

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

PRESS RELEASE

Islamabad, the 19th November, 2015. It has been alleged in the media that Election Commission has postponed the Election in different Councils of Sindh Province a day before date of poll. It has been further criticized by some politicians that election has been postponed to favour and/ or to facilitate a party/candidates. The allegations and criticism is not based on facts and has been wrongly interpreted.

2. The Hon'ble Election Commission denies the allegations and clarifies that Hon'ble High Court of Sindh passed an order on 17-11-2015 giving direction in para "C" as reproduced hereunder:-

"That the Election Commission of Pakistan would issue the revised lists keeping in view the instruction of the order/judgment dated 18-9-2015 within twenty four (24) hours of this order, in such manner that the election process, which is scheduled for 19-11-2015 would not suffer and the elections be held as per the schedule".

3. The matter was discussed in the Election Commission on the report submitted by the Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh that it is practically impossible to revise the list of constituencies within 24 hours and to hold polling on 19-11-2015. The delimitation exercise requires sufficient time and is subject to the demarcation of urban and rural areas by the Provincial Government and issuance of notification in this regard. Furthermore it was also felt that it is not possible to hold poll on 19th November, 2015 without completion of delimitation exercise to comply with order dated 17-11-2015 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Sindh. Accordingly, Election Commission preferred an appeal in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan whereby prayed that:-

"It is, therefore, respectfully prayed that the judgment dated 17-11-2015 passed by a learned Division Bench of High Court of Sindh at Karachi may kindly be suspended till the final disposal of instant case".

4. The Hon'ble Supreme Court heard the case and submission made by the Election Commission that all arrangements for holding poll on 19-11-2015 have been made, polling material delivered to the Presiding Officers and Electors are ready to elect the representatives. The Apex Court passed the following order:-

"Keeping in view the difficulty faced by the ECP and making compliance of the impugned order , we deem it appropriate to observe that in case it is not possible for the ECP to make compliance of paragraph No."C" of the impugned short order, then it may, on its own accord, consider postponement of the elections in the affected districts and for this purpose, the directions contained in the impugned order shall not come in their way".

5. The Election Commission accordingly withdrew the schedule for local Government Elections in respect of affected councils, in compliance of the orders passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Sindh to revise the list of rural and urban areas councils. The fresh schedule for elections will be announced after competition of delimitation exercise.
