PRESS RELEASE

JEMB ANNOUNCES EARLIER POLLING HOURS
September 7, 2005

Polling for the September 18 Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council elections will begin at 6.00 am across Afghanistan, one hour earlier than originally planned.

“The Joint Electoral Management Body wishes to ensure that all Afghans who have registered to vote have the chance to cast ballots on September 18. For this reason, we have decided to let people start voting one hour earlier than for the 2004 Presidential Election,” said JEMB Chairman Bissmillah Bissmil.

On Election Day, which has been declared a public holiday by the Government of Afghanistan, polling centres will close their gates at 4.00 pm, although voters already in queue will be able to continue waiting until they can cast their ballots.

Around 12.5 million registered voters will be able to cast ballots for both the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of National Assembly) and one of 34 Provincial Councils on September 18.

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