

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD CAPITAL TERRITORY LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS, 2015

Code of Conduct for Media

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 Media**, which shall be obligatory for all Media Groups, observing Local Government Elections in Islamabad Capital Territory, to follow in letter and spirit:

- (1) Neither any Radio or Television Channel shall broadcast/telecast nor any print media shall publish anything that adversely affects public opinion against a particular candidate;
- (2) The print and electronic media shall refrain from disseminating any information about a political party or a candidate, which is not supported by cogent evidence. Due care shall also be exercised by them to ascertain veracity of any information or news relating to a candidate before its telecasting, broadcasting or publishing.
- (3) The print and electronic media shall broadcast, telecast or publish only authentic election results officially issued by the Presiding Officer, Returning Officer or the Election Commission of Pakistan;
- (4) Any remarks about personal life of any candidate shall be avoided in print and electronic media;
- (5) All political parties contesting elections shall be provided balanced coverage on National Radio/TV channels during their election campaign;
- (6) The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) shall monitor the coverage given to political parties/candidates for their election campaigns through public/private Radio/TV channels and for that purpose shall obtain the transmission certificates, details of payments made by the candidates and copies thereof shall be forwarded to the Election Commission of Pakistan;
- (7) PEMRA shall ensure the compliance of this Code of Conduct by each and every Radio/TV channel;
- (8) Representatives of print and electronic media must obtain Accreditation Card from the Election Commission or its authorized officer for observation of polling process and if a serious violation is found to have been committed, the concerned representative may have his/her accreditation withdrawn. The authority to determine whether any violation has occurred or not rests with the Election Commission of Pakistan;

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- (9) Representatives of print and electronic media must not obstruct any process of the election and must display their identification provided by the Election Commission whenever required by the Presiding or Returning Officer;
- (10) If a candidate makes an allegation against opponent, the media, as far as possible, should seek comment from both sides before publishing or broadcasting/telecasting such allegations;
- (11) Wild allegations and statements which may harm national solidarity or may create law and order situation shall be strictly avoided; and
- (12) The print and electronic media shall not use such language while reporting events, which may incite to violence on any grounds, including race, sex, language, religion.

By Order of the Hon'ble Election Commission.


(FIDA MUHAMMAD)
Addl: Secretary (Admn)