



## Use of State Resources for Political Campaigns

Pre-U6/26-Feb-2013

# Political Parties' Campaign Material found on Government Property

## Introduction

This report highlights the use of state resources for campaigning by political parties. It has been prepared from information gathered February 8-20 by District Long-Term Observers (DLTOs) of the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN). DLTOs observe whether campaign materials – such as flags, banners, posters, stickers and wall chalking – of political parties/candidates are on the premises of government offices. They also observe if any government officials participate in political activities. This report includes observations of government offices in 22 districts and DEC offices in 50 districts.

## Executive Summary

FAFEN observers reported campaign material at government offices in 22 districts – 17 in Sindh and five in Punjab. DEC offices were monitored in 50 districts – 24 in Punjab, 20 in Sindh, four in Balochistan, and one each in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Islamabad.

In these 22 districts, Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) had the highest incidence of campaign material at public offices, followed by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Muslim League-Functional (PML-F) and Pakistan Peoples Party-Shaheed Bhutto (PPP-SB). At least 10 other political parties had their banners, posters, stickers and wall chalking on the premises of government buildings.

Most of the campaign material was found at the offices of Deputy Commissioners (DCs)/District Coordination Officers (DCOs), followed by National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) offices. The fewest material was observed outside the offices of electric supply companies and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL)/Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC).

A total of 50 FAFEN observers visited the offices of District Election Commissioners (DECs). DLTOs reporting on DEC offices in four districts (4 out of 50, or 8.0%) in Sindh province – Karachi West, Shaheed Benazirabad, Kamber Shahdadkot and Ghotki – saw posters and/or wall chalking of PPPP, Pakistan Peoples Party-Shaheed Bhutto (PPP-SB), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) and a local political party.

In total, FAFEN observers found 34 party stickers, 24 posters, 14 instances of wall chalking and 13 banners of political parties. In many cases, campaign material of different parties was seen on the premises of the same building.

## Party-wise, Province-wise Analysis

FAFEN DLTOs reported campaign material of at least 15 political parties in or on government offices in 22 districts – 17 in Sindh and five in Punjab.

Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) had its banners, wall-chalking, posters and stickers at 49 government offices in 18 districts, including a poster outside the DEC office in Karachi West. PPPP material was seen in government offices in two districts in Punjab and 16 Sindh districts.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had its campaign material at six offices in four Punjab districts, while graffiti, stickers and posters of Pakistan Muslim League-Functional (PML-F) were seen at four Sindh offices in Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Tando Allahyar and Umerkot.

FAFEN observers also saw a poster of Pakistan Peoples Party-Shaheed Bhutto (PPP-SB) outside the DEC's office in Shaheed Benazirabad, Sindh. The party had its stickers and graffiti at different public offices in Ghotki and Sukkur districts, also in Sindh.

In addition, Muttahida Qaumi Movement's (MQM) campaign material was seen at three government offices in Malir. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl's (JUI-F's) posters and graffiti were seen outside the DEC and NADRA offices in Ghotki. Both districts are in Sindh.

At least eight other political parties - Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Awami National Party (ANP), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party (STP), Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians Patriots (PPPPP), Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT), Sindh United Party (SUP) and Muhajir Ittehad Tehrik (MIT) also had their campaign material on the premises of government offices.

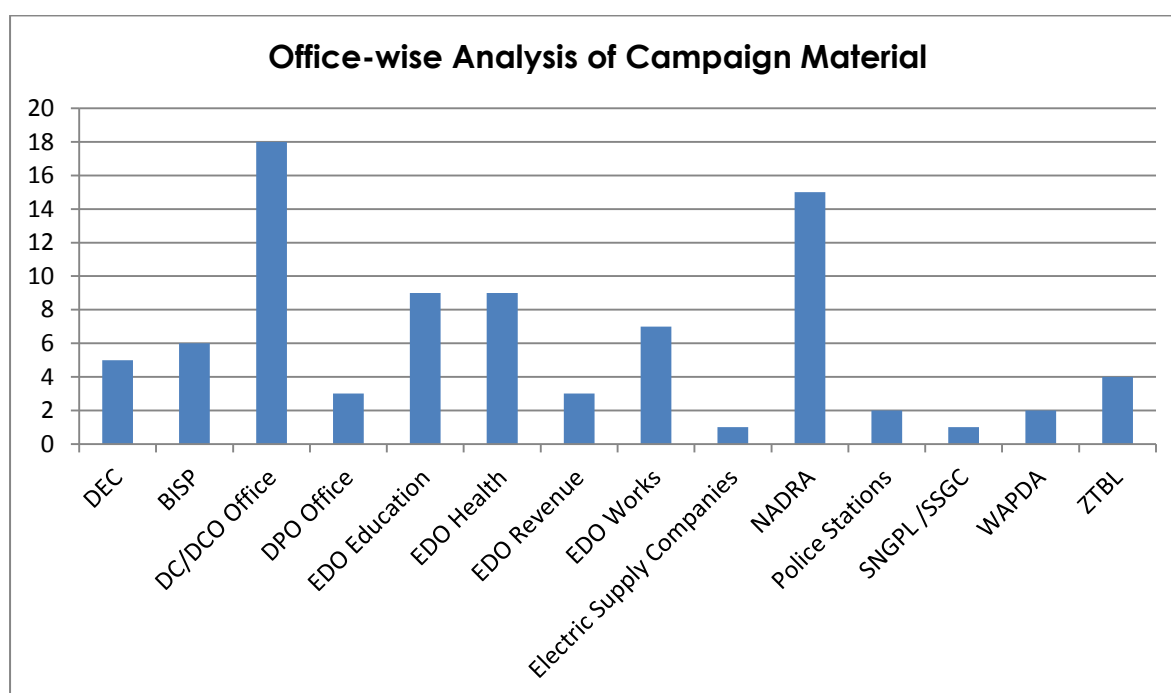
The following table summarizes the party-wise, province-wise observation of campaign material reported by FAFEN DLTOs:

<b>Party-wise, Province-wise Analysis of Observed Campaign Material</b>				
<b>Political Party</b>	<b>No. of Observations</b>	<b>No. of Districts</b>	<b>Punjab Districts (5)</b>	<b>Sindh Districts (17)</b>
PPPP	49	18	Dera Ghazi Khan, Sialkot	Badin, Ghotki, Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Kamber Shahdadkot, Karachi West, Khairpur, Larkana, Malir, Matiari, Mirpurkhas, Naushero Feroz, Shaheed Benazirabad, Tando Allahyar, Tharparkar, Umerkot
PML-N	6	4	Gujrat, Okara, Rawalpindi, Sialkot	
PML-F	4	4		Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Tando Allahyar, Umerkot
PPP-SB	4	3		Ghotki, Sukkur, Shaheed Benazirabad
MQM	3	1		Malir
PTI	2	2	Sialkot	Umerkot
JI	2	2	Sialkot	Malir
ANP	2	2		Jamshoro, Karachi West
STP	2	2		Badin, Tando Allahyar
PPPPP	2	1		Larkana
JUI-F	2	1		Ghotki
PAT	1	1		Jamshoro
SUP	1	1		Jamshoro
MIT	1	1		Malir
Others	4	2		Ghotki, Kamber Shahdadkot

## Government Office-wise Analysis

FAFEN observers reported seeing 18 posters, banners, wall chalking and stickers at DC/DCO offices in 13 districts of Sindh and Punjab, followed by 15 different kinds of campaign material at NADRA offices in eight districts of Sindh.

Nine stickers and posters belonging to PPPP, PPP-SB, MQM and PML-F were found at the Executive District Officer (EDO) Education's office in seven districts of Sindh, while nine stickers, mostly belonging to the same parties, were seen at the EDO Health's office in six districts. The least material was seen outside the offices of electric and gas supply companies.



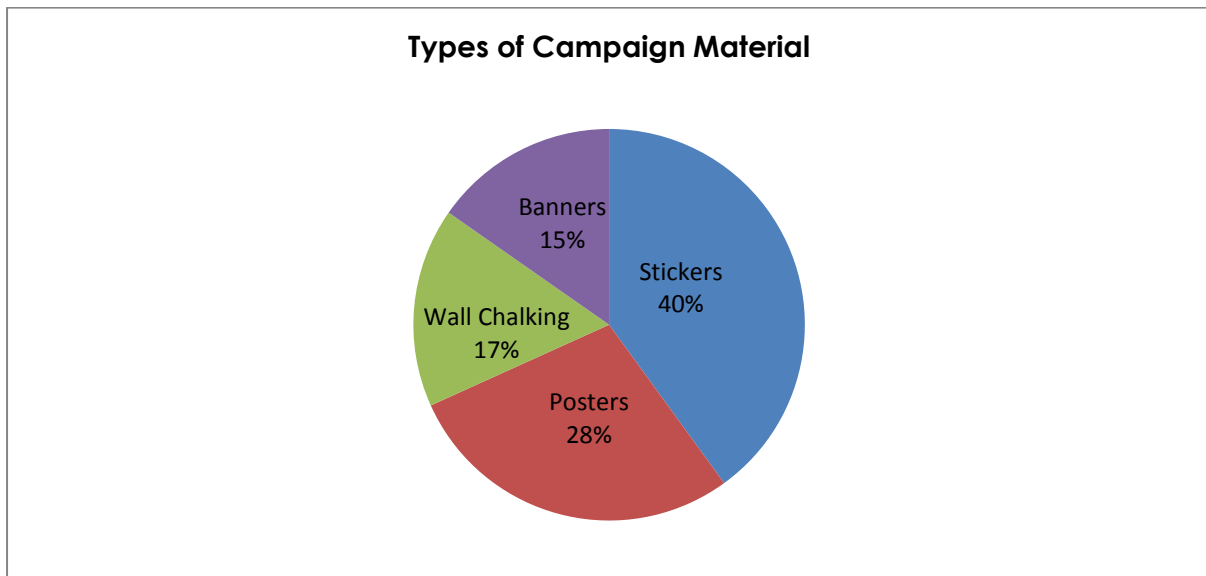
FAFEN observers submitted reports about 50 DEC offices. Only four DLTOs (8.0%) saw three political posters and two wall chalking at DEC offices. Posters of PPPP and PPP-SB were seen in Karachi West and Shaheed Benazirabad, respectively. Wall chalking of JUI-F was observed in Ghotki. Additionally, posters and graffiti of a local political party were seen outside the DEC office in Kamber Shahdadtot. All of these districts are in Sindh. The following table summarizes FAFEN's coverage of campaign material on the premises of DEC offices:

<b>Observation of DEC Offices</b>			
<b>Province/ Region</b>	<b>No. of Reporting Districts</b>	<b>Reporting Districts</b>	<b>Districts with Political Material at DEC Office</b>
Punjab	24	Hafizabad, Sialkot, Sahiwal, Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, Lahore, Kasur, Sargodha, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Sheikhpura, Faisalabad, Gujrat, Bahawalnagar, Rajanpur, Narowal, Khanewal, Nankana Sahib, Vehari, Chakwal, Jhelum, Toba Tek Singh, Jhang, Okara	0 (0%)
Sindh	20	Kamber Shahdadtot, Badin, Hyderabad, Karachi South, Kashmore, Karachi East, Thatta, Naushero Feroz, Khairpur, Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Malir, Karachi Central, Larkana, Karachi West, Ghotki, Mirpurkhas,	4 (20%) Karachi West, Shaheed Benazirabad,

		Shaheed Benazirabad, Umerkot and Tando Mohammad Khan	Ghotki, Kamber Shahdadkot
KP	1	Charsadda	0 (0%)
Balochistan	4	Khuzdar, Kharan, Kech, Awaran	0 (0%)
ICT	1	Islamabad	0 (0%)
FATA	0		0 (0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>		<b>4 (8.0%)</b>

## Types of Campaign Material

FAFEN observers reported seeing 34 party stickers, 24 posters, 14 wall-chalking and 13 banners across 22 districts in Sindh and Punjab.



Stickers of PPPP were seen at different government buildings in Badin, Dera Ghazi Khan, Ghotki, Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Kamber Shahdadkot, Khairpur, Larkana, Malir, Naushero Feroz, Shaheed Benazirabad and Tando Allahyar, while those of PPP-SB were seen at the offices of EDO Health and EDO Education in Ghotki.

Similarly, PPPP's posters were found at the DC/DCO, EDO Health, EDO Education, EDO Revenue, NADRA, ZTBL, WAPDA and BISP offices in nine districts of Sindh. FAFEN observers also saw posters of PML-N outside police stations and offices of DPO and EDO Revenue in Sialkot. In addition, PPPP banners were observed at the DPO office in Sialkot and BISP offices in Larkana and Kamber Shahdadkot. Banners of PML-N were seen at the DC/DCO office in Rawalpindi and Okara and at the DPO office in Gujrat.

In many cases, campaign material of multiple parties was seen on the premises of the same building. For instance, observers reported seeing graffiti of ANP and Pakistan Awami Tehrik outside the NADRA office in Jamshoro. The same building also had banners of PPPP and Sindh United Party (SUP).

Similarly, stickers of PPPP and PML-F were seen at the DC/DCO office in the same district, while posters of the same parties and PTI were seen at the EDO Health office in Umerkot. Wall chalking of JUI-F and a local party was seen outside the NADRA office in Ghotki. In Malir, stickers of PPPP, JI and MQM were pasted outside the DC/DCO office, while stickers of MQM, PPPP and Muhajir Ittehad Tehrik were observed at the office of EDO Works and EDO Education.

## Recommendations

FAFEN recommends that:

1. ECP should ensure that no political campaign materials are at any DEC office or other office or location related to election administration.
2. Political parties and citizens should monitor public offices across the country and report any campaigning at public offices.
3. ECP and other appropriate 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 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.