PRESS RELEASE

INTAKE OF BALLOTS UNDER WAY
September 19

The intake of millions of ballots and polling materials is well under way across Afghanistan after Sunday's elections for the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of National Assembly) and Provincial Councils.

Trucks began delivering boxes of marked ballot papers and sensitive materials to Provincial Count Centres Sunday evening within hours of the close of polling.

Early projections, based on the 35 percent of Polling Stations reporting, estimate that around 6 million Afghans cast their ballots in Afghanistan's first legislative elections in more than three decades. Based on this, turnout is predicted to be just over 50 per cent. The final turnout will not be known until closing reports have been received from the remaining Polling Centres over the coming days.

“The Afghan people should be proud of the smooth, orderly and peaceful conduct of polling,” said the Chairman of the Joint Electoral Management Body, Bissmillah Bissmil. “Voters exercised their freedom to vote and choose the representative they believe in.”

Counting begins Tuesday 20 September in 34 Count Centres in 32 provincial capitals.

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