



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Independent Election Commission

Media Commission Establishment and Mass Media Activity Regulation

This regulation has been approved under the authority of Articles 51 and 56 of the Afghan Electoral Law by IEC to establish an Electoral Media Commission.

Article 1:

In this regulation the following terms have the meaning shown:

1. Commission: Independent Election Commission (IEC) that came into existence based on article (156) of the Afghan Constitution.
2. ECC: the Electoral Complaints Commission established under Article 52 of the Electoral Law
3. MC: the Media Commission established by Article (51) of the Electoral Law.
4. Election Campaign Period: The period set by IEC for political campaigning at an election, which ends 48 hours before the time set for the opening of the polls.
5. Media Code of Conduct: The Media Code of Conduct adopted by IEC
6. Political party: A political party registered with the Ministry of Justice
7. Media: Includes television, radio and print media.

Application

Article 2:

This regulation regulates the Media Commission activities in the following elections:

1. Presidential Election
2. Parliamentary Elections
3. Provincial Council Elections
4. District Council Elections

Establishment of Media Commission

Article 3:

1. The Commission shall appoint a Media Commission no later than 60 days before Election Day. If two or more elections are held on the same day or close together, a single Media Commission may be appointed to function for all of the elections.
2. The MC shall consist of five members. The Media Commission's members are required to meet the following criteria:
 - A. He / she should not be affiliated to any party and not have any tribal, linguistic, racial, and regional biases while being on duty.
 - B. He / she should have at least 10 years journalistic experience.



- C. He / she should have good reputation.
3. The chairperson of the MC is to be chosen from among its members and if they cannot agree, the chairperson shall be named by the Commission.
 4. The MC shall set its own rules of procedure.
 5. The MC may hire staff through the Commission's Secretariat to assist it with its function.

Duties of the Media Commission

Article 4:

1. During the campaign period the MC is responsible for:
 - A. Monitoring the coverage of the candidates' electoral campaigns by the mass media.
 - B. Reviewing complaints on media offences and referring them to the Media Commission of the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism if necessary.
 - C. Providing the Commission with information and reports.
 - D. Managing and monitoring all advertising programs given the internal rules of procedures.
 - E. Performing other duties and responsibilities assigned by the Commission.
2. The complaints and issues referred are to be verified at the MC's meetings.
3. The MC is to complete its work no later than 30 days after the certification of the results of the election.

Media duty to inform the public

Article 5:

1. The media shall endeavour to inform and educate the public on matters relevant to the electoral process, and shall endeavour to cooperate with the Commission and MC to inform impartially the largest number of citizens possible regarding:
 - a) The importance of voting;
 - b) The platforms of candidates;
 - c) Basic campaign issues; and
 - d) How to participate in the election.
2. The state-run media shall provide limited conditions for broadcasting the advertising messages of candidates at no cost considering the schedule prepared by the Commission.

Campaign silence period

Article 6:

The Election Campaign Period is to be ended 48 hours before the time set for the start of polling at an election. After the Election Campaign Period, mass media must not:

- a) Cover any candidate's political activity;
- b) Publish or broadcast results or purported results of any survey of opinion or opinion poll, and
- c) Publish or broadcast any survey of voters who have voted.



Reporting Election Results

Article 7:

The media shall accurately and prominently broadcast or publish the election results announced by The Commission.

Complaints to Media Commission

Article 8:

1. Any registered voter, political party, candidate or their agents, who witness a violation of this regulation or the Media Code of Conduct, may submit a complaint to the MC.
2. A complaint must be on a complaint form issued by MC and be signed by the person who witnessed the violation.
3. A complaint must be delivered to IEC at its headquarters in Kabul or any provincial election office of IEC or to MC in Kabul.
4. A complaint must be delivered within 72 hours of the time the alleged violation was witnessed.

Report

Article 9:

After finishing its work, MC shall present the Commission with a final report on its activities.

Entry into Force

Article 10

This regulation enters into force after the date of approval and must be published.

