



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 Counting and Second Day Voting 2018 Parliamentary Elections

Per the decision of the IEC, voting time was extended to 6 PM and election in some polling centers that remained closed on elections day was ruled, contrary to Elections Law, to be conducted the next day. Irregularities and myriad cases of administrative and managerial disorder observed in the first day has already reduced public confidence in electoral process which will subsequently challenge credibility of election results as well. The IEC needs to seek ways of reviving public trust and obtaining satisfaction of parties to elections through managing chaos and taking effective measures to address the challenges noticed during election day.

ETWA findings from counting and voting in the second day demonstrate continuation of previously observed irregularities as well as breach of electoral regulations. The process has been as chaotic as the first day. Extension of voting time on election day resulted in counting to be done at late night in most of polling centers observed which limited candidates' agents, observers and media access to the process.

Counting was postponed to the next day in a number of polling centers and there were cases of ballot boxes being transferred to other locations for counting. Serious concerns were raised about ballots kept in polling centers at night or transferred to other location creating the opportunity for manipulation and fraud.

ETWA observers noticed late opening of majority of polling centers in the second day and even a considerable number of polling centers did not open at all due to lack of materials, mismanagement and security issues though voters were present there awaiting voting. As a result, implications on infringement of voting rights of the citizens enshrined in the Constitution and other applicable laws arose.

Problems with biometric system and voter lists were also reported from ETWA observers in the second day.



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ETWA calls on the IEC as the administrator of election process and the Electoral Complaints Commission as an institution which could play a vital role in ensuring justice in the process through identifying and adjudicating electoral complaints to adopt transparent and fair measures in close coordination with candidates, CSOs and media to resolve noted problems and irregularities. By doing so, not only will contentment of parties to the process be obtained, it also helps recover public confidence in elections process.

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