

**DECREE NO 12/2022**

**Of 14 January**

**ON THE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE AT THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
VOTERS INTERNED IN A MANDATORY PROPHYLACTIC OR THERAPEUTIC ISOLATION CENTER, OR IN  
COMPLIANCE WITH MANDATORY PROPHYLACTIC OR THERAPEUTIC ISOLATION**

**Preamble**

Law No. 15/2021 of 14 July, which is the sixth amendment to the Electoral Law for the President of the Republic, Law No. 07/2006 of 28 December, once again reaffirms Timor-Leste as a State of Democratic Rights which recognizes the same rights and duties for all its citizens, enshrining, in Article 4, the right to vote in the presidential election for voters who, on election day, are interned in centers of mandatory prophylactic or therapeutic isolation, or in mandatory prophylactic or therapeutic isolation in their respective homes or in a place legally permitted for that purpose. The Government is legally obliged to regulate the relevant voting procedures, which is done by this legal document.

Thus the Government decrees, under the provisions of article 4 of Law No. 15/2021, of July 14, the following to have the force of regulation:

**CHAPTER I**

**General provisions**

**Article 1**

**Scope of application**

1. This legal document establishes the rules for voting at the election for the President of the Republic in mandatory prophylactic isolation centers, mandatory therapeutic isolation centers, or in compliance with mandatory prophylactic isolation or mandatory therapeutic isolation in their respective homes or places legally permitted for that purpose.
2. Voters interned in mandatory prophylactic isolation centers, mandatory therapeutic isolation centers, or in compliance with mandatory prophylactic isolation, or mandatory therapeutic isolation in their respective homes or a place legally permitted for that purpose, as well as professionals assigned to these institutions on the day of the election of the President of the Republic, have the right to vote at the election of the President of the Republic.
3. Citizens who are transported to mandatory prophylactic isolation centers or mandatory therapeutic isolation centers, following positive testing carried out in the queues for voting at polling centres and polling stations are also entitled to vote at the election of the President of the Republic, with their name included in the additional list and the relevant names having been deleted from the list of voters of the polling center where they should vote.
4. Voting in the centres referred to in the previous paragraphs is carried out at the time established by the Technical Secretariat of Electoral Administration (STAE), after taking advice from the competent services of the Ministry of Health.
5. The list of citizens in compliance with prophylactic isolation or therapeutic isolation measures and of personnel on duty in these institutions referred to 1 paragraph 2 is provided to STAE by the relevant component of the Ministry of Health, up to 10 days before the date of the election, and these names are deleted from the list of voters at the polling center or polling station where they should vote

**Article 2**

**Voting procedure in mandatory prophylactic and therapeutic isolation centers**

1. On election day, polling station officials at the polling center closest to the mandatory prophylactic isolation centers and the mandatory therapeutic isolation centers travel to these institutions to collect the votes of the citizens who are interned, to comply with mandatory prophylactic or therapeutic isolation measures, as well as the votes of personnel on duty at these centers, in accordance with the operational plan defined by STAE.

2. The officers take with them already sealed ballot boxes and sufficient ballot papers for voting, the polling station acta and other materials necessary for the exercise of the right to vote of citizens referred to in the previous paragraph.
3. During all operations inherent to the voting process, the ballot boxes must remain sealed.
4. For the collection of votes from bedridden patients, in the therapeutic internment centers, the ballot box is carried by the electoral officers, from bed to bed.
5. For the collection of votes, in the mandatory prophylactic isolation centers and in the mandatory therapeutic isolation centers, for the non-bedridden patients, ballot boxes are set up at a location determined by the person in charge of the centre, and operate in accordance with the relevant regulations, with a voters list of persons who are in compliance with these measures.
6. STAE, in coordination with the relevant service of the Ministry of Health, moves the voters on the list of voters, who are in compliance with mandatory prophylactic isolation, or mandatory therapeutic isolation in their respective homes or place legally permitted for this purpose, to the mandatory prophylactic isolation centre or mandatory therapeutic isolation centre where the ballot boxes are located.
7. Voters who are on duty at the mandatory prophylactic isolation centers and mandatory therapeutic isolation centers on the election day, and whose names are on the voters list, vote in the polling area set up at the location determined by the person in charge of the center.
8. The entire team of electoral officials, as well as the professionals assigned to these institutions on the day of the election of the President of the Republic, are required to wear a full protective suit, gloves and acrylic face mask, to be provided by STAE, and compliance with this requirement must be ensured by the person in charge of the polling.
9. Voters mentioned in the previous paragraphs, as well as being on the list submitted to STAE, must present their current voter card, and in the regulations absence of this a valid Timorese ID card or passport.
10. Citizen voters are required to comply with the social distancing measures required by law.
11. Once the operations of the team of electoral officials are concluded, they return to the polling station to immediately close the activities, in accordance with the provisions of the regulation on procedures for voting, counting and tabulating results.

### **Article 3 Revocations**

Any and all regulatory provisions to the contrary regarding voting in mandatory prophylactic isolation centers, mandatory therapeutic isolation centers, or in compliance with mandatory prophylactic isolation or mandatory therapeutic isolation in their respective homes or places legally permitted for that purpose, are revoked.

### **Article 4. Expiry**

This legal document expires on the date of expiry of the legislation that provides for exceptional and temporary surveillance measures in response to the COVID 19 disease pandemic.

### **Article 5 Entry into force**

This Government Decree enters into force on the day following its publication.

Approved by the Council of Ministers on January 5 2021.

To be published

Prime Minister  
Taur Matan Ruak

Minister of State Administration  
Miguel Pereira de Carvalho