

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

## NOTIFICATION

Islamabad, the 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

No.F.8(3)/2020-Cord.- **Whereas**, notification No. F. 8(3)/2020-Cord.(1), dated 13.02.2020, of revised election programme calling upon the electors of the constituency No. PS-52 Umer Kot-II to elect a Member to fill the seat from the said constituency was issued which had fallen vacant due to death of Syed Ali Mardan Shah, Ex-MPA. The said revised schedule was challenged by a petitioner Mr. Burhan before the Hon'ble High Court of Sindh, Circuit Bench Hyderabad through Constitution Petition (CP) No. 213/2020, and the Hon'ble Court while disposing of the said CP on 26.02.2020, directed this Commission as under:-

*"Be that as it may in terms of the revised schedule only 03 days are left for the issuance of the public notice and we left with no other option but to enforce the revised schedule strictly.*

*We dispose of this petition with the direction that the election be held strictly in terms of the revised schedule and the official respondents shall be careful in future as no such delay shall be acceptable in compliance of Article 224 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan unless a legitimate excuse is available in terms of Article 254 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan."*

**Whereas**, all the pre-poll stages/activities had been completed by this Commission till 19.03.2020, in accordance with the revised schedule as had also directed by the Hon'ble High Court for its enforcement; and,

**Whereas**, spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), which has affected the lives of masses in the province of Sindh and public gatherings and corner meetings are not advisable in the circumstances and that as a precautionary and preventive measure, complete lockdown has been ordered and enforced in the said province; and,

**Whereas**, all the provincial public bodies which had to provide assistance and support to this Commission in conduct of said bye-election in the subject constituency, have been closed as a precautionary measure and the security agencies which had to maintain the law and order situation in the subject constituency enabling this Commission to conduct free and fair election, have been deployed for enforcement/implementation of lockdown order of the provincial government of Sindh in the entire province.

**Now therefore**, the Commission in exercise of powers conferred upon it under section 58 of the Elections Act, 2017, read with Articles 218(3) and 254 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and all other enabling powers in this behalf under the law and Constitution, without prejudice to the judgment of worthy Sindh High Court Supra, having no other adequate option in the prevailing circumstances and infeasible environment as mentioned above, suspends the bye-election programme scheduled on 15.04.2020 in the aforementioned constituency and also suspends its notification No. F.8(3)/2020-Cord-(1), dated 13.02.2020, till further orders. The poll date will be announced later at an appropriate time.

By order of the Election Commission of Pakistan,

  
(Waqas Ahmed Malik)  
Deputy Director (Cord)