



1,760 Pre-Election Complaints Filed with DEC's in 48 Districts

Introduction

This report highlights preparations being made by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) across the country for administering the upcoming General Election 2013. It is based on information gathered from February 1 to February 20, 2013, by the District Long-Term Observers (DLTOs) deployed by the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN). A total of 88 District Election Commissioners (DECs) were asked about the placement of pre-election complaint-handling mechanism and 51 DECs about voter registration process.

Fifty-two of the 88 DECS who were asked about election complaint-handling mechanisms said they had a mechanism in place. So far 1,760 election-related complaints were filed in these districts by citizens and political parties, of which 1,547 (87.9%) were reported in 14 districts of Sindh. A total of 648 complaints were related to voter registration and 63 about locations of polling station all over the country.

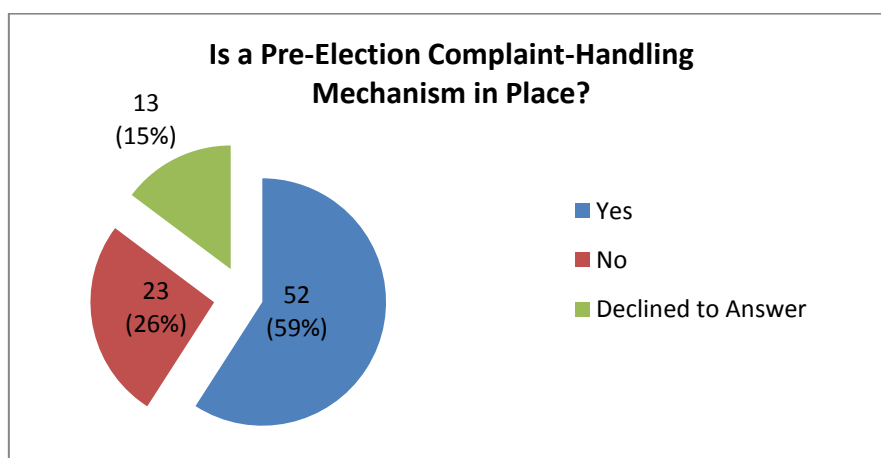
Thirty-eight of the 51 DECs who were asked about the voter registration process said they were receiving applications and 20 of them were maintaining statistics. A total of 13,573 applications were received in 10 districts of Punjab and 12,461 applications in six districts of Sindh. Two districts of Balochistan received 3,753 voter registration applications and two districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) entertained 801 applications.

Pre-Election Complaint-Handling Mechanism

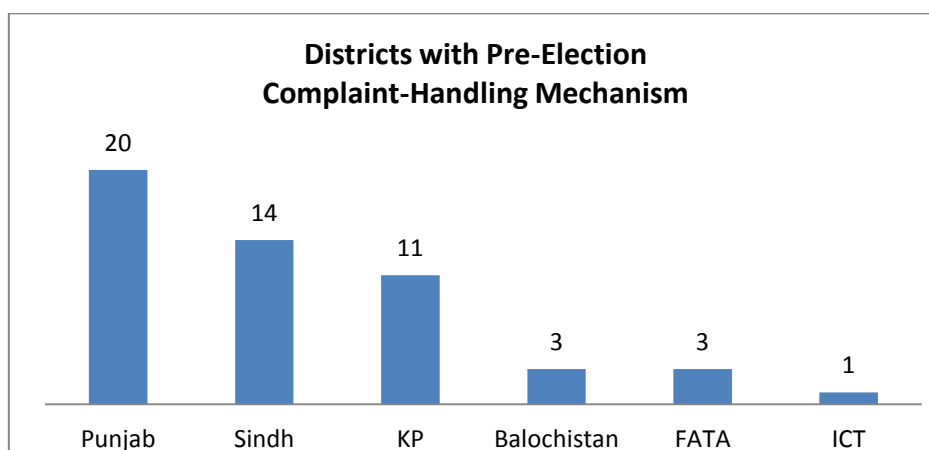
DECs responded to queries regarding pre-election complaint-handling mechanism in 88 districts - 31 in Punjab, 24 in Sindh, 17 in KP, nine in Balochistan, six in FATA and one in ICT.

Province/Region	Number of Districts	Districts
Punjab	31	Sheikhupura, Khushab, Kasur, Nankana Sahib, Sialkot, Bahawalpur, Chiniot, Mandi Bahauddin, Sargodha, Attock, Chakwal, Rawalpindi, Toba Tek Singh, Hafizabad, Narowal, Bahawalnagar, Khanewal, Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan, Faisalabad, Pakpattan, Sahiwal, Rahimyar Khan, Lodhran, Okara, Gujrat, Rajanpur, Vehari, Gujranwala, Jhelum and Jhang
Sindh	24	Khairpur, Kashmore, Karachi East, Sukkur, Jacobabad, Matiari, Thatta, Kamber Shahdadt, Karachi West, Naushero Feroz, Karachi Central, Karachi South, Malir, Mirpurkhas, Shikarpur, Tando Mohammad Khan, Ghotki, Larkana, Tharparkar, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sanghar, Dadu, Umerkot and Hyderabad
KP	17	Tank, Hangu, Malakand, Mansehra, Charsadda, Swabi, Peshawar, Mardan, Tor Ghar, Karak, Dera Ismail Khan, Kohistan, Nowshehra, Buner, Lower Dir, Abbottabad and Bannu
Balochistan	9	Mastung, Awaran, Kharan, Kalat, Gwadar, Khuzdar, Lasbela, Kech and Washuk
FATA	6	Kurram Agency, South Waziristan Agency, Bajaur Agency, Mohmand Agency, Khyber Agency and Orakzai Agency
ICT	1	Islamabad
Total	88	

Fifty-two (59.1%) out of 88 of the DEC's said a pre-election complaint-handling mechanism was in place in their districts, 23 (26.1%) said no such system existed while 13 (14.8%) did not respond.



Of the 52 districts where a pre-election complaint-handling mechanism was in place, 20 were in Punjab (38.5%), 14 in Sindh (26.9%), 11 in KP (21.2%), three each in Balochistan and FATA (5.8% each) and one in ICT.



Of the 52 DEC's who said they had a pre-election complaint-handling mechanism was in place, 48 shared the complaint-handling policy and four did not. Of the 48 districts sharing the complaint-handling policy, 20 were in Punjab, 14 in Sindh, 9 in KP, four in Balochistan and one in ICT.

Nature of Pre-Election Complaints

The most complaints reported by DEC's were registered in 14 districts of Sindh (1,547, or an average of 110 per district), of which one-third (545, or 35.2%) were resolved. One-third of the complaints (543, or 35.1%) were related to voter registration, and four were about the location of polling stations. The nature of other complaints was not shared by the DEC's.

In 20 districts of Punjab, DEC's said 158 complaints were registered (an average of eight per district), about two-thirds of which were resolved (99, or 62.7%). Two-thirds of the complaints (98, or 62.0%) were about voter registration, 56 about the location of polling stations (35.4%), and two related to violations of the ECP Code of Conduct for political parties and

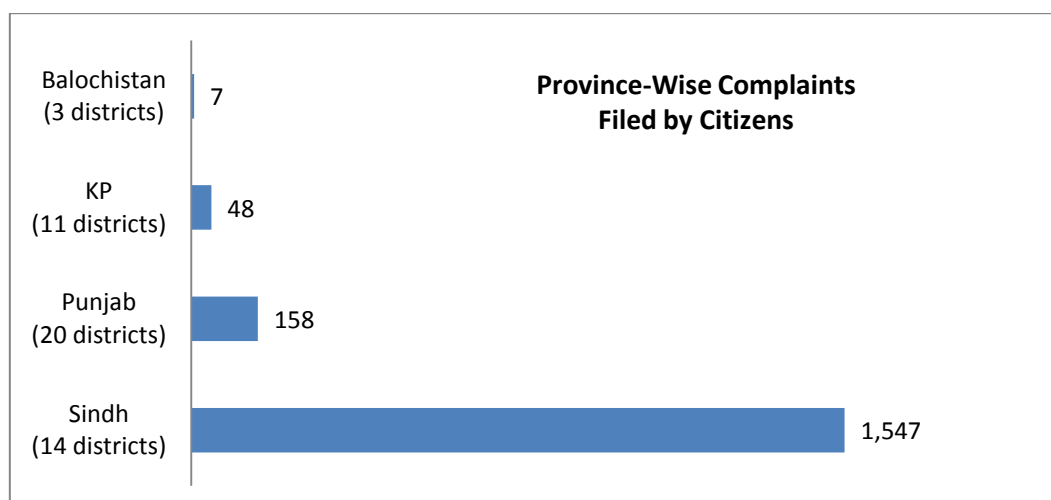
candidates.

Province-Wise Election Complaints Filed by Citizens

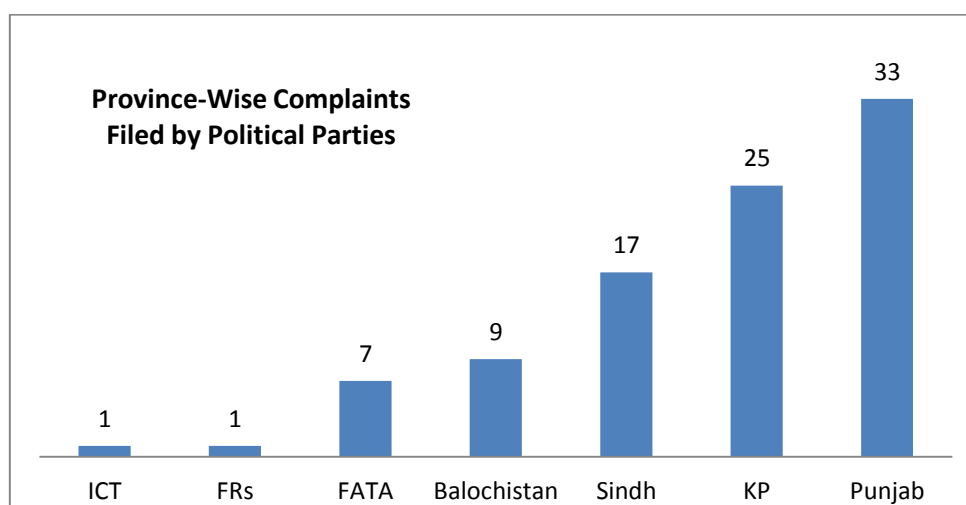
Province	Number of Districts	Total Number	Resolved
Sindh	14	1,547	545 (35.2%)
Punjab	20	158	99 (62.7%)
KP	11	48	39 (81.3%)
Balochistan	3	7	7 (100%)

A total of 48 citizen complaints were filed in 11 districts of KP (an average of four per district), of which 39 (81.3%) were resolved. Three of these complaints were related to the location of polling stations, while the nature of 45 others was not shared.

In Balochistan, seven complaints regarding voter registration were received in three districts, and all of them were resolved. No complaints were reported in FATA, FRs or ICT.



Political parties also lodged complaints across the country. A total of 93 complaints were filed by political parties on various topics such as impartiality of government, ECP or police officials, attack on party workers etc. Of these, 33 were filed in Punjab, 25 in KP, 17 in Sindh, 9 in Balochistan, 7 in FATA, and one each in the Frontier Regions (FRs) and ICT.

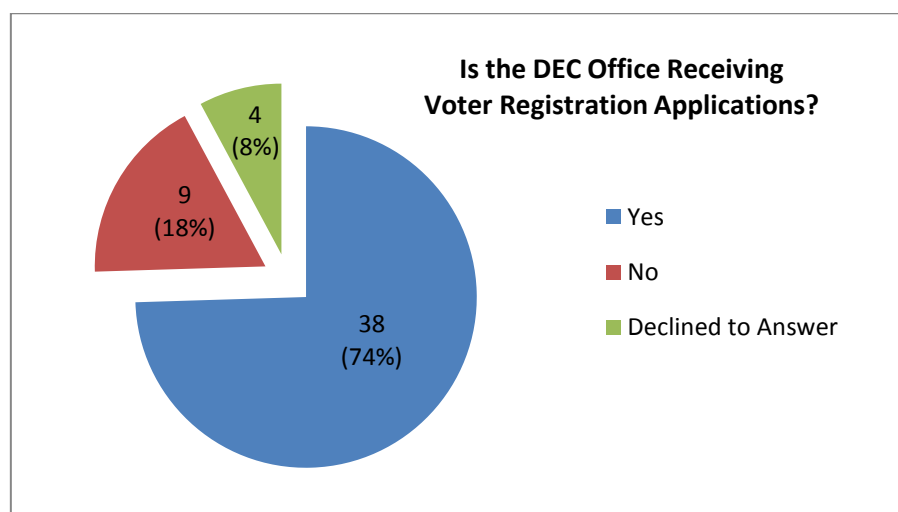


Ongoing Voter Registration with DEC's

FAFEN DLTOs observed voter registration in 51 districts, of which 17 were in Punjab, 15 in Sindh, 9 each in KP and Balochistan and one in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

Province/ Region	Number of Districts	Name of Districts
Punjab	17	Hafizabad, Sialkot, Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, Lahore, Kasur, Sargodha, Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Faisalabad, Gujrat, Bahawalnagar, Rajanpur, Narowal, Khanewal, Nankana Sahib and Vehari
Sindh	15	Kamber Shahdadkot, Badin, Hyderabad, Karachi South, Kashmore, Karachi East, Thatta, Naushero Feroz, Khairpur, Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Malir, Karachi Central, Larkana and Karachi West,
KP	9	Tank, Dera Ismail Khan, Malakand, Tor Ghar, Lakki Marwat, Hangu, Karak, Battagram and Charsadda
Balochistan	9	Khuzdar, Kharan, Panjgur, Kech, Lasbela, Kalat, Awaran, Mastung and Washuk
ICT	1	Islamabad
FATA	0	
Total	51	

The DEC's in 51 districts were asked if their offices were receiving applications for voter registration. Three-quarters of DEC's (38, or 74.5%) said yes, nine reported they were not receiving any applications (17.6%), and four did not share information in this regard. Out of 38 DEC's who were receiving voter registration applications, 16 were in Punjab, 11 in Sindh, five each in Balochistan and KP and one in ICT.



DLTOs also asked the 38 DEC's who reported receiving voter registration applications if they were compiling voter registration statistics. Twenty of them said they were keeping statistical records, 14 said they were not doing so, and four did not answer this question. A total of 30,588 applications were received for voter registration in the observed districts.

Of the 20 DEC's who reported compiling voter registration statistics, 10 were in Punjab, six in Sindh and two each in Balochistan and KP.

DEC's said that a total of 13,573 voter registration applications were received in 10 Punjab districts - an average of 1,357 per district. Six districts of Sindh received 12,461 applications (2,077 on average per district), while DEC's in two districts in Balochistan recorded 3,753 applications (average of 1,877 per district), and 801 voter registration applications were received in two districts of KP (400 per district on average).

Province-Wise Number of Voter Registration Applications

Province/ Region	Number of DEC's Receiving Voter Registration Applications	Number of DEC's Keeping Statistical Records	Number of Applications	
ICT	1	0	N/A	
KP	5	2	801	
Balochistan	5	2	3,753	
Sindh	11	6	12,461	
Punjab	16	10	13,573	
Total	38	20	30,588	

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 from 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.