



Postings and Transfers

Pre-U18/20-March-2013

62 Postings & Transfers, including 42 Police Officials and 6 Judges

Introduction

This report is based on data reported by District Long-Term Observers (DLTOs) of the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) from March 1 to 15, 2013. These pre-election observers have been deployed in all districts to record postings and transfers, among many other themes, that may influence the upcoming General Election 2013.

FAFEN observers recorded postings and transfers made in 32 districts across the country. During the reporting period, postings and transfers were recorded in 15 districts of Sindh, 10 of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), six of Punjab, and one of Balochistan.

A total of 62 postings and transfers were recorded among police, judiciary, district administration, and other government offices. The highest number of postings and transfers was observed in the police department, with 42 police officials changed, including 25 in Sindh.

Also in Sindh, six judicial officials were posted. Judges typically serve as District Returning Officers (DROs), Returning Officers (ROs) and Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), who have responsibilities for finalizing polling schemes, polling staff, and election results.

Province-wise Postings & Transfers

FAFEN observers reported postings and transfers in 32 districts across the country from March 1 to 15, 2013. In total, observers noted 62 cases of postings and transfers.

Most cases (38) were reported in 15 Sindh districts - Mirpurkhas, Malir, Tando Mohammad Khan, Shaheed Benazirabad, Khairpur, Jamshoro, Jacobabad, Thatta, Umerkot, Naushero Feroz, Matiari, Ghotki, Shikarpur, Badin and Larkana.

Legal Framework

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued two Notifications on January 22 and February 6, 2013 on the theme of government postings and transfers.

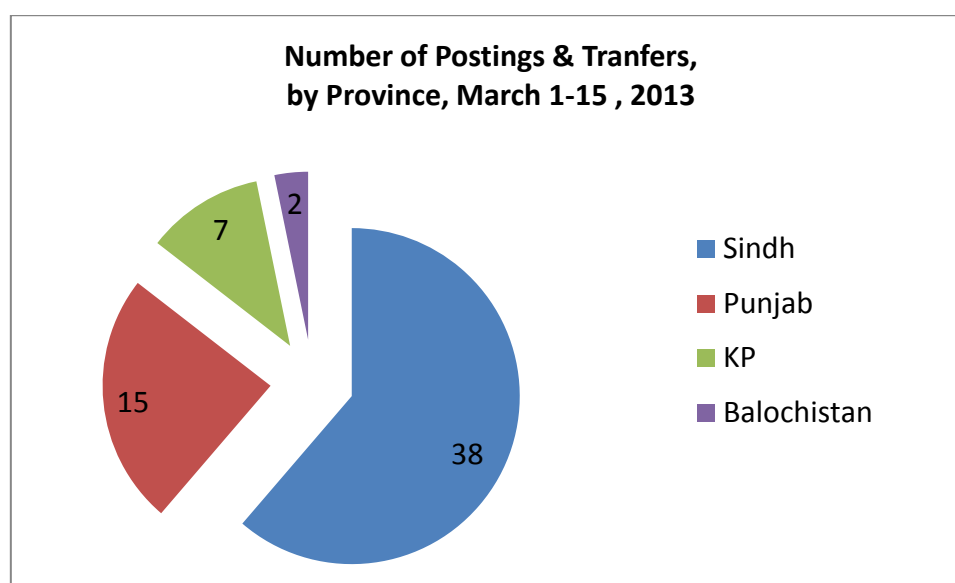
According to the ECP, no recruitment of government personnel may take place before the elections unless the position was advertised before August 31, 2012 or on a case-by-case basis of necessity.

ECP's notifications reinforce the pre-election ban on postings and transfers of government officials. These last-minute movements of personnel have the potential to influence election processes and results, both in terms of the pre-electoral environment and because civil servants serve on Election Day as polling staff and otherwise.

Province-wise Number of Districts with Number of Postings & Transfers			
Province/ Region	Number of Districts	Number of Postings & Transfers	Names of Districts
Sindh	15	38	Mirpurkhas, Malir, Tando Mohammad Khan, Shaheed Benazirabad, Khairpur, Jamshoro, Jacobabad, Thatta, Umerkot, Naushero Feroz, Matiari, Ghotki, Shikarpur, Badin, Larkana
KP	10	15	Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Tank, Dera Ismael Khan, Mardan, Karak, Tor Ghar, Swabi, Abbottabad, Charsadda
Punjab	6	7	Vehari, Hafizabad, Khushab, Jhang, Gujrat, Bahawalpur
Balochistan	1	2	Kharan
Total	32	62	

Another 15 postings and transfers were reported in 10 KP districts – Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Tank, Dera Ismail Khan, Mardan, Karak, Tor Ghar, Swabi, Abbottabad and Charsadda.

Seven postings and transfers were recorded in six Punjab districts - Vehari, Hafizabad, Jhang, Bahawalpur, Gujrat and Khushab. Two were reported from Balochistan's Kharan district.



Position-wise Postings & Transfers

A total of 62 postings and transfers were recorded by FAFEN observers among police, district administration, judiciary, education/health departments, and other public offices in the 32 observed districts.

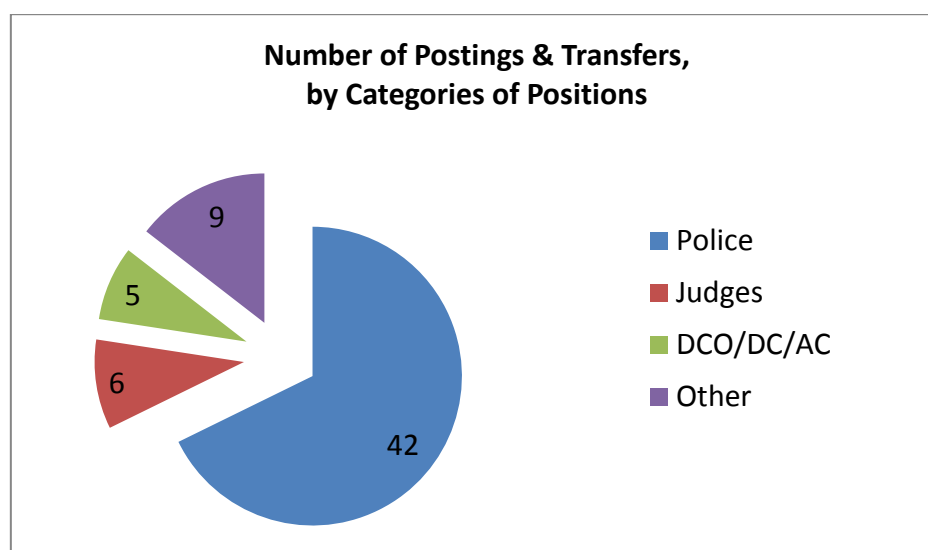
The highest number of postings and transfers was observed in the police department, with 42 police officials, including 15 District Police Officers (DPOs), 21 Station House Officers (SHOs), and six Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) changed in Punjab, Sindh and KP.

A total of 25 changes were made in the police department of Sindh, where seven DPOs were reshuffled - in Khairpur, Shaheed Benazirabad, Naushero Feroz and Jamshoro. The total also includes 16 SHOs transferred in Shaheed Benazirabad, and one each in Tando Mohammad Khan and Matiari.

Postings-wise Number of Transfers, by Province					
Position	Punjab	KP	Sindh	Balochistan	Total
SHO	1	2	18	0	21
DPO	3	5	7	0	15
DSP	0	6	0	0	6
District & Session Judge	0	0	5	0	5
DCO/DC	2	0	1	1	4
Addl. District & Session Judge	0	0	1	0	1
AC	1	0	0	0	1
EDO Education	0	1	0	0	1
EDO Health	0	0	0	1	1
Other Civil Servants	0	1	6	0	7
Total	7	15	38	2	62

Among the four police department transfers in Punjab, three DPOs were transferred in Hafizabad, Jhang, and Bahawalpur, while one SHO was changed in Vehari.

Another 13 changes were observed in the police department of KP, including the transfer of five DPOs in Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Karak, Swabi and Abbottabad. Three DSPs in Tank, three DSPs in Dera Ismael Khan, and one SHO each in Tank and Charsadda were also transferred.



Six judicial officials were transferred, all in Sindh. Five District & Sessions Judges of Tando Mohammad Khan, Khairpur, Mirpurkhas, Thatta, Umerkot and one Additional District & Sessions Judge of Ghotki were transferred during the reporting period.

Four District Coordination Officers (DCOs) and one Assistant Commissioner (AC) were shifted, including the DCOs of Khushab and Bahawalpur and an AC of Gujrat, all in Punjab. The DCO of Jacobabad in Sindh was changed, along with the Deputy Commissioner of Kharan in Balochistan.

The Executive District Officer (EDO) Education of Tor Ghar (KP) and the EDO Health of Kharan (Balochistan) were transferred. Six other public servants in the Sindh districts of Mirpurkhas, Malir, Shikarpur, Badin and Larkana were also posted, as well as one additional public servant in Mardan (KP).

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 monitor 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 monitor 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 monitor 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.