

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

PRESS RELEASE

Islamabad, the 6th May, 2013.- Attention of the contesting candidates for election to the seats in the National Assembly and the Provincial Assemblies is drawn to Section 84 of the Representation of the People Act, 1976, which provides that no person shall convene, hold or attend any public meeting and no person shall promote or join in any procession within the area of the constituency during a period of forty-eight hours ending at midnight following the conclusion of the poll for an election in that constituency.

2. A person is guilty of an offence punishable with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees if he, within a radius of four hundred yards of the polling station, on the polling day ---

- (1) canvasses for votes;
- (2) solicits the vote of any elector;
- (3) persuades any elector not to vote at the election or for a particular candidate; or
- (4) exhibits, except with the permission of the Returning Officer and at a place reserved for the candidate or his election agent beyond the radius of one hundred yards of the polling station, any notice, sign, banner or flag designed to encourage the electors to vote or discourage the electors from voting, for any contesting candidate.

3. The election campaign for ensuing general elections on electronic and press media shall therefore, come to an end throughout the country with effect from the midnight falling between the **9th and 10th May, 2013**. However, such restriction will not be applicable to any Talk Shows or other T.V. /Radio programmes, which are being attended by Electoral Experts, Anchors Analysts, Writers, Journalists, Observers or members from Civil Society Organizations or any other persons who does not represent any Political Party or a candidate nor he is a contesting candidate. Similarly, print media will also avoid publishing advertisements or such written material for the purpose of political campaign or which tends to malign or favour a particular political party or a candidate during the said period.

4. The law further prohibits personation for bogus voting, tampering with ballot papers, canvassing within a radius of four hundred yards of the polling stations and disorderly conduct in and around the polling stations on the polling day. The offenders are liable to be tried summarily by the Presiding Officers and awarded adequate punishment of imprisonment or fine or both.

5. The nation expected the political parties and the candidates to exercise self-restraint during the polling in order to avoid a situation which might endanger public peace and order. In the larger national interest, the Election Commission has earnestly appealed to all citizens, the candidates and the political parties to strictly adhere to the provisions of law so that the poll could be held on **11th May, 2013**, in an orderly manner and peaceful and tranquil atmosphere.