

Elections Commission: Parliamentary elections will be held on 9 May

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The parliamentary elections will be held on 9 May 2009, the Elections Commission has announced on Wednesday.

Speaking at a press conference held at Dharubaaruge, the President of the Elections Commission Mohamed Ibrahim said a 16-day period would be given for those who wished to contest in the elections to file their candidacy requests. The period is from next Saturday to the 22nd of this month. Those who wish to contest in the elections should submit their credentials to the Elections Centre established at the Nasandhura Palace Hotel building before 3:00pm, Sunday 22nd March 2009, Ibrahim said.

He further said that the candidates would be contesting for 77 seats at the People's Majlis and that voting for the elections would take place between 9:00am and 8:00pm on 9 May. Counting the votes would commence at 9:00pm the same night. The official results of the ballot would be announced on 16 May at 2:15pm, the Commission's President said.

Candidates who wish to contest in the elections are required to pay a deposit of Rf5000 and, additionally, independent candidates will have to submit 50 signatures from supporters.