

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD CAPITAL TERRITORY LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS, 2015

Code of Conduct for Election Observers

NOTIFICATION

Islamabad, the 19th October, 2015

No.F.3(2)/2015-LGE(ICT).- In exercise of powers conferred upon it under Article 140A and Article 219(d) of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan read with Section 17(1) of the Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government Act, 2015 and all other powers enabling it in this behalf, the Election Commission hereby issues the following **Code of Conduct for Election Observers** which shall be obligatory for all observers, observing Local Government Elections in Islamabad Capital Territory, to follow in letter and spirit:

- (1) Observers shall abide by the laws of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and respect the authority of the Election Commission and its election officials;
- (2) Observers shall respect the sovereignty of Pakistan as well as the fundamental rights and freedom of its people;
- (3) Observers shall follow instructions issued from the Election Commission and State authorities including security officials and maintain a respectful attitude towards them;
- (4) Observers shall at all times maintain strict political impartiality. They must not exhibit or express any bias in relation to national authorities and institutions, political parties, candidates or in relation to any contentious issues in the election process;
- (5) Observers shall not perform any activity that could be perceived as favouring any political party or candidate, such as wearing or displaying any party's symbols, banner etc;
- (6) Observers must not obstruct any element of the election process, including pre-election processes, voting, counting and tabulation of results;
- (7) Observers must always display accreditation Card provided by the Election Commission or an officer authorized by it and must present it to electoral officials as and when required;
- (8) Observers shall ensure that all their observations are impartial, objective and depict the highest standards of accuracy;
- (9) Observers Organizations or groups must ensure that only their authorized persons give comment about the election process;
- (10) Observers Organizations may record and share their findings, methodology and recommendations with the Election Commission of Pakistan;

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- (11) Observers shall maintain proper personal behavior and respect others, including exhibiting sensitivity for the local culture and customs and shall exercise sound judgment in personal interactions and observe the highest level of professional conduct at all times;
- (12) All Organizations requesting accreditation from the Election Commission of Pakistan shall be responsible for training of their individual observers about electoral laws and procedures of Local Government Elections in Islamabad Capital Territory, including this Code of Conduct;
- (13) International Observers shall comply with advisories that may be issued by the Government of Pakistan or security agencies to ensure their safety during their stay in Pakistan; and
- (14) If a serious violation is found to have occurred, the observer concerned may have his/her observer accreditation withdrawn. The authority to determine as to whether any violation has occurred or not, rests with the Election Commission of Pakistan.

By Order of the Hon'ble Election Commission.


(FIDA MUHAMMAD)
Addl: Secretary (Admn)