

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

NOTIFICATION

Islamabad, 26th August, 2015

No.F.4(10)/2015-LGE(P).- In exercise of its powers under Article 218(3) and Article 219 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan read with Rule 78 of the Punjab Local Governments (Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2013 and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, the Election Commission hereby issues the following **Code of Conduct for Media** which shall be obligatory for all media personnel covering Local Government Elections in the Punjab, to follow in letter and spirit:

- (1) Neither any Radio or Television Channel shall broadcast/telecast nor any Print Media shall publish anything that adversely affects the public opinion against a particular party or candidate;
- (2) The print and electronic media shall refrain from disseminating any information about a political party or a candidate which is not supported by cogent evidence. Due care shall also be exercised by them to ascertain veracity of any information or news relating to a candidate before its telecasting, broadcasting or publishing;
- (3) The print and electronic media shall broadcast, telecast or publish only authentic election results officially issued by the Presiding Officer, Returning Officer or the Election Commission;
- (4) Any remarks about personal life of any candidate shall be avoided in print and electronic media;
- (5) All political parties contesting elections shall be provided balanced coverage on National Radio/TV Channels during their election campaign;
- (6) The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) will monitor the coverage given to political parties/candidates for their election campaigns through public/private Radio/TV channels and for that purpose will obtain the transmission certificates, details of payments made by the candidates and copies thereof shall be forwarded to the Election Commission;
- (7) PEMRA shall ensure the compliance of this Code by each and every Radio/TV channel;
- (8) Representatives of print and electronic media must obtain Accreditation Card from the Election Commission or its authorized officer for observation of polling process and if a serious violation is found to have been committed, the concerned representative may have his/her accreditation withdrawn. The authority to determine whether any violation has occurred or not rests with the Election Commission of Pakistan;

- (9) Representatives of print and electronic media must not obstruct any element of the election process and must display their identification provided by the Election Commission whenever required by the Presiding or Returning Officer;
- (10) If a candidate makes an allegation against another candidate, the media, as far as possible, should seek comment from both sides before publishing or broadcasting/telecasting such allegation;
- (11) Wild allegations and statements which may harm national solidarity or may create law and order situation shall be strictly avoided; and
- (12) The print and electronic media shall not use language in reporting events which may incite violence on any grounds, including race, sex, language, religion.

By Order of the Election Commission of Pakistan.

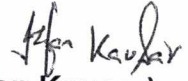
Fida
26.8.2015
(Fida Muhammad)
Additional Secretary

I. Copy forwarded for information to the:

- (1) Secretary to the President, Aiwan-e-Sadar, Islamabad.
- (2) Secretary to the Prime Minister, Prime Minister's Secretariat, Islamabad.
- (3) Secretary, Establishment Division, Islamabad.
- (4) Secretary, Cabinet Division, Islamabad.
- (5) Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Govt. of Pakistan, Islamabad.
- (6) Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad.
- (7) Chief Secretary, Govt. of the Punjab, Lahore.
- (8) Secretary, Local Govt. & Community Development Department, Government of the Punjab, Lahore.

II. Copy forwarded to the Provincial Election Commissioner, Punjab, Lahore for dissemination to all the concerned.

✓ III. Copy also forwarded to all of the officers of ECP Secretariat, Islamabad.



(Irfan Kausar)

Deputy Director (LGE-P)