PRESS RELEASE

POLICY ON ELECTION CAMPAIGN ADVERTISEMENTS

July 12, 2005

The Joint Electoral Management Body has decided the following policy on Election Campaign Advertisements during the August 17-September 15 Official Campaign Period:

1) State-run and private television and radio stations shall not run any campaign-related advertisements, except for those that are included in the sponsored advertisement system supervised by the Electoral Media Commission.

2) Under the sponsored advertisement system:
   a. Each Wolesi Jirga candidate will be allocated EITHER two x 5 minute advertising slots on radio, equaling a total of 10 minutes radio airtime, OR two advertising slots on television totalling no more than 5 minutes.
   b. Each Provincial Council candidate will receive one x 4 minute block of air time on radio OR one advertising slot on television of no more than two minutes.

3) Candidates may choose which broadcasters will run their sponsored advertisement from among a list of available television and radio stations in each province provided by the Electoral Media Commission.

4) State-run and private print media may publish advertisements by, or on behalf of, any candidate or political party relating to the electoral campaign, in accordance with applicable laws, JEMB Regulations, and JEMB and Electoral Media Commission Decisions.

5) During the Electoral Campaign Period, no candidate shall have printed by themselves or on their behalf more than a maximum cumulative total of four (4) pages of campaign-related advertisements in any combination of private or State-run periodicals.

All election-related advertising in all media -- private and State-run, print and broadcast -- is banned until August 17 when the Official Campaign Period begins.

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