GOA STATE **ELECTION COMMISSION**

ALTINHO, PANAJI-GOA

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ELECTION URGENT

No. 1/199/Standing Orders/2022-SEC/ 3816

Date: 05 /08/2022

CIRCULAR

Subject:-The day following the date of poll to be treated as period of election duty.

The polling staff engaged in the polling duty perform long concentrating exhausting duties which starts normally the day prior to poll day to receive the poll materials, set up the polling booth and they are stationed at the polling booth overnight so as to undertake the preparations of polling in the early morning to start the poll as per the prescribed time. It is generally observed that the deposit of the ballot boxes/ Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) and other poll material often extends late night on the date of poll. The Time taken to reach the Collecting Center with the polled ballot boxes/ EVMs and other materials will differ from place to place depending upon the distance of the polling station from the Collecting Center. After the deposit of sealed ballot boxes / EVMs and other materials by the Presiding Officers/Polling Officers these personnel will have to be given reasonable time period for travelling back to their destinations wherever they come from.

The Commission therefore directs that the day following the date of poll, and in the case of re-poll, the date following the date of re-poll, as the case may be treated as period of election duty and the polling personnel will not be required to report for duty in their normal place on such day. For instance, if the date of poll is 10th August and the polled ballot boxes/ EVMs, etc. are reached at the receiving center on $10^{th}/11^{th}$ August by the Presiding Officer/Polling Officers, such officers will not be treated as absent from their normal duty if they do not report for their duty on 11th August, after completion of the election duty but report on 12th August, for their normal duties.

The Returning Officer concerned shall certify the attendance of the polling personnel for the day following the date of poll.

W. V. Ramanamurthy, IAS (Retd.)

Commissioner

Goa State Election Commission

To,

- 1. The Returning Officers (RO) and Asst. Returning Officers (ARO) for local body
- 2. The District Collectors / District Election Officers for local body elections.