PRESS RELEASE
COUNTING STARTS ACROSS AFGHANISTAN

September 20

The task of counting millions of ballot papers for Afghanistan’s landmark Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council elections began today September 20. Ballot papers will be counted at thirty four provincial Count Centres in thirty two provincial centres.

Over 7000 people have been deployed by the Joint Election Management Body (JEMB) to complete the count before the start of Ramadan in early October. This will be followed by a short period for complaints to be adjudicated by the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC). The announcement of the official results is expected in late October.

Independent scrutiny of counting will be provided by thousands of observers and Political Party and Candidate Agents at all Count Centres.

Bissmillah Bissmil, Chairman of the Joint Electoral Management Body said: “We are well prepared for the challenging task of counting the millions of ballot papers. We ask the people of Afghanistan to have patience with us as we conduct this count. With over 7000 people working hard to count all votes cast on September 18 we hope to announce provisional results before the start of Ramadan in early October.”

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