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# FROM THE APOSTOLIC SEE OF MALANKARA METROPOLITAN DR FIE ODOSIUS MAR THOMA <br>  

## Circular No. 98

Blessings to you all the Vicars, Resident merensysmi/ustees, Prathinidhi Mandalam members and Members of all the Parishes in the Gulf Region under our authority.

Beloved in Christ,
The term of the present Sabha Council is up to the end of the Sabha Prathinidhi Mandalam, which is held on $29^{\text {th }}$ August, $1^{\text {st }}$ and $2^{\text {nd }}$ September, 2023 (Tuesday, Friday, Saturday). According to Clause 164 (3) of the Sabha Constitution, the elections to the new Sabha Council must be completed before the first meeting of the new Mandalam. This has been informed to all through Circular No. 92 of the Metropolitan.

According to Clause 164 (1) (a) of the Sabha Constitution, one lay member shall be elected to the Sabha Council from the parishes in the Gulf region. The election shall be conducted by voting through ballot. The following election rules are prescribed and published for the information of all. All the Mandalam members of the Gulf region are urged to act accordingly.

1. According to Clause 164 (2) (b), it has been decided to conduct the election of the Sabha Council member from the Gulf region through postal ballot for convenience.
2. Very Rev. George Mathew has been appointed to make arrangements for elections in the Gulf region.
3. If there is any objection regarding the voters list sent herewith, the Metropolitan should be informed before 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, $05^{\text {th }}$ July 2023. The decision of the Metropolitan will be final.
4. The final voters list, after hearing objections, will be published at the Sabha Office and on the Sabha website at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, $05^{\text {th }}$ July 2023. The relevant parts of the voters list will be sent to the Parish Vicars in the Gulf region on a regional basis.
5. The names on the nomination papers for the election shall be from the above list only.
6. Nomination papers in the prescribed form shall be sent to the Returning Officer by 5.00 p.m. on Saturday, $15^{\text {th }}$ July 2023, at the Poolatheen Office, Thiruvalla, in writing or by e-mail (metropolitan@marthoma.in). Nomination papers received after that will not be accepted.
7. Scrutiny of nomination papers will be held at 6.00 p.m. on Saturday, $15^{\text {th }}$ July 2023, at Poolatheen under the supervision of the Metropolitan.
8. After scrutiny, the approved names will be published at the Sabha Office at 7.00 p.m. on Saturday, $15^{\text {th }}$ July 2023. Candidates can get relevant information from the Sabha Office.
9. Those candidates interested in withdrawing their nomination should send a letter to Poolatheen through their Vicar before 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, $19^{\text {th }}$ July 2023, in writing or by e-mail.
10. The complete list of candidates in final form will be published at the Sabha Office at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, $19^{\text {th }}$ July 2023. This list will be communicated to the Vicars of the candidates through e-mail.
11. The ballot paper and instructions will be sent to the Mandalam members in the Gulf region by Registered Post/Courier Service/Speed Post on Friday, $21^{\text {st }}$ July 2023.
12. The ballot papers on which the Mandalam members cast their votes, as per the instructions sent by the Returning Officer, must be sent to the Returning Officer at Poolatheen by Registered Post/Courier Service/Speed Post, in such manner as to be received before 5.00 p.m. on Friday, $25^{\text {th }}$ August 2023. Ballot papers received after the deadline will not be accepted.
13. The votes will be counted at Poolatheen at 11.00 a.m. on Saturday, $26^{\text {th }}$ August 2023, under the supervision of the Returning Officer. The results will be announced thereafter.
14. The specimen of nomination form is enclosed herewith.

Let us pray that these elections will be for the glory of God.
Grace be with you all.
Dated 20 June 2023, from Poolatheen, Tiruvalla


Dr. Theodosius Mar Thomas Metropolitan

