



Postings and Transfers

Pre-U25/05-April-2013

Postings & Transfers Continue Contrary to ECP Directives

Introduction

This report is based on data reported by Constituency Long-Term Observers (CLTOs) of the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) from March 24 to 29, 2013. Almost 400 pre-election observers have been deployed in all districts and National Assembly constituencies across the country. They record government postings and transfers, among other themes, that may influence the General Election 2013.

FAFEN observers recorded 20 cases of postings and transfers made in nine (9) districts during the reporting period. Four cases of postings and transfers were noted in four (4) districts in Punjab, three (3) in Sindh and one each in Balochistan and the Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA).

The postings and transfers were recorded in police, judiciary, education department and other government offices. The highest number of cases was observed in the police department, with 12 officials changed, including 11 Station House Officers (SHOs) in Punjab.

Police have significant responsibilities during the campaign period and on Election Day. Their last-minute postings and transfers can influence the fairness, transparency, and outcome of the elections.

Province-wise Postings & Transfers

FAFEN observers reported 20 postings and transfers in nine (9) districts across the country from March 24 to 29. Most cases (13) were reported in four (4) Punjab districts – Vehari, Toba Tek Singh, Sahiwal and Mianwali.

Another four (4) postings and transfers were reported in three (3) Sindh districts – Matiari, Khairpur and Ghotki. Two (2) postings and transfers were recorded in Kharan district of Balochistan, and one (1) in Kurram Agency of FATA.

Legal Framework

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued two Notifications on January 22 and February 6, 2013 banning recruitment of government personnel before the elections unless the position was advertised before August 31, 2012 or on a case-by-case basis of necessity.

Last-minute postings and transfers 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.

ECP lifted the ban on postings and transfers on March 29, 2013 when neutral caretaker governments took office. FAFEN data in this report was gathered before the ban was lifted.

Province-wise Number of Districts, with Number of Postings & Transfers			
Province/Region	Number of Districts	Number of Postings & Transfers	Names of Districts
Punjab	4	13	Vehari, Toba Tek Singh, Sahiwal, Mianwali
Sindh	3	4	Matiari, Khairpur, Ghotki
Balochistan	1	2	Kharan
FATA	1	1	Kurram Agency
Total	9	20	

Position-wise Postings & Transfers

A total of 20 postings and transfers were recorded by FAFEN observers in police, judiciary, education department and other public offices in nine (9) observed districts.

The highest number of postings and transfers was observed in the police department, with 12 police officials, including 11 Station House Officers (SHOs) being changed in three (3) districts of Punjab - nine (9) in Vehari and one (1) each in Toba Tek Singh and Minawali. An Assistant Political Agent (APA) was transferred in Kurram Agency FATA.

Two (2) public servants were changed in Sindh - Matiari, Khairpur - and two (2) in Kharan district of Balochistan. Two (2) Executive District Officers (Education) were changed in Sahiwal and Mianwali districts of Punjab and one (1) in Matiari district of Sindh. One (1) Additional Sessions Judge was also transferred in Ghotki district of Sindh.

Postings-wise Number of Transfers, by Province					
Position	Punjab	Sindh	Balochistan	FATA	Total
SHO	11	0	0	0	11
DPO/APA	0	0	0	1	1
Other Civil Servants	0	2	2	0	4
EDO Education	2	1	0	0	3
Addl & Session Judge	0	1	0	0	1
Total	13	4	2	1	20

Recommendations

Based on information gathered about continuing postings and transfers, FAFEN recommends:

1. ECP should rigorously enforce its Notifications and other law barring the last-minute postings and transfers of state employees around the country before elections.
2. All public departments, including the judiciary, should vigilantly follow these Notifications and laws to ensure transparency and fairness in the upcoming elections.

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 has deployed almost 400 District Long-Term Observers (DLTOs) and Constituency Long-Term Observers (CLTOs) to observe election administration preparations and the political campaigns in all districts and National Assembly constituencies. 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. 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.