

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

NOTIFICATION

Islamabad, the 11th October, 2018

No.F.2(2)/2018-Cord.- In pursuance of Article 220 of the Constitution read with Section 233 of the Elections Act, 2017, the Election Commission of Pakistan is pleased to hereby issue and publish Code of Conduct for Security Personnel deployed for election duty and to be deployed for security on polling day inside and outside the polling stations:

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SECURITY OFFICIALS FOR BYE-ELECTIONS - 2018

- A. The Security Personnel¹ belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for Bye-Election - 2018 SHALL:-
- i. Perform their duties in accordance with the law and within the confines of mandate assigned to Pakistan Army / Civil Armed Forces to assist Election Commission of Pakistan in conduct of free, fair and transparent Bye-elections - 2018 by:-
 - (1) Deploying inside and outside of all polling stations.
 - (2) Providing secure environment for maintenance of law and order.
 - (3) Providing Security to the Presiding Officers during transportation of polling bags from the offices of Returning Officers to the polling stations.
 - (4) Providing Security, during transportation of election material, to the Presiding Officers after completion of polling and counting at the polling stations till receipt of record in the offices of Returning Officers.
 - ii. Perform their functions under Article 220 and 245 (inclusive of all clauses / sub clauses) of the Constitution of Pakistan, Section 4&5 of Anti-Terrorist Act (ATA) - 1997 (as amended) and Section 5 read with Section 193 of the Election Act, 2017 (XXXIII of 2017).
 - iii. Each gazetted officer and Junior Commissioned Officer of Pakistan Army / Civil Armed Forces and other law enforcement agencies shall exercise powers delegated to them vide Notification No.F.6(PK-23)/2018-Elec-II dated 5th October, 2018 issued by Election Commission of Pakistan.
 - iv. Cooperate with the concerned District Returning Officer, Returning Officer, Presiding Officer and Polling Staff as required under section 83(4) of the Elections Act, 2017.
 - v. Assist Presiding Officer in smooth and effective discharge of his lawful duties as it is the responsibility of the Presiding Officer to keep order at the polling station and may

¹Include personnel of Pakistan Army, Pakistan Rangers, Frontier Corps, Police, Frontier Constabulary, Levies and other security agencies employed for provision of security and maintenance of law and order situation in Bye-Election - 2018.

- remove and cause to be removed any person who misconduct himself / herself at a polling station or fails to obey any lawful orders of the Presiding Officer. .
- vi. Remain impartial and neutral throughout the election process in general and during the voting process in particular and shall not act in favour of or against any political party or candidate in any manner whatsoever and render their fullest cooperation to the Presiding Officer for maintenance of order and for ensuring un-interrupted voting at the polling station.
 - vii. While dealing with voters and Polling staff, observe politeness, display immaculate behavior while remaining firm and just in dealing in accordance with the law while addressing any situation. Assist in guiding them (outside polling station) in case of any confusion. Ensure that peaceful, friendly, safe and conducive environment is provided to the voters outside the polling stations and voters are neither intimidated nor hampered from voting in any manner whatsoever.
 - viii. Frisk / check each voter before entering premises of the polling station to ensure that no person can bring with himself/herself any weapon / explosive or undesirable item including mobile phones which could sabotage the polling process.
 - ix. Facilitate voters and ensure that they are properly queued. Elderly, transgender, pregnant women, women with infants and disabled voters are entitled to have prioritized dealing.
 - x. While performing duty inside the polling station, exclusively concentrate on ensuring peaceful and transparent polling process and shall follow direction of the Presiding Officer to perform their duties.
 - xi. Pakistan Army/ Civil Armed Forces personnel (deployed inside and outside) a polling station while performing their duties are supposed to first report to the Presiding Officer any irregularity/ malpractice, they observe inside or outside of polling station and act according to the instructions issued by him in that regard. In case, the Presiding Officer does not act to prevent the commission of any reported irregularity/malpractice, the security staff will immediately bring the matter to the notice of the designated officer-in-charge of Pakistan Army / Civil Armed Forces, who in turn shall inform the Returning Officer or the Secretary Election Commission to take action against the Presiding Officer.
 - xii. Acquaint themselves with the fact that one polling agent of each contesting candidate is by law allowed to perform his/ her duties at each polling booth, however, only one polling agent of each candidate will be allowed by the Presiding Officer to observe counting process and tabulation of results.
 - xiii. Be aware of the fact that polling agent of each candidate who observed the counting process is, by law, allowed to take copy of Form-45 (Result of the Count) and Form-46 (Ballot Paper Account) from Presiding Officer. Similarly observer, if any who is present at the time of counting may also receive the aforesaid copies of the forms from the Presiding Officer.
 - xiv. While performing duties inside the polling station coordinate in a manner that snapshot of Form 45 (Result of the Count) and tabulated result has been taken and sent through Result Transmission System (RTS) to Election Commission and Returning Officer by respective Presiding Officers. In case, due to any technical reason, the RTS is not functioning, the Presiding Officers shall not wait at the polling station and shall move to the office of the Returning Officer immediately along with polling record.

- xv. Remain careful and vigilant during transportation of election material (from office of Returning Officers to respective polling stations) and ensure that all material and polling staff has arrived safely at the polling station and shall also ensure that the complete polling material has been safely deposited by the Presiding Officer to the concerned Returning Officer after culmination of voting process.
- xvi. Provide security to polling material during the entire process.
- xvii. Abide by all the relevant laws and continuously work to gain general public's trust by ensuring safe environment and maintaining law and order during election process.
- xviii. Acquaint themselves that the District Returning Officers / Returning Officers may at any time visit the polling stations.
- xix. Allow the accredited observers and media persons to enter a polling station for a brief duration. Media persons shall be allowed along with camera for making footage of the voting process or counting process, however, they shall not make footage of the screened off compartment to maintain the secrecy of ballot.

B. The security personnel² belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for Bye-elections- 2018 SHALL:-

- i. Not ask the voters to produce their "Perchees" or prove their identity as this is the duty of polling officer.
- ii. Not disallow any eligible voter to enter the polling station as entering a polling station to cast his/her vote is an inviolable right of the voter who has been assigned to that polling station.
- iii. Not act in such manner which may draw an impression of their being partial or biased.
- iv. Not in any case assume the duties of polling staff.
- v. Not take into his/her custody any election material including ballot papers, marking aid stamps, official code mark stamps, electoral rolls, ballot boxes etc.
- vi. Furthermore, not allow any person other than polling staff to take into his/her custody the aforesaid election material.
- vii. Not enter into arguments/ altercations with any candidates, election agent, polling agent, observer or media person in any manner.
- viii. Not interfere in any manner whatsoever in the function of Presiding Officer, Assistant Presiding Officer or Polling Officer.
- ix. Not respond at his own to an apparent irregularity by a polling agent or any member of polling staff rather he shall bring the matter to the knowledge of Presiding Officer and take necessary direction from him in the matter. In case irregularity or malpractice continues, shall inform his Officer In-Charge through the fastest means available, who in turn shall inform Returning Officer or Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan to take action against the Presiding Officer.
- x. Not object on the presence of candidate, his/her election agent or his/her polling agent or observer, if any, at the counting process.

²Include personnel of Pakistan Army, Pakistan Rangers, Frontier Corps, Police, Frontier Constabulary, levies and other security agencies employed for provision of security and maintenance of law and order situation in Bye-elections- 2018.

- xi. Not arrest any person inside the polling station unless explicitly instructed by the Presiding Officer do so, and
- xii. Not interfere in the counting process in any manner rather shall continue to only provide peaceful environment at polling station for completion of counting process unless a mal-practice in counting process has been identified. In that case, he shall inform his Officer In-Charge through the fastest means available, who in turn shall inform Returning Officer or Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan for action against the Presiding Officer.

By order of the Election Commission of Pakistan.



(Ch. Nadeem Qasim)
Director (Elections)