



د افغانستان د ټاکنو او روڼتيا د څار مؤسسه
مؤسسه دیده بان انتخابات و شفافیت افغانستان
Election & Transparency Watch Organization of Afghanistan

Election & Transparency Watch Organization of
Afghanistan (ETWA)

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Press Release

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ETWA Press Statement on Opening of 2018 Parliamentary Elections

Elections and Transparency Watch Organization of Afghanistan welcomes commencement of 2018 Parliamentary Elections and would like to express its sincere gratitude to the electoral bodies, national security forces, people of Afghanistan, CSOs, media, political parties and other stakeholders for administering and supporting this national process. ETWA observers reported considerable turnout particularly in the cities that demonstrates increased political knowledge and commitment of the citizens.

Preliminary findings of ETWA observers show a number of administrative and management shortcomings in the opening process that created concerns among the citizens to potentially impact the remainder of the process. Delays in opening a remarkable number of polling centers, absence of polling staff and lack of electoral materials have been observed by ETWA observers. Further, serious issues were reported from usage and effectiveness of biometric system as well as voter lists.

Imposing limitations on observers contrary to Observes Code of Conduct like banning observers from carrying cell phone in some polling centers will affect effective and impartial reporting by observer groups.

ETWA calls on the voters not only to cast their votes but also acts as the responsible and committed citizens in reporting and sharing the cases of electoral violations, intimidations, interferences and breach of electoral rules and regulations with the respective electoral institutions. Because, it is a national process whose results and success impact the future of the country.

ETWA expects from the IEC to ensure impartiality of its staff on election day and to direct all their efforts toward facilitating the voting process for the voters, observers and media.

ETWA calls on the candidates and their agents to avoid interfering with the voting rights of citizens and prevent from negative competition with their contestants.

ETWA calls on national security forces to avoid interfering in the process specifically on Election Day and other than adhering to voting rights of the citizens, try their best to support the process in case of occurring protests, riots or arising other possible challenges.

ETWA calls on the observe groups and media to prevent from disseminating information that hurt public moral and share their findings on time with the public and electoral bodies.



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ETWA as an impartial domestic entity covered 12 provinces of the country in the 2018 election observation mission endeavoring to play a part in conducting free, fair and transparent elections in Afghanistan. ETWA believes that citizens support of the process will not only enhance its legitimacy but also help strengthen peace and prosperity of the country.

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