

August 3, 2010

Honourable Justice (Retired) Hamid Ali Mirza

Chief Election Commissioner
Election Commission of Pakistan
Constitution Avenue
Islamabad

Subject: **Seeking a clarification**

Sir,

The Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani addressed a public meeting in Kehror Pacca on August 2, 2010 to lend support to the candidate of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarian in the upcoming by-election in National Assembly constituency NA-155 Lodhran II. Earlier he had addressed another public meeting in Noshera Virkan on August 1, 2010 in support of another candidate in the by-election in the National Assembly constituency NA-100 Gujranwala-VI. In both these places the Honourable Prime Minister apparently used state resources as the Prime Minister of Pakistan to further the cause of a party and/or an individual which has nothing to do with his job as a state functionary. In both the places he also announced new development projects. A few months earlier, the Honourable Prime Minister had visited the constituency of another PPPP candidate in NA-178 Muzaffargarh-III where he had also addressed a public meeting in support of his party candidate and announced development schemes on the occasion. In all these occasions, to the best of our knowledge, the Election Commission of Pakistan did not take any notice. This has led us to seek this clarification whether Prime Minister's addressing an Election Campaign Meeting at state expense during a by-election and announcing development schemes after the election schedule is announced is a violation of any law or ECP Code of Conduct or not.

We will be grateful if you can answer or direct the concerned official of the ECP to answer this query. This clarification is important because we wish to propose some electoral reforms to the ECP in case the current laws do not prohibit such practices.

Warm regards,

Sincerely yours,



Ahmed Bilal Mehboob
Executive Director

Copy: **Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmed Khan**, Secretary, Election Commission of Pakistan