



Political Parties' Petitions

with

ELECTION TRIBUNALS

JULY 2014 UPDATE

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Executive Summary

There were 17 petitions decided in the month of June 2014 - sixteen by election tribunals and one by the ECP. However, given the backlog of pending petitions and the expiry of the tribunals' tenure, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has extended the tenure of tribunals following their failure to resolve all post-election disputes within the legally-stipulated deadline.

Overall, as many as 318 (78%) out of the 410 cases have so far been decided by the tribunals and the ECP (292 out of 384 by tribunals and 26 by ECP) while 92 (22%) petitions are still awaiting decisions.

The ECP constituted 14 tribunals across the country following the 2013 elections to redress election-related complaints of contesting candidates. The tribunals were legally bound to decide each case within 120 days of its receipt.

However, at the end of June 2014, the ECP extended the tribunals' tenures by three to six months in light of pending cases despite the passage of deadline. Meanwhile, the presiding officers of Loralai, Sukkur and Dera Ismail Khan tribunals did not accept the extension, bringing the number of tribunals working across the country to eleven.

The four cases pending with the Loralai tribunal have been transferred to the Quetta tribunal, while six cases of Sukkur and one of Dera Ismail Khan have been given to Karachi and Peshawar tribunals respectively.

This update is based on the direct observation of tribunals' proceedings till June 30, 2014 as part of FAFEN's legal study being commissioned with the assistance of 18 trained lawyers.

The election results were officially notified on May 22, 2013, following which the candidates were given until July 6 (45 days) to submit their petitions. The ECP received a total of 409 petitions, while one petition was filed directly with the Lahore tribunal.

As many as 292 out of 384 petitions have so far been decided or disposed of by the tribunals. Twenty-four petitions were accepted; 22 dismissed due to non-prosecution; 28 dismissed as withdrawn; 62 dismissed after complete trial whereas 126 were dismissed on technical grounds making the petitions not-maintainable. The reasons for dismissal of 30 petitions are not known to FAFEN due to non-availability of their copies of orders despite continuous efforts to obtain these by the lawyers.

Of the 24 petitions accepted, eight were filed by independent candidates, six by PPP members and four by PML-N candidates. None of the petitions filed by PTI have been accepted so far.

On the other hand, 10 petitions accepted are against PML-N - the party with the highest number of seats in the National Assembly. Eight petitions cite independent candidates as respondents, while two cite returned candidates of PTI as defendants.

Region-wise, the tribunals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are far ahead of other provinces in the disposal of cases. As of June 30, 2014, the tribunals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa disposed of 91% (63 out of 69) of the cases referred by the ECP, followed by Balochistan (85%, or 51 out of 60), Sindh (79%, or 72 out of 91) and Punjab (65%, or 106 out of 164).

However, the current pace at which the tribunals are operating has delayed the decisions of 92 petitions. Meanwhile, FAFEN observers have recorded 2,393 adjournments of over seven days in the tribunals, in violation of election laws and ECP's directions which urge the tribunals to hear the petitions on a day-to-day basis and do not allow an adjournment of more than seven days¹.

¹It was specifically mentioned in the "HANDBOOK ON ELECTION TRIBUNAL PETITION PROCESS" published by the ECP in 2013: "In 2009, an amendment to ROPA was adopted stating that "no adjournment shall be granted to any party for more than seven days and that too on payment of costs as the Tribunal may determine".

It is important to note that 19 petitions are pending due to stay orders issued by high courts, whereas five are awaiting verification reports from the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA).

Most of the referred petitions were moved by contesting candidates, while three petitions were filed by voters. The ECP received 409 petitions, out of which 25 were dismissed by the ECP itself during scrutiny. FAFEN's data suggests that the ECP referred 384 petitions to the tribunals. One petition was sent back by the Rawalpindi Tribunal and dismissed by ECP itself due to non-prosecution, bringing the number of cases dismissed by the ECP to 26. Meanwhile, one petition was filed directly with the tribunal in Lahore, bypassing the legal mechanism which resulted in its dismissal at the initial stage.

Most of the petitions (98) were filed by independent candidates, followed by PML-N members who filed 66 petitions. PTI members filed 58 petitions, while PPPP member filed 50 petitions. Meanwhile, PML-N - the party with the highest number of seats in the National Assembly – also had the highest number of petitions citing the party as the respondent. According to FAFEN's data, over one-third (137 or 35%) of the 384 petitions were filed against the party's winning candidates, while PPPP's returned candidates were nominated in 50 petitions.

The Lahore tribunal, being the busiest, received 56 petitions, of which three were later transferred to the Faisalabad tribunal. The Peshawar tribunal received 40 petitions, out of which seven were later transferred to the Abbottabad tribunal while four were transferred to the tribunal in Dera Ismail Khan. However, one pending case was re-transferred to Peshawar following the presiding officer in Dera Ismail Khan's refusal to accept the extension in deadline. The Faisalabad tribunal initially received 39 petitions. However, three more petitions were handed over to the tribunal by the Lahore tribunal.

The ECP can accept petitions within 45 days of the gazette notification of returned candidates and can either dismiss or forward a petition to the respective tribunal at a time it may deem fit after initial scrutiny. The tribunals are legally bound to decide a case within 120 days of its receipt. The ECP started referring the petitions to the tribunals in June 2013. Since no time limit is stipulated for the ECP to forward or dismiss the petitions, some cases remain pending with the commission for more than 120 days. According to FAFEN's data, the Lahore Tribunal received at least two petitions on January 29, 2014.

The petitions are moved on single or multiple grounds and seek single or multiple reliefs. A majority of the petitions challenged the nomination or qualification of returned candidates with the additional ground of use of corrupt practices to sway the elections. There were 38 petitions challenging the nomination process and another 91 challenging the qualification of returned candidates. More than half (212 or 55%) of the petitions, among other grounds, made allegations of corrupt practices employed by returned candidates, while almost three-fourth (277 or 72%) of the petitions accused other personnel, including election officials, of malpractice.

Petitioners in 248 cases sought declaration to the effect that the election of the winning candidate be declared void and the petitioner be declared returned candidate instead. Among other reliefs, 122 petitions sought disqualification of the returned candidates and re-polling in the constituency. Another 89 petitions sought recounting of ballots for the entire or parts of the constituencies, 43 demanded re-examination of excluded ballots while 57 sought re-polling at certain polling stations besides 70 petitions seeking other reliefs.

Introduction

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) constituted 14 tribunals across the country to redress election-related complaints of contesting candidates. For the first time, the tribunals are being headed by retired judges rather than serving high court judges (except for the tribunal in Quetta which is being headed by a serving judge of Balochistan High Court).

Earlier, the workload of serving judges often restricted the tribunals' proceedings and the cases often continued for several years. By appointing retired judges, the ECP has attempted to remove these

restrictions, making it easier to resolve the cases within 120 days stipulated in Section 67(1A) of the Representation of the People Act 1976.

However, at the end of June 2014, the ECP extended the tribunals' tenures by three to six months as a considerable number of petitions were still awaiting decisions. The presiding officers of Loralai, Sukkur and Dera Ismail Khan tribunals did not to accept this extension, bringing the number of tribunal across the country to eleven.

Section 52(2) of the Representation of the Peoples Act 1976 gives 45 days to candidates to file their petitions with the ECP following the notification of the official gazette of the names of the returned candidates. It states that "an election petition shall be presented to the Commission within [forty-five days] of the publication in the official gazette of the name of the returned candidate and shall be accompanied by a receipt showing that the petitioner has deposited at any branch of the National Bank of Pakistan or at a Government Treasury or sub-Treasury in favor of the Commission, under the prescribed head of account, as security for the costs of the petition, a sum of one thousand rupees."

The election results were officially notified on May 22, 2013, following which the candidates had until July 6 to submit their petitions. The ECP received 409 petitions, while one petition was filed directly with the Lahore tribunal.

FAFEN has deployed 18 trained, non-partisan lawyers to observe the tribunals' proceedings. This report is based on their direct observations till June 30, 2014.

1. Tribunals' Decisions

According to FAFEN observers, nearly 76% (292 out of 384) of the cases were decided or disposed of by the tribunals by June 30, 2014. Twenty-four petitions were accepted; 22 dismissed due to non-prosecution; 28 dismissed as withdrawn; 62 dismissed after complete trial whereas 126 were dismissed on technical grounds making the petitions not-maintainable. The reasons for dismissal of 30 petitions are not known to FAFEN due to non-availability of their copies of orders despite repeated attempts to obtain them.

The current pace at which the tribunals are progressing has delayed the decisions of all pending petitions beyond the legally-stipulated time of 120 days. The following table gives the details of petitions filed and decided by the ECP and tribunals:

Table 1.1: Number of Petitions Filed and Decided

Number of Petitions Filed with ECP	409
Number of Petitions Filed with Tribunals	1
Total Number of Petitions Filed	410
Number of Petitions dismissed by ECP	26
Number of Petitions disposed of by Tribunals	292
Total Number of Petitions dismissed/disposed of	318
Number of Pending Petitions	92

The following table gives the details of cases decided by each tribunal:

Table 1.2: Number of Cases Decided by Each Tribunal

No.	Tribunal	Petitions Accepted	Dismissed for Non - Prosecution	Dismissed as Withdrawn	Dismissed as Non-maintainable	Dismissed as not proved in trial	Dismissed but reason unknown	Total
1	Abbottabad	8		3	6	2	2	21
2	Bahawalpur	1	5	1	6	7	1	21
3	Dera Ismail Khan	4	2		5	5		16
4	Faisalabad	4		4	12	6	1	27
5	Hub		1		2	3	2	8
6	Hyderabad		4	3	15	2	1	25
7	Karachi		1	3	17	1	4	26
8	Lahore	4	4	3	15	11	6	43
9	Loralai		2	2	6	7	4	21
10	Multan		2		4	1	2	9
11	Peshawar	1		4	16	1	4	26
12	Quetta		1	1	8	9	3	22
13	Rawalpindi			1	4	1		6
14	Sukkur	2		3	10	6		21
Total		24	22	28	126	62	30	292

2. Tribunals' Decisions: Party-wise Analysis

Of the 24 petitions accepted, eight were filed by independent candidates, while six were filed by PPPP members. Four petitions that were accepted were filed by PML-N candidates, three by ANP; two by JUI-F while one petition was filed by Muttahida Deeni Mahaz (MDM). None of the petitions filed by PTI have so far been accepted by the tribunals.

On the other hand, 10 petitions accepted by the tribunals are against PML-N - the party with the highest number of seats in the National Assembly. Eight petitions cite independent candidates as respondents, while two cite returned candidates of PTI as defendants. The following table gives the party-wise details of petitions decided or dismissed by the tribunals as of June 30, 2014:

Table 2.1: Party-wise Status of Election Petitions Filed

No.	Petitioner	Petitions Accepted	Dismissed for Non - Prosecution	Dismissed as Withdrawn	Dismissed as Non-maintainable	Dismissed as not proved in trial	Dismissed but reason unknown	Total
1	IND	8	6	11	30	18	8	81
2	PPPP	6	3	4	15	10	4	42
3	PML-N	4	1	5	19	8	3	40
4	PTI		4	1	22	6	6	39
5	JUI-F	2	1	1	8	7	4	23
6	PML-F		3	3	4	3	2	15
7	Ji				12			12
8	BNP		2		3	1	1	7
9	PML		1		4	1		6
10	ANP	3		1	1	1		6
11	JUI-N				1	1	2	4
12	Others	1	1	2	7	6	-	17
Total		24	22	28	126	62	30	292

The following table gives the number of petitions which have been decided or disposed of by the tribunals along with their respondents:

Table 2.2: Status of Petitions Filed Against Parties

No.	Respondent	Petitions Accepted	Dismissed for Non - Prosecution	Dismissed as Withdrawn	Dismissed as Non-maintainable	Dismissed as not proved in trial	Dismissed but reason unknown	Total
1	PML-N	10	11	9	37	23	9	99
2	IND	8	1	8	18	14	6	55
3	PPPP	1	4	3	17	6	3	34
4	PTI	2		3	13	4	3	25
5	MQM		1	2	16	1	2	22
6	JUI-F	1	2	2	7	2	3	17
7	PkMAP		3		2	5	2	12
8	PML				4	1	2	7
9	PML-F				6			6
10	ANP			1	2			3
11	NP				2	1		3
12	Others	2			2	5	-	9
Total		24	22	28	126	62	30	292

3. Petitions Pending Beyond the Legally-Stipulated Time Period

Section 67(1A) of the ROPA 1976 says that “the Election Tribunal shall proceed with the trial of the Election Petition on a day-to-day basis and the decision thereof shall be taken within four months from its receipt”.

The date of receipt has been defined on Page 7 of the “Hand Book on Election Tribunal Petition Process” prepared and published by the ECP following the 2013 elections as follows: “the date of receipt at the Registrar is essential as it will trigger the start of the legally prescribed period (120 days) from making a decision on the Election Petition”.

According to FAFEN observers, the tribunals failed to dispose of 92 petitions within the legally-stipulated deadline of 120 days as of June 30, 2014. The following table gives the details of these cases.

Table 3.1: Petitions Pending Beyond the Legally-Stipulated Deadline

No.	Election Tribunal	Cases Pending for over 120 days
1	Abbottabad	2
2	Bahawalpur	15
3	Faisalabad	15
4	Hub	3
5	Hyderabad	9
6	Karachi	10
7	Lahore	10
8	Multan	13
9	Peshawar	4
10	Quetta	6
11	Rawalpindi	5
Total		92

4. Adjournments

The “Handbook on Election Tribunal Petition Process” published by the ECP in 2013 specifically prohibits an adjournment of petitions for more than seven days:

“In 2009, an amendment to ROPA was adopted stating that “no adjournment shall be granted to any party for more than seven days and that too on payment of costs as the Tribunal may determine”.

However, FAFEN observers have witnessed 2,393 adjournments of more than seven days till June 30, 2014, in violation of the provisions as well as the ECPs directions. The following table gives the details of such adjournments for each tribunal:

Table 4.1: Adjournments of More than Seven Days

No.	Tribunal	Adjournments
1	Abbottabad	47
2	Bahawalpur	299
3	Dera Ismail Khan	40
4	Faisalabad	268
5	Hub	15
6	Hyderabad	383
7	Karachi	86
8	Lahore	385
9	Loralai	253
10	Multan	130
11	Peshawar	209
12	Quetta	62
13	Rawalpindi	39
14	Sukkur	177
Total		2,393

5. Analysis of Petitions

FAFEN has identified four types of grounds on which the 384 petitions were filed. They are as follows:

1. Incorrect nomination process
2. Winning candidate not qualified to contest the elections
3. Returned candidate winning the polls through corrupt or illegal practice by the administration, election officials, polling staff and/or returning officer etcetera
4. Returned candidate involved in a corrupt/illegal practice himself

Generally, the petitioners have sought six different types of reliefs in the petitions which are listed below:

1. Declare the winning candidate’s election null and void and the petitioner as the returning candidate instead
2. Disqualify the winning candidate and order a re-poll.
3. Recount ballot papers for the entire or parts of a constituency
4. Re-examination of invalid votes
5. Re-polling at certain polling stations
6. Any other (categorizes all other reliefs, including the court’s directions to NADRA to verify the thumb impressions of voters)

A considerable number of petitions filed with the ECP were based on multiple grounds seeking more than one relief. FAFEN does not have a complete breakdown of 16 petitions due to accessibility issues. According to the breakdown of details available with FAFEN, 38 petitions challenged the nomination

process of candidates, 91 challenged the qualification of winning candidates, 212 leveled allegations of corrupt or illegal practices by the administration, election officials and/or polling staff while 277 directly accused the winning candidates of involvement in corruption/illegal practice.

Moreover, 248 petitions sought a declaration to the effect that the winning candidate's election be declared void and the petitioner be declared winner instead. Another 122 petitions sought re-polling and disqualification of the winning candidate, while recounting of ballot papers for entire or parts of a constituency was sought in 89 petitions. In addition, 43 petitions sought re-examination of the ballot papers declared invalid by the ECP; 57 sought re-polling at certain polling stations while 70 sought other forms of reliefs from the tribunals.

The Lahore tribunal has been the busiest - receiving 56 petitions out of which three were later transferred to the Faisalabad tribunal. The Peshawar tribunal received 40 petitions, out of which seven were transferred to the Abbottabad tribunal while four were handed over to the tribunal in Dera Ismail Khan. However, one pending case was re-transferred to Peshawar following the presiding officer in Dera Ismail Khan's refusal to accept the extension in deadline. The Faisalabad tribunal initially received 39 petitions. However, three more cases were transferred to the tribunal by way of transfer from the Lahore tribunal. The Karachi tribunal received a comparatively less number of petitions, contrary to media reports pointing out several electoral violations in the area. The following table gives the total number of cases received and decided/disposed of by each tribunal:

Table 5.1: Cases Received and Decided by Each Tribunal

No.	Tribunal locations	Case Received			Cases Decided			Overall % Disposed
		National	Provincial	Total	National	Provincial	Total	
1	Abbottabad	8	15	23	6	15	21	91%
2	Bahawalpur	13	23	36	6	15	21	58%
3	DI Khan	4	12	16	4	12	16	100%
4	Faisalabad	16	26	42	10	17	27	64%
5	Hub	5	6	11	5	3	8	73%
6	Hyderabad	9	25	34	5	20	25	74%
7	Karachi	12	24	36	9	17	26	72%
8	Lahore	22	31	53	17	26	43	81%
9	Loralai	1	20	21	1	20	21	100%
10	Multan	10	12	22	3	6	9	41%
11	Peshawar	14	16	30	11	15	26	87%
12	Quetta	8	20	28	5	17	22	79%
13	Rawalpindi	4	7	11	2	4	6	55%
14	Sukkur	7	14	21	7	14	21	100%
Total		133	251	384	91	201	292	76%

6. Party-wise Analysis of Petitions

Most of the petitions (98) were filed by independent candidates. Party-wise, PML-N members filed a total of 66 petitions with 13 tribunals (no petition was filed in Hub), while PTI members followed with 58 petitions with no petitions filed in Hub, Quetta and Sukkur.

PPPP members filed 50 petitions - almost evenly distributed across the country. They filed nine petitions in Bahawalpur and none in Rawalpindi, Peshawar and Loralai.

JUI-F members filed 27 petitions, mostly in Peshawar and Loralai while PML-F filed 18 petitions, mostly in Hyderabad. JI members filed 13 petitions, followed by PML (10), ANP and BNP (seven each) and JUI-N (five). The following table gives the details of petitions filed by each party:

Table 6.1: Tribunal-wise Petitions Filed by Parties

Tribunal	IND	PML-N	PTI	pppp	JUI-F	PML-F	JI	PML	BNP	ANP	JUI-N	PkMAP	Others	Total
Abbottabad	6	3	2	5	4					1			2	23
Bahawalpur	6	10	8	9		1							2	36
Dera Ismail Khan	6	3	1	3	1					2			0	16
Faisalabad	23	5	8	1				3					2	42
Hub	1			1	2				3	1		1	2	11
Hyderabad	4	9	1	8	1	10							1	34
Karachi	3	5	7	5		2	11						3	36
Lahore	16	6	17	4				6					4	53
Loralai	3	2	1		6				3		4		2	21
Multan	8	6	4	3				1					0	22
Peshawar	6	7	4		7		2			3			1	30
Quetta	11	3		4	4				1		1	3	1	28
Rawalpindi	1	5	5										0	11
Sukkur	4	2		7	2	5							1	21
Total	98	66	58	50	27	18	13	10	7	7	5	4	21	384

The following table gives a province-wise breakdown of petitions filed by the candidates of political parties for National and Provincial Assemblies:

Table 6.2: Breakdown of Petitions by Province and Assembly Type

Petitioner Party	Punjab			Sindh			Khyber Pakhtunkhwa			Balochistan			Total		
	NA	PA	Total	NA	PA	Total	NA	PA	Total	NA	PA	Total	NA	PA	Total
IND	17	37	54	3	8	11	11	7	18	3	12	15	34	64	98
PML-N	10	22	32	6	10	16	3	10	13	1	4	5	20	46	66
PTI	19	23	42	5	3	8	6	1	7		1	1	30	28	58
PPPP	8	9	17	9	11	20	2	6	8	2	3	5	21	29	50
JUI-F					3	3	2	10	12	1	11	12	3	24	27
PML-F	1		1	3	14	17							4	14	18
JI				2	9	11	2		2				4	9	13
PML	6	4	10										6	4	10
ANP								6	6		1	1	0	7	7
BNP										2	5	7	2	5	7
JUI-N										1	4	5	1	4	5
PkMAP										2	2	4	2	2	4
Others	4	4	8	0	5	5		3	3	2	3	5	6	15	21
Total	65	99	164	28	63	91	26	43	69	14	46	60	133	251	384

PML-N

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) filed 66 petitions across the country, of which five challenged the nomination of candidates while 14 challenged the qualifications of winning candidates. The party made allegations of corrupt or illegal practices employed by someone other than the candidate in 40 petitions and directly accused the winning candidate of corruption/illegal practice in 46 petitions.

The party sought the winning candidates' disqualification and declaration of the petitioner as the winner in 46 petitions, while 19 petitions sought re-poll in certain constituencies. Recounting of ballot papers was sought in 16 petitions, while 10 petitions sought a re-examination of votes declared invalid by the ECP.

In addition the party sought re-polling at certain polling stations in 11 petitions and other forms of relief in eight petitions.

PTI

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) filed 58 petitions, challenging the nomination of candidates in four petitions and qualifications of winning candidates in 10 petitions. The party made allegations of corrupt or illegal practices employed by someone other than the candidate in 35 petitions and directly accused the winning candidate of corruption/illegal practice in 49 petitions.

The party sought the winning candidates' disqualification and declaration of petitioner as the winner in 39 petitions. Twenty-two petitions sought a re-poll in the constituency, while 21 demanded a recount of ballot papers. The party sought re-examination of invalid votes in four petitions and re-polling at certain polling stations in seven petitions besides seeking other forms of relief in 13 petitions.

PPPP

The Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) filed a total of 50 petitions, with two challenging the nomination of candidates and 13 challenging the winning candidates' qualifications. The party made allegations of corrupt or illegal practices being employed by someone other than the candidate in 22 petitions, and directly accused the candidate of attempting to sway the results in 30 petitions.

The party sought the winning candidates' disqualification in 31 petitions and a re-poll in the constituency in nine petitions. Recounting of ballot papers for the entire or parts of a constituency was sought in nine petitions, while a re-examination of invalid votes was sought in six petitions. The party sought re-polling at certain polling stations in six petitions and other forms of reliefs in as many petitions.

JUI-F

The Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) filed a total of 27 petitions, but unlike the three main parties, most of its petitions were filed in Peshawar and Loralai. The party challenged the nomination of candidates in two petitions and the winning candidates' qualifications in five petitions. The party made allegation of corrupt or illegal practices employed by someone other than the candidate in 12 petitions and directly accused the candidate of wrongdoings in 18 petitions.

The party sought the winning candidates' disqualification in 19 petitions and re-poll in the constituency in four petitions. Recounting of ballot papers was sought in five petitions, while re-examination of votes was sought in as many petitions. Furthermore, the party sought re-polling at certain polling stations in seven petitions and other forms of relief in four petitions. The details of nature of grounds on which the petitions were filed are given in the following table:

Table 6.3: Nature of Grounds of Petitions Filed

Petitioner	Incorrect nomination process	Winning candidate not qualified to contest the polls	Corrupt/illegal practice employed by someone other than the candidate	Winning candidate involved in corrupt/illegal practice
ANP	1	4	5	5
BNP			3	4
IND	19	33	63	68
JI			2	13
JUI-F	2	5	12	18
JUI-N		2	1	3
PML-F	2	2	8	18
PML-N	5	14	40	46
PML		2	7	6
PPPP	2	13	22	30
PTI	4	10	35	49
Others	3	6	14	17
Total	38	91	212	277

The details of nature of prayers sought in the petitions are given in the following table:

Table 6.4: Prayers Sought by Petitioners

Petitioner	Declare the election of the winning candidate void and declare the petitioner as the returned candidate	Disqualify the winning candidate and order a re-poll	Recounting of ballot papers for entire or parts of a constituency	Re-examination of invalid votes	Re-polling at certain polling stations	Other reliefs
ANP	6	3	1	1	1	
BNP	6			1	1	1
IND	57	31	24	11	16	24
JI	3	12				-
JUI-F	19	4	5	5	7	4
JUI-N	4	1				-
PML-F	14	11	6	2	3	6
PML-N	46	19	16	10	11	8
PML	5	2	2		2	3
PPPP	31	9	9	6	6	6
PTI	39	22	21	4	7	13
Others	18	8	5	3	3	5
Total	248	122	89	43	57	70

7. Petitions against Winning Candidates

According to FAFEN's data, over one third (137 or 35%) of the 384 petitions were filed against returned candidates of PML-N – the party with the highest number of seats in the National Assembly. Most of these petitions (114) were filed in Punjab - 46 in Lahore, 30 in Faisalabad, 19 in Bahawalpur, 14 in Multan and five in Rawalpindi. No petitions were filed against PML-N candidates in Hyderabad.

PPPP's returned candidates were nominated in 50 petitions – mostly in Sindh (25 in Hyderabad, 18 in Sukkur and five in Karachi).

Table 7.1: Tribunal-wise Petitions Filed against Parties

Tribunal	PML-N	IND	PPPP	PTI	MQM	JUI-F	PKMAP	PML-Q	PML-F	ANP	NPP	NP	JI	Others	Total
Abbottabad	4	8		8		1							1	1	23
Bahawalpur	19	13	1			1		1						1	36
Dera Ismail Khan		7	1	3		5								0	16
Faisalabad	30	11						1						0	42
Hub	3					2	2	1				1		2	11
Hyderabad		6	25		1				2					0	34
Karachi	3		10	2	20						1			0	36
Lahore	46	4		1				2						0	53
Loralai	2	1				4	10	1		1		1		1	21
Multan	14	6		2										0	22
Peshawar	6	5		10		4				3			1	1	30
Quetta	4	16				2	1	2		1		1		1	28
Rawalpindi	5	1		4										1	11
Sukkur	1		13		1				4		2			0	21
Total	137	78	50	30	22	19	13	8	6	5	3	3	2	8	384

PTI's candidates were nominated in 30 petitions, most of which were filed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (10 in Peshawar, eight in Abbottabad and three in Dera Ismail Khan). JUI-F's winners were nominated in 19 petitions (mostly in Loralai, Dera Ismail Khan and Peshawar) while independent candidates were collectively nominated in 78 petitions.

The following table gives a province-wise breakdown of petitions filed against the candidates of political parties for both National and Provincial Assemblies:

Table 7.2: Petitions Against Parties: Breakdown by Province and Assembly Type

Respondent	Punjab			Sindh			KPK			Balochistan			Grand		
	NA	PA	Total	NA	PA	Total	NA	PA	Total	NA	PA	Total	NA	PA	Total
PML-N	53	61	114	1	3	4	4	6	10	2	7	9	60	77	137
IND	7	28	35	1	5	6	13	7	20	5	12	17	26	52	78
PPPP	1		1	12	36	48		1	1				13	37	50
PTI	2	5	7		2	2	2	19	21				4	26	30
MQM				8	14	22							8	14	22
JUI-F		1	1				4	6	10	4	4	8	8	11	19
PkMAP										2	11	13	2	11	13
PML-Q	1	3	4								4	4	1	7	8
PML-F				4	2	6							4	2	6
ANP							2	1	3		2	2	2	3	5
NP											3	3	0	3	3
NPP				2	1	3							2	1	3
JI							1	1	2				1	1	2
Others	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	3	4	2	6	8
Total	65	99	164	28	63	91	26	43	69	14	46	60	133	251	384

PML-N

Over one third of the petitions (137) were filed in constituencies won by PML-N candidates. Seventeen petitions said the PML-N winners were nominated incorrectly while 46 challenged the qualifications declared by the party's candidates. Moreover, 88 petitioners made allegations of corrupt/illegal practices employed by people to help the candidates win. The winners were directly accused of being involved in corrupt/illegal practices in 95 petitions.

There were 81 petitions seeking the winner's disqualification and declaration of petitioners as the returned candidates. Another 47 sought re-poll in the constituencies, while 34 petitioners sought recount of ballot papers for entire or parts of the constituency. Ten petitions demanded re-examination of invalid votes, while 15 sought re-poll at certain polling stations. In addition, 30 petitions sought reliefs other than the categories identified above.

PPPP

As many as 50 petitions challenged the winning candidates of PPPP. Five petitions claimed the winners were nominated incorrectly while eight challenged the qualifications declared by the party's candidates. Nineteen petitioners made allegations of corrupt/illegal practices employed by people to help the candidates win, while 45 directly accused the winners of engaging in corrupt or illegal practices.

There were 40 petitions seeking the winners' disqualification and declaration of petitioners as the returned candidates. Another 20 petitions sought re-poll in constituencies, while 12 sought recount of ballot papers for entire or parts of the constituency. Five petitions demanded re-examination of the votes declared invalid by the ECP; eight sought re-poll at certain polling stations while 13 sought other forms of reliefs from the tribunals.

PTI

The winning candidates of PTI were challenged in 30 petitions. Four petitions said the winners were nominated incorrectly while eight challenged the candidates' declared qualifications. Seventeen petitioners made allegations of corrupt/illegal practices employed by people to help the candidates win, while 22 directly accused the winners of engaging in corrupt/illegal practices.

Twenty petitions sought the winners' disqualification and declaration of petitioners as the returned candidates, while 10 sought re-poll in the constituencies. Another 10 petitions sought recount of ballot papers for entire or parts of the constituency, while three demanded re-examination of invalid votes from the tribunal. Furthermore, nine petitions sought re-poll at certain polling stations while two sought reliefs other than the categories identified above.

MQM

FAFEN observers reported 22 petitions filed against MQM candidates. Twenty-one petitions accused the party's candidates of engaging in corrupt/illegal practices in an attempt to sway the election results while two said the winner had been nominated incorrectly.

As many as four petitions sought the winners' disqualification, while 12 sought re-poll in the constituencies. Four petitions sought recount of ballot papers for entire or parts of the constituency, while two petitioners demanded re-examination of votes declared invalid by the ECP. Moreover, two petitions sought re-poll at certain polling stations, with three seeking other reliefs from the tribunals.

JUI-F

Nineteen petitions were filed against JUI-F's winning candidates. One petition said the winner was nominated incorrectly, while seven challenged the winners' qualifications. Twelve petitioners made allegations of corrupt/illegal practices employed by people to help the party's candidates win, with an equal number of petitions directly accusing the party's candidates of corrupt/illegal practices.

There were 12 petitions seeking the winners' disqualification and declaration of petitioners as the returned candidates. Another three petitions sought re-poll in certain constituencies, four demanded re-examination of invalid votes while two sought re-polling at certain polling stations. In addition, two petitions sought other forms of reliefs from the tribunals. The details of nature of grounds on which the petitions were filed are given in the following table:

Table 7.3: Nature of Grounds of Petitions Against Winning Candidates

Respondent	Incorrect nomination process	Winning candidate not qualified to contest	Returned candidate winning the election through corrupt/illegal practice	Returned candidate involved in corrupt or illegal practice
ANP			3	5
IND	10	17	50	47
JUI-F	1	7	12	12
MQM			2	21
PkMAP			6	7
PML-F		1		5
PML-N	17	46	88	95
PML	1	2	6	4
PPPP	5	8	19	45
PTI	4	8	17	22
Others		2	9	14
Total	38	91	212	277

The details of nature of prayers sought in the petitions are given in the following table:

Table 7.4: Prayers Sought Against Winning Candidates

Respondent	Declare the winning candidate's election void and declare the petitioner as the return candidate	Disqualify the winning candidate and order a re-poll	Recount of ballot papers for entire or parts of a constituency	Re-examination of invalid votes	Re-polling at certain polling stations	Other reliefs
ANP	3	1	3	1		3
IND	53	22	20	8	14	13
JUI-F	12	3		4	2	2
MQM	4	12	4	2	2	3
PkMAP	11		1	4	1	
PML-F	6	2	2	1		
PML-N	81	47	34	10	15	30
PML	5	1		1	1	2
PPPP	40	20	12	5	8	13
PTI	20	10	10	3	9	2
Others	13	4	3	4	5	2
Total	248	122	89	43	57	70

Recommendations

Based on the observation of the tribunals' proceedings, FAFEN recommends:

1. All tribunals formed by the ECP should exercise utmost transparency and help remove barriers to observation. The Representation of Peoples Act says that Qanun-e-Shahadat 1984 shall apply to proceedings of all election tribunals. Under the provisions of Qanun-e-Shahadat, documents forming the acts or records of the acts of tribunals are public documents and every person has a right to inspect them and obtain copies upon payment of legal fees. It is recommended that there should be a clear provision in the ROPA requiring the Election Tribunals and ECP to issue certified copies of Election Petitions and Judgments of Tribunals on payment of prescribed Fee to any of the applicant.
2. No provision in the law or rules sets a time limit on the ECP to forward an election petition to a concerned tribunal. The rules/law also does not specify a time limit for a petitioner to remove any objections raised by the ECP. According to FAFEN's data, two election petitions were received by the Lahore tribunal on January 29, 2014. The law or rules should be amended to reflect adequate deadlines for both the ECP to handle a petition and the petitioner to respond in case an objection is raised.
3. All election tribunals have been established by the ECP. However, the tribunals in Sindh and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa are working six days a week while tribunals in Punjab and Balochistan are working five days a week. The working days of all tribunals should be made uniform.
4. According to ROPA's provisions, an appeal against the tribunals' decisions can be filed before the Supreme Court of Pakistan, but any party can file a writ petition against any interlocutory order of the tribunal before the high court and no time limit to dispose of such petitions is provided in the law. FAFEN has observed that at least 19 petitions could not be decided within the legally-stipulated time due to pendency and restraint orders passed in the writ petitions filed against interlocutory orders of the tribunals in these petitions. It is recommended that some mechanism should be provided to deal with such types of hurdles in timely disposal of election disputes.
5. At least five petitions are still pending as they are awaiting reports by NADRA regarding thumb verification. As disposal of petitions is mandatory in stipulated time, there should be some provision or mechanism which also binds all other institutions/departments to fulfill their task related to these election petitions, if directed by the tribunals, in a specific time so that delay in disposal of petitions can be avoided.
6. Another important issue which needs consideration is upholding of petitions for a considerable time by the ECP while they are transferred to another tribunal on request by any party or a tribunal itself. It has been observed that this practice is also causing delay in the disposal of petitions within stipulated time.

Annexure A: List of Pending Cases for National Assembly

No.	Tribunal	Petition No.	Title	Constituency
1	Lahore	150/2013	Ch. Wajahat Hussain vs. Nawabzada Mazhar Ali.	NA-104 Gujrat-I
2	Lahore	239/2013	Hamid Zaman vs. Muhammad Riaz Malik etc.	NA-118 Lahore-I
3	Lahore	315/2013	Imran Ahmad Khan Niazi vs. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq etc.	NA-122 Lahore-V
4	Faisalabad	194/2013	Hamid Khan vs. Khawaja Saad Rafique etc.	NA-125 Lahore-VIII
5	Lahore	153/2013	Malik Karamat Ali Khokhar vs. Mohammad Afzal Khokhar etc.	NA-128 Lahore-XI
6	Multan	352/2013	Fayyaz Ahmad Khan Ghauri vs. Ch. Muhammad Arif Hussain etc.	NA-144 Okara-II
7	Multan	307/2013	Mrs. Shafeeqa Begum vs. Ch. M. Arif Hussain etc.	NA-144 Okara-II
8	Multan	198/2013	Sheikh M. Tariq Rasheed vs. Makdoom Javed Hashmi etc.	NA-149 Multan-II
9	Bahawalpur	128/2013	M. Ibrahim Khan vs. Javed Ali Shah etc.	NA-152 Multan-V
10	Bahawalpur	222/2013	Rana M. Qasim Noon vs. Deewan Ashiq Bukhari etc.	NA-153 Multan-VI
11	Multan	355/2013	Jahangir Khan Tareen vs. Khan Muhammad Siddique Khan Baloch etc.	NA-154 Lodhran-I
12	Multan	117/2013	Syed Fakhar Imam vs. Raza Hayat Haraj etc.	NA-156 Khanewal-I
13	Multan	44/2013	Haji Muhammad Ayub vs. Hassan Nawaz etc.	NA-162 Sahiwal-III
14	Multan	152/2013	Aurangzeb Khan Khichi vs. Saeed Ahmad Khan Manees etc.	NA-170 Vehari-IV
15	Bahawalpur	13/2013	Malik Ghulam Mustafa Khar vs. Sultan Mehmood Hunjra.	NA-176 Muzaffargarh-I
16	Bahawalpur	196/2013	Syed Muhammad Abdullah Bukhari vs. Sardar Ashiq Husain Gopang.	NA-180 Muzaffargarh-V
17	Bahawalpur	216/2013	Saud Majeed vs. Tariq Bashir Cheema.	NA-187 Bahawalpur-V
18	Bahawalpur	272/2013	Muhammad Akhtar Khadim vs. Syed M. Asghar Shah etc.	NA-188 Bahawalnagar-I
19	Bahawalpur	308/2013	Makhdoom Ahmed Alam Anwar vs. Ghulam Rasool Koreja etc.	NA-192 Rahimyar Khan-I
20	Rawalpindi	242/2013	Malik Shakil Awan vs. Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed	NA-55 Rawalpindi-VI
21	Rawalpindi	224/2013	Asif Ali Malik vs. Mohammad Zain Ellahi etc.	NA-59-Attock-III
22	Faisalabad	284/2013	Barrister Abdullah Mumtaz Kahloon vs. Ch. Hamid Hameed etc.	NA-66 Sargodha-III
23	Faisalabad	236/2013	M. Sanaullah Khan Masti Khel vs. Abdul Majeed Khan etc.	NA-73 Bhakkar-I
24	Faisalabad	392/2013	Rana Asif Tauseef vs. Mian Mohammad Farooq and Others.	NA-80 Faisalabad-VI
25	Faisalabad	192/2013	Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat vs. Ghulam M. Lali etc.	NA-87 Chiniot-II-cum Jhang (Old NA-88 Jhang-III)
26	Faisalabad	221/2013	M. Riaz Fatiana vs. Ch. Asadur Rahman etc.	NA-94 Toba Tek Singh-III
27	Lahore	269/2013	Imtiaz Safdar Warraich vs. Tariq Mehmood etc.	NA-98 Gujranwala-IV
28	Karachi	25/2013	Khalid Ahmed Khan Lund vs. Ali Gohar Khan Mahar etc.	NA-200 Ghotki-I

No.	Tribunal	Petition No.	Title	Constituency
29	Karachi	358/2013	Zulfiqar Ali Behan vs. Rais Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoi etc.	NA-211 Naushero Feroze-I
30	Karachi	148/2013	Syed Ghaus Ali Shah vs. Nawab Ali Wassan.	NA-215 Khairpur-I
31	Hyderabad	213/2013	Abdul Razzaq vs. Makhdoom Amin Faheem etc.	NA-218 Matiari-cum-Hyderabad (Old Hyderabad-I)
32	Hyderabad	397/2013	Arbab Taqachi Fawad Razaq vs. Faqir Sher Muhammad Bilalani etc.	NA-229 Tharparkar-I
33	Hyderabad	363/2013	Karim Ali Jatoi vs. Rafique Ahmed Jamali etc.	NA-232 Dadu-I (Old Dadu-II)
34	Hyderabad	364/2013	Liaquat Ali Jatoi vs. Imran Zaffar Leghari etc.	NA-233 Dadu-II (Old Dadu-III)
35	Abbottabad	207/2013	M. Azam Khan Swati vs. Sardar Muhammad Yousaf etc.	NA-20 Mansehra-I
36	Peshawar	294/2013	Muhammad Bashir Khan vs. Sahibzada Yaqoob Khan etc.	NA-34 Lower Dir
37	Abbottabad	112/2013	Pir Muhammad Aqal Shah vs. Muhammad Nazir Khan And Others.	NA-40 Tribal Area-V, North Waziristan Agency
38	Peshawar	354/2013	Muhammad Ali alias Ali Wazir vs. Ghalib Khan etc.	NA-41 Tribal Area-VI, South Waziristan Agency
39	Peshawar	170/2013	Nasir Khan vs. Ameer Haider Khan Hoti	NA-9 Mardan-I
40	Quetta	318/2013	Essa Roshan vs. Molvi Agha Muhammad etc.	NA-261 Pishin-cum-Ziarat
41	Quetta	77/2013	Ahmed Jan Khan vs. Mir Dostain Khan Domki.	NA-265 Sibi-cum-Kohlu-cum-Dera Bugti-cum-Hernai
42	Quetta	178/2013	Mir Abdul Raheem Rind vs. Khalid Hussain Magsi.	NA-267 Kachhi-cum-Jhal Magsi

Annexure B: List of Pending Cases for Punjab Assembly

No.	Tribunal	Petition No.	Title	Constituency
1	Rawalpindi	186/2013	Umer Tanveer vs. Malik Iftikhar Ahmed etc.	PP-10 Rawalpindi-X
2	Lahore	317/2013	Ch. Shafaat Hussain vs. Maj. (Retd) Moeen Nawaz Warraich	PP-109 Gujrat-II
3	Rawalpindi	189/2013	Ziaullah Shah vs. Raja Rashid Hafeez etc.	PP-11 Rawalpindi-XI
4	Lahore	238/2013	Mohammad Shoaib Siddique vs. Mohsin Latif	PP-147 Lahore-XI
5	Lahore	345/2013	Kh. Salman Rafiq vs. Dr. Murad Rass etc.	PP-152 Lahore-XVI
6	Faisalabad	129/2013	Hafiz Farhat Abbas vs. Mian Naseer Ahmed etc.	PP-155 Lahore-XIX
7	Faisalabad	127/2013	Ahsan Rasheed vs. Ch. Yaseen Sohail etc.	PP-156 Lahore-XX
8	Lahore	155/2013	Malik Zaheer Abbas Khokhar vs. Malik Saiful Malook Khokhar etc.	PP-160 Lahore-XXIV
9	Multan	100/2013	Abdul Jabbar vs. Abdul Waheed etc.	PP-196 Multan-III
10	Multan	171/2013	Malik Ghulam Abbas vs. Mehdi Abbas Khan etc.	PP-205 Multan-XII
11	Multan	247/2013	Syed Mukhtiar Hussain Shah vs. Akbar Hayat Hiraj etc.	PP-212 Khanewal-I
12	Bahawalpur	154/2013	Rana Irfan Mehmood Khan vs. Syed Hussain Jehanian Gardezi.	PP-213 Khanewal-II
13	Multan	402/2013	M Jamil Shah vs. Nawabzada Abdul Razzaq Khan Niazi etc.	PP-218 Khanewal-VII
14	Bahawalpur	167/2013	Rai M. Murtaza Iqbal vs. Ch. M Arshad Jatt.	PP-225 Sahiwal-VI
15	Multan	351/2013	Ch. Saqib Gujjar vs. Haneef Jatt etc.	PP-226 Sahiwal-VII
16	Multan	179/2013	Pir Ghulam Mohiuddin Chishti vs. Yousuf Kasilia etc.	PP-232 Vehari-I
17	Bahawalpur	111/2013	Muhammad Younas Iqbal vs. Malik Ghulam Murtaza Raheem Khar etc.	PP-253 Muzaffargarh-III
18	Bahawalpur	365/2013	Ch. Ahsanul Haq vs. Malik Ghulam Murtaza Rahim Khar etc.	PP-253 Muzaffargarh-III
19	Bahawalpur	163/2013	Ghulam Hussain Arshad vs. Muhammad Sibtain Raza etc.	PP-260 Muzaffargarh-X
20	Bahawalpur	320/2013	Syed Qaim Ali Shah Shamsi vs. Aamir Talal Khan Gopang	PP-261 Muzaffargarh-XI
21	Bahawalpur	235/2013	Sajjad Hussain Khan vs. Ijaz Ahmad etc.	PP-265 Layyah-IV
22	Bahawalpur	254/2013	Hasan Askari Sheikh vs. Syed Iftikhar Hasan Gilani.	PP-267 Bahawalpur-I
23	Rawalpindi	144/2013	Ch. Sajid Mahmood vs. Shaukat Aziz Bhatti etc.	PP-4 Rawalpindi-IV
24	Faisalabad	105/2013	Abdul Rauf Qureshi vs. Najeebullah Khan etc.	PP-48 Bhakkar-II
25	Faisalabad	Feb-13	M. Nawaz Khan Bharwana vs. M. Saqlain Anwar etc.	PP-76 Jhang-IV
26	Faisalabad	119/2013	Muhammad Ahmad Ludhianvi vs. Rashida Yaqoob etc.	PP-78 Jhang-VI
27	Faisalabad	208/2013	Mohammad Saeed Akhtar vs. Rashida Yaqoob etc.	PP-78 Jhang-VI
28	Faisalabad	32/2013	Abdul Ghafoor vs. Rashida Yaqub etc.	PP-78 Jhang-VI
29	Faisalabad	391/2013	Sheikh Danial Iqbal vs. Rashida Yaqub.	PP-78 Jhang-VI
30	Faisalabad	124/2013	Shahbaz Ahmad vs. Muhammad Aun Abbas Khan etc.	PP-83 Jhang-XI
31	Lahore	226/2013	Muhammad Nasir Cheema vs. Ch. Muhammad Ashraf Warraich etc.	PP-97 Gujranwala-VII

Annexure C: List of Pending Cases for Sindh Assembly

No.	Tribunal	Petition No.	Title	Constituency
1	Karachi	29/2013	Muhammad Abdul Rauf Siddiqui vs. Israr Ahmed Abbasi etc.	PS-114 Karachi-XXVI
2	Karachi	228/2013	Muhammad Aslam Abro vs. Sardar M. Muqem Khan Khoso.	PS-14 Jacobabad-II
3	Karachi	404/2013	Mir Raja Khan Jakhrani vs. Sardar Mukeem Khan Khoso & etc.	PS-14 Jacobabad-II
4	Karachi	390/2013	Arif Mustafa Jatoi vs. Abdul Sattar Rajper etc.	PS-22 Naushero Feroze-IV
5	Karachi	86/2013	Syed Zainul Abideen vs. Ghulam Qadir Chandio etc.	PS-27 Nawabshah-IV
6	Karachi	149/2013	Syed Ghaus Ali Shah vs. Syed Qaim Ali Shah.	PS-29 Khairpur-I
7	Hyderabad	341/2013	Mohammad Ismail Rahu vs. Mohammad Nawaz Chandio etc.	PS-59 Badin-Cum-Tando Muhammad Khan-III
8	Hyderabad	401/2013	Arbab Anwar Jabbar vs. Makhdoom Khalil-ul-Zaman etc.	PS-62 Tharparkar-III
9	Hyderabad	139/2013	Faqeer Jadam Mangrio vs. Syed Sardar Ali Shah etc.	PS-69 Umerkot-Cum-Sanghar
10	Hyderabad	202/2013	Liaquat Ali Jatoi vs. Parveen Aziz Junejo etc.	PS-76 Dadu-III
11	Hyderabad	157/2013	Sassui Paliyo vs. Syed Amir Hyder Shah etc.	PS-85 Thatta-II
12	Karachi	91/2013	Abdul Razzaq vs. Syed Hafeezuddin etc.	PS-93 Karachi-V

Annexure D: List of Pending Cases for Balochistan Assembly

No.	Tribunal	Petition No.	Title	Constituency
1	Quetta	362/2013	Abdul Qahar Wadan vs. Engineer Zamarak Achakzai etc.	PB-12 Killa Abdullah-II
2	Quetta	65/2013	Muhammad Nawaz Khan vs. Abdul Majeed Khan Achakzai etc.	PB-13 Killa Abdullah-III
3	Hub	82/2013	Sardar Haider Khan Nasar vs. Sardar Dur Muhammad Nasar etc.	PB-14 Loralai-I
4	Hub	141/2013	Sardar Shafiq Tareen vs. Sardar Dur Muhammad etc.	PB-14 Loralai-I
5	Quetta	Jun-13	Maulana Noorullah vs. Maulana Abdul Wasay etc.	PB-20 Killa Saifullah
6	Hub	305/2013	Muhammad Akram Baloch vs. Akbar Askani.	PB-50 Kech-III

Annexure E: List of Pending Cases for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly

No.	Tribunal	Petition No.	Title	Constituency
1	Peshawar	258/2013	Asif Iqbal Daudzai vs. Arbab Akbar Hayat etc.	PK-8 Peshawar-VIII