

## Election Observation – LGE in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Observing the electoral process is an important integrity safeguard. It is one of the checks-and-balances that protect the viability and honesty of election administration, as well as the participation of political parties, candidates and interest groups. In addition, observation promotes compliance with the legal framework and deters questionable activities and potential conflict. Public reporting by observers increases transparency and helps ensure election officers' accountability.

### Code of Conduct

Election Commission of Pakistan issued a Code of Conduct for Election Observers which clearly stipulates the rights and responsibilities of the observers.



First of all observers shall at all times maintain strict political impartiality. They must not exhibit or express any bias in relation to national authorities and institutions, political parties, candidates or in relation to any contentious issues in the election process. They should not perform any activity that could be perceived as favouring any political party or candidate, such as wearing or displaying any partisan symbols, banners. Observers must not interfere or obstruct any element of the election process, including pre-election processes, voting, counting and tabulation of results.

An Accreditation Card provided by the Election Commission or authorized officers is important document which allows an observer to monitor electoral process. When required, observers must present it to electoral officials.

Observers shall maintain proper personal behavior and respect others, including exhibiting sensitivity for the local culture and customs and shall exercise sound judgment in personal interactions and observe the highest level of professional conduct at all times.

### Role and Responsibilities of Accredited Observers

| Do's   | Don'ts   |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observers may observe the polling on Election Day; They may watch vote counting and result consolidation process</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observers shall not handle any material at the polling station, including ballot papers and the electoral roll</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observers shall display accreditation card issued by the ECP or other authorized officers</li> </ul>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observers shall not interfere with the polling process or influence voters</li> </ul>                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The observers shall show neutrality at all times</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observers shall not intimidate the PrO or other polling personnel</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The observers shall obey any lawful order given by the PrO</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observers shall not directly ask any question from the voters while in the polling station</li> </ul>                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The observers shall observe the code of conduct for observers</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observers shall not announce any result of voting of a polling station or</li> </ul>                                      |

issued by ECP

constituency before it is officially announced

If an observer will conduct a serious violation of the established rules his/her observer accreditation may be withdrawn. The authority to determine whether any violation has occurred or not rests with the Election Commission of Pakistan.

### How to become an observer?

Provincial Election Commissioner, District Returning Officers (DROs) and Returning Officers (ROs) are delegated the authority to issue the accreditation cards for domestic or local observers. Accreditation pass for international observers is issued by the ECP. In order to become an observer the applicant (representing an organization or on individual level) has to provide the following documents:

- a. Written application on letter head of organization (Civil Society Organizations) if affiliated to some organization;
- b. Written application in case of an individual intending to observe the elections in his/her own capacity;
- c. Letter from media house in case the applicant is from print or electronic media
- d. Two recent colored photographs
- e. Photocopy of valid NIC

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN  
ACCREDITATION CARD  
Local Government ELECTIONS  
ELECTION OBSERVERS

Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Issue Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ CNIC No. \_\_\_\_\_

Is permitted to visit the polling stations and offices to observe polling, counting and consolidation of results for the General Elections - 2013  
[Valid only on polling day]

Holder's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Signature and Seal of Issuing Authority \_\_\_\_\_