



TRANSPARENCY IN POLITICAL FINANCE

TRANSPARENT POLITICAL
FINANCE

ROBUST AND ACCOUNTABLE
DEMOCRACY

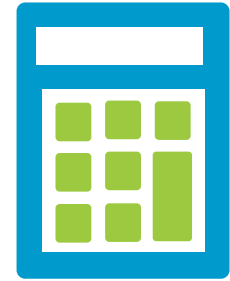
شفاف سیاسی مالیت

مضبوط، جواب ده جمہوریت



WHAT IS POLITICAL FINANCE?

The term 'political finance' can be defined as 'involvement of money in politics'. Money in politics is required for election expenses and day-to-day operations of political parties and candidates. Political finance is central to political and governance issues in every society. It is interesting that the resources needed for successful elections are also causes for potential corruption and manipulation. Understanding the delicacy of this, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) included an appeal that all countries should strive to “enhance transparency in the funding of candidatures for elected public office and, where applicable, the funding of political parties” (article 7(3)).



WHAT DOES POLITICAL FINANCE ENTAIL?

Bans	The kind of money used in political campaigns and its source.
Spending Limits	The amount of money that can be spent on election campaigns by candidates.
Disclosures	Requirement of disclosing assets and liabilities and election expenses by contesting candidates and annual statements of assets and liabilities by political parties and members of National Assembly, Provincial Assembly and Senate.
Monitoring and Enforcement Mechanisms	-Legal framework governing political finance. -Strong and independent enforcement, supported by effective and proportional sanctions



WHY IS POLITICAL FINANCE IMPORTANT?

Political finance plays a crucial role in any democracy by offering a level playing field to all political entities. An effective political finance framework prevents the undue influence of money to skew the outcome of the electoral process in favour of the wealthy. When the laws pertaining to political finance are properly implemented in a country, the resultant political system is a true representation of the people and works in the genuine interest of the public.

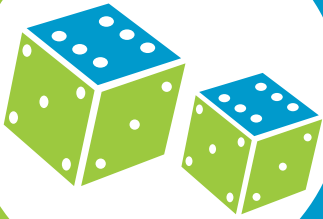
POLITICAL FINANCE IN PAKISTAN

A comprehensive legal framework exists in the country, which is regulated by the Election Commission of Pakistan. The framework contains provisions for bans, limits and disclosures, which are applicable to political candidates and parties. In Pakistan political finance is governed by

- Representation of People Act (ROPA), 1976
- The Senate (Election) Act, 1975
- Political Parties Order, 2002

The following is a snapshot of various provisions in the law

Returned Candidates (National and Provincial Assemblies)	Returned Candidates (Senate)	Political Parties
<p data-bbox="145 277 531 336">Governed by Representation of People Act (ROPA, 1976)</p> <ul data-bbox="113 343 558 756" style="list-style-type: none">•Ceiling on election expenditures for National and Provincial Assembly Seats and prescribed punishments for exceeding the limits set forth and non-submission of returns•Guidelines for filing election expense and annual returns•Prescribed use of hoardings and other promotional collateral•Prescribed penalties for contesting candidates in the event of unpaid bank loans or defaults on government dues during scrutiny	<p data-bbox="579 277 1011 336">Governed by The Senate (Election) Act, 1975</p> <ul data-bbox="574 343 1019 625" style="list-style-type: none">•Restriction on election expenses for Senate elections as described in Section 28 of The Senate (Election) Act, 1975•Failure to file election returns for Senate with the Returning Officer by contesting candidates as defined in Section 29 The Senate (Election) Act,	<p data-bbox="1074 277 1439 336">Governed by Political Parties Order, 2002</p> <ul data-bbox="1034 343 1479 497" style="list-style-type: none">•Specifies prohibited sources of funds for campaign financing•Procedure for filing annual returns along with prescribed penalty in case of violations



LEGAL GAPS & CHALLENGES

- There is no law requiring political parties disclosure on election expenses and no ceiling has been declared.
- No provision exists for electronic media regulations and guidelines.
- Prescribed punishments and sanctions for corrupt and illegal practices in the law need to be effectively implemented.
- There is currently no mechanism to track expenditure on election campaigns by supports.
- Spending limits for political candidates on election campaigns is very low.
- Monitoring, investigation of statements and enforcement of political finance laws is a challenge.

TRANSPARENT POLITICAL
FINANCE

ROBUST AND ACCOUNTABLE
DEMOCRACY

شفاف سیاسی مالیت

مضبوط، جواب دہ جمہوریت