purpose of voting.

**71. Method of voting-**(1) The elector or voter, having received a ballot paper, shall immediately retire into one of the inner compartments provided for the purpose, and shall there alone and secretly indicate on the ballot paper the candidate or candidates for whom he desires to vote by marking a tick in a square set opposite to the name of each:

Provided that no ballot paper shall be rejected as informal that clearly indicates the candidate or candidates for whom the elector or voter intended to vote whether that indication is made in the manner prescribed by this section or otherwise.

(2) Every elector or voter shall, before leaving the inner compartment, fold his ballot paper so that the contents cannot be seen, and shall then deposit it so folded in the ballot box.

**72. Spoilt ballot papers-**(1) Any elector or voter who, not having deposited his ballot paper in the ballot box, satisfies the Presiding Officer that he has spoilt it by inadvertence may be supplied with a fresh ballot paper, but only after the spoilt one has been returned to the Presiding Officer.

(2) The Presiding Officer shall -

- (a) Cancel every such spoilt ballot paper by writing across the face thereof the words "Spoilt by elector or voter, and a fresh ballot paper issued" and writing his initials thereon;
- (b) If any ballot paper is inadvertently spoilt by the Presiding Officer or any other official, cancel it by writing across the face thereof the words "Spoilt by official" and also the words "and a fresh ballot paper issued" if that is the case, and writing his initials thereon;
- (c) Retain all spoilt ballot papers in his possession until the close of the poll.

(3) The Presiding Officer shall make up into separate packets and shall deliver to the Commissioner as soon as practicable after the close of the poll all spoilt ballot papers at the polling booth at which he presided.

(4) The provisions of subsection (1) of section 83 of this Act providing for the disposal of ballot papers shall apply with respect to the disposal of spoilt ballot papers.

**73. Voter blind or unable to read or write-**(1) Any elector or voter who is wholly or partially blind, or is unable to read or write (whether because of physical handicap or otherwise), or is not sufficiently familiar with the English language to vote without assistance, may vote in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(2) At the request of any such elector or voter who has received a ballot paper the Presiding Officer shall accompany him into one of the inner compartments provided for the marking of ballot papers, and the ballot paper may there be marked by the elector or voter with the assistance of the Presiding Officer or may be marked by the Presiding Officer in accordance with the

instructions of the elector or voter.

(3) The person assisting the elector or voter shall sign his name on the back of the ballot paper and shall add the words “Witness for blind or partially blind person” or “Witness for person unable to read or write” or “Witness for person not familiar with the English language”, as the case may be, and shall fold the ballot paper so that its face cannot be seen before depositing it in the ballot box.

(4) A poll clerk or some other person nominated by the elector or voter may also accompany him into the inner compartment and may, if so desired by the elector or voter, inspect the ballot paper before it is deposited in the ballot box.

(5) Every person who is present in accordance with this section or with any regulations when an elector or voter votes and who communicates at any time to any person any information obtained as to the candidate for whom the elector or voter is about to vote or has voted, or as to the number on the ballot paper given to the elector or voter, commits an offence, and shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to a fine not exceeding 5 penalty units or to both.

**74. Procedure when second vote given in same name -** If any person proposing to vote at any election gives as his name the name of any person to whom a ballot paper has already been given at the same election, he shall be dealt with in all respects in like manner as any other elector or voter:

Provided that the ballot paper of any such person shall not be deposited in the ballot box or be allowed by the Presiding Officer, but shall be set aside for separate custody.

### **Preliminary Count of Votes**

**75. Procedure after close of poll-(1)** At each polling booth the Presiding Officer shall, as soon as practicable after the close of the poll, in the presence of such of the scrutineers as choose to be present and the poll clerks, but of no other person, perform the following duties -

- (a) He shall make up into separate parcels -
    - (i) the certified copies of the main roll and supplementary rolls on which the fact of any person having received a ballot paper has been noted; and
    - (ii) all the counterfoils of ballot papers that have been issued to electors or voters; and
    - (iii) all the spoilt ballot papers; and
    - (iv) all the unused ballot papers.
  - (b) He shall then open the ballot boxes and, taking therefrom all the ballot papers therein, proceed to ascertain the number of votes received by each candidate;
  - (c) He shall set aside as informal all ballot papers which do not clearly indicate the candidate for whom the elector or voter desired to vote;
  - (d) He shall announce the result of the voting at the polling booth at which he presides and arrange for the result of the voting to be transmitted as soon as possible to the Commissioner;
  - (e) He shall make up into separate parcels -
    - (i) the used ballot papers, together with (but in separate enclosures) the ballot papers set aside as informal, and the ballot papers set aside under section 74 of this Act; and
    - (ii) a certificate signed by himself of the number of votes received by each candidate, the number of ballot papers set aside under section 74 of this Act, the number of ballot papers, and the number of ballot papers originally delivered to him.
- (2) Each parcel made up under this section shall be endorsed by the Presiding Officer with a description of its content, the name of the constituency, or individual voters, the name of the polling place, the number of the booth and the date of the polling; and the parcel shall be enclosed signed by the Presiding Officer; and the parcel shall be enclosed in paper or similar material and shall be properly secured.

(3) The Presiding Officer shall forthwith forward all the parcels mentioned in this section to the Commissioner.

**PART VIII  
PROCEDURE AFTER POLLING DAY**

**Scrutiny of the Rolls**

**76. Arrangements for scrutiny of the rolls-**(1) The Commissioner shall make arrangements for a scrutiny of the rolls as soon as practicable after the close of the poll, and shall give at least 3 clear days' notice in writing to each of the candidates of the time and place at which he will commence the scrutiny.

(2) The Commissioner (and his assistants) or such Returning Officers as designated by the Commissioner to scrutinise the particular roll, shall be present at the scrutiny in addition to one person appointed as scrutineer by each candidate.

(3) No candidate shall act as scrutineer under this section.

(4) A scrutineer may be appointed under this section by telegram.

**77. Marked copies of rolls to be compared-**(1) The Commissioner shall, in the presence and hearing of his assistants (if any) and such scrutineers as choose to be present, but of no other person, compare one with another all the certified copies of the main roll and supplementary rolls on which the fact of any person having received a ballot paper has been noted, and shall on an unmarked copy of the main roll and every supplementary roll (called the master roll) draw a line through the number and name of any elector or voter who is shown on any of the certified copies of the rolls as having received a ballot paper.

(2) If on that comparison, or from the report of a Presiding Officer on the ballot papers set aside under section 74 of this Act, and after such inquiry as the Commissioner deems necessary, it appears that the same elector or voter has received more than one ballot paper, the Commissioner shall, in the presence of his assistants (if any) and such scrutineers as choose to be present, but of no other person, open the parcel or parcels of ballot papers

used at the polling booth or polling booths at which that elector or voter appears to have received a ballot paper, and shall select therefrom the ballot papers which appear from their consecutive numbers and counterfoils to have been issued to that elector or voter, and shall disallow every vote appearing to have been given by means of the ballot papers so selected:

Provided that, if the Commissioner is satisfied that one and only one of the ballot papers was lawfully received by the elector or voter entitled thereto and that he was not in any way concerned in the issue of the other ballot paper or ballot papers, the Commissioner shall not disallow the vote of that elector or voter under this section but shall disallow the other vote or votes.

(3) Except in the case of the ballot papers so selected therefrom, the Commissioner shall inspect only the consecutive numbers on the ballot papers in the several parcels so opened, and shall so cover the ballot papers that no person present shall have the opportunity of determining the candidate for whom any particular elector or voter has voted.

**78. Parcels to be secured after scrutiny-**(1) When the Commissioner has selected from any parcel all the ballot papers he is required to select therefrom, he shall forthwith, in the presence of his assistants (if any) and such scrutineers as choose to be present, but of no other person, close and secure the parcel, and shall endorse thereon a memorandum of the fact of the ballot papers having been selected from that parcel, specifying the same by the name of the person to whom the same appear to have been delivered, and shall sign the endorsement with his name.

(2) The Commissioner shall set aside all ballot papers selected by him from any parcel as herein provided, and shall in the presence of his assistants (if any) and such scrutineers as choose to be present, but of no other person, secure those ballot papers in a separate parcel, and shall endorse the parcel with a description of the contents thereof, and shall sign the endorsement with his name.



**Official Count and Declaration of Poll**

**79. Counting the votes-**(1) On completion of the scrutiny hereinbefore directed the Commissioner, with such assistants and such Returning Officers designated under section 76 of this Act as he deems necessary, and in the presence of such of the scrutineers appointed under section 76 of this Act as choose to be present, but of no other person, shall select and open one of the parcels of used ballot papers referred to in paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section 75 of this Act and shall mark each ballot paper therein with a number in consecutive order, beginning with the number one, so that no 2 ballot papers in that parcel shall bear the same number:

Provided that the procedure set out in this subsection need not be delayed until the inquiries under subsection (2) of section 77 of this Act have been completed, but the ballot papers from any particular polling booth shall not be counted until any inquiries in respect of ballot papers from that booth have been completed.

(2) When the ballot papers from the parcel so selected have been marked as aforesaid the Commissioner shall make a record of the last number marked, and shall then, in the presence of his assistants (if any) and such of the scrutineers as choose to be present, but of no other person, deal with the ballot papers as follows -

- (a) He shall reject as informal any ballot paper -
  - (i) that does not bear the official mark if there is reasonable cause to believe that it was not issued to an elector or voter by any Presiding Officer; or
  - (ii) that does not clearly indicate the candidate for whom the elector or voter desired to vote; or
  - (iii) that has anything not authorised by this Act written or marked thereon by which the elector or voter can be identified; or
  - (iv) that purports to vote for more candidates than the number of candidates to be elected:

Provided that no ballot paper shall be rejected as informal by reason only of some informality in the manner in which it has been dealt with by the elector or voter if it is otherwise regular, and if in the opinion of the Commissioner the intention of the elector or voter in voting is clearly indicated:

Provided also that no ballot paper shall be rejected as informal by reason only of some error or omission on the part of an official, if the Commissioner is satisfied that the elector or voter was qualified to vote at the election:

- (b) The Commissioner shall then count the number of votes received by each candidate, and the number of votes rejected as informal, and compare the result of that count with the certificate of the Presiding Officer in respect of the preliminary count, and shall, where necessary, amend that certificate, and every such certificate shall be initialled by the Commissioner;
  - (c) The Commissioner shall then make up and secure the parcel a new, and endorse thereon a memorandum specifying the number of ballot papers contained in the parcel, the number of votes received by each candidate, the number of informal ballot papers, the name of the polling place, and the number of the booth at which the votes were recorded; and the endorsement shall be signed by the Commissioner.
- (3) After the ballot papers from one parcel have been dealt with in the manner aforesaid, those from the remaining parcels shall be successively dealt with in like manner, the marking of the ballot papers to commence with the number one in the case of each parcel.

**80. Declaration of result of poll-**(1) When all the ballot papers have been dealt with as aforesaid the Commissioner, having ascertained the total number of votes received by each candidate, shall forthwith declare the result of the poll including the number of votes received by each candidate by giving public notice

thereof in form No. 9, and report the result of the poll to the Head of State. Thereupon the Head of State shall, by warrant under his hand, declare the successful candidate or candidates to be elected.

(2) Where there is an equality of votes between candidates and the addition of a vote would entitle one of those candidates to be declared elected, the Commissioner shall forthwith apply to a District Court Judge for a recount under section 81 of this Act, and all the provisions of that section shall apply accordingly, except that no deposit shall be necessary.

### **Recount**

#### **81. Application to District Court Judge for recount-(1)**

Where any candidate has reason to believe that the declaration by the Commissioner of the number of votes received by each candidate is incorrect, and that on a recount thereof the first-mentioned candidate might be found to be elected, he may, within 3 days after the public notice of the result of the election, apply to a District Court Judge for a recount of the votes.

(2) Every such application shall be accompanied by a deposit of \$500.

(3) The District Court Judge shall cause a recount of the votes to be commenced within 3 days after receiving the application, and shall give notice in writing to the Commissioner and to each of the candidates or their scrutineers of the time and place at which the recount will be made.

(4) The recount shall be made in the presence of the District Court Judge or of an officer appointed by him for the purpose, and shall as far as practicable be made in the manner provided in the case of the original count:

Provided that no person shall be present at the recount except the District Court Judge or the officer appointed by him, his assistants (if any), the Commissioner and his assistants (if any), and the scrutineers appointed under section 76 of this Act.

(5) In any case where on any recount under this section there is an equality of votes between candidates and the addition of a vote would entitle one of those candidates to be declared elected,

the Commissioner shall determine by lot which candidate shall be elected.

(6) The magistrate shall have all the powers that the Commissioner had on the original count, and may reverse any decision made by the Commissioner in the exercise of those powers.

(7) If on the recount the District Court Judge finds that the declaration of the result of the poll was incorrect he shall order the Commissioner to make an amended declaration of the result of the poll by giving public notice thereof in form No. 9 and to give an amended report of the result of the poll to the Head of State. Thereupon the Head of State shall by warrant and declare the successful candidates to be elected.

(8) The District Court Judge may make such order as to the costs of and incidental to the recount as he deems just, and, subject to any such order, shall direct the deposit made under this section to be returned to the person who paid it.

**82. Ballot papers and certificate to be compared on recount-**(1) At any recount made as aforesaid the Commissioner shall produce to the District Court Judge all the used ballot papers, together with the certificate stating the total number of ballot papers used at the election.

(2) If on comparing the number of ballot papers stated in the certificate with the ballot papers used at the election the District Court Judge finds that any of the ballot papers have been lost, stolen, or in any way interfered with during the interval between the official count and the recount, the official count made by the Commissioner shall be deemed to be correct, and the result of the poll declared accordingly. Where in any such case there is an equality of votes between candidates and the addition of a vote would entitle one of those candidates to be declared elected, the Commissioner shall determine by lot which candidate shall be elected.

### **Disposal of Ballot Papers**

**83. Disposal of ballot papers, rolls, etc.**-(1) As soon as

practicable after polling day the Commissioner shall enclose in separate packets in the following manner all the parcels transmitted to him by the several Presiding Officers or made up and secured by himself, that is to say -

- (a) He shall enclose in one or more separate packets all the parcels of used ballot papers, and all counterfoils corresponding to those ballot papers; in one or more other separate packets all parcels of unused and spoilt ballot papers; in another all parcels of ballot papers set aside under section 74 and section 78 of this Act; and in one or more other separate packets all parcels containing ballot paper accounts, copies of rolls (except the master roll), books, or other papers, as provided in this Act;
  - (b) He shall properly secure the said several packets, and endorse them with a description of the contents thereof respectively; and the name of the constituency or individual voters, the name of the polling place and number of the polling booth; and the date of the polling; and shall sign the endorsement; and shall forthwith forward the said packets to the Registrar of the Supreme Court;
  - (c) He shall also at the same time properly secure and transmit to the Registrar of the Supreme Court a parcel containing all ballot papers printed for the election and not used by the Commissioner or distributed for use to any Presiding Officer.
- (2) The Registrar of the Supreme Court shall forthwith give or send to the Commissioner a receipt under his hand for the said packets and parcel.

(3) *Repealed*

**84. Disposal of packets-**(1) The packets and parcel shall be safely kept for one year unopened, unless a Court of competent jurisdiction orders them, or any of them, to be opened.

(2) At the end of one year the packets and parcel shall be destroyed unopened in the presence of the Registrar of the

Supreme Court and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

**85. Papers taken from parcels as evidence in certain cases-**(1) Any ballot paper, and any copy of a roll, and any book purporting to be taken from any such parcel as aforesaid, and having written thereon respectively, under the hand of the Registrar of the Supreme Court, a certificate of the several particulars by this Act required to be endorsed on the parcel, shall be conclusive evidence in any Court or before any Committee of the Legislative Assembly that it was so taken and that it, if a ballot paper, was deposited and, if a roll or book, was kept or used at the election and booth to which the endorsement and the writing relate.

(2) Every ballot paper so certified shall be evidence of a vote given at the poll, and of the correspondence of the number appearing on the ballot paper with the number appearing on any roll so certified as of the same election and booth, according to the tenor of the said ballot paper.

(3) But in the case of the ballot papers set aside or selected by a Presiding Officer or by the Commissioner the correspondence shall be evidence only of some person having voted in the name appearing on the roll.

### **Maintenance of Order at Elections**

**86. Presiding Officers to maintain order-**(1) Every Presiding Officer shall maintain order and keep the peace at the polling place or booth where he is conducting the poll, and may, without any other warrant than this Act -

- (a) Cause to be arrested and taken before a District Court Judge any person reasonably suspected of committing or attempting to commit at the polling place or booth any of the offences mentioned in section 92 of this Act; or
- (b) Cause to be removed any person who obstructs the approaches to a polling booth, or wilfully and unnecessarily obstructs the proceedings at the polling, or conducts himself in a disorderly

manner, or causes a disturbance, or wilfully acts in any manner in defiance of the lawful directions of the Presiding Officer.

(2) All constables shall aid and assist the Presiding Officer in the performance of his duty.

**87. Adjournment of Poll** - Where the polling at any polling place cannot start or has to be suspended whether by reason of riot or open violence, natural disaster, or any other cause, the Presiding Officer shall adjourn the taking of the poll at that polling place to the following day, and if necessary from day to day until the poll can be taken, and shall forthwith give public notice of the adjournment in such manner as he thinks fit:

Provided that the poll shall not be kept open for more than 10 hours in all at any polling place.

### **Custody of Ballot Papers**

**88. Prevention of irregularities as to ballot papers** - In order to prevent the commission at any election of irregularities in respect of the improper possession of ballot papers the following provisions shall apply -

- (a) The Commissioner shall give to the person printing the ballot papers a receipt specifying the total number of ballot papers received by him, and it shall be the duty of the printer to see that all copies of the ballot papers other than those delivered to the Commissioner are immediately destroyed;
- (b) Every Presiding Officer shall give to the Commissioner a receipt specifying the total number of ballot papers received by him, and shall be personally responsible for the safe custody of all such ballot papers from the time they are received by him until they are disposed of in accordance with this Act;
- (c) Every Presiding Officer shall be personally responsible for the safe custody of all ballot papers used at the polling booth at which he presides from the time

each ballot paper was placed in the ballot box by the elector or voter until the parcel of used ballot papers has been delivered to the Commissioner as in this Act provided and the Presiding Officer has obtained from the Commissioner a receipt in writing for the parcel, which receipt the Commissioner is in all cases required to give on such delivery;

- (d) In like manner the Commissioner shall be personally responsible for the safe custody of all ballot papers used at the polling booth at which he presides, and of all parcels of used ballot papers for which he has given a receipt to a Presiding Officer, until they have been sent by him to the Registrar of the Supreme Court as aforesaid;
- (e) Every person who fails to take reasonable steps to secure the safe custody of all ballot papers for which he is responsible, with the result that any such ballot paper is removed from his custody, shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding 8 penalty units or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 1 year;
- (f) Every person shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding 8 penalty units who wilfully or negligently allows any copy of a ballot paper printed by him to come into the possession of any person other than the Commissioner;
- (g) Every person shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding 2 penalty units who obtains possession of or has in his possession any ballot paper other than the one given to him by the Commissioner or a Presiding Officer for the purpose of recording his vote, or retains any ballot paper in his possession after leaving any polling booth.

### **Offences at Elections**

#### **89. Interfering with or influencing electors or voters-(1)**



Every person commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding 8 penalty units who at an election -

- (a) In any way interferes with any elector or voter either in the polling booth or while on his way thereto, with the intention of influencing him or advising him as to his vote;
- (b) At any time on polling day before the close of the poll in or in view or hearing of any public place holds or takes part in any demonstration or procession having direct or indirect reference to the poll by any means whatsoever;
- (c) At any time on polling day before the close of the poll makes any statement having direct or indirect reference to the poll by means of any loudspeaker or public address apparatus or cinematograph apparatus;
- (d) At any time on polling day before the close of the poll, prints or distributes or delivers to any person anything being or purporting to be in imitation of any ballot paper to be used at the poll and having thereon the names of the candidates or any of them, together with any direction or indication as to the candidate for whom any person should vote, or in any way containing any such direction or indication, or having thereon any matter likely to influence any vote;
- (e) At any time on polling day before the close of the poll exhibits in or in view of any public place, or publishes or distributes, or broadcasts, any statement advising or intended or likely to influence any elector or voter as to the candidate for whom he should vote;

Provided that this paragraph shall not apply to any statement in a newspaper published before 6 o'clock in the afternoon of the day before polling day:

Provided also that where any statement is so exhibited before polling day in a fixed position not in view of a polling

place it shall not be an offence to leave it so exhibited on polling day:  
place it shall not be an offence to leave it so exhibited on polling day:

Provided further that the Commissioner may at any time on polling day cause to be removed or obliterated any statement to which this paragraph applies which is exhibited within half a mile of a polling place, and may recover all expenses incurred in so doing from the persons by whom or by whose direction the statement was exhibited, as a debt due by them jointly and severally to the Government:

- (f) At any time on polling day before the close of the poll prints or distributes or delivers to any person any card or paper (whether or not it is an imitation ballot paper) having thereon the names of the candidates or any of them;
  - (g) Exhibits or leaves in any polling booth any card or paper having thereon any direction or indication as to how any person should vote or as to the method of voting;
  - (h) At any time on polling day before the close of the poll, within, or at the entrance, to, or in the vicinity of, any polling place, or booth -
    - (i) gives or offers to give to any person any written or oral information as to any name or number on the main roll or any supplementary roll being used at the election;
    - (ii) permits or offers to permit any person to examine any copy of the main roll or any supplementary roll being used at the election.
- (2) It shall not be an offence against this section for any person to wear or display (whether on his person or not) any party emblem.
- (3) Nothing in this section shall apply to any official statement or announcement made or exhibited under the authority of this Act.

**90. Publishing defamatory matters at election time -**  
Every person shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding

8 penalty units or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months who at any time after public notice has been given by the Commissioner under section 45 or section 47 of this Act and before the close of the poll publishes or exposes, or causes to be published or exposed, to public view any document or writing or printed matter containing any untrue statement defamatory of any candidate and calculated to influence the vote of any elector or voter.

**91. Erasing or altering official mark on ballot paper-**

Every person shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding 8 penalty units who erases, obliterates, or alters any official mark, stamp, or writing on any ballot paper, or places thereon any writing, print, or other matter which might lead persons to believe that it was put thereon by any official or person duly authorised in that behalf.

**92. Offences in respect of ballot papers and ballot boxes-**

- (1) Every person commits an offence against this section who -
- (a) Forges, or counterfeits, or fraudulently defaces, or fraudulently destroys any ballot paper, or the official mark on any ballot paper;
  - (b) Without due authority supplies any ballot paper to any person;
  - (c) Fraudulently puts into any ballot box any paper other than the ballot paper that he is authorised by law to put therein;
  - (d) Fraudulently takes out of a polling booth any ballot paper;
  - (e) Without due authority destroys, takes opens, or otherwise interferes with any ballot box, or box or packet or parcel of ballot papers, then in use for the purposes of an election, or in course of transmission by post or otherwise, or thereafter whenever the same may be kept as a record of the election.
- (2) Every person who commits an offence against this section shall be liable on conviction -

- (a) If an officer appointed under this Act, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years;
  - (b) If any other person, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.
- (3) Every person who attempts to commit any offence against this section shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for term not exceeding one half of the longest term to which a person committing the offence may be sentenced.

**93. Property to be stated as being in Commissioner -** In any prosecution for an offence in relation to any ballot boxes, ballot papers, or marking instruments at an election the property in the boxes, papers, and instruments may be stated as being in the Commissioner.

**94. Infringement of secrecy-**(1) Every official, clerk, scrutineer, interpreter, and constable in attendance at a polling booth shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting in the booth, and shall not communicate to any person, except for some purpose authorised by law, any information likely to defeat the secrecy of the ballot.

(2) No person, except for some purpose authorised by law, shall -

- (a) Interfere with or attempt to interfere with an elector or voter when marking his vote;
  - (b) Attempt to obtain in a polling booth information as to the candidate for whom any elector or voter in a booth is about to vote or has voted;
  - (c) Communicate at any time to any person any information obtained in a polling booth as to the candidate for whom any elector or voter at the booth is about to vote or has voted, or as to the consecutive number on the ballot paper given to any elector or voter at the booth.
- (3) Every person in attendance at the counting of the votes shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting, and shall not communicate any information obtained at the counting as to the candidate for whom any vote is given in any

particular ballot paper.

(4) No person shall directly or indirectly induce any elector or voter to display his ballot paper after he has marked it, so as to make known to any person the name of any candidate for or against whom he has voted.

(5) Every person who offends against this section shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months.

**PART IX  
CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES**

**Corrupt Practices**

**95. Personation-**(1) Every person is guilty of a corrupt practice who commits, or aids or abets, counsels, or procures the commission of, the offence of personation.

(2) Every person commits the offence of personation who -

- (a) Votes as some other person, whether that other person is living or dead or is a fictitious person; or
- (b) Having voted at any election, votes again at the same election; or
- (c) Having voted at an election in any constituency or as an individual voter at a general election, votes again in another constituency or as an individual voter at the same general election.

(3) For the purpose of this section a person shall be deemed to have voted if he has applied for a ballot paper himself, or has marked a ballot paper for himself, whether validly or not.

(4) It shall be the duty of the Commissioner to institute a prosecution against any person whom he believed to have committed the offence of personation, or to have aided, abetted, counselled, or procured the commission of, that offence by any person, at the election for which he is Commissioner.

**96. Bribery-**(1) In this section the terms “elector” and “voter” include any person who has or claims to have a right to vote.

(2) Every person is guilty of a corrupt practice who commits

the offence of bribery.

(3) Every person commits the offence of bribery who, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf -

- (a) Gives any money or procures any office to or for any elector or voter, or to or for any other person on behalf of any elector or voter, or to or for any other person, in order to induce any elector or voter to vote or refrain from voting; or
- (b) Corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of any elector or voter having voted or refrained from voting; or
- (c) Makes any such gift or procurement as aforesaid to or for any person in order to induce that person to procure, or endeavour to procure, the return of any person at an election or the vote of any elector or voter -

or who, upon or in consequence of any such gift or procurement as aforesaid, procures, or engages, promises, or endeavours to procure, the return of any person at any election or the vote of any elector or voter.

(4) For the purposes of this section -

- (a) References to giving money shall include references to giving, lending, agreeing to give or lend, offering, promising, or promising to procure or endeavour to procure, any money or valuable consideration;
- (b) References to procuring any office shall include references to giving, procuring, agreeing to give or procure or to endeavour to procure, any office, place, or employment.

(5) Every person commits the offence of bribery who -

- (a) Advances or pays or causes to be paid any money to or to the use of any other person with the intent that that money or any part thereof shall be expended in bribery at any election; or
- (b) Knowingly pays or causes to be paid any money to any person in discharge or repayment of any money wholly or in part expended in bribery at

any election.

(6) The foregoing provisions of this section shall not extend or be construed to extend to any money paid or agreed to be paid for or on account of any legal expenses incurred in good faith at or concerning an election.

(7) An elector or voter commits the offence of bribery if before or during an election he directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, receives, or agrees or contracts for, any money, gift, loan, or valuable consideration, office, place, or employment for himself or for any other person for voting or agreeing to vote or for refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting.

(8) Every person commits the offence of bribery if after an election he directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, receives any money or valuable consideration on account of any person having voted or refrained from voting or having induced any other person to vote or refrain from voting.

**97. Treating-**(1) Every person is guilty of a corrupt practice who commits the offence of treating.

(2) Every person commits the offence of treating who corruptly by himself or by any other person on his behalf, either before, during, or after an election, directly or indirectly gives or provides, or pays wholly or in part the expense of giving or providing any food, drink, entertainment, or provision to or for any person -

- (a) For the purpose of corruptly influencing that person or any other person to vote or refrain from voting; or
- (b) For the purpose of corruptly procuring himself to be elected; or
- (c) On account of that person or any other person having voted or refrained from voting, or being about to vote or refrain from voting.

(3) Every elector and voter who corruptly accepts or takes any such food, drink, entertainment, or provision also commits the offence of treating.

**97A. Conduct of “O’o” and “Momoli”** – Despite the other provisions of this Act, the traditional presentation of “O’o” and “Momoli” by a Member or Candidate for Parliament or a person acting on behalf of such Member or Candidate shall not be considered as treating or bribery or an illegal or corrupt activity or practice provided that the presentation is made within the period commencing with the 180<sup>th</sup> day and ending with the 90<sup>th</sup> day from expiry of the then Parliament at 5 years from the date of the last preceding General Elections.

**98. Undue influence-**(1) Every person is guilty of a corrupt practice who commits the offence of undue influence.

(2) Every person commits the offence of undue influence who -

- (a) Directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, makes use of or threatens to make use of any force, violence or restraint, or inflicts or threatens to inflict, by himself or by any other person, any temporal or spiritual injury, damage, harm, or loss upon or against any person, in order to induce or compel that person to vote for or against a particular candidate or to vote or refrain from voting, or on account of that person having voted for or against a particular candidate or having voted or refrained from voting; or
- (b) By abduction, duress, or any fraudulent device or contrivance, impedes or prevents the free exercise of the franchise of an elector or voter, or thereby compels, induces, or prevails upon an elector or voter either to vote or to refrain from voting;
- (c) By himself or any other person on his behalf withholds a certificate of identity belonging to another elector or voter and in doing so induces that elector or voter to vote for a particular candidate, or prevents that elector or voter from voting for a particular candidate or from voting in that election.



**Illegal Practices**

**99. Procurement of voting by unqualified electors or voters** - Every person is guilty of an illegal practice who induces or procures to vote at any election any person whom he knows at the time to be disqualified or prohibited, whether under this Act or otherwise, from voting at that election.

**99A. Illegal activities during period of election-**(1) In this section “period of election” means the period during any election or by-election, commencing on the day after the Commissioner gives public notice of polling day and ending at the close of Poll on polling day.

(2) Every candidate who, during a period of election, except at a funeral, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, renders or makes presentation of any food, beverage, money or other valuable to an elector of his constituency or to an individual voter, at a ceremony or activity, is guilty of an illegal practice.

(3) Every elector or voter who, during a period of election except at a funeral, obtains or attempts to obtain, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, any food, beverage, money or other valuable from a candidate for election is guilty of an illegal practice.

(4) For the purposes of Part IX of this Act the provision of light refreshments in the form of food and drink by, or on behalf of, any candidate during the hours of polling during an election shall not be an illegal or corrupt practice subject to the following conditions -

- (a) The food and/or drink is provided or presented not less than 100 metres from any polling place; and
- (b) The food and/or drink provided or presented to each individual does not amount to more than \$10.00 in total value.

**General Provisions**

**100. Cinematograph films-**(1) For the purposes of this

section the expression "cinematograph film" or "film" includes any screen advertisement of any description.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, the exhibition of any cinematograph film except on polling day shall not be deemed to constitute bribery or treating or an illegal practice, and any payment or contract for payment in respect of any such exhibition shall not be deemed to constitute an illegal practice notwithstanding that the film may be wholly or mainly an advertisement.

**101. Punishment for corrupt or illegal practice** - Every person who is guilty of any corrupt practice or any illegal practice shall be liable on conviction -

- (a) In the case of a corrupt practice, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding 20 penalty units, or to both;
- (b) In the case of an illegal practice, to a fine not exceeding 10 penalty units.

**102. Persons charged with corrupt practice may be found guilty of illegal practice** - Any person charged with a corrupt practice may, if the circumstances warrant that finding, be found guilty of an illegal practice; and any person charged with an illegal practice may be found guilty of that offence notwithstanding that the act constituting the offence amounted to a corrupt practice.

**103. Time limit for prosecutions** - A prosecution against any person for a corrupt practice or an illegal practice shall be commenced within 6 months after the offence was committed:

Provided that where the person charged has been reported by the Supreme Court in its report on the trial of an election petition to have been proved guilty of the offence a prosecution shall be commenced within 6 months after the offence was committed or within 3 months after the date of the report, whichever period is the later to expire.

**PART X  
ELECTION PETITIONS**

**104. Method of questioning election-**(1) No election and no declaration of result or report to the Head of State shall be questioned except by a petition complaining of an unlawful election or unlawful declaration or report (in this Act referred to as an election petition) presented in accordance with this Part of this Act.

(2) A petition complaining of no declaration or report shall be deemed to be an election petition, and the Supreme Court may make such order thereon as the Court thinks expedient for compelling a declaration or report to be made or may allow the petition to be heard as provided with respect to ordinary election petitions.

**105. Election petitions-**(1) An election petition may be presented to the Supreme Court by one or more of the following persons -

- (a) A person claiming to have had a right to be elected or returned at the election;
- (b) A person alleging himself to have been a candidate at the election.

Provided however that no petition can be filed by a person who polled less than 50% of the total number of votes polled by a person elected or returned at the election.

(2) The member whose election or result is complained of shall be the respondent to the petition, and if the petition complains of the conduct of any official the Commissioner shall also be a respondent.

(3) The petition shall be in such form and state such matters as are prescribed by rules of Court, and be signed by the petitioner or all the petitioners if more than one.

(4) The petitioner shall present his petition by filing it in the office of the Supreme Court at Apia, and shall serve a copy of it on each respondent thereto.

(5) The petition shall be served personally, or in such other manner as may be prescribed by rules of Court.

**106. Time for presentation of election petition-**(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, an election petition shall be presented within 7 days after the day on which the Commissioner has publicly notified the result of the poll.

(2) If the petition questions the election or result upon an allegation of a corrupt practice and specifically alleges a payment of money or other reward to have been made by the member or on his account or with his knowledge and consent since the day of such public notification in pursuance or furtherance of the alleged corrupt practice, it may be presented within 7 days after the date of the payment.

(3) For the purposes of this section an allegation that an election is avoided under section 113 of this Act shall be deemed to be an allegation of corrupt practices, notwithstanding that the offences alleged are or include offences other than corrupt practices.

**107. Security for costs-**(1) At any time of presenting an election petition or within 3 days after the expiration of the time limited for the presentation of the petition the petitioner shall give security to the satisfaction of the Registrar of the Court for all costs which may become payable by him to any witness summoned on his behalf or to any respondent.

(2) The security shall be an amount of \$2,000 and shall be given by recognisance to the Government entered into by any number of sureties not exceeding 5 or by a deposit of money, or partly in one way and partly in the other.

(3) If no security is given as required by this section no further proceedings shall be taken on the petition.

**108. More than one petition relating to same election-**Where more petitions than one are presented relating to the same election or result, all those petitions shall be dealt with as one petition.

**109. Rules of Court-**(1) Rules of Court may be made in the manner prescribed by the Judicature Ordinance 1961 for the purposes of this Part of this Act.

(2) All rules made under this section shall be laid before the Legislative Assembly within 28 days after the date of the making thereof, if the Assembly is then in session, and, if not, shall be laid before the Assembly within 28 days after the date of the commencement of the next ensuing session.

### **Trial of Election Petition**

**110. Court and place of trial** – Every election petition shall be tried by two or more judges of the Supreme Court at such place nominated by the Court.

**111. Trial of petition-**(1) An election petition shall be tried in open Court without assessors, and notice of the time and place of trial shall be given not less than 7 days before the day of trial.

(2) The Court may in its discretion adjourn the trial from time to time, but the trial shall, so far as is practicable consistently with the interests of justice in respect of the trial, be continued from day to day on every lawful day until its conclusion.

(3) The trial of an election petition shall be proceeded with notwithstanding that the respondent may have become disqualified as a member of Parliament, or that Parliament may have been prorogued.

(4) Subject to this Act, the Court shall have jurisdiction to inquire into and adjudicate on any matter relating to the petition in such manner as it thinks fit, and in particular may at any time during the trial direct a recount or scrutiny of the votes given at the election, and shall disallow the vote of every person proved to have been guilty of any corrupt practice, or whose name has been wrongly placed or retained on the roll:

Provided that the vote of any person who on polling day was entitled to be registered as an elector or voter of the constituency or individual voters in question shall not be disallowed on the ground that his name has been wrongly placed or retained on any roll.

(5) On the trial of an election petition, unless the Court otherwise directs, any charge of a corrupt or illegal practice may be gone into, and evidence in relation thereto received before any

proof has been given that any candidate was aware of or consenting to the corrupt or illegal practice.

(6) On the trial of an election petition complaining of an unlawful election declaration or report and claiming the seat for some person, the respondent may give evidence to prove that that person was not duly elected, in the same manner as if he had presented a petition against the election of that person.

(7) In allocating a time for hearing an electoral petition the Court shall give priority to that petition over all matters before the Court which are not electoral petitions.

**112. Avoidance of election of candidate guilty of corrupt practice** - Where a candidate who has been elected at any election is proved at the trial of an election petition to have been guilty of any corrupt practice at the election, his election shall be void.

**113. Avoidance of election for general corruption-(1)** Where it is reported by the Supreme Court on the trial of an election petition that corrupt or illegal practices committed in relation to the election for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of any candidate thereat have so extensively prevailed that they may be reasonably supposed to have affected the result, his election, if he has been elected, shall be void.

(2) Except under this section, an election shall not be liable to be avoided by reason of the general prevalence of corrupt or illegal practices.

**113A. Rolls to be used in by-election when original election avoided** – Where as a result of the avoidance of an election pursuant to a decision of the Supreme Court in respect of an Election Petition it is necessary for a by-election to be held, and notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the main roll and supplementary roll which were used at the election which has been avoided shall be used at the by-election without any amendment or addition:

Provided however that the Commissioner shall amend the Rolls used at the election which has been avoided by removing

therefrom the names of any persons who have become disqualified for registration as electors or voters pursuant to section 16B of this Act after the date of the election which has been avoided.

**114. Votes to be struck off for corrupt practices** - Where, on the trial of an election petition claiming the seat for any person, a candidate is reported by the Supreme Court to have been proved guilty of bribery, treating, or undue influence in respect of any person who voted at the election, there shall, on a scrutiny be struck off from the number of votes appearing to have been received by the candidate one vote for every person who voted at the election and is reported to have been proved to have been so bribed, treated, or unduly influenced.

**115. Real justice to be observed** - On the trial of any election petition -

- (a) The Court shall be guided by the substantial merits and justice of the case without regard to legal forms or technicalities;
- (b) The Court may admit such evidence as in its opinion may assist it to deal effectively with the case, notwithstanding that the evidence may not otherwise be admissible in the Supreme Court.

**116. Irregularities not to invalidate election** - No election shall be declared invalid by reason of -

- (a) Any failure to comply with the times prescribed for doing any act; or
- (b) Any omission or irregularity in filling up any form prescribed by this Act or by regulations made thereunder; or
- (c) Any want or defect in the appointment of any official or scrutineer; or
- (d) Any absence of, or mistake or omission or breach of duty by, any official, whether before, during, or after the polling -

if the Court is satisfied that the election was so conducted as to be

substantially in compliance with the law as to elections, and that the failure, omission, irregularity, want, defect, absence, mistake, or breach did not affect the result of the election.

**117. Decisions of Court to be final** - All decisions of the Supreme Court under this Part of this Act shall be final and conclusive and without appeal, and shall not be questioned in any way.

**118. Certificate of Court as to result of election** - At the conclusion of the trial of an election petition the court shall determine whether the member whose election or return is complained of, or any and what other person, was duly elected or returned, or whether the election was void, and shall forthwith certify in writing the determination to the Speaker and the determination so certified shall be final to all intents and purposes.

**119. Report of Court as to corrupt or illegal practices-(1)** Where in an election petition any charge is made of any corrupt or illegal practice having been committed at the election, the Court shall, in addition to giving a certificate and at the same time, report in writing to the Speaker as follows -

- (a) Whether any corrupt or illegal practice has or has not been proved to have been committed by or with the knowledge and consent of any candidate at the election, and the nature of the corrupt or illegal practice;
- (b) Whether any of the candidates has been guilty by his agents of any corrupt or illegal practice in reference to the election;
- (c) The names of all persons proved at the trial to have been guilty of any corrupt or illegal practice and whether they have received certificates of indemnity;
- (d) Whether there is reason to believe that corrupt or illegal practice have extensively prevailed at the election.



(2) In the case of someone who is not a party to the petition nor a candidate on behalf of whom the seat is claimed by the petition, the Court, before reporting him to have been proved guilty of any corrupt or illegal practice, shall first cause notice to be given to him, and if he appears in pursuance of the notice, shall give him an opportunity of being heard and of calling evidence in his defence to show why he should not be so reported.

(3) For the purposes of this act, if it is reported by the Court that a corrupt or illegal practice was committed with the knowledge and consent of a candidate, he shall be treated as having been reported to have been proved guilty of that corrupt or illegal practice.

(4) If a candidate is reported to have been guilty by his agents of treating, undue influence, or any illegal practice, and the Court further reports -

- (a) That no corrupt or illegal practice was committed at the election by the candidate with his knowledge or consent, and that the offences mentioned in the report were committed without the sanction or connivance of the candidate; and
- (b) That all reasonable means for preventing the commission of corrupt and illegal practices at the election were taken by and on behalf of the candidate; and
- (c) That the offences mentioned in the report were of a trivial, unimportant, and limited character; and
- (d) That in all other respects the election was free from any corrupt or illegal practice on the part of the candidate and of his agents -

the candidate shall not be treated for the purposes of this Act as having been proved guilty of the offences mentioned in the report.

**120. Special report** - At the same time as it gives its certificate at the conclusion of the trial of an election petition, the Court may make a special report to the Speaker as to any matters arising in the course of the trial an account of which, in the judgement of the Court, ought to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly.

**121. Signature and effect of certificate and report-**(1) The certificate and any report of the Court at the conclusion of the trial of an election petition shall be signed by the Presiding Judge.

(2) On being informed by the Speaker of the certificate and any report of the Court, the Legislative Assembly shall order the same to be entered in the Journals of the Assembly, and shall give the necessary directions for confirming or altering the result or for issuing a public notice for a new election, or for carrying out the determination, as the circumstances may require.

(3) Where the Court makes a special report the Legislative Assembly may make such order in respect of that report as it thinks proper.

### **Witnesses**

**122. Summons and examination of witnesses-**(1) Witnesses may be summoned and sworn on the trial of an election petition in the same manner, as nearly as circumstances admit, as in the trial of an ordinary action.

(2) The Supreme Court may by order require any person who appears to the Court to have been concerned in the election to attend as a witness, and every person who refuses to obey any such order shall be guilty of contempt of Court.

(3) The Court may examine any person so required to attend or any person in Court, although he is not called or examined by any party to the petition.

(4) After the examination of a witness as aforesaid by the Court he may be cross-examined by or on behalf of the petitioner and each respondent, or any of them.

**123. Certificate of indemnity to witness-**(1) A person called as a witness on the trial of an election petition shall not be excused from answering any question relating to any offence at or connected with the election on the ground that the answer thereto may incriminate or tend to incriminate himself, or on the ground of privilege:

Provided that -

(a) An answer by a person to a question put by or before

the Court shall not, except in the case of any criminal proceeding for perjury in respect of the evidence, be admissible in evidence against him in any proceeding, civil or criminal;

(b) A witness who answers truly all questions which he is required by the Court to answer shall be entitled to receive a certificate of indemnity, stating that he has so answered.

(2) Where a person has received a certificate of indemnity in relation to an election, and any legal proceeding is at any time instituted against him for any offence committed by him at or in connection with the election previously to the date of the certificate, the Court having cognisance of the case shall on production of the certificate stay the proceeding, and may in its discretion award to the said person such costs as he has been put to in the proceeding.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to relieve a person receiving a certificate of indemnity from any incapacity under this Act or from any proceedings to enforce any such incapacity (other than a criminal prosecution).

### **Costs**

**124. Expenses of witnesses-**(1) The reasonable expenses incurred by any person in appearing to give evidence at the trial of an election petition, according to the scale allowed to witnesses on the trial of civil actions, may be allowed to him by the Court.

(2) Any such expenses, if the witness was called and examined by the Court, shall be deemed to be part of the expenses of the Court, and in other cases shall be deemed to be costs of the petition.

**125. Costs of petition-**(1) All costs of and incidental to the presentation of an election petition, and to the proceedings consequent thereon, except such as are by this Act otherwise provided for shall be defrayed by the parties to the petition in such manner and in such proportions as the Supreme Court may determine; and in particular any costs which in the opinion of the

Court have been caused by vexatious conduct, unfounded allegations, or unfounded objections on the part either of the petitioner or respondent, and any needless expenses incurred or caused on the part of the petitioner or respondent, may be ordered to be defrayed by the parties by whom they were caused or incurred, whether those parties are or are not on the whole successful.

(2) If a petitioner fails for 6 months after demand to pay to any person summoned as a witness on his behalf, or to any respondent, any sum certificate to be due to him for costs, and the failure is within one year after the demand proved to the satisfaction of the Supreme Court, every person who has under this Act entered into a recognisance relating to the petition shall be held to have made default in the recognisance, and it shall be dealt with in manner provided by section 15 of the Government Proceedings Act 1974.

**126. Costs payable by persons proved guilty of corrupt or illegal practice-**(1) Where on the trial of an election petition it appears to the Court that any person has been guilty of any corrupt or illegal practice, the Court may, after giving that person an opportunity of making a statement to show why the order should not be made, order the whole or any part of the costs of or incidental to any proceedings before the court in relation to that offence or to that person to be paid by that person to such other person or persons as the Court thinks fit.

(2) All costs so ordered to be paid may be recovered as a debt due by the person by whom they are ordered to be paid to the person or persons to whom they are ordered to be paid.

### **Withdrawal and Abatement of Petition**

**127. Withdrawal of petition-**(1) A petitioner shall not withdraw an election petition without the leave of the Supreme Court upon special application to be made in the prescribed manner.

(2) No such application shall be made until the prescribed notice of the intention to make it has been given in the

constituency or among the individual voters to which the petition relates.

(3) Where there are more petitioners than one, an application to withdraw the petition shall not be made except with the consent of all the petitioners.

(4) If a petition is withdrawn, the petitioner shall be liable to pay the costs of each respondent.

**128. Substitution of new petitioner-**(1) On the hearing of an application for leave to withdraw a petition, any person who might in the first instance have presented the petition may apply to the Court to be substituted as a petitioner.

(2) The Court may, if it thinks fit, substitute any such applicant as petitioner, and may, if the proposed withdrawal is in the opinion of the Court the result of any corrupt bargain or consideration, by order direct that the security given on behalf of the original petitioner shall remain as security for any costs incurred by the substituted petitioner, and that to the extent of the sum named in the security the original petitioner shall be liable to pay the costs of the substituted petitioner.

(3) If the Court does not so direct, security to the same amount as would be required in the case of a new petition, and subject to the like conditions, shall be given on behalf of the substituted petitioner within 3 days after the order of substitution.

(4) Subject as aforesaid, a substituted petitioner shall as nearly as may be stand in the same position and be subject to the same liabilities as the original petitioner.

**129. Report on withdrawal -** In every case of the withdrawal of an election petition the Supreme Court shall make a report to the Speaker stating whether in its opinion the withdrawal of the petition was the result of any corrupt arrangement or in consideration of the withdrawal of any other election petition and, if so, the circumstances attending the withdrawal.

**130. Abatement of petition-**(1) An election petition shall be

abated by the death of a sole petitioner or of the survivor of several petitioners.

(2) The abatement of a petition shall not affect the liability of the petitioner or any other person to the payment of costs previously incurred.

(3) On the abatement of a petition, notice of the abatement shall be given in the prescribed manner, and within 28 days after notice is given any person who might have been a petitioner in respect of the election may apply to the Supreme Court in the prescribed manner. On any such application the Court may, if it thinks fit, substitute the applicant accordingly.

(4) Security shall be given on behalf of a petitioner so substituted, as in the case of a new petition.

### **General Provisions**

**131. Withdrawal and substitution of respondent before trial-**(1) If before the trial of an election petition a respondent other than the Commissioner -

(a) Dies; or

(b) Gives the prescribed notice that he does not intend to oppose the petition; or

(c) Has his seat declared vacant in a report from the Speaker to the Head of State -

notice thereof shall be given in the prescribed manner and, within 28 days after the notice is given, any person who might have been a petitioner in respect of the election may apply to the Supreme Court to be admitted as a respondent to oppose the petition, and shall be admitted accordingly, except that the number of persons so admitted shall not exceed 3.

(2) A respondent who has given the prescribed notice that he does intend to oppose the petition shall not be allowed to appear or act as a party against the petition in any proceedings thereon, and shall not sit or vote in the Legislative Assembly until the Assembly has been informed of the report on the petition.

(3) Where a respondent has given the prescribed notice as aforesaid, the Court shall report that fact to the Speaker.

**132. Submission of report to Attorney-General** - Where the Supreme Court reports that certain persons named have been proved at the trial of an election petition to have been guilty of any corrupt or illegal practice the report shall be laid before the Attorney-General.

**PART XI  
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

**133. Services of notices-**(1) Any notice under this Act may be served on any person by delivering it to that person, and maybe be delivered to him either personally or by leaving it at his place of residence as stated on any roll or by posting it by registered letter addressed to him at that place of residence.

(2) A notice so posted shall be deemed to have been served at the time when the registered letter would in the ordinary course of post be delivered.

(3) Where any notice is sent by registered letter addressed to any person at his place of residence as stated on any roll, with a special request that the letter be returned to the sender at the expiration of 15 days if the person to whom the letter is addressed cannot be found, the return of the letter by the Post Office shall be deemed sufficient proof that the person has quitted that place of residence.

**134. Commissioner exempt from Court fees** - The Commissioner shall be exempt from the payment of any Court fees in respect of any proceedings under this Act.

**135. Validation of irregularities** - Where anything is omitted to be done or cannot be done at the time required by or under this Act, or is done before or after that time, or is otherwise irregularly done in matter of form, or sufficient provision is not made by or under this Act, the Head of State acting on the advice of Cabinet may, by notice in the Gazette, at any time before or after the time within which the thing is required to be done, extend that time, or validate anything so done before or after the

time required or so irregularly done in matter of form, or make other provision for the case as he thinks fit:

Provided that this section shall not apply with respect to the presentation of an election petition or to the giving of security for costs in relation to an election petition.

**135A** *Repealed*

**136. Regulations-**(1) The Head of State acting on the advice of Cabinet may from time to time, by Order, make all such regulations as may in his opinion be necessary or expedient for giving full effect to the provisions of this Act and for the due administration thereof.

(2) Regulations made under this section may prescribe penalties for offences against the regulations, not exceeding imprisonment for a term of 3 months or a fine of 2 penalty units, or both.

(3) All regulations made under this section shall be laid before the Legislative Assembly within 28 days after the date of the making thereof if the Assembly is then in session, and, if not, shall be laid before the Assembly within 28 days after the date of the commencement of the next ensuing session.

**137. Repeals and savings-**(1) The enactments specified in the Second Schedule to this Act shall cease to have effect as part of the Law of Samoa.

(2) The provisions of sections 20, 20A and 21 of the Acts Interpretation Act 1924 (N.Z.), (section 20A having been inserted therein by section 2 of the Acts Interpretation Amendment Act 1960 (N.Z.)) shall apply with respect to those enactments as if they had been revoked by this section.

(3) All acts done by the Head of State or the Commissioner or by any other officer and all applications and declarations made by any person before the commencement of this Act in relation to the first general election of Members of Parliament to be held after the commencement of this Act which would have been valid if this Act had been in force when the act was done or the application or declaration was made are hereby validated and



declared to have been lawfully done or made.

**SCHEDULES**

**FIRST SCHEDULE**

**FORMS**

**Form 1**                      Sections 4, 63, 64:

**DECLARATION BY RETURNING OFFICER, DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER, POLL CLERKS, SCRUTINEERS AND OTHER OFFICERS**

I, A. B., (Insert full residential address and occupation or description), solemnly and sincerely declare that I will well and truly serve in the office of –

- \*        Returning Officer
- \*        Deputy Returning Officer
- \*        Poll Clerk
- \*        Interpreter
- \*        Scrutineer for C.D... a candidate,

at the poll for the Constituency or Representative of the Individual Voters and that I will not do anything forbidden by section 94 of the Electoral Act 1963.

**AND I** make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Oaths, Affidavits and Declarations Act 1963.

Declared at.....this.....day of.....20.....before me:

**E.F.....A.B**

- \*        Electoral Commissioner
- \*        Returning Officer
- \*        Deputy Returning Officer

- \* (Occupation or description of a person authorised to take a statutory declaration by section 21 of the Oaths Affidavits and Declarations Act 1963.
- \* Delete whichever do not apply.  
Section 94 of the Electoral Act 1963 is to be printed on the back of this form and must be read by or to the declarant.

**Form 1A**

Section 12.

**DECLARATION OF PERSONAL DETAILS FOR APPLICATION TO BE REGISTERED AS AN ELECTOR.**

I, AB.....  
(insert residential address, occupation and description) solemnly and sincerely declare that:

- (a) I am entitled to have my name entered on the roll of ..... (insert territorial constituency);
- (b)(i) I am currently registered on the roll of ..... (insert constituency) or the individual voters roll and wish to make my decision to change my constituency to .....(insert constituency) and have not so changed in the preceding period after the last general election; or
- (b)(ii) I am not currently registered on any roll as either an elector or a voter;
- (c) All the details contained in this declaration are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

**AND I** make this solemn declaration conscientiously, believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Oaths, Affidavits and Declarations Act 1963.

**DECLARED** at ..... this day)  
..... ).....  
of ..... 20.... before me )

**PERSON AUTHORISED TO TAKE DECLARATIONS**  
**PURSUANT TO SECTION 21 OF THE OATHS,**  
**AFFIDAVITS AND DECLARATIONS ACT 1963**

1. Are you a citizen of Samoa?.....
2. Have you attained the age of 21 years?.....
3. Are you an undischarged bankrupt?.....
4. Have you been convicted in Samoa or in American Samoa of an offence punishable by death or by imprisonment for a term of 2 years or upwards or have you been convicted in Samoa or is reported by the Supreme Court in its report on a trial of an election petition to have been proved of any practice declared to be a corrupt practice by the Electoral Act 1963?.....
5. If so, have you:
  - (a) Received a free pardon?.....
  - (b) Undergone the sentence or punishment to which you were adjudged for the offence?.....
6. Are you of sound mind and not subject to an order of medical custody under the Mental Health Ordinance 1961?.....
7. What is (or was) the full name of your father?.....
8. If he is dead, when and where did he die?.....
9. What is the date of your birth?.....
10. What is your father's village of origin?.....
11. What are your grandfathers' villages of origin?.....

12. Do you hold a Matai title?.....

13. If so, what are the details?

Title	Village
-------	---------

.....

.....

.....

14. If you do not hold a Matai title does or did any of your grandparents or your parents or your spouse hold a Matai title?.....

15. If so, supply particulars:

Relationship (e.g. father etc)	Title	Village
-----------------------------------	-------	---------

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

16. Does or did any of your brothers or sisters hold a Matai title otherwise than through his or her spouse?.....

17. If so, supply particulars:

Name of brother or sister	Title	Village
------------------------------	-------	---------

.....

.....

.....

18. What is the full name of your father?.....

19. What is the full name of your mother?

.....

20. Are you rendering service to a village?.....

21. If so, what village?.....

22. What is the nature of the service and who can confirm it ?

.....  
.....

Sign here.....

Signature of Witness.....

Residential address of Witness.....

Qualification of Witness.....]

**Form 2**

Section 21.

**CLAIM FOR ENROLMENT ON REGISTER OF VOTERS**

To the Electoral Commissioner I, (Insert full names, full residential address and occupation or description) hereby claim to have my name entered on the individual voters' roll for Samoa; and I solemnly and sincerely declare:

**A. That my answers to the following questions are true and correct:**

1. Are you a citizen of Samoa under the Citizenship Act 1972?.....

2. Have you attained the age of 21 years? .....

3. Are you an undischarged bankrupt? .....

4. Have you been convicted in Samoa or in American Samoa of an offence punishable by death or by imprisonment for a term of two years or upwards or have you been convicted in Samoa of any practice declared to be a corruptpractice by the Electoral Act 1963? .....

5. If so, have you:
- (a) Received a free pardon? .....
- (b) Undergone the sentence or punishment to which you were adjudged for the offence? .....
6. Are you of sound mind and not subject to an order of medical custody under the Mental Health Ordinance 1961? .....
7. Was your name entered on the European electoral roll on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of November 1963? .....
8. What is (or was) the full name of your father, mother, grandfather or grandmother?  
.....
9. If he or she is dead, when and where did he or she die?  
.....
10. Was your father's name or mother's or grandparents' entered on the European electoral roll on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of November 1963? .....
11. If not and if he died before the 30th day of November 1963, would he if alive on that day have qualified to have his name entered on the European electoral roll on that day?  
.....
12. Were you unborn or under the age of 21 years on the 30th day of November 1963? .....
13. Did you acquire your citizenship of Samoa by:
- (a) Naturalisation? .....
- (b) Birth .....
14. If the latter:
- (a) Is your father, if alive, a citizen of Samoa? .....



**Form 3**

Section 35 (1)

**Electoral Roll for Territorial Constituency.**

Roll of Persons Entitled to Vote as Electors of the Territorial Constituency of .....

Number on Roll	Title(s) or Surname	Taulelea or Christian Name(s)	Village or Nu'u	Occupation or Description

.....**Electoral Commissioner**

**Form 4**

Section 35 (2).

**INDIVIDUAL VOTERS' ROLL**

**Roll of Persons Entitled to Vote for Representatives of the Individual Voters**

Number on Roll	Surname	Christian Names	Residence	Occupation or Description

.....**Electoral Commissioner**



Form 5

Section 48 (1).

NOMINATION PAPER

To the Electoral Commissioner.....

WE, the undersigned registered electors of the Constituency, registered individual voters, hereby nominate .....[Name], of [Residence and occupation], a registered elector of the .....Constituency, a registered individual voter, with his [or her] consent, as a candidate at the election of a member of Parliament for the..... Constituency, Individual Voters the poll for which is appointed for Saturday the.....day of.....20.....

Dated this.....day of.....20.....

[Signatures and full names, residences, and occupations of 2 or more electors nominating.]

I, [Name], being qualified to be a candidate and to be elected a member of Parliament in terms both of Part II of the Electoral Act 1963 and of any other enactment, hereby consent to the above nomination.

My name will fit on the ballot paper: or

As my name is too long to fit on the ballot paper, I wish my given names to be shown on the ballot paper as ..... [Complete the second alternative, unless the Electoral Commissioner agrees both that the candidate's name will fit on the ballot paper and that the second alternative is the alternative to be deleted].

\*The name of my political party is..... or

\*I am an independent candidate.

[Signature, residence, and occupation of person nominated.]

\*Delete whichever is inapplicable.

**NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF NOMINATION**

To the Electoral Commissioner:

I (Insert full names) hereby give notice that I withdraw my nomination as a candidate at the election of

- \* Representative (s) of the .....Constituency
- \* Representatives of the Individual Voters
- \* the holding of which is appointed for the.....day of.....20..... and for which I was nominated on the.....day of.....20.....

**Signature of candidate** .....

**RECEIVED at the hour of.....on the.....day of.....20.....**

**Signature of the Electoral Commissioner.....**

*\*Delete words that do not apply.*

**BALLOT PAPER**



**VOTE HERE**

<b>FAAOSO, Pale</b> HUMAN RIGHT PROTECTION	
<b>FALEFA, Sole</b> SAMOA NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
<b>SASULU, Tolu</b> SAMOA LIBERAL	
<b>TUITUI, Tolu</b> INDEPENDENT	

**DIRECTIONS**

**(Read carefully before voting)**

1. Vote for only one candidate.
2. Vote by putting a tick  in the square immediately after the name of the candidate you choose.
3. After voting, fold the ballot paper so that its contents cannot be seen and place it in the ballot box.
4. If you spoil this ballot paper, return it to the officer who issued it and apply for another.
5. You must not take this ballot paper out of the polling booth.

Form 8

Section 56 (5)

COUNTERFOIL OF BALLOT PAPER  
Consecutive No.

(To be entered here and also on the top right hand corner of the back of the voting paper).

Designation of Roll:

No. on Roll:

(to be entered here only)

(Stamp across the perforation so that the]		
number of the polling booth shall	]	Official
appear on both the counterfoil	]	Booth
and the voting paper	]	Stamp

Initials of Presiding Officer .....

Form 9

Section 80 (1)

DECLARATION OF RESULT OF POLL

Territorial Constituency of  
(or Individual Voters)

**I HEREBY** declare the result of the poll taken on the.....day of .....20.....for the election of a Member(s) of Parliament for the Territorial Constituency of (or for Individual Voters) to be as follows:

Candidates	Votes Received
C.D.....	
E.F.....	

G.H.....  
 I.J.....  
 K.L.....  
 Total number of valid votes .....  
 Number of votes rejected as informal .....

I therefore declare the said C.D. to be elected.

Dated at.....this.....day of.....20.....

A.B.  
**ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER**

**SECOND SCHEDULE**

Section 137.

Enactments ceasing to have effect

The Samoa Legislative Assembly Regulations, 1957;  
 Serial Number 1957/223 (N.Z.)  
 The Samoa Legislative Assembly Regulations, 1957;  
 Amendment No.1: Serial Number 1960 60 (N.Z.)

**NOTES**

This 2006 Reprint of the Electoral Act 1963 was prepared and published by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly by authority of the Attorney General.

The Electoral Act 1963 appearing in this reprint comprise that Act as it appears in the 2000 reprint together with the

amendments shown below:

<b>General</b>	The words “Chief Electoral Officer”, “Registrar of Electors and Voters”, “Registrar”, “Chief Electoral Officer and Registrar”, Chief Electoral Officer or the Registrar” were omitted wherever they appeared and replaced by the word “Commissioner” save for the forms in the First Schedule where replaced by the words “Electoral Commissioner” by section 2 (2) of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.
<b>Section 2:</b>	The interpretations of “ <b>Chief Electoral Officer</b> ” and “ <b>Registrar</b> ” were deleted and replaced by interpretations of “ <b>Electoral Commissioner</b> ” and “ <b>Commissioner</b> ” by section 2 of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3. The interpretations of “ <b>Public Service Law</b> ” and “ <b>Standing Orders</b> ” were inserted by the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.
<b>Heading (after section 2)</b>	The heading (after section 2) “ <b>Office of Electoral Commissioner</b> ” was substituted for the heading “ <b>Officers</b> ” by section 3 of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.
<b>Section 3</b>	Section 3 was repealed and replaced by section 3 of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.
<b>Section 3A</b>	Section 3A was inserted by section 3 of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.
<b>Section 4</b>	Section 4 was repealed and replaced by section 3 of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.
<b>Section 5(1)</b>	The words “ <b>is the holder of a Certificate of Identity pursuant to section 135A of that Act</b> ” were repealed by section 5 (2) (a) of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.
<b>Section 10(j)</b>	Paragraph (j) was inserted by section 4 (2) of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.
<b>Section 15F</b>	This section was inserted by section 4 of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.
<b>Section 16</b>	Subsection (2) (b) was deleted and replaced by section 6 of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3. Subsection (2) (d) (e) (f) were repealed by section 6 of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3. Subsection (3) was deleted and replaced by section 6 of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3. Subsections (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) were repealed by section 6 of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.

- Section 19** Subsection (1) (b) (i) the word “**grandchild**” was deleted by section 6 (2) of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.  
Subsection (1) (b) (i) the word “**grandchild**” was re-inserted by section 2 (1) of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.14.
- Section 22** The words “**shall be entitled to have his name retained on that roll so long as he remains qualified to be an individual voter**” were deleted from the end of subsection (2) by section 5 (2) (b) of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.
- Section 25C** Subsection (6) was repealed by section 5 (2) (c) of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.
- Section 70A** The words “**section 70B**” were deleted by section 5 (2) (d) of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.
- Section 70B** This section was repealed by section 5 (2) (f) of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.
- Section 97A** This section was inserted by section 7 of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.
- Section 135A** This section was repealed by section 5 (2) (e) of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.
- Consequential Amendments**
- Section 18A (8) (b) & (9)** Subsections (8) (b) & (9) were repealed subsequent to Repeal of Section 135A by section (5) (2) (e) of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.
- Section 39** Section 39 was repealed subsequent to deleting definitions “**Chief Electoral Officer**” and “**Registrar**” and substituting definition of “**Electoral Commissioner**” by section 2 of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.
- Section 45B** Section 45B was repealed subsequent to deleting definitions of “**Chief Electoral Officer**” and “**Registrar**” and substituting the definition of “**Electoral Commissioner**” by section 2 of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3

<b>Section 83</b>	Subsection (3) was repealed subsequent to deleting definitions of “ <b>Chief Electoral Officer</b> ” and “ <b>Registrar</b> ” and substituting the definition of “ <b>Electoral Commissioner</b> ” by section 2 of the Electoral Amendment Act 2005 No.3.
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**The Electoral Act is administered in the Office of the Electoral Commissioner**