

PRESS RELEASE

Over 151 Women Contesting on General Seats – The Researchers

Islamabad: December 27, 2007: The Researchers, a non-profit research based organization is undertaking observation of 64 selected national and provincial assemblies' constituencies (37 National, 27 Provincial) being contested by women in General Elections-2008.

In this regard The Researchers will field almost 400 electoral processes observer – both international and domestic – at constituency level. A comprehensive report covering pre-election, election-day and post-election period will be produced within one month of the completion of process. This project is first-ever documentation of its kind not only in Pakistan but in Asian region focusing exclusively on the observation of women contested constituencies.

As per the initial estimates, The Executive Director Mr. Aazar Ayaz said that 64 women candidates are contesting in 52 National assembly constituencies while 87 women are in the run for 79 provisional assemblies' general seats. This number is likely to increase once complete authentic information of all the constituencies is available from ECP which is in the process of being updated.

To date, the province-wise breakup of women candidates in Punjab is 41 in 35 constituencies in Sindh 15 candidates would be contesting from 12 constituencies, whereas in NWFP & Balochistan there are 3 each in 2 constituencies respectively, while for 1 constituency 2 candidates are contesting in Islamabad, he added.

NOTE: The TR will soon release the data by categorizing it as per political party.

About The Researchers

The Researchers (TR) is a research-based civil society organization with sister organizational linkages in 85 districts of Pakistan. TR is also the regional convener and secretariat of Women in Politics in Asia Forum (WPAF), which was established in the year 2005. Both TR & WPAF have been gradually moving towards their target of increased research-based documentation on women's political progress at national, regional and international level.

WPAF has its regional linkages through its country chapters in Thailand and South Korea with King Pradjadhopik Institute (KPI) and Korean Institute of Women in Politics (KIWP), respectively. The objective for the country chapters is to promote national research and cross-fertilize regional research focusing democracy and women's participation. The detail about TR & WPAF can be found at www.theresearchers.org & www.wpaf.org, respectively.

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