

## Press Release

### Nation Elects 16 Women Representatives out of 463 Candidates that Entered Political Ring for 324 National & Provincial General Seats

#### The Researchers (TR)

The Researchers (TR) under its initiatives - Pakistan Governance Forum (PGF) and Women & Politics in Asia Forum (WPAF) - undertook observation of Election 2013 with a gender lens. This was in pursuance of organizations ten years effort to observe and document women role in electoral and the political process since 2002. Mr. Aazar Ayaz, the Executive Director, informed that a complete report focusing women performance in pre-poll, poll day and post poll phases will be launched as soon as ECP completes election result and government formation is completed.

**There were 150** women who filed nomination papers for National Assembly from **111** constituencies; of which **60** were on party tickets. For the provincial assemblies **313** women filed nomination papers from **213** constituencies out of which **115** were party ticket holders.

In the 2008, **16** women joined National Assembly and **10** at respective Provincial Assemblies on general seats. For 2013 elections, up-till now, **6** (3 Each from PML-N & PPPP) women have made it to National Assembly and **10** to the four Provincial Assemblies i.e. **8** in Punjab, **1** each in Sindh & Balochistan, whereas no women could win a general seat in Khyber Pakhtunkhawa. **Six female winners of 2008 National Assembly** could find their way back for 2013, along with **4** from Provincial Assemblies. Interestingly **2** women each from Punjab (Ms. Sumera Malik & Ms. Ghulam Bibi Bharwana) and Sindh (Dr. Azra Afzal Peechu & Dr. Fahmida Mirza) have made a hat trick of winning their seats in National Assembly since 2002. Whereas **two** women of 2008 Punjab Assembly (Ms. Nazia Raheel & Ms. Nagma Mushtaq) have been re-elected.

The National Assembly winners detail and comparison with 2008 is as follows:

National Assembly				2013		2008	
S. No	Province	Constituency	Name	Pol Party	Votes	Pol Party	Votes
1	Punjab	NA-69 Khushab I	Ms. Sumaira Malik	PML-N	118,108	PML-Q	61,076
2		NA-88 Jhang (Jhang Cum Chinniot)	Ms. Ghulam Bibi Bharwana*	PML-N	87,002	PML-Q	63,515
3		NA-102 Hafizabad I	Ms. Saira Afzal Tarar	PML-N	93,013	PML-N	56,313
4	Sindh	NA-207 Larkana IV	Ms. Faryal Talpur	PPPP	83,916	PPPP	Un- Opposed
5		NA-213 Nawabshah I	Dr. Azra Afzal Peechu	PPPP	111,667	PPPP	108,096
6		NA-225 Badin II	Dr. Fahmida Mirza	PPPP	110,684	PPPP	88,983

\* Ms. Ghulam Bibi Bharwana contested from NA-87- Jhang II in 2008 & 2002 on PML-Q Ticket

Among the winners Ms. Sumaira Malik of NA-69 Khushab 1 won by a margin of 38,253. She bagged highest number of votes 118,108 among women contestants; estimated voter turnout in her constituency was 61.72%. Ms. Faryal Talpur of NA-207 Larkana IV was second with 83,916 votes. She won by a margin of 63,438 in a constituency where voter turnout was 54.24%. Ms. Ghulam Bibi Bharwana from NA- 88 Jhang-Cum-Chinniot won by the margin of 18,152 votes but the voter turnout was 64.54% was highest among the six women winning constituencies.

The provincial Assemblies detail is as follows:

Provincial Assemblies				2013		2008	
S. No	Province	Constituency	Name	Pol Party	Votes	Pol Party	Votes
1	Punjab	PP-34 Sargodha III	Dr. Nadia Aziz*	PML-N	33,744	PPPP	16,723
2		PP-53 Faisalabad III	Ms. Iffat Miraj Awan	PML-N	44,018	-	-
3		PP-78 Jhang II	Ms. Rashida Yakoob	PML-N	42,194	-	-
4		PP-88 Toba Tek Singh V	Ms. Nazia Raheel	PML-N	36,622	PML-N	23,550
5		PP-101 Gujranwala XI	Mohtarma Riaz Amanat Ali Virik**	PML-N	24,413	-	-
6		PP-116 Mandi - Bahuddin	Ms. Hameeda Waheeduddin	PML-N	52,712	PML-Q	19,638
7		PP-Okara I	Samina Noor	PML-N	26,621	-	-
8		PP-206 Multan III	Ms. Naghma Mushtaq Lang	PML-N	43,050	PML-Q	28,109
9	Sindh	PS-109 Karachi XXI	Ms. Saniya	PPPP	53,926	-	-
10	Balochistan	PB-26 Jaffarabad II	Ms. Rahat Jamali	PML-N	12,521	-	-

\* In 2002 Dr. Nadia was PPPP candidate won the elections but she lost the seat in 2008. \*\*In 2008 & 2002 her husband Amanat Ali Virik was a candidate as Independent & from PML-Q respectively

Among the winners of Provincial Assemblies Ms. Saniya of PS-109 Karachi XXI, won by a margin of 44,054 votes besides bagging highest number of votes 53,926 casted with estimated voter turnout of 49.17% for her constituency. Ms. Rahat Jamali of PB-26 Jaffarabad II secured 12,521 votes, which is lowest number of vote taken among the winners. She won by a margin of 5,758 in a constituency where voter turnout is informed to be 40.25%. Ms. Rashida Yakoob, PP-78 Jhang II, winning margin was lowest i.e. 1,859 votes and the voter turnout was 51.93%.

Analyzing the results of 2013 women contested constituencies, Aazar Ayaz said "one factor has clearly emerged in Punjab that voters did cast their ballot for the party rather than the candidates as all the women candidates who have switched their parties were able to bag more votes than before or managed to win this time while they had lost the elections in 2008".

Mr. Ayaz appreciated ECP effort to collect and disseminate Gender Disaggregated data, which has happened for the first time in Pakistan. This is a good omen to document women role and will bring institutional focus to women issues in electoral processes. This will also provide space for advocacy with political parties to further mainstream women in political processes leading to their equitable share within political parties and institutional democracy. He informed that 2013 elections have been phenomenal for women from the perspective of number of candidates and voters by way of their political experience as large number of first timers women were given opportunity to contest under PTI and other parties.

In 2002 and 2008 elections many came from politically elite backgrounds, and could benefit from power

and privileges, but largely due to education as eligibility criteria. Removal of this criterion was seen to be damper for women being awarded party ticket and its first victim, among other reasons, was Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar who had been contesting on her father's seat. Women in KPK were threatened both as candidate & voters limiting their active political life. In Balochistan overall security threats hampered the whole process. Political parties in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa once again joined hands to bar women from voting.

However, there is still a long way to go, but if these elections are any indicator then the women of Pakistan have put down a marker unlike any. TR in coming days will come up with more interesting analysis and once the process of forming the Government is completed a comprehensive report on Women in Electoral Process will be issued.