

Directive 5-1 Amending Directive

Amending Directive no. 5-1

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE MEDIA

Issued on 4 February 2015 by the Principal Permanent Secretary in terms of the Public Administration Act.

1. APPLICABILITY

1.1 This directive amends Directive no. 5.

2. LIST OF POLITICALLY RESTRICTED POSTS

2.1 The list of politically restricted posts at Schedule 'A' of Directive 5 is being withdrawn and replaced with the attached updated Schedule 'A-1'.

3. ELECTIONEERING

3.1 The provisions of para 4.1 of Directive 5 are being amended to read as follows:

Public Officers occupying posts that are "politically free" may apply for unpaid leave for political activity. In the case of electioneering for:

- (a) The National Parliament, as from the first working day⁵ next following the proclamation of the relative writ;
- (b) the Local Councils⁹, as from the first working day⁵ next following the date the election is officially announced; and
- (c) the European Parliament, as from the first working day⁵ of the calendar year during which the election is to be held;

However, in the case of electioneering for the National Parliament and for the European Parliament, prospective candidates must avail themselves of either vacation leave / time-off or unpaid electoral leave for: polling day and the two working days preceding polling day; the day of the announcement of the election results and the following two working days.

4. PROVISIONS APPLYING TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND ENTITIES

4.1 The provisions of para 7.1(c) of Directive 5 are being amended to read as follows:

Public officers deployed with a Government agency or entity may participate in political activities if both their post with the government agency or entity and their Public Service substantive grade are classified as 'politically free', so long as they retain their 'public officer' status. If both their post with the government agency or entity and their Public Service substantive grade are classified as 'politically restricted', they may not participate in political activities.

In cases where only one of the two posts (i.e. the post with the government agency or entity or the Public Service substantive grade) is classified as 'politically free', and the officer wishes to participate in political activity, a request to this effect must be submitted to the responsible Permanent Secretary for approval, through the CEO of the government agency or entity, ten (10) working days prior to the date when the officer intends to commence participating in political activity.

Principal Permanent Secretary

Mario Cutajar