PRESS RELEASE

JEMB CERTIFIES FINAL LIST OF CANDIDATES

July 12, 2005

The Joint Electoral Management Body on Tuesday certified the Final List of Candidates for the September 18 Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council elections.

The Final List was approved after candidates were given the chance to withdraw, and after the Electoral Complaints Commission reviewed the responses of more than 200 candidates who had been provisionally excluded on July 2.

The Final List incorporates more than 250 withdrawals and 17 final exclusions.

Each JEMB Provincial Office has received a copy of the Final Candidate List for their province and will display it for public viewing.

The 17 candidates who have been excluded will find personalized letters waiting for them inside the JEMB Provincial Office where they enrolled as a candidate. These letters will outline the reason for their exclusion.

Of the 17 candidates excluded, 11 were identified by the Joint Secretariat of the Disarmament and Reintegration Commission as still linked to an unofficial armed group; five failed to provide a complete list of supporters’ signature with their candidacy application; and one had failed to resign a senior government post as required under the Electoral Law.

Their exclusion is final.

The JEMB now has a Final List of candidates for the upcoming legislative and Provincial Council elections and can proceed with printing the ballot papers.

“The finalization of this list is a significant milestone in preparations for the September 18 elections,” said JEMB Chairman Bismillah Bissmil.

“With the Final List in hand and the Voter Registry Update more than half-way through, we are well on our way to holding the polls on September 18 as planned, and concluding Afghanistan’s transition to democracy.”

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