

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

NOTIFICATION

Islamabad the 25th February, 2021

No.F.3(6)/2021-Cord.—Whereas, Section 233 of the Elections Act 2017 provides that the Election Commission shall, in consultation with political parties, frame a Code of Conduct for political parties, contesting candidates, election agents and polling agents;

Whereas, for the purpose of effective and meaningful consultation with the political parties to frame Code of Conduct for Senate Elections, 2021, the Election Commission shared draft Code of Conduct with political parties, having representation in National Assembly / Provincial Assemblies, and convened a consultative meeting with them on 22nd February, 2021 in Election Commission Secretariat, Islamabad;

Whereas, the aforesaid consultative meeting of the Commission was held under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner, wherein the representatives of the political parties provided their input on draft Code of Conduct and proposed various amendments and the same were appropriately incorporated in the Code of Conduct with the approval of the Commission;

Now, therefore, in pursuance of Article 218(3) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan read with Section 233 of the Elections Act, 2017 and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, the Election Commission of Pakistan is pleased to hereby issue and publish the Code of Conduct for political parties, contesting candidates, election agents and voters for the forthcoming Senate Elections, 2021 and all subsequent bye-elections with the direction that the political parties, candidates, election agents and voters shall follow the Code of Conduct during the Senate Elections, 2021 and subsequent bye-elections in letter and spirit:

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR POLITICAL PARTIES, CONTESTING CANDIDATES, ELECTION AGENTS AND VOTERS FOR SENATE ELECTIONS

- (I) The political parties, candidates, voters and election agents shall not propagate any opinion, or act in any manner prejudicial to the glory of Islam and ideology of Pakistan, or the sovereignty, integrity or security of Pakistan, or morality or public order, or the integrity or independence of the Parliament, judiciary of Pakistan, or which defames or brings into ridicule the Parliament, judiciary or the Armed Forces of Pakistan.
- (II) The political parties, candidates, voters and election agents shall abide by all directions and instructions issued by the Election Commission, from time to time, relating to smooth conduct of elections as defined in Sections 4 and 8 of the Elections Act, 2017 and refrain from maligning the Election Commission in any form whatsoever. Violation whereof may entail contempt as contemplated in Section 10 of the Elections Act 2017 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act").

- (III) The political parties, contesting candidates, election agents and voter shall not indulge in any kind of corrupt or illegal practice (as defined in chapter-X of the Elections Act 2017).
- (IV) Contesting candidates, election agents and their supporters shall not solicit the support or assistance of any person in the service of Pakistan or any public office to promote or hinder the election of a contesting candidate in any manner. Similarly, any person in service of Pakistan shall not promote or hinder the election of a contesting candidate in any manner or render support to any candidate in any form whatsoever.
- (V) The President and Governors of the Provinces shall not take part in election campaign relating to election to the Senate in any manner whatsoever and shall not use their respective offices as well as houses in connection therewith.
- (VI) While entering the polling station, each voter shall ensure that he or she does not possess mobile phone or other such electronic device or gadget which can be used to take photograph of the marked ballot paper.
- (VII) For purposes of his election expenses, a candidate shall open an exclusive account with any branch of a scheduled bank before the date fixed for scrutiny of nomination papers and maintain, or cause to be maintained, a register of receipts and expenditures:
 - a. A candidate shall not make any transaction towards the election expenses through an account other than the account opened for the purpose; and
 - b. A candidate may open the bank account for election expenses with an amount not exceeding the limit of election expenses provided under section 132. (Section 133 of the Elections Act, 2017)
- (VIII) The returned candidate shall submit his return of election expenses to the Returning Officer on Form C within five days from the date of election in accordance with sub-section (3) of section 123 of the Act whereas other contesting candidates shall submit their election expenses on Form C to the Returning Officer within thirty days of the publication of the names of the returned candidates as required under section 134 of the Act.

By Order of the Election Commission of Pakistan,


(Shahid Iqbal)

Additional Director General (Election-II)

To:

The Manager,
Printing Corporation of Pakistan Press,
Islamabad.

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