

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

NOTIFICATION

Islamabad, the 8th June 2022.

Subject:- **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SECURITY PERSONNEL.**

No.F.3(1)/2022-LGE-S:— In pursuance of Article 220 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan read with Section 233 of the Elections Act, 2017, the Election Commission of Pakistan is pleased to hereby issue and publish the Code of Conduct for law enforcement agencies and security personnel deployed for election duty and to be deployed for security on polling day outside the polling stations:

**CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR SECURITY OFFICIALS FOR ELECTIONS**

A. The Security Personnel belonging to Law Enforcement Agencies including police deputed on election duty for election to the Local Governments in Sindh Province (1st Phase to be held on 26th June, 2022 and 2nd Phase to be held on 24th July, 2022) shall:-

- i. *Perform their duties in accordance with the law and within the confines of the mandate as assigned to them to assist Election Commission of Pakistan in conduct of free, fair and transparent elections.*
- ii. *Perform their functions under Article 220 of the Constitution of Pakistan and Section 5 read with Section 193 of the Elections Act, 2017 (XXXIII of 2017).*
- iii. *Cooperate with the concerned District Returning Officers, Returning Officers, Presiding Officers and Polling Staff as required under Section 83(4) of the Elections Act, 2017 .*
- iv. *Assist the Presiding Officers in smooth and effective discharge of their lawful duties as it is the responsibility of the Presiding Officer to keep order at the polling station, and may remove and cause to be removed any person who displays misconduct at the polling station or fails to obey any lawful orders of the Presiding Officer.*
- v. *Remain impartial and neutral throughout the election process in general and during the voting process in particular and shall not act in favour of or against any political party or candidate in any manner whatsoever and render their fullest cooperation to the Presiding Officer for maintenance of order and for ensuring un-interrupted voting at the polling station.*
- vi. *Observe politeness, display immaculate behavior during dealing with voters and Polling staff, while remaining firm and just in dealing in accordance with the law while addressing any situation and assist in guiding them (outside polling station) in case of any confusion. Ensure that peaceful, friendly, safe and conducive environment is provided to the voters outside the polling stations and voters are neither intimidated nor hampered from voting in any manner whatsoever.*
- vii. *Check each voter before entering premises of the polling station to ensure that no person can bring with himself/herself any weapon/explosive or undesirable item including mobile phones which could sabotage the polling process.*

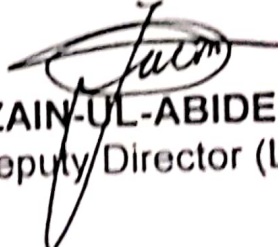
- viii. Facilitate voters and ensure that they are properly queued. Elderly, transgender, pregnant women, women with infants and voters with disabilities are entitled to have prioritized dealing.
- ix. Exclusively concentrate on ensuring peaceful and transparent polling process while performing duty outside the polling station and shall follow directions of the Presiding Officer to perform their duties.
- x. Report to the Presiding Officer any irregularity/ malpractice, they observe outside the polling station and act according to the instructions issued by him in that regard. In case, the Presiding Officer does not act to prevent the commission of any reported irregularity/malpractice, the security staff will immediately bring the matter to the notice of the designated officer-in-charge of law enforcement agency, who shall take action in light of the powers delegated to him and also immediately inform the Returning Officer.
- xi. Acquaint themselves with the fact that one polling agent of each contesting candidate is by law allowed to perform his/ her duties at each polling booth, however, only one polling agent of each candidate will be allowed by the Presiding Officer to observe counting process and tabulation of results.
- xii. Be aware of the fact that polling agent of each candidate who observed the counting process is, by law, allowed to take copy **of Form-XI** (Statement of the Count) and **Form-XII** (Ballot Paper Account) from Presiding Officer. Similarly, any observer who is present at the time of counting may also receive the aforesaid copies of the Forms from the Presiding Officer.
- xiii. Abide by all the relevant laws and continuously work to gain general public's trust by ensuring safe environment and maintaining law and order during election process.
- xiv. Acquaint themselves that the District Returning Officers / Returning Officers, Contesting Candidates and their Election Agents, may at any time visit the polling stations.
- xv. Allow the accredited observers and media persons to enter a polling station if they possess the identity card duly authorized by the ECP/DRO. Media persons shall be allowed along with camera for making brief footage of the voting process or counting process.

B. The security personnel belonging to Law Enforcement Agencies including police deputed on election duty for elections shall:-

- i. Not ask the voters to produce their "Perchees" or prove their identity as it is the duty of polling officer.
- ii. Not disallow any eligible voter to enter the polling station as entering a polling station to cast his/her vote is an inviolable right of the voter who has been assigned to that polling station.
- iii. Not to act in such a manner which may draw an impression of being partial or biased.
- iv. Not in any case assume the duties of polling staff.
- v. Not to take into their custody any election material including ballot papers, marking aid stamps, official code mark stamps, electoral rolls, ballot boxes etc.

- vi. Furthermore, not to allow any person other than polling staff to take into his/her custody the aforesaid election material.
- vii. Not to enter into arguments/ altercations with any candidates, election agent, polling agent, observer or media person in any manner.
- viii. Not to interfere in any manner whatsoever in the function of Presiding Officer, Assistant Presiding Officer or Polling Officer.
- ix. Not to respond at their own to an apparent irregularity outside polling station rather they shall bring the matter to the knowledge of Presiding Officer and take necessary direction from him in the matter. In case of irregularity or malpractice continues, they shall inform their Officer In-Charge through the fastest means available, who shall take action in light of the powers delegated to him and also immediately inform the Returning Officer.
- x. Not to arrest any person at the polling station unless explicitly instructed by the Presiding Officer to do so, and
- xi. Not to interfere in the counting process in any manner rather shall continue to provide peaceful environment outside the polling station for completion of counting process.

By order of the Election Commission of Pakistan


(ZAIN-UL-ABIDEEN SHAH)
Deputy Director (LGE-Sindh)

To
The Manager,
Printing Corporation of Pakistan Press,
Islamabad.

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