

Bulletin #15

Afghanistan Independent Election Commission

5 September 2019



IEC anti-fraud measures for Presidential election

On 20 Aug 2019, Independent Election Commission reported its preparations and new measures to prevent fraud in 28 September Presidential election.

Mrs. Hawa Alam Nuristan, IEC Chair, on behalf of all IEC staff, expressed her condolences for families and citizens involved in the suicide attack occurred at a wedding hall in Kabul on 18 August and in Nangarhar on 19 August.

IEC Chair also took the opportunity to wish happy 100 years anniversary of Independence of Afghanistan and she stated that "IEC

is prepared to conduct a transparent election on 28 September. The recruitment and the training of staff is ongoing as well as the movement of election material".

Mr. Mawlana Mohammad Abdullah, IEC Commissioner, added that "IEC will implement anti-fraud measures during voting and tally operations, inspection and invalidation of votes. Each polling station will have one BVV device with the related voter list (VL). One additional device is available in the polling center. In order to vote, voters should have their Tazkira with sticker which number will be inserted in the BVV device to identify the voter. Thumbs finger prints and pictures of the voter will be taken to prevent multiple voting. A QR code will be printed and stucked on the ballot paper, that without it would be considered invalid during counting operations. The QR code will also indicate the time and ballots papers with a different time from the voting operations will be invalidated. Polling staff will be registered with biometric information". www.iec.org.af

Anti-fraud measures are part of approved IEC regulations and procedures, published on IEC website.

Mrs. Rahima Zarifi, IEC Commissioner, stated that "there is no religious restriction to take picture of women as they are photographed to obtain national ID, passport, Hajj and other processes. Therefore, people of Afghanistan should cooperate with IEC to ensure the transparency of election".



Security coordination meeting

On 22 August, IEC leadership met with security forces and other stakeholders to discuss preparations for 28 September Presidential election.

Mrs. Hawa Alam Nuristan, IEC Chair, thanked security forces for the cooperation and stated that "voters participation depends on the security of election process; more the security of polling centers is ensured, more voters will feel safe and participate in the election".

Mr. Mohammad Masoud Andarabi, on behalf of the Ministry of Interior, Lieutenant General Mohammad Yasin Zia, Deputy of Ministry of National Defense, Mr. Ajmal Abedi, Deputy of Plan and Policy of National Security General Directorate assured IEC leadership on the impartiality of security forces during elections preparations and the protection of electoral staff and presidential candidates as well as the movement of electoral material, according to national and provincial movement plan.

Mrs. Nabila Musleh, Deputy of Ministry of Women Affairs and representative of Ministry of Finance and Afghanistan Telecom Regulatory Authority (ATRA), provided information on identification and payment of female searchers.



Training on biometric device



On 21 August at IEC HQ, a five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted for almost 200 participants, including IEC provincial electoral officers (PEOs) and trainers, on the use of biometric devices.

Mr. Rahmatullah Salehi, Head of IEC Training Department, provided information on the agenda, which included training techniques, use of biometric devices and polling and counting procedures.

Mr. Musaffer Qoqandi, IEC Secretary, invited PEOs to “get the most out of the training, transfer the knowledge to respective provinces and ensure neutrality throughout the process”.

Mr. Ahmad Issak Hassan, IEC international Commissioner stated that IEC is willing to prevent electoral fraud, thus, is training the staff on the use of the technology.

Dr. Mohammad Osman Frotan, IEC DCEO Operations, said: “special forms will be given to you. You should monitor and evaluate closely the process of training in the provinces and provide comprehensive reports. The success of election depends on your training”.

Mr. Ali Shah Masbah, IEC DCEO for Communication, reiterate IEC support and invited PEOs to enhance coordination between IEC provincial offices and IEC HQ.

Similar training will be conducted in provinces for districts managers and polling staff. A five-day training will be conducted for PSs Chair, identification officer, BVV officer and ballot paper issuer officer. One-day training will be conducted for PSs queue controller and ballot box officer.

Launch of public outreach face to face campaign

According to IEC Information and Public Outreach Department plan, a face-to-face nationwide campaign has been launched on 20 August.

In this regard, IEC Head of provincial offices, conducted press conferences with the participation of local officials such as IEC provincial officers, governors, security forces but also representatives of civil society and other election stakeholders.

During the press conference, IEC stressed the importance of the direct public outreach campaign and invited all parties involved to cooperate.

For 28 September Presidential election, IEC hired and trained 111 public outreach trainers to train 900 civic educators which have been deployed throughout the country to conduct face-to-face campaign. To enhance the impact of the campaign, IEC produced factsheets, posters, brochures, leaflets, pen and notebooks which will be distributed by civic educators.

In addition, according to public outreach plan, TVs and Radios PSAs are being broadcasted and billboards are installed across the country.

Preparation of election material



Election material, namely non-sensitive, sensitive and BVV devices, arrived at IEC HQ and is being prepared and packed to be distributed to provinces.

According to IEC Field Operations Department, more than 35,000 biometrics devices arrived at IEC HQ, as well as ballot papers, results forms and non-sensitive material (such as PS kits). Voters list have been printed.

