



**Independent Joint Anti-Corruption
Monitoring & Evaluation Committee**

BACKGROUND

IEC must develop campaign financing regulations to ensure that candidates do not run illegal campaigns

Past elections in Afghanistan have been characterized by allegations of fraud

- The general environment of corruption and conduct of past elections in Afghanistan raises concerns that the 2014 Presidential elections are susceptible to corruption and fraud.
- The 2009 Presidential election was marred by a lack of security, extremely low voter turnout (around 30%), and allegations of widespread ballot stuffing, intimidation and other electoral fraud.
- Over 2,800 complaints were received by the Election Complaints Commission, with the largest proportion concerning irregularities at the poll, including ballot box stuffing and intimidation.

The IEC has taken measures to address the potential for fraud in the upcoming elections

- The IEC has used the results of an integrity assessment to develop a fraud mitigation strategy.
- The strategy focuses on technical improvements, error reduction and statistical reporting, and wider community engagement.
- It will be important to monitor the implementation of this strategy to ensure that all measures are effectively being implemented.

However, it is unclear how the IEC and Ministry of Finance intend to regulate and monitor election campaign financing and expenditures.

- The abuse of official positions or government resources is a real risk in the upcoming elections.
- An effective regime to register and verify the source of all assets and income for parties and candidates, and to report and monitor expenses is essential in ensuring that these abuses do not happen.
- Currently there is only a regime for registering income and expenses for political parties, but not individual candidates. Furthermore, the source of income and assets are not verified.
- There is also a lack of monitoring and oversight mechanism in place to ensure that Presidential campaign expenses do not go beyond the allowable expenditure limits.



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MEC has issued recommendations to the IEC, Ministry of Finance and the High Office of Oversight to effectively monitor campaign financing and expenditures

- MEC is recommending that the IEC set requirements for individual candidates in the upcoming Presidential campaign to register their assets and expenditures, and to verify the source of assets and funds.
- MEC is recommending that the IEC and the Ministry of Finance work in close cooperation with the High Office of Oversight to verify the source of income and assets of parties and individual candidates.

MEC is also recommending that the IEC enhance its training of polling officials

- The integrity assessment identified poor training of polling station officials as a factor in past electoral fraud and misconduct.
- MEC is recommending that the IEC develop a plan to train more staff directly and to implement an effective monitoring program to ensure that polling staff are aware of their duties.

MEC was established to independently monitor national and international efforts to fight corruption in Afghanistan

- MEC develops anti-corruption recommendations and benchmarks, which are monitored to ensure that they are effectively implemented.
- MEC monitors and evaluates national and international anti-corruption efforts.
- MEC is comprised of three national and three international senior anti-corruption experts.
- MEC reports to the public, Parliament, the President and the international community every six months.

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