Press Statement

VOTER REGISTRY UPDATE

June 18, 2005

Electoral preparations for this year's Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections are about to enter their second key phase - the update of the register of eligible voters. The JEMB announced today the locations where this Voter Registry Update will take place.

Voter Registry Update Centers will be located in the centers of every district in Afghanistan and will be open from June 25 until July 21. During this period, Afghan citizens will be able to register to vote if they did not do so last year, and will be able to correct their registration details if these details are now incorrect. Separate stations will be established for men and women.

"These elections are for all Afghan citizens. We want to ensure that everyone who is entitled to vote has the correct information on their Voter Registration Card," said JEMB Chairman Bissmillah Bissmil. "That is the purpose of the Voter Registry Update Centers," he added.

This year Afghans will only be allowed to vote at a Polling Station in the province indicated on their Voter Registration Card. They should, therefore, use the Voter Registry Update Period to amend the province of registration stated on their Card if it is no longer correct.

Afghans that have a Voter Registration Card, which stipulates the province in which they reside and will vote, do not have to register again to participate in the elections this year.

As well as the centers established in every district, around 80 separate Voter Registry Update Centers will be established to service the Kuchi, (nomad) community.

All Voter Registry Update Centers will operate from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm, Saturdays to Thursdays.

"We strongly encourage everyone to make sure their Voter Registration Card has the province on it in which they reside and wish to cast their vote. This will guarantee they can exercise their democratic right to vote on Election Day" said Chief Electoral Officer, Peter Erben.

Information on the locations of the Voter Registry Update Centers may be found in each JEMBS Provincial Office and on the JEMB website, www.jemb.org.

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