



Use of State Resources for Political Campaigns

Pre-U13/11-Mar-2013

ECP, District Administrations Urged to Make Government Offices Non-political

Introduction

This report highlights the use of state resources by political parties for campaigning. It has been prepared from information gathered between February 25 and March 3, 2013, by the Free and Fair Election Network's (FAFEN's) District Long-Term Observers (DLTOs) who observed whether there was campaign material such as –party flags, banners, posters, stickers or wall chalking – on the premises of government offices. The report is based on observations of District Election Commissioner (DEC) offices in 43 districts and other government offices in seven districts across the country.

Summary

FAFEN DLTOs observed campaign material in government offices in 10 districts - five in Punjab (Bahawalnagar, Kasur, Okara, Sialkot and Vehari); one in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Mardan); two in Sindh (Karachi West and Kashmore) and one in Balochistan (Panjgur).

The observers noted seven instances of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) campaign material on the premises of government buildings in two districts of Sindh. The DLTOs also reported having seen campaign material of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) in three government offices in three Punjab districts. The campaign material of five other political parties – Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaaf (PTI), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Awami National Party (ANP), Balochistan National Party (BNP), and Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam-Fazlur Rehman (JUI-F) – was seen on the premises of various government offices in five other districts - Ghotki, Kasur, Sialkot, Mardan, and Panjgur. Most of the campaign material was found at the offices of DECs and Deputy Commissioners (DC)/District Coordination Officers (DCOs) and District Police Officers (DPOs). In all, FAFEN observers reported seeing seven posters, five banners, two graffiti, two party stickers and one flag at different government offices.

Party-Wise, Province-Wise Analysis

FAFEN observers reported seeing campaign material of at least seven political parties inside or around government buildings in 10 districts – five in Punjab, three in Sindh, one each in KP and Balochistan.

Observers noted seven instances of PPPP campaign material outside four government offices including DEC offices in two districts of Sindh - Karachi West and Kashmore.

PML-N banners, wall chalking and posters were seen at three government offices in as many districts of Punjab - Bahawalnagar, Okara and Sialkot.

Five other political parties had their campaign material on the premises of government offices in five districts. PTI material was seen in Kasur and Sialkot (Punjab); JI material in Mardan (KP) and Kasur (Punjab); ANP material in Mardan (KP); BNP material in Panjgur

(Balochistan) and JUI-F material in Ghotki (Sindh).

The following table summarizes observation of campaign material:

Party-wise, Province-wise Analysis of Observed Campaign Material at Government Offices				
Political Party	No. of Observations	No. of Districts	Districts	Provinces
JUI-F	1	1	Ghotki	Sindh (3 districts)
PPPP	7	4	Karachi West, Kashmore	Punjab (5 districts)
			Sialkot, Vehari	
PML-N	3	3	Bahawalnagar, Okara, Sialkot	KP (1 district)
PTI	2	2	Kasur, Sialkot	
Jl	2	2	Kasur	
ANP	1	1	Mardan	Balochistan (1 district)
BNP	1	1	Panjgur	

Government Office-Wise Analysis

FAFEN observers found campaign material of political parties around three (7%) out of 43 observed DEC offices that were located in Sindh. No material was seen in the remaining 40 (93%) offices.

Observers reported seeing a banner, a flag and a poster of PPPP outside the DEC office in Kashmore, and another PPPP poster outside the DEC office in Karachi West. In addition, JUI-F graffiti was found outside the DEC office in Ghotki.

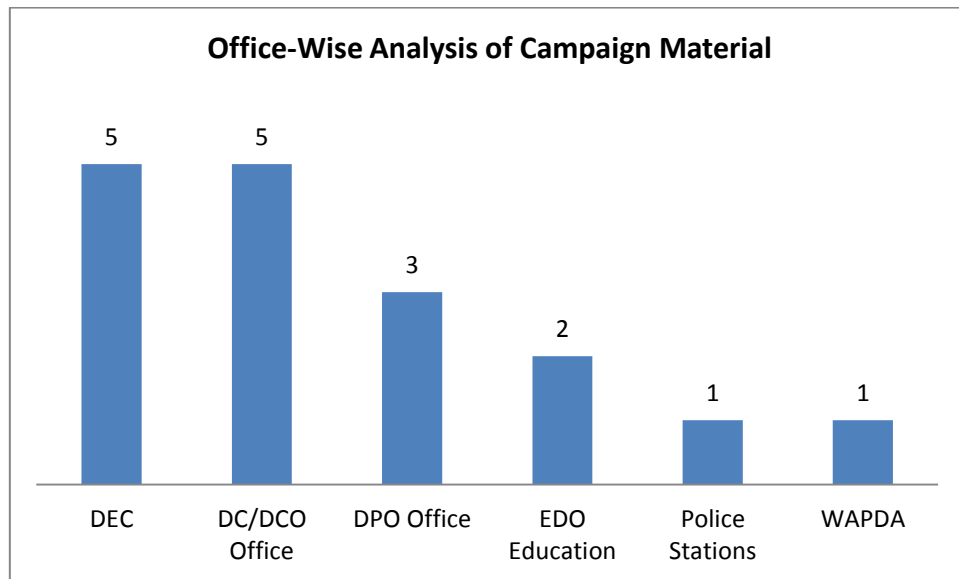
Details of campaign material on the premises of DEC offices are summarized below:

Observation of DEC Offices			
Province / Region	No. of Reporting Districts	Reporting Districts	Districts with Campaign Material at DEC Office
Punjab	6	Chakwal, Khushab, Nankana Sahib, Rahim Yar Khan, Rajanpur, Sialkot	0 (0%)
Sindh	24	Badin, Dadu, Ghotki, Hyderabad, Jacobabad, Karachi Central, Karachi East, Karachi South, Karachi West, Kashmore, Khairpur, Larkana, Malir, Matiari, Mirpurkhas, Naushero Feroz, Shaheed Benazirabad, Shikarpur, Sukkur, Tando Allahyar, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tharparkar, Thatta, Umerkot	3 (12.5%)
KP	4	Charsadda, Lakki Marwat, Swat, Tor Ghar	0 (0%)
Balochistan	7	Gwadar, Kalat, Khuzdar, Lasbela, Mastung, Panjgur, Washuk	0 (0%)
FATA	2	Mohmand Agency, South Waziristan Agency	0 (0%)
Total	43		3 (7.0%)

PML-N wall chalking and banners were seen outside the DC/DCO offices in Bahawalnagar and Okara, while PTI had its banners/posters outside the DC/DCO offices in Kasur and Sialkot. A PPPP banner was seen outside the DC/DCO office in Vehari.

The DLTO in Sialkot also reported seeing banners and posters of PPPP outside the DPO office while a poster of Jl was observed outside the DPO office in Kasur.

Stickers of ANP and JI were found outside the office of Executive District Officer (Education) in Mardan, while a poster of PML-N was seen outside a police station in Sialkot. Moreover, another poster belonging to BNP was found outside Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) office in Panjgur.



Recommendations

FAFEN recommends that:

1. ECP should ensure that no political campaign material is there at any DEC or other government office or location related to election administration.
2. Political parties and citizens should observe public offices across the country and report any campaigning at public offices.
3. ECP and other relevant state institutions should ensure that state property is not used for any political purpose.

About FAFEN

The Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), established in 2006, is a coalition of 42 leading civil society organizations working to strengthen all forms of democratic accountabilities in Pakistan. Governed by the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA), FAFEN also implements robust programs in-between elections related to monitoring parliamentary affairs, connecting constituents to their elected representatives, monitoring the performance of public and elected institutions and advocating electoral and democratic reforms.

FAFEN Election Program

FAFEN is implementing a long-term election observation program nationwide, including both pre- and post-electoral processes. FAFEN is deploying 130 District Long-Term Observers (DLTOs) across the country to observe all phases of elections. FAFEN's Constituency Long-Term Observers (CLTOs) will observe the political campaigns in all National Assembly constituencies during the two months prior to Election Day. In addition, FAFEN will deploy more than 43,000 trained, non-partisan citizens to observe polling stations across the country on Election Day.

All FAFEN observers adhere to the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) Code of Conduct for National Observers as well as the Global Principles for Non-Partisan Election Observation and Monitoring by Citizen Organizations (April 2012). FAFEN's 10-month observation process, that began on February 1, 2013, will help keep all election stakeholders informed on issues relevant to fairness and transparency at every stage of the election process.

FAFEN Election Observation Methodology

FAFEN's election observation activities are based on the Constitution and laws of Pakistan, global best practice standards for elections, as well as the legal obligations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by Pakistan in 2010. FAFEN LTOs use standardized checklists to report electronically to the FAFEN Election Observation Secretariat in Islamabad regularly. FAFEN compiles data and information from around the country to issue regular thematic updates for the consideration of voters and election stakeholders.

FAFEN LTOs observe and report on the activities of District Election Commissioner (DEC) offices, preparations of elections such as appointment and training of election officials, the process of candidate nominations, and compliance with the ECP's Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates (after the announcement of election schedule). In addition, LTOs observe and report on compliance of the executive branch with legal responsibilities and ECP regulations, including restrictions on transfers of civil service personnel and initiation of new development schemes. LTOs also monitor political and electoral intimidation and violence, the actions of the police and other security forces, and the overall political environment during the pre-election period.