



Election Complaints

Pre-U36/29-April-2013

300 election-related complaints pending with DEC, DROs and ROs

Summary

About three-fifths (447, or 59.8%) of the 747 complaints received by 197 Returning Officers (ROs), 39 District Returning Officers (DROs) and as many District Election Commissioners (DECs) between April 16 and 22, 2013, have been resolved successfully.

Three hundred complaints (40.2%) were not yet resolved. The data was gathered by Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) District and Constituency Long-Term Observers (DLTOs and CLTOs) across the country.

ROs in 197 constituencies reported receiving 477 complaints during the observation period, or 2.4 complaints per constituency on average. ROs resolved three-fifths of these complaints (283, or 59.3%), while 194 (40.7%) were still pending at the time data was gathered.

A total of 121 ROs in Punjab reported receiving 218 complaints (1.8 per constituency), while 28 ROs in KP received 158 complaints (5.6 per constituency), followed by 27 ROs in Sindh with 89 complaints (3.3 per constituency) and 11 in FATA with 12 complaints (1.1 per constituency). Ten ROs in Balochistan received no complaints. The ROs in Punjab had the lowest ratio of resolved complaints, with half still pending (108 out of 218, 49.5%).

Another 147 complaints were received by DROs during the period in 39 districts. Of these 147 complaints, 85 (57.8%) were received by 17 DROs in KP (5 per district, on average), followed by 61 in 18 Punjab districts (3.4 each) and one complaint in one FATA agency, with four agency DROs reporting no complaints.

Less than half (65 out of 147, or 44.2%) of the complaints filed with DROs were reportedly resolved, while the remaining complaints (82, or 55.8%) were still pending. DROs in KP were unable to address most of the complaints they received, with 73 out of 85 still pending (88.9%).

DECs in 39 reporting districts received 123 complaints between April 16 and 22, 2013. Of these, 13 DEC in Punjab received 62 complaints (50.4%; 4.8 per district); 12 DEC in KP received 47 complaints (38.2%; 3.9 per district) and seven DEC in FATA received 14 complaints (11.4%; 2 per Agency).

More than four-fifths (99, or 80.5%) of the 123 complaints registered with DEC were resolved, while the remaining one-fifths (24, or 19.6%) were still pending. DEC in Punjab resolved the highest percentage of complaints (52 out of 62, or 83.9%), with 10 remaining (16.1%).

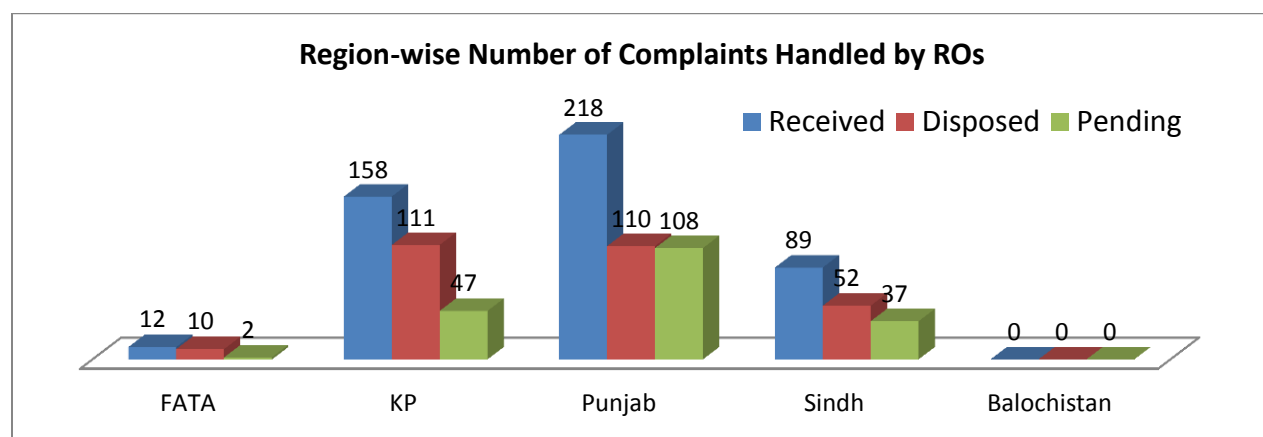
Election Complaints Filed with ROs

FAFEN CLTOs in 197 constituencies reported on election-related complaints filed with Returning Officers (ROs). Most of these constituencies (121) were in Punjab, followed by 28 in KP, 27 in Sindh, 11 in FATA and 10 in Balochistan. The table below summarizes the coverage:

Election Complaints Filed with ROs			
Provinces /Regions	Reporting NA constituencies	Not reporting	Not reporting constituencies
Punjab	121	22	NA-57, NA-66, NA 69, NA-82, NA-69, NA-88, NA-119, NA-121, NA-123, NA-124, NA-125, NA-126, NA-127, NA-128, NA-129, NA-136, NA-138, NA-142, NA-192, NA-194, NA-195, NA-196
KP	28	7	NA-1, NA-2, NA-3, NA-16, NA-19, NA-23, NA-27
Sindh	27	34	NA-200, NA-201, NA-204, NA-206, NA-207, NA-210, NA-211, NA-212, NA-214, NA-219, NA-220, NA-221, NA-224, NA-225, NA-226, NA-227, NA-228, NA-230, NA-231, NA-234, NA-235, NA-237, NA-239, NA-241, NA-246, NA-247, NA-248, NA-249, NA-251, NA-252, NA-253, NA-255, NA-256, NA-258
FATA	11	0	
Balochistan	10	4	NA-267, NA-268, NA-270, NA-271
ICT	0	2	NA-48, NA-49
FRs	0	1	NA-47
Total	197	70	

A total of 218 complaints were received by ROs in 121 Punjab constituencies, for an average of 1.8 complaints per constituency. In 28 constituencies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 158 complaints were received or 5.6 complaints per constituency on average. In all, 89 complaints were submitted in 27 Sindh constituencies, for an average of 3.3 complaints per constituency. Twelve complaints were registered in 11 constituencies in FATA, or 1.1 on average. The ROs in 10 Balochistan constituencies reported receiving no complaints.

Of the 477 complaints, the ROs disposed of 283 (59.3%). The remaining 194 complaints (40.7%) were pending at the time the data was gathered. The ROs in Punjab had the lowest ratio of resolved complaints, with half still pending (108 out of 218, 49.5%), followed by Sindh ROs with 41.6% as yet unresolved (37 out of 89). Less than one-third (47 out of 158, or 29.7%) of KP complaints remain to be resolved, and FATA ROs had two unresolved complaints (16.7% of 12) at the time the data was gathered.



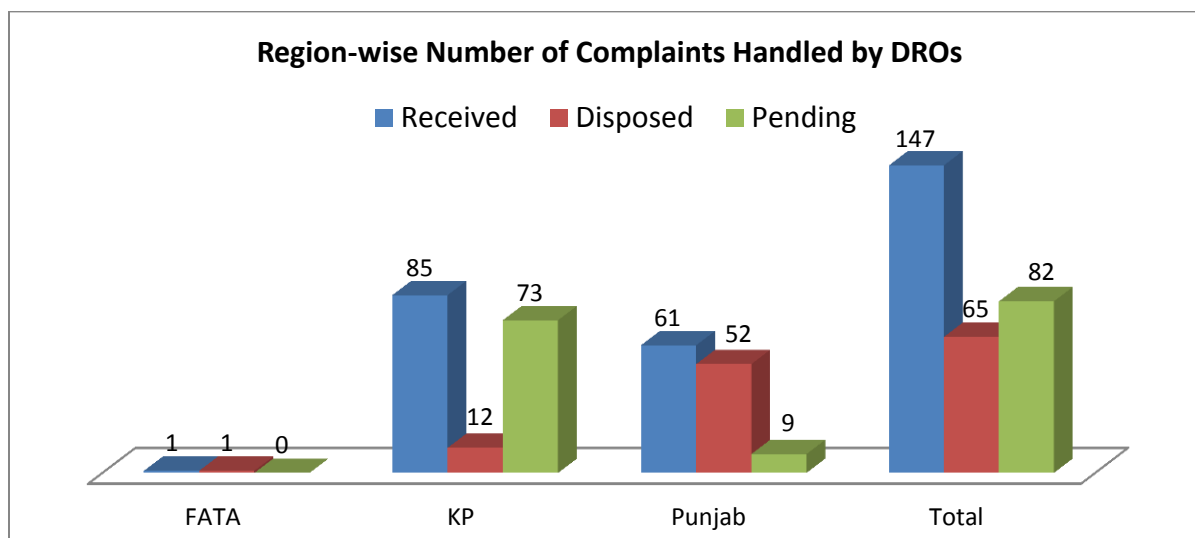
Election Complaints Filed with DROs

FAFEN observers were able to gather data pertaining to the complaints filed with DROs in 39 districts. Reporting districts comprise 18 in Punjab, 17 in KP and five agencies in FATA.

Election Complaints Filed with DROs		
Provinces /Regions	Reporting Districts	Names of Reporting Districts
Punjab	18	Layyah, Kasur, Lodhran, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Chiniot, Narowal, Hafizabad, Bhakkar, Khushab, Toba Tek Singh, Jhang, Vehari, Mianwali, Khanewal, Rawalpindi, Mandi Bahauddin, Gujranwala
KP	16	Lakki Marwat, Karak, Hangu, Swat, Tank, Abottabad, Bannu, Swabi, Dera Ismail Khan, Malakand, Nowshera, Shangla, Battagram, Buner, Mardan, Chitral
FATA	5	South Waziristan, Orakzai Agency, North Waziristan, Bajaur Agency, Kurram Agency
Total	39	

The DROs in these districts reported receiving 147 complaints. Sixteen DROs in KP received the highest number of complaints at 85 (5.0 per district, on average), followed by 18 Punjab DROs with 61 complaints (3.4 per district) and one FATA agency with a single complaint. DROs in four FATA agencies said they had received no complaints.

Less than half of complaints filed with the DROs (65, or 44.2%) were resolved, while 82 (55.8%) were still pending at the time the data was gathered. While the DROs in Punjab managed to dispose of most of the complaints they received (52 out of 61, or 85.3%), the DROs in KP had not yet addressed most of the complaints they had received, with 73 out of 85 still pending (88.9%).



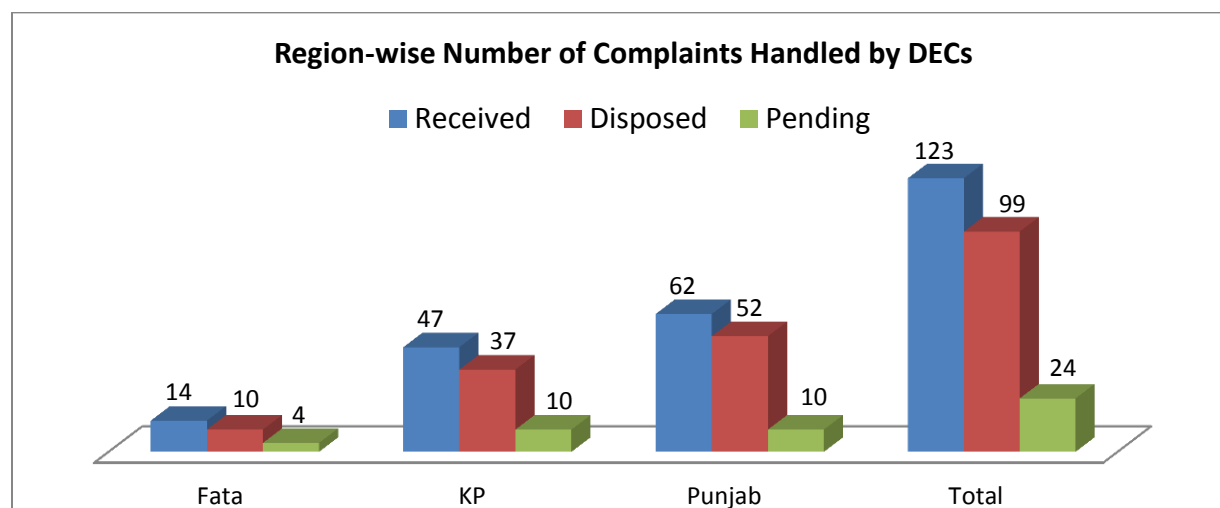
Election Complaints Filed with DECs

FAFEN observers gathered data pertaining to complaints filed with DECs in 39 districts. These comprise 20 districts in Punjab, 12 in KP and seven agencies in FATA.

Election Complaints Filled with DECs		
Province /Region	Reporting Districts	Names of Reporting Districts
Punjab	20	Layyah, Kasur, Lodhran, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Narowal, Hafizabad, Bhakkar, Khushab, Toba Tek Singh, Jhang, Sahiwal, Mandi Bahauddin, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Gujrat, Khanewal, Pakpattan, Lahore, Nankana Sahib
KP	12	Hangu, Tank, Abbottabad, Dera Ismail Khan, Nowshera, Shangla, Malakand, Bannu, Battagram, Swat, Mardan, Lakki Marwat
FATA	7	South Waziristan, Orakzai Agency, Mohmand Agency, North Waziristan, Khyber Agency, Bajaur Agency, Kurram Agency
Total	39	

These DECs received 123 complaints during the observation period. More than half of these complaints (62, or 50.4%) were received in 20 Punjab districts (3.1 per DEC, on average), 47 complaints (38.2%) were registered in 12 districts of KP (3.9 per DEC) and 14 complaints (11.4%) were filed in seven FATA agencies (2.0 per DEC).

Most of these were reported resolved (99 out of 123, or 80.5%). The remaining 24 complaints (19.5%) were still in process at the time the data was gathered. DEC in Punjab resolved the highest percentage of complaints (52 out of 62, or 83.9%), with 10 remaining to be resolved (16.1%). KP DEC's complaint resolution rate was almost as high (37 out of 47 complaints, or 78.7%), with 10 still pending (21.3%). DEC in FATA also resolved most complaints (10 out of 14, or 71.4%), with four remaining (28.6%).



Recommendations

FAFEN offers the following recommendations about election complaint handling:

1. ECP mechanisms for receiving and addressing both pre-election complaints and post-election disputes should be made as clear and accessible as possible.
2. All DEC, DRO and ROs should share as much information as possible with election stakeholders about complaints and the process and status of complaint resolution.

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 and Constituency Long-Term Observers (DLTOs and CLTOs) across the country to monitor all phases of elections. In addition, FAFEN will deploy more than 43,000 trained, non-partisan citizens to monitor polling stations across the country on Election Day. FAFEN's 10-month observation process, which began on February 1, 2013, helps 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. 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 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 Commissioners (DECs) and other ECP officials related to preparations for elections, including appointment and training of election officials, and the process of candidate nominations. LTOs also observe compliance with the ECP's Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates, and 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. In addition, LTOs monitor political and electoral intimidation and violence, the actions of the police and other security forces, and the pre-election political environment.