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ISLAMABAD, MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2023

PART III

Other Notifications, Orders, etc.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

NOTIFICATION

Islamabad, the 15th August, 2023

F. No.2(1)/2023-Coord.—WHEREAS, the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies of Sindh and Balochistan under Articles 58(1) and Article 112(1) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan stand dissolved on 9th, 11th and 12th August, 2023 respectively.

AND WHEREAS, the Election Commission of Pakistan is mandated with the constitutional duty to organize and conduct elections in terms of Article 218(3) of the Constitution and to make such arrangements as are necessary to ensure that the elections are conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with the law and that corrupt practices are guarded against;

AND WHEREAS, it has become imperative that the Election Commission shall take all necessary steps under the Constitution and prevalent law for the smooth conduct of General Elections.

(1755)

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[1657(2023)/Ex.Gaz.]

NOW THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it under Articles 218(3), 220 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as well as Sections 4, 5, 8(c) read with Section 230 of the Elections Act, 2017 and as supported by the Workers' Party case through Akhtar Hussain Advocate, General Secretary and 6 others Versus Federation of Pakistan and 2 others reported in PLD 2012 SC 681, and all the other powers enabling it in this behalf, the Election Commission of Pakistan, to ensure transparent election and to provide a level playing field for all contesting candidates and political parties, hereby directs the Caretaker Governments at the Federal and Provincial levels:—

- (a) To assist the Election Commission to hold elections in accordance with law as provided under section 230(1)(b) of the Elections Act, 2017.
- (b) To ensure the compliance of all the notifications, directives and the provisions as laid down in Section 230 of the Act *ibid*.
- (c) Not to post or transfer any public official after the issuance of this notification under the Federal Government and the Provincial Governments without prior approval in writing of the Election Commission as laid down in Clause 2(f) of Section 230 of the Elections Act, 2017.
- (d) Ensure that all kinds of recruitments in any Ministry, Division, Department or Institution under the Federal, Provincial Governments and Local Governments are banned with immediate effect, except with the prior approval of the Commission and except recruitments by the Federal and Provincial Public Service Commissions and those government organizations where test / interviews have already been conducted before this day.
- (e) Not to announce / execute any kind of Development Schemes at Federal and Provincial levels except those which are ongoing and approved before the issuance of this notification. Moreover, the Federal Government, Provincial Governments and Local Governments shall not issue tenders of such schemes till culmination of General Elections and except with the prior approval of the Commission.
- (f) All development funds relating to Local Government institutions in the Provinces and Cantonment Boards, for the new schemes, throughout the Country, shall stand frozen after announcement of election schedule with immediate effect till the announcement of results of the General Elections. However, in case of any vital scheme the case may be referred to the Commission for decision.

- (g) To ensure immediate termination of services of all heads of the institutions appointed on political basis and to send all such cases to the Commission for approval of termination or otherwise.
- (h) To ensure vacation of the government residential facilities from Ex-Prime Minister, Ex-Chief Ministers and their advisors, Ex-Federal, Ex-Provincial Ministers and Ex-Members of National and Provincial Assemblies of Sindh and Balochistan, besides ensuring withdrawal of official vehicles from them. Furthermore, the dignitaries shall be provided security / protocol as per their entitlement and any extra deployment of security / protocol be withdrawn from them forthwith.
- (i) The Caretaker Governments shall perform their functions and attend day-to-day matters which are necessary to run the affairs of the Federation and Provinces in accordance with law.
- (j) The Care-Taker Governments shall not attempt to influence the elections or do or cause to be done anything which may, in any manner, influence or adversely affect the free and fair elections.
- (k) The Care-Taker Governments being non-political entities can take actions or decisions regarding existing bilateral or multilateral agreements or the projects already initiated under the Public Private Partnership Authority Act, 2017 (VIII of 2017), the Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions Act, 2022 (XXX of 2022) and the Privatization Commission Ordinance, 2000 (LII of 2000) under intimation to this Commission.
- (l) The Care-Taker Prime Minister, Chief Ministers or Ministers or any other members of Caretaker Governments shall, within three days from the date of assumption of office, submit to the Commission, a statement of assets and liabilities including assets and liabilities of his spouse and dependent children as on the preceding 30th day of June on Form-B.

This issues with the approval of the Election Commission of Pakistan.

OMAR HAMID KHAN,
Secretary.