

## **Government Decree 11/2017 of 27 February**

### **Regulation of exceptional intervention of elements of the Timor-Leste National Police**

#### **Preamble**

An expectation of the Timorese people and authorities is that the security of all those who participate in the electoral process, should be as in a normal environment, without any disturbance. In this way, and without prejudice to other security norms in the places where the electoral process takes place, the presence of elements of the PNTL in polling centers and polling stations should be admitted, as an exceptional action, in order to restore order.

Thus, pursuant to articles 35 and 67 of Law no. 4/2017, February 23, the Government decrees the following to have the force of Regulation:

#### **CHAPTER I**

##### **General Provisions**

##### **Article 1**

###### **Scope**

1. This Decree regulates the cases of presence and intervention, as an exception, of elements of the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) in the polling centers and polling stations.
2. The request for PNTL presence is made through contact with agents who remain in the surrounding area of the voting center or, in their absence, by contact with the PNTL commander in the area of the municipality.
3. While PNTL agents are present within the polling station, voting activities are suspended.

#### **CHAPTER II**

##### **Article 2**

###### **Presence and intervention from PNTL elements**

1. When it is necessary to terminate any disturbance or to prevent any aggression or violence within the polling center, polling stations or in the surrounding area, or in case of disobedience to the orders of the Electoral Officials, the president of the polling center and respective polling stations, or his/her substitute, may request the presence of PNTL, after consulting the other electoral officials.

2. The request for presence of the PNTL is made through contact with the agents who remain in the vicinity of the polling center or, in their absence, by contact with the PNTL commander in the municipal area.
3. While the PNTL agents are present within the polling station, voting activities are suspended.
4. The reasons for the request and the period of presence of the PNTL or its inability to be present are included in the minutes of the voting station.
5. If there are indications that physical or psychological coercion prevents the president or his substitute to make this request, the commander of the police force may, on his own initiative, intervene, in order to ensure that the electoral process takes place and must withdraw as soon as the President or his/her replacement directs so, or when it is found that his/her presence is no longer justified.
6. When necessary, the commander of the police force, or his accredited delegate, may visit the voting center or voting stations, unarmed and for a strictly defined period of time of no more than ten minutes, in order to establish contact with the respective president or with his/her substitute.

**Article 3**  
**Refusal to support**

In the case foreseen in paragraph 1 of the preceding article, whenever the presence of the PNTL is necessary, it must be present and give due support, and elements that unjustifiably do not do so shall be subject to disciplinary proceedings.

**CHAPTER III**  
**Final and Transitional Provisions**

**Article 4**  
**Revocations**

Any contrary provision regarding the intervention and presence, on an exceptional basis, of elements of the PNTL in the polling centers and polling stations, during voting, counting of votes and tabulations of results shall be revoked.

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

This government decree enters into force on the day following its publication.

Approved by the Council of Ministers on 24 February 2017