

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

(Public Relations Wing)

PRESS NOTE

Subject: **PRESS NOTE – 07.03.2017**

A news item published in a section of press on 7th March, 2017, wherein Imran Khan has been quoted for “launching campaign against ECP” for not amending the laws.

2. In this connection, it is clarified with strong words that “he is one of them, who are supposed to bring legislation for electoral reforms. The above statement of Mr. Imran Khan depicts a serious ignorance about lawmaking process, which is lamented and strongly condemned.”

3. The Hon’ble Member Parliament is informed that Election Commission of Pakistan received the first intimation from the National Assembly Secretariat on 21st August 2014 communicating the formation of Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms with the following TORs:-

- (i) Evaluate the short-comings of previous elections and making recommendations for electoral reforms to ensure that elections are held in a free, fair and transparent manner; and
- (ii) Draft legislation or constitutional amendments, if required and recommend ways and means to improve the system of elections including adoption of the latest technology available for holding elections.

Election Commission of Pakistan was cognizant of its duties under the Rules of Business and had already constituted a Legal Framework Committee (LFC) to conduct research & deliberate on Electoral Reforms. This step of the ECP enabled it to provide first draft of Electoral Reforms to the Parliamentary Committee in August 2014. Besides, draft legislative proposals, ECP also provided Comparative Statements of the existing & proposed legislation, Modalities for introduction of electoral technology, Proposals for Out of Country Voting for expatriate Pakistanis and International best practices in respect of Unified Election Laws. In addition, Election Commission of Pakistan has been attending each meeting of the Committee and its Sub-committee and has so far attended 20 meetings of the Committee and 78 meetings of its Sub-committee. The attendance of the Election Commission comprises Secretary, Additional Secretary, Directors General Law, IT, Admn & Additional Directors General Gender Affairs & Training etc. Election Commission of Pakistan has made all-out efforts to assist the said Parliamentary Committee(s) by not only providing written proposals but briefings & presentations on each of the above area of legislation.

4. It is also brought to the kind information of the Member of Parliament that legislation is none of the mandate of Election Commission of Pakistan. Legislation is the exclusive mandate of the Parliament under the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

5. Election Commission of Pakistan is aware of its constitutional responsibilities for which it is vigilantly striving to perform and deliver as per expectations of the nation and the guidelines given in the Inquiry Commission Report of the Supreme Court on General Elections-2013. ECP has also taken concrete

steps towards fair, free and transparent elections and such steps taken upto December 2016 have been published in its publication namely "Road to General Election-2018". ECP has also devised a prudent HR policy, where all those having established roots in a single place of posting/station for years have been uprooted and transferred. Moreover, exhaustive trainings programs have taken start after establishment of Federal Election Academy. Moreover, a Monitoring, Gender Affairs and Political Finance Wings have been raised to implement the guidelines of the Inquiry Commission Report.

6. It is also informed that Election Commission will never be blackmailed by any vested interest for their ulterior motives and will always play on front foot without taking any pressure.

Fida Muhammad, Addl. Secretary