PRESS RELEASE

FIRST PROVISIONAL RESULTS ANNOUNCED

6 October 2005

With millions of ballot papers from this year’s landmark Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council elections now counted the Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB) October 6 announced the first provisional results for Nimroz and Farah provinces.

Under the allocation of seats, two candidates will be elected for the Wolesi Jirga in Nimroz province and five in Farah. In both provinces one of the Wolesi Jirga seats is reserved for the leading female candidate who tops the polls.

In both Nimroz and Farah a further nine candidates will be elected for the Provisional Council, three of which, in both provinces, are seats reserved for female candidates.

Bissmillah Bissmil, Chairman of the Joint Electoral Management Body said: "We have been working hard to finish counting the million of ballot papers cast on September 18. We are now focussing all our effort on completing the auditing process to ensure the accuracy of our count operation before results are published. Over the coming week we will continue to publish provisional results for each and every province across Afghanistan."

There is a five day period after publication of each provisional result for complaints to be made; these will be adjudicated on by the Electoral Complaints Commission before the JEMB can release the certified Final Result.

Separately, the JEMB underlined its commitment to take strong action to ensure the integrity of the elections by excluding ballot boxes from the count which are associated with polling irregularities. Several decisions have already been taken on exclusion of boxes and the review of potential cases of irregularities continues.

Partial results for other provinces will continue to be published on the JEMB website (www.jemb.org) twice a day once data from count centres across Afghanistan have been transferred to the central Results Centre and these have been fully audited.

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