

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD CAPITAL TERRITORY LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS, 2015

Code of Conduct for Election Observers

NOTIFICATION

Islamabad, the 27th June, 2015

No.F.3(2)/2015-LGE(ICT).- In exercise of powers conferred upon it under Article 140A and Article 219 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan read with Section 17 of the draft 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 freedoms 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 partisan symbols, banners.
- (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 should 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.

- (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 in electoral laws and procedures of Islamabad Capital Territory, including this Code of Conduct.
- (13) International Observers shall comply with advisories that may be issued by the Government or security agencies to ensure their safety during their stay in Pakistan.
- (14) If a serious violation is found to have occurred, the observer concerned may have his/her observer accreditation withdrawn. The authority to determine whether any violation has occurred or not rests with the Election Commission of Pakistan.

By Order of the Hon'ble Election Commission of Pakistan.

(Atta-ur-Rehman)
Joint Secretary (LGE)

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD CAPITAL TERRITORY LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS, 2015

Code of Conduct for Media

NOTIFICATION

Islamabad, the 27th June, 2015

No.F.3(2)/2015-LGE(ICT).- In exercise of powers conferred upon it under Article 140A and Article 219 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan read with Section 17 of the draft 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 observers, observing Local Government Elections in Islamabad Capital Territory, to follow in letter and spirit:

- (1) No Radio or Television Channel shall broadcast/telecast or print media shall publish anything that adversely affects the 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 about any election related activity. Due care shall also be exercised by them to ascertain veracity of any information or news relating to a candidate before its telecast, broadcast 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.
- (4) Any remarks about personal life of any candidate shall be avoided in print and electronic media.
- (5) All candidates shall be provided balanced coverage time on National Radio/TV channels during their election campaign.
- (6) PEMRA will monitor the coverage given to candidates for their election campaigns through public/private Radio/TV channels and for that purpose will obtain the transmission certificates, details of payments made by the candidates and copies thereof shall be forwarded to the Election Commission.
- (7) The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) shall ensure the compliance of this Code 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 element of the election process 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 another candidate, the media as far as possible should seek comment from both sides before publishing or broadcasting/telecasting such allegation.
- (11) Wild allegations and statements which may harm national solidarity or may create law and order situation shall be strictly avoided.
- (12) The print and electronic media shall not use language in reporting events which may incite violence on any grounds, including race, sex, language, religion.

By Order of the Hon'ble Election Commission of Pakistan.

(Atta-ur-Rehman)
Joint Secretary (LGE)