



# OBSERVATION REPORT

PS-94-Korangi Karachi-III

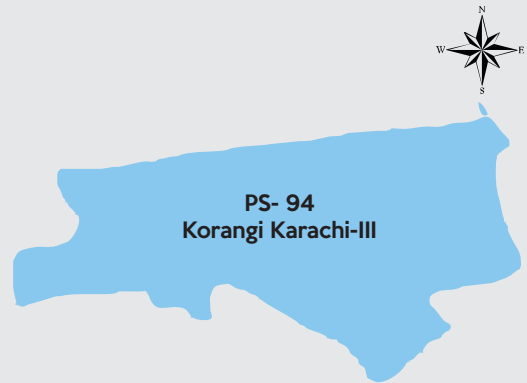
## LOW-TURNOUT AND CAMPAIGN VIOLATIONS MARK KARACHI BY-ELECTION

Islamabad, January 28, 2019: A declining voter's turnout and violations of Election Commission's Code of Conduct for campaigning marked the PS-94 Korangi Karachi-III by-election held on January 27, 2019 observes Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN).

FAFEN deployed 37 (23 men and 14 women) trained, non-partisan and duly accredited observers for the observation of by-election. Findings of this by-election observation were collected using a standardized robust methodology based on the Elections Act, 2017, Election Rules 2018, respective codes of conduct and Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) handbooks for election officials. For this report, FAFEN analyzed the checklists received from 100 out of the total 149 (or 67 percent) polling stations.

The by-election was held after a lackluster 30-day campaign by major contesting candidates including the candidates fielded by the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP), Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) and Pak Sarzameen Party (PSP). The campaign period was marred by violations of the code of conduct. FAFEN observed the participation of PTI's and MQM-P's incumbent lawmakers during the election campaigns for their respective candidates. The code of conduct for contesting candidates and political parties bars public office holders including assembly members from participating in any election campaign. PTI and PSP were also witnessed using loudspeakers in their party meetings, while PTI and MQM-P flags were observed hoisted at the government buildings. FAFEN observers also reported PPPP's and PSP's hoardings displayed at various public places. The code of conduct also prohibits the use of loud speakers, hoardings

### CONSTITUENCY HIGHLIGHTS ...



#### REGISTERED VOTERS

There are 246,427 registered voters in the PS- 94-Korangi Karachi-III including 136,795 male voters and 109,632 female voters.

#### BY-ELECTION 2018

| MALE    | FEMALE  | TOTAL   |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 136,795 | 109,632 | 246,427 |

#### GENERAL ELECTION 2018

| MALE    | FEMALE  | TOTAL   |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 136,808 | 109,641 | 246,449 |

#### CHANGE

| MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|------|--------|-------|
| 13   | 9      | 22    |

#### POLLING STATIONS (PS)

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) set up 149 combined polling stations for the by-election. Overall, 596 polling booths – 298 male and 298 female – were established.

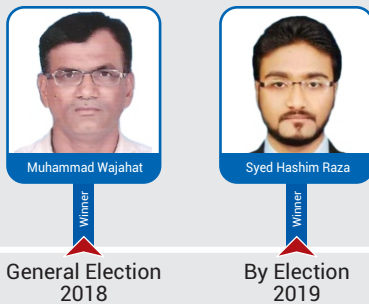
| MALE PS        | FEMALE PS | COMBINED PS |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| 0              | 0         | 149         |
| 596            |           |             |
| POLLING BOOTHS |           |             |

and state resources for election campaigning.

In PS-94, ECP declared all polling stations as sensitive, and installed Close Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras. Comprehensive security arrangements were also made for the election with the deployment of Sindh Rangers inside and outside the polling stations, and a contingent of Pakistan Army on stand-by to handle any emergency situation. Moreover, ECP extended the magisterial powers to Sindh Rangers.

MQM-P's Syed Hashim Raza won the by-election by securing 21,728 (53 percent of the polled votes), while PTI's Muhammad

### TIMELINE OF ELECTIONS



Ashraf Jabbar secured 9,223 (22 percent) votes. According to the Provisional Consolidated Statement of the Result of the Count (Form-47), a total of 323 (one percent) votes were excluded from the count. Earlier during the General Election (GE) 2018, Muhammad Wajahat of MQM-P had won this constituency by securing 32,729 (35 percent) of the polled votes, while Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan's (TLP) Muhammad Shoib-Ur-Rehman was the runners up securing 14,030 (15%) votes. The seat had fallen vacant due to the death of Muhammad Wajahat.

### Voter Turnout

The voter turnout in the by-election dropped from 38% in GE-2018 to 17% in BE-2019. The male turnout decreased from 44% to 22%, while the female turnout dropped from 29% to 11%. Of the 246,427 registered voters, as many as 41,201 exercised their right to vote during the by-election.

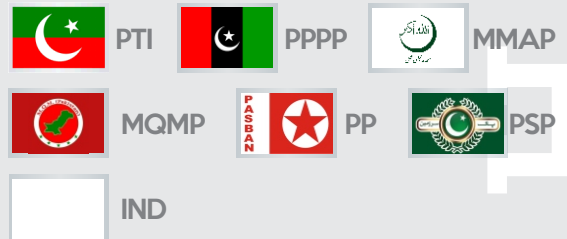
### Contesting Parties and Candidates

Sixteen candidates contested the by-election in PS-94, three less than the number of candidates contesting this seat during GE-2018. As compared to GE-2018 during which 12 political parties nominated their candidates, a total of seven political parties including PPPP, MQM-P, Mohajir Qaoumi Movement Pakistan, Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA), PTI, Pasban Pakistan and PSP fielded their candidates for this by-election, while nine contested the election as independents. Unlike the GE- 2018 when two women – representing PPPP and Grand

## CONSTITUENCY HIGHLIGHTS

### MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES

As many as 16 candidates - seven representing political parties including PTI, MMA, MQM-P, PP, PPPP, PSP and nine independents - contested the by-poll.



### TOTAL CONTESTING CANDIDATES

| MEN | WOMEN | TOTAL |
|-----|-------|-------|
| 16  | 0     | 16    |

### POLLING PERSONNEL

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| PRESIDING OFFICERS           | 149 |
| ASSISTANT PRESIDING OFFICERS | 596 |
| POLLING OFFICERS             | 596 |

### ELECTION HISTORY

#### Reason of By-Election

The Seat had become vacant due to death of Mr. Muhammad Wajahat, Ex-MPA

#### GENERAL ELECTION 2018

| VALID VOTES | INVALID VOTES | VOTER TURNOUT |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 91,010      | 1,585         | 37.6%         |

#### BY-ELECTION 2019

| VALID VOTES | INVALID VOTES | VOTER TURNOUT |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 40,878      | 323           | 16.7%         |

### MARGIN OF VICTORY

| GE 2018 | By Election 2019 |
|---------|------------------|
| 18,699  | 12,505           |

### ELECTION OBSERVERS TRAINED

| MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|------|--------|-------|
| 23   | 14     | 37    |

Democratic Alliance (GDA) – had contested this seat, no woman candidate contested the by-election.

### Setting Up of Polling Stations

ECP had set up 149 combined polling stations for the by-election. The number of the polling stations did not change since GE-2018. These polling stations comprised 298 male and 298 female polling booths. The Elections Act, 2017 highlights a limit of 1,200 voters to be assigned to a polling station for smooth functioning of voting process. However, additional voters may be assigned in exceptional circumstances with the reasons to be recorded in writing. The election authorities assigned above 1,200 voters to 149 (86%) polling stations in the Final List of Polling Station issued for the by-election in PS-94 Korangi Karachi-III.

| Ranges of Registered Voters Assigned to a Polling Station | Number of Polling Stations |
|---|----------------------------|
| 801 to 1000   | 3                          |
| 1001 to 1200  | 17                         |
| 1201 to 1400  | 19                         |
| 1401 to 1600  | 27                         |
| 1601 to 1800  | 33                         |
| 1801 to 2000  | 25                         |
| 2001 to 2200  | 15                         |
| 2201 to 2400  | 5                          |
| 2401 to 2600  | 5                          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>149</b>                 |

### Campaigning and Canvassing

FAFEN observers noted the presence of party camps in surroundings of 98 out of 99 polling stations observed on the election day. The observers witnessed the presence of armed persons inside the party camps set up outside six of these 98 polling stations. The ECP's Code of Conduct for Contesting Candidates and Political Parties prohibits the candidates or their supporters from providing transport services to the voters on Election Day. However, FAFEN observers witnessed the contesting candidates providing transportation to voters around 43 (43%) of the observed polling stations. Moreover, the observers reported the presence of campaigning material of candidates or political parties inside seven polling stations.

### Voting Process

FAFEN's observation suggests that the secrecy screens were properly placed to protect the privacy of the voters at 273 (79%) of the observed polling booths, whereas the placement of these screens at the remaining 74 (21%) polling booths allowed the persons present inside the booths to see the voters marking their ballot papers. Of the observed 347 polling booths, the CCTVs installed in 44 (13%) booths were directed towards the voting screens and might have compromised the voters' secrecy. Authorized polling agents, candidates' representatives who are allowed to witness the polling process and object any irregularity as defined under the law, were seated appropriately at most (293 or 84.4%) polling booths and were able to see the entire polling process first-hand. However, the seating arrangement for the polling agents at the remaining 54 (16%) polling stations did not enable them to see the polling process clearly. The voting process continued uninterrupted at all of polling stations except two where the election staff was found taking breaks during the polling hours.

The observers reported two instances of Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs) skipping the signatures on the backside of the ballot paper before its issuance to the voters. Legally, a ballot paper shall not be issued to a voter without official stamp and signatures on its back. The observers also reported an incident of polling staff disallowing a voter with disability to seek assistance from a person of his choice for casting vote. Moreover, the reports of three instances of unauthorized persons influencing voters were also received from a polling station. An observer also reported an incident of a verbal clash between Presiding Officer (Pro) and election agent of MQM-P inside a polling station when an official stamp was found in possession of an unauthorized person.

### Counting Process

FAFEN observers observed the counting process at 19 polling stations. Of the observed 19 polling station, the PrOs were seen counting the ballot papers twice at 14 polling station while the recount was held on the request of the polling agent at a polling station. No recount took place at the remaining four polling stations. None of the polling agents refused to sign the Result of the Count (Form-45). The observers reported that the PrOs did not paste the copies of the Form-45 and Ballot Paper Account (Form-46) outside two and five polling stations, respectively. Moreover, as many as 18 out of 19 PrOs interviewed after

completion of counting process said that they had transmitted the Form-45 to the Returning Officer (RO) through Result Transmission System (RTS) while one PrO was unable to transmit the result through RTS.

FAFEN also interviewed the PrOs during the polling process. Only eight out of 99 PrOs said that they were given mobile phones by ECP to electronically transmit the election result after completion of counting while the remaining 91 PrOs stated that they would use their own phones to transmit the result. Moreover, 11 out of 99 PrOs expressed dissatisfaction with the training provided by the ECP on use of RTS while the 88 PrOs were satisfied with the training on RTS.

### **Conduct of Security Staff**

Security Personnel were observed to be present inside all the polling station observed on the election day. Security personnel present outside polling stations were found checking voters' National Identity Cards (NICs) as well as voter chits (perchees) at one and 13 of the polling stations, respectively. ECP's Code of Conduct for the Security Officials for GE-2018 prohibited the security officials from barring any voter for not carrying NIC or vote-chit as it is the duty of the polling staff to ascertain the identity of the voter and process his or her credentials.

Security personnel were observed present outside 98 out of 99 polling stations. They were also deployed inside 248 out of 347 observed polling booths. Moreover, the observers reported from 19 polling stations that the security officials were allowing voters to carry their mobile phones inside polling stations. The Code of Conduct for Security Officials prohibits from carrying mobile phones inside the polling stations.

### **Independent Observation**

Section 238 of the Elections Act, 2017 permits duly verified and accredited election observers to observe the proceedings including the voting and counting processes. In compliance with the legal provision, FAFEN's trained, nonpartisan and accredited observers were allowed to observe the polling process at 51 polling stations without any restrictions while they had to persuade the election staff at 48 polling stations while at one polling station, FAFEN observer was not allowed to observe the voting processes. Similarly, FAFEN observers were allowed to observe the counting process at 11 without convincing the election staff while eight had to persuade the Election staff to observe counting process whereas one observer was barred to observe the counting process.