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PART III

Other Notifications, Orders, etc.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

NOTIFICATION

Islamabad, the 20th April, 2024

No. F. 2(11)/2024-Coord.M/F(1).—In pursuance of Article 220 of the Constitution read with Section 233 of the Elections Act, 2017, the Election Commission of Pakistan is pleased to publish and issue Code of Conduct for Armed Forces / Civil Armed Forces deployed for election duty and provision of fool proof Security during (21) Bye-Elections in the National / Provincial Assemblies of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan / Re-Poll to be held on 21st April, 2024:

**CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR ARMED FORCES /CIVIL ARMED FORCES OF PAKISTAN
DURING BYE ELECTIONS-2024**

The Security Personnel¹ belonging to Armed Forces / Civil Armed Forces of Pakistan deputed on election duty for following (21) Bye- Elections in the National / Provincial Assemblies of Puniab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan / Re-Poll shall:-

(3211)

Price : Rs. 6.00

[7762 (2024) Ex. Gaz.]

¹Include personnel of armed forces of Pakistan, Pakistan Rangers Pakistan Coast Guards Frontier Corps, employed for provision of security and maintenance of law and order situation in support of election duties-2024

National Assembly of Pakistan		Provincial Assembly of Punjab	
1	NA-8 Bajaur	1	PP-22 Chakwal-Cum-Talagang
2	NA-44 Dera Ismail Khan-I	2	PP-32 Gujrat-VI
3	NA-119 Lahore-III	3	PP-36 Wazirabad-II
4	NA-132 Kasur-II	4	PP-54 Narowal-I
5	NA-196 Kamber-Shahdadkot-I	5	PP-93 Bhakkar-V
Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa		6	PP-139 Sheikhpura-IV
1	PK-22 Bajaur-IV	7	PP-147 Lahore-III
2	PK-91 Kohat-II	8	PP-149 Lahore-V
Provincial Assembly of Balochistan		9	PP-158 Lahore-XIV
1	PB-20 Khuzdar-III	10	PP-164 Lahore-XX
2	PB-22 Lasbela	11	PP-266 R.Y. Khan-XII
3	PB-50 Killa Abdullah (Re-Poll)	12	PP-290 D.G. Khan-V

- i. Perform their duties in accordance with role of Armed Forces defined in Article 245 of the Constitution of Pakistan, the law and within the confines of mandate assigned to Armed Forces to assist Election Commission of Pakistan in conduct of Bye Elections / Re-Poll by deploying/ providing:-
 - a. Secure environment for easy and secure access of voters to Polling Station. Wherein, Police will be 1st tier responders while Civil Armed Forces / Armed Forces as 2nd and 3rd tier responders, respectively.
 - b. Deploying outside selected Most Sensitive Polling Stations.
 - c. Security of printing presses during printing of Ballot Papers.
 - d. Security during transportation of Ballot Papers from Printing Presses to the office of District Returning Officers.
 - e. Security, during transportation of election material from Offices of Returning Officers to Polling Stations and back, after completion of Polling and counting.
- ii. Perform their functions under Article 220 of the Constitution of Pakistan, Section 5 read with Section 193 of the Election Act, 2017 (XXXIII of 2017).
- iii. Each gazetted officer of the law enforcement agency shall exercise powers delegated to them through a Notification to be issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan in terms of Section 193 of Elections Act, 2017.

- iv. Cooperate with the concerned District Returning Officers, Returning Officers and Presiding Officers as required under section 83(4) of the Elections Act, 2017.
- v. Assist Presiding Officer in smooth and effective discharge of his/her lawful duties as it is the primary responsibility of the Presiding Officer to keep order at the polling station and may remove and cause to be removed any person who misconduct himself / herself at the polling station or fails to obey any lawful orders of the Presiding Officer.
- vi. Remain impartial and neutral throughout the election process in general and during the voting process in particular and shall not act in favour of or against any political party or candidate in any manner whatsoever and render their fullest cooperation to the Presiding Officer for maintenance of order and for ensuring uninterrupted voting on the polling station.
- vii. Observe politeness, display immaculate behavior in dealing with voters and Polling staff, while remaining firm and just in dealing in accordance with the law while addressing any given situation. Assist in guiding them (outside polling station) in case of any confusion or untoward situation. Ensure that peaceful, congenial, safe and conducive environment is provided to the voters outside the polling stations and voters are neither intimidated nor prevented from voting in any manner whatsoever.
- viii. Frisk / Check each voter before entering premises of the polling station to ensure that no person can bring with himself/herself any weapon / explosive or undesirable item including mobile phones which could sabotage the polling process.
- ix. Facilitate voters and ensure that they are properly queued Elderly, Transgender, pregnant women, women with infants and voters with disabilities are entitled to prioritized dealing.
- x. Exclusively concentrate on ensuring peaceful and transparent polling process while performing duty outside the polling station and shall follow directions of the Presiding Officer to perform their duties.
- xi. Acquaint themselves with the fact that one polling agent of each contesting candidate is allowed by law to be present at each polling booth. however only one Polling agent of each candidate will be allowed by the Presiding Officer to observe counting process and tabulation of results.

- xii. Be aware of the fact that polling agent of each candidate who observes the counting process is, by law, allowed to take copy of Form-45 (Result of the Count) and Form-46 (Ballot Paper Account) from Presiding Officer. Similarly observer, if any who is present at the time of counting may also receive the aforesaid copies of the forms from the Presiding Officer
 - xiii. Provide Security to the premises of the office of the Returning Officer till the completion of consolidation of results and ensure safe deposit of polling bags and other material in the strong room of the Commission.
 - xiv. Abide by all the election laws/relevant laws and strive to gain general public trust by ensuring safe environment and maintaining law and order during election process
 - xv. Acquaint themselves that the District Returning Officers / Returning Officers may at any time visit the polling stations.
 - xvi. Allow the accredited observers and media persons to enter a polling station Media persons shall be allowed along with camera for making footage of the voting process or counting process except the Screen off Compartment to maintain the secrecy of ballot.
- B. The security personnel² belonging to Law Enforcement Agencies including police deputed on election duty for General Elections-2024 shall:-
- i. Not to ask the voters to produce their “Perchees” or prove their identity as it is the duty of polling officer.
 - ii. Not to disallow any eligible voter to enter the polling station as entering a polling station to cast his/her vote is an inviolable right of the voter who has been assigned to vote at that polling station.
 - iii. Not to act in such a manner which may draw an impression of being partial or biased.
 - iv. Not to assume the duties of polling staff in any case whatsoever
 - v. Not to take into custody any election material including ballot papers, marking aid stamps, official code mark stamps, electoral rolls, ballot boxes etc.

²Include personnel of Police, Frontier Constabulary, Punjab Constabulary Balochistan Constabulary and levies only employed for provision of security and maintenance of law and order situation in support of election duties-2024.

- vi. Furthermore, not to allow any person other than polling staff to take into his/her custody the aforesaid election material.
- vii. Not to enter into arguments/ altercations with any contesting candidates, election agents, polling agents, observers or media persons in any manner.
- viii. Not to interfere in any manner whatsoever in the function of Presiding Officer, Assistant Presiding Officer or Polling Officer.
- ix. Not to respond at their own to an apparent irregularity outside polling station rather they shall bring the matter to the knowledge of Presiding Officer and take necessary direction from him in the matter.
- x. Not object on the presence of the candidate, his/her election agent or his/ her polling agent or observer if any, during the counting process.
- xi. Not to arrest any person at the polling station unless explicitly instructed by the Presiding Officer to do so, and
- xii. Not to interfere in the counting process in any manner rather shall continue to provide peaceful environment outside the polling station for completion of counting process unless a mal-practice in counting process has been identified. In that case, he shall inform his officer In-Charge through the fastest means available, who will inform the Returning Officer.

By order of Election Commission of Pakistan.

SYED NADEEM HAIDER,
Additional Director General (Elections-II).