REINFORCING CREDIBILITY AND ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES
The Role of Electoral Stakeholders and Electoral Administrations

The Role and Impact of Political Parties and Candidates in Ensuring Credible and Acceptable Elections

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INTRODUCTION

• Political parties and candidates are key stakeholders in elections. They compete for public office and attempt through party issue-based electoral platforms to convince eligible voters to vote for them.

• From another perspective, the final validation of the election results is, in practice, in the hands of the political parties and candidates.

• If they do not accept the results due to real or perceived electoral fraud or irregularities, the legitimacy of the resulting legislature or government is threatened.

• Likewise, the voting public—whether affiliated with a particular party through membership or not—must perceive and believe that the results officially declared after Election Day are valid and represent the expressed will of the electorate.
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Roles of candidates and political parties:

- **Know about the process** –
  Candidates and political parties should familiarize themselves with the electoral process

- **Establishment of cordial relationship with the EMB**

- **Continuous voter education**
  Candidates and political parties must continue to sensitize supporters and members about campaigning and voting procedures all through the electoral circle
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Roles of candidates and political parties:

- Inter-party consultation
  
  Candidates, political parties and EMB must find a platform to work together on information sharing and to be seen as partners rather than enemies

- Periodic meetings between and amongst contesting parties and candidates will send a message of peace and harmonious relationship

- Monitoring of the electoral process and not only Election Day

- Poll watching

- Parallel vote tabulation
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Roles of EMB

• Establish clear laws and enforce the laws

• Ensure open electoral process

• Provide credible information to the public on the electoral process

• Give equal access to all

• Encourage inter-party dialogue

• Provide clear roles for candidates, parties and voters