

[ ~~A S~~ INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ]

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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 may be called the Elections (Amendment) Act, 2019.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 206, Act XXXIII of 2017.-** In the Elections Act, 2017 (XXXIII of 2017), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 206, for the words "five per cent" the words "twenty five per cent" shall be substituted.

3. **Amendment of section 208, Act XXXIII of 2017.-** In the said Act, in section 208, in sub-section (1), in the first proviso, for the full stop at the end, a colon shall be substituted and thereafter the following new proviso shall be added, namely:-

"Provide further that fifty per cent of the office bearers of a political party at the Federal, Provincial and local levels shall be women."

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

Increasing women's representation in the Government can empower women and is necessary to achieve gender parity. This notion of women's empowerment is rooted in the human capabilities approach, in which individuals are empowered to choose the functioning that they deem valuable.

Women, as the conventional primary caretakers of children, often have a more prominent role than men in advocating for children, resulting in a "double dividend" in terms of the benefits of women's representation. Female Representatives not only advance women's rights, but also advance the Rights of Children. In National Legislatures, there is a notable trend of women advancing gender and family-friendly legislation.

Furthermore, a number of studies from both industrialized and developed countries indicate that women in Local Government tend to advance social issues. The greater women's representation has corresponded with a more equitable distribution of community resources, including more gender-sensitive spending on programs related to health, nutrition, and education. Hence, this Bill is intended to achieve the Objectives.

Sd/-

**MS. NOOREEN FAROOQ KHAN**  
Members, National Assembly