

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

PRESS RELEASE

Islamabad, the 12th October, 2017: A meeting of the Hon'ble Election Commission of Pakistan was held today under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner wherein the Hon'ble Election Commission approved the draft Elections Rules, 2017 framed under the Elections Act 2017 which were finalized in nearly 200 meetings of the officers of the ECP. The Hon'ble Commission acknowledged the efforts made in this behalf by the officers of the ECP and expressed its satisfaction on the draft Election Rules 2017 and hoped that the Rules will be appreciated by all stakeholders. The Commission directed that the said Rules may be published on official website of the Election Commission i.e. www.ecp.gov.pk for inviting objection or suggestions on any provision of the Rules within fifteen days which will be decided by the Commission by hearing.

In this regard, it is relevant to mention that the Elections Act 2017 was promulgated on 2nd October, 2017 whereby the following laws have been repealed—

- (a) the Electoral Rolls Act, 1974 (Act No. XXI of 1974);
- (b) the Delimitation of Constituencies Act, 1974 (Act No. XXXIV of 1974);
- (c) the Senate (Election) Act, 1975 (Act No. LI of 1975);
- (d) the Representation of the People Act, 1976 (Act No. LXXXV of 1976);
- (e) the Election Commission Order, 2002 (Chief Executive's Order No.1 of 2002);
- (f) the Conduct of General Elections Order, 2002 (Chief Executive's Order No.7 of 2002);
- (g) the Political Parties Order, 2002 (Chief Executive's Order No.18 of 2002); and
- (h) the Allocation of Symbols Order, 2002.

It is further clarified that section 239 of the newly promulgated Elections Act 2017 empowers the Election Commission of Pakistan to make the rules for carrying the purpose of the Act on its own. Section 239 *ibid* is reproduced as under:

“239. Power to make rules.— (1) The Commission may, by notification in the official Gazette and publication on the website of the Commission, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Commission shall make the Rules under sub-section (1) subject to prior publication and after hearing and deciding objections or suggestions filed within fifteen days of the publication.”