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448 women contesting for general seats

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Some 147 women will contest for the 105 National Assembly constituencies whereas 301 women are in the run for 203 for provincial seats, The Researchers (TR) executive director Aazar Ayaz says.

The Researchers is a research based national NGO that has been documenting women political empowerment especially their electoral participation since 2002 in Pakistan through election observation of women contested constituencies. The TR with its regional partners undertook similar initiative in Nepal and Bangladesh in 2008. For 2013 it joins hand with Pakistan Governance Forum (PGF) and Women and Politics in Asia Forum (WPAF) to bring out an analytical gender observation report focusing women in 2013. The report will contain primary data, historic co-relation and performance of women contestants in Election 2013.

According to the data accessed by the TR, the women contesting for NA are from:

| Provinces/Areas | Contesting Women | Constituencies |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Punjab | 90 | 66 |
| Sindh | 37 | 24 |
| Khyber Pakhtunkhawa | 14 | 10 |
| Balochistan | 3 | 3 |
| Islamabad | 2 | 1 |
| FATA (As first ever-female candidate) | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 147 | 105 |

21 political parties gave 60 tickets to women while 87 are in-

dependent candidates

2008 General Elections 73 64

7 political parties gave 41 tickets to women while 32 were independent candidates

2002 General Elections 58 48

12 political parties gave 38 tickets to women while 20 were independent candidates

For provincial assemblies the situation is:

| Provinces | Contesting Women | Constituencies |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Punjab | 169 | 116 |
| Sindh | 94 | 59 |
| Khyber Pakhtunkhawa | 27 | 20 |
| Balochistan | 11 | 8 |
| Total | 301 | 203 |

31 political parties gave 111 tickets to women while 190 are independent candidates

2008 General Elections 122 115

31 political parties gave 37 tickets to women while 85 are independent candidates

Total 119 101

20 political parties gave 52 tickets to women while 67 are independent candidates

In 2008, 195 Women contested elections as compare to 448 for 2013. In 2008, 25 women were elected on general seats and out of them 18 are contesting again.

Five women are contesting for more than one NA constituency while 6 are contesting for more than one provincial assembly seat. Sixteen women are contesting for both national and provincial constituencies.