

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

ORDER NO.F.3(1)/2022-LGE(S) dated 24-08-2022

Subject: REVISING OF POLL DATE OF 2ND PHASE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS IN PROVINCES OF SINDH & BALOCHISTAN.

WHEREAS, the Election Commission of Pakistan is a Constitutional body constituted under Article 218(2) of the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973.

AND WHEREAS it is the Constitutional obligation of the Commission to hold Local Government Elections under Articles 140-A(2) and 219(d) of the Constitution.

AND WHEREAS, the Election Commission has issued Election Programme (schedule) for the 2nd phase of Local Government Elections in the province of Sindh vide Notification No. F. 3(1)/2022-LGE(S) on 10th June, 2022. However, on receipt of request for postponement of 2nd phase of local government elections from contesting candidates and public, and on the basis of report of Meteorological Department and Provincial Election Commissioners Sindh, the election was postponed till 28th August 2022, to the extent of poll day. Similarly election schedule for some Union Councils of district Musakhel, Mastung, Jaffarabad, Dukko, Chaghai, Loralai and Municipal Committee Zhob was issued vide notification No.F.2(2)/2022-LGE-B (Vol-II) dated 25 July 2022, with poll date fixed as 28th August 2022.

AND WHEREAS, reports are appearing in print and electronic media extensively that rainfall and flooding in the provinces of Sindh and Balochistan have wreaked havoc to the life, property and communication and the situation has become miserable to the public. Consequently, the authorities i.e. Provincial Governments/District Administration of Sindh and Balochistan and the Provincial Election Commissioners Sindh and Balochistan taking stock of the situation submitted their reports to this Commission regarding the conduct of Local Government Elections on 28th August 2022

AND WHEREAS, the Government of Sindh vide letter dated 23.08.2022 has approached this Commission stating therein that due to heavy rain falls in the months of July & August, 2022, the administration and law enforcement machinery of the Province has been engaged in rescue and relief operations in the affected districts. It is further intimated that provincial machinery, police, health, education and other departments are engaged in rescuing / relief operations and that it would be very difficult to retrieve police personnel and District Administration from the affected districts for conduct of 2nd phase of Local Government Elections and Provincial Government has thereby requested that conduct of 2nd phase of Karachi & Hyderabad Divisions, may be re-considered till the availability of administration and security personnel.

AND WHEREAS, the Inspector General of Police, Sindh vide its letter dated 23.08.2022 intimated to the Secretary, S&GAD, Sindh that DIGP Hyderabad Range has intimated that due to unprecedented rain and resultant flooding in Hyderabad Division, police will not be able to reach to the polling stations on the poll date for 2nd phase of Local Government Elections, scheduled on 28.08.2022. Similarly, the DIGPs of Sukkur & Larkana Division have also intimated that in the current flooding situation in their respective Ranges, additional police requisitioned for Hyderabad & Karachi Divisions are not in the position to be provided for the 2nd phase of Local Government Elections as they are busy in rescue and relief operations in their respective jurisdiction and Inspector General of Police has requested for postponement of 2nd phase of Local Government Elections, scheduled on 28.08.2022.

WHEREAS, Inspector General of Police Sindh further intimated that 50000 police personnel were deployed for the 2nd phase of Local Government Elections in Karachi Division, out of which 33000 were available and 16000 personnel were requisitioned from Interior Sindh. However, in the present flood situation it would not be possible to deploy the additional police force from Interior Sindh whose presence for the peaceful elections is necessary.

AND WHEREAS, the Pakistan Metrological Department has forecasted heavy rainfall from 24th to 26th August, 2022 especially in Karachi and there is strong probability of the same on 27th & 28th August, 2022 and these rainfalls will have implications especially with regard to logistics, availability of polling staff, transport and buildings for establishment of polling stations.

AND WHEREAS, other law enforcement agencies to be deployed at highly sensitive polling stations and as well as QRF as 3rd tier are also busy in Rescue and Relief operations and would not be available for the election duty, likewise.

AND WHEREAS, Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh also briefed that due to heavy rainfall there will be logistic issues as well as issue of transportation of polling material, polling staff especially female polling staff and as a whole, there will be extreme problems to transport 63000 polling staff at 4900 polling stations and Provincial Election Commissioner, Sindh has requested for the postponement of 2nd phase of Local Government Elections.

AND WHEREAS, the Provincial Election Commissioner, Balochistan and Government of Balochistan/ District Administrations have reported that abnormally heavy and relentless monsoon rains have destroyed the infrastructure and paralyzed means of communication in district Musakhel and mobility of masses is restricted to homes and people are stranded in many parts of the district and more monsoon rains have been forecasted during the current week in Balochistan province and have proposed that local govt. elections to the extent of Union Councils nos. 4,9,15 and 16 of Musakhel may be postponed accordingly.

AND WHEREAS, the matter was discussed in a meeting of the Commission held today i.e. 24.08.2022. All above issues were thoroughly discussed and given due consideration.

AND WHEREAS, Section 58 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides that the Commission may, at any time after the issue of the notification under sub-section (1) of section, make such alterations in the Election Programme announced, in that notification for the different stages of the election, or may issue a fresh Election Programme as it may, in its opinion to be recorded in writing, be necessary for the purposes of this Act.

NOW THEREFORE, the Commission taking into consideration the reports of Government of Sindh, IG Sindh, Provincial Election Commissioner, Sindh and Baluchistan weather condition, non availability of law enforcement agencies for the conduct of 2nd phase of Local Government Elections, logistic problems, public interest and convenience of voters, in exercise of its powers under Article 218(3) of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973 read with Section 58 of the Elections Act, postpones the 2nd Phase of Local Government Election in Karachi and Hyderabad Divisions and four UCs (Sr. Nos. 04,09,15,16) of District Musakhel of Balochistan Province, to the extent of the poll day, till the normalization of situation in public interest.

SIRANDAR SULTAN RAJA
Chairman

SHAH MUHAMMAD JATOI
Member

NISAR AHMED DURRANI
Member

BABAR HASSAN BHARWANA
Member

JUSTICE (R) IKRAMULLAH KHAN
Member