



بنیاد انتخابات شفاف افغانستان

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Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan

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TEFA findings on new commissioners work proceedings and existed challenges

Kabul: According to TEFA's observation findings, new commissioners introduced by president Ghani after the completion of selection committee work. When new commissioners started their work, major problems and challenges existed in the electoral commissions. Based on TEFA's assessment, these challenges and problems negatively impacted on new commissioners' work proceedings that some of the problems and challenges are as below:

- No relation and communications between election commissions and other stake holders for the last two years
- Continuation of acting supervisors in most of IEC and IECC departments
- Lack of IEC and IECC provincial offices activities in the last two years
- Politicization of IEC and IECC's staff
- Low levels of public trust on electoral commissions and electoral processes
- Losing of scientific and technical staffs in the last two years
- Existence of financial and administrative corruption in electoral commissions
- Termination of funding of electoral commissions
- Lack of provincial offices and authorities in most of the 10 provinces
- Termination of temporary staff contracts in electoral commissions
- Lack of legal documents in IECC
- Sending the year 1396 annual budget to the government by former IECC commissioners before the new commissioners start their duties
- Lack of a work plan and operational plan in commissions in the last two years

Although the new commissioners introduced to accused corrupted institutions but people and the civil society organizations had high expectation from them. TEFA's findings shows the new commissioners accomplished some amount of work since they joined the commissions, which are as follow:

- Held meetings with CSOs individually and connectively
- Creation of legal, financial and technical committees in electoral commissions
- Finalizing of draft assessment plan of polling stations
- Working on voter list development
- Budget reviewed by financial and administrative committees
- Reviewing of organizations structure based on gender equality standards
- Development of new procedure to select the CEO of IEC
- Conducted interviews with applicants for the CEO position and introduction of three shortlisted applicants to the government.

- Meetings with donor's community
- Conducted meetings with media
- Review of regulations and policies

TEFA believes that there are still serious obstacles for conducting a transparent and acceptable election and continuation of these challenges will have negative impacts and will lead the electoral reform to the wrong direction. Generally, below are challenges on the way of conducting transparent election in Afghanistan:

- Political interference by political teams in electoral affairs
- Lack of enough financial resources for implementation of electoral reform plan
- Personal based approach of few commissioners with other commissioners in the election commissions
- Political approach of few commissioners in technical process
- Lack of information sharing with election observers especially in the processes of CEO selection
- Lack of financial independency of electoral commissions and negative impact of government decisions in electoral commissions
- Lack of government attention on conducting transparency and timely election in Afghanistan
- Indefinite of international community decisions on their technical and financial assistance in Afghanistan Election.

According to the conclusion of TEFA technical team from observation findings and electoral environment assessment, TEFA call on government, election commissions and international community to consider the following priorities for holding a credible and transparent election:

- The government should not impose its decisions on the commissions and not interfere in election commission decision making and must not allow others to interfere in the commission work
- The commissions should not have political approach on technical issue of the election and should not allow their staff to undermine the process by their political approaches
- The new commissioners should follow the key electoral reform activities which consist of voter list, electoral boundaries and security assessment as well as report to public through media
- The donor country should announce its technical and financial support for upcoming election
- The election commission to share the updates on their activities with media and observers on regular basis
- Election observation opportunities must be provided to election observers from the decision making process and work proceeding of commissioners at the commissions
- The parliamentary and district council election timeline should be define in to order plan realistically.
- To grantee the transparency of election, election commission should use from technology
- The election commission should make a quick decision about voter registration process and its announcement.