

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

Bill

Further to amend the Elections Act, 2017

WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Elections Act, 2017 (XXXIII of 2017) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.**- (1) This Act shall be called the Elections (Amendment) Act, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendments in section 2, Act XXXIII of 2017.**-In the Elections Act, 2017 (XXXIII of 2017), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 2,-

(a) after clause (i), the following new clause (ia) shall be inserted namely:-

"(ia) accredited, means authorized by the Commission":

(b) in clause (v), after the word "property" the words "including accounts receivable" shall be inserted;

(c) in clause (xvi), in sub-clause (b),-

(i) in paragraph I, after semicolon, the word "and" shall be added; and

(ii) in paragraph II, for the semicolon, a full stop shall be substituted and thereafter paragraph III along with proviso shall be omitted.

3. **Amendment in section 8, Act XXXIII of 2017.**- In the said Act, in section 8, in clause (b), after the word "paper", the words "before consolidation of results" shall be inserted.

4. **Amendment in section 9, Act XXXIII of 2017.**- In the said Act, in section 9, in sub-section (3), for the word "sixty", the word "thirty" shall be substituted.

5. **Amendment in section 11, Act XXXIII of 2017.**-In the said Act, in section 11, in sub-section (2), for the words "applicable laws and", the word "the" shall be substituted.

6. **Amendment in section 12, Act XXXIII of 2017.**-In the said Act, in section 12, in clause (c), after the words "women", the expression, "non-Muslims, disabled persons and transgender" shall be inserted;

7. **Amendments in section 13, Act XXXIII of 2017.**-In the said Act, in section 13,-

(a) in sub-section (4), in clause (a), before the word "scanned", the expression "without loss of any time," shall be added;

(b) in sub-section (5), after the word "Commission", occurring for the first time, the expression ", within twenty-four hours after the consolidation proceedings," shall be inserted; and

(c) in sub-section (6), after the word "shall", the expression ", within the time specified in sub-section (10) of section 95," shall be inserted.

8. **Amendment in section 14, Act XXXIII of 2017.**-In the said Act, in section 14, in sub-section (1), for the word "prepare", the word "finalize" shall be substituted.

9. **Amendment in section 15, Act XXXIII of 2017.**-In the said Act, in section 15, in sub-section (1), after the word "action", occurring for the third time, the words "but before the day of the poll" shall be inserted.

10. **Amendment in section 17, Act XXXIII of 2017.**-In the said Act, in section 17, in sub-section (2), for the full stop at the end a colon

shall be substituted and thereafter the following provisos shall be added, namely:-

"Provided that the delimitation shall be on the basis of equal number of enrolled voters in every constituency of respective Provinces:

"Provided further that the delimitation exercise shall be finalized at least four months prior to the notification of election programme."

**11. Amendments in section 20, Act XXXIII of 2017.-** In the said Act, in section 20,-

(a) for sub-section (3), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(3) As far as possible, variation in number of enrolled voters of constituencies of an Assembly or a local government shall not exceed five percent in any case.", and

(b) in sub-section (4), for the word "ten", the word "five" shall be substituted.

**12. Amendment in section 21, Act XXXIII of 2017.-** In the said Act, in section 21, after sub-section (4), the following new sub-section shall be added, namely:-

"(5) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Commission under this section may, within thirty days of the decision, prefer an appeal to the Supreme Court of Pakistan."

**13. Amendment in section 23, Act XXXIII of 2017.-** In the said Act, in section 23, after sub-section (2) the following new sub-section shall be added, namely:-

"(3) The Commission may appoint as many Registration Officers for discharge of functions under sub-section (1) and sections 25(3), 35, 37, 38 and 41.

**14. Omission of Sections 24, 26, 28 to 34, 36 and 44, Act XXXIII of 2017.-** In the said Act, sections 24, 26, 28 to 34, 36 and 44 shall be omitted.

**15. Amendments in section 25, Act XXXIII of 2017.-**In the said Act, section 25,-

(a) for sub-section (1), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"(1) In such manner as may be prescribed, the National Database and Registration Authority shall transmit relevant data of every fresh national identity card issued by it to the Commission for registration of card-holder as a voter in the electoral roll of the electoral area of permanent or temporary address, which is located within the jurisdiction of the office or center of the National Data Base and Registration Authority from where the person obtained his fresh National Identity Card (NIC) and subsequent change shall be subject to application by the NIC holder through biometric verification."

(b) in sub-section (2), after the word "voters", the comma and words "any change in the option indicated by a voter regarding place of his voting" shall be inserted.

**16. Substitution of section 35, Act XXXIII of 2017.-**In the said Act, for section 35, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"35. Final publication.- After every revision under section 23, the Registration Officer shall publish in the prescribed manner and form, the electoral roll for each electoral area after ensuring that all eligible citizens of eighteen years and above to whom have been issued NIC till date have been entered in the electoral roll of that area."

**17. Amendment in section 43, Act XXXIII of 2017.-**In the said Act, in section 43, for the words "to the Registration Officer