

Instruction to public officials, civil servants, military authorities, and state authorities for conduct during the registration, political campaign and election period

The Government of the Islamic Transitional State of Afghanistan is committed to upholding the right of Afghans to freely determine their own political future in accordance with the principles of Islam, democracy, pluralism and social justice, which are enshrined in the Constitution of Afghanistan and other relevant legislation.

Enclosed with this instruction is a set of the most legal instruments on political parties and the registration and electoral processes, providing for the protection of key rights and fundamental freedoms. This will continue to be updated as legislation is produced. All state authorities, including civil servants, public officials and military authorities shall comply with the enclosed legislation, including regulation issued by the Joint Electoral Management Body, aimed at ensuring that free and fair elections are held in Afghanistan.

Dos:

- Provide a safe environment during the registration, campaign and election processes for electoral officials, parties and candidates, journalists, observers, civil society and citizens.
- Ensure the security of the premises of registered or accredited political parties and independent candidates throughout the country.
- Allow equitable access to the media by registered and/or accredited parties and candidates.
- Take all necessary measures to prevent violence or activities that would disrupt the registration, campaign and election processes.
- Comply with and enforce the instructions of the electoral officials.

Don'ts:

- Don't interfere in the conduct of the registration, campaign and election processes.
- Don't express verbal or written support or criticism of any political party or candidates, including incumbent government officials running for elections.
- Don't use state resources to support or criticize political parties or candidates.

- Don't tell people who they should support or vote for, and don't ask people who they will support or who they will vote for.
- Don't prevent or restrain individuals from exercising their right to contest Presidential or Parliamentary elections.
- Don't close the office of a political party or candidate unless ordered by the Supreme Court.
- Don't prevent political parties or candidates from publishing information or accessing any form of Media.
- Don't prevent or disrupt the meetings or gatherings of political parties or candidates unless they are: inciting ethnic, racial, religious, gender or regional discrimination and hatred; disrupting public order and security; or undertaking illegal activities.
- Don't prevent, penalize or restrain individuals or groups including political parties, independent candidates, journalists, and civil society from expressing their views and opinions unless they are inciting ethnic, racial, religious, gender or regional discrimination and hatred; disrupting public order and security; interfering in the registration and election process or undertaking illegal activities.
- Don't interfere in the efforts of a political party or a candidate to undertake lawful activities such as recruiting new members, communicating their platform or views, forming political alliances and coalitions and gathering support.
- Don't threaten or intimidate anyone in the registration, campaigning or election processes.
- Don't display or use any weapons for the purpose of intimidation.
- Don't detain or arrest a person in order to incite fear.
- Don't harass or prevent journalists from carrying out professional activities, including interviewing people, gathering information, publishing reports and criticizing views and opinions.