Consolidation in Afghanistan

The Cabinet Approved in Principle the Country's National Budget 2019

By: Mohammad Zahir Akbari

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It means one thing to conduct an election and make a transition to democracy or even conduct regular elections for years after transition. It also means another thing to have credible election that is generally accepted as free and fair by citizens and international community. Acceptability of election results by stakeholders would therefore increase the chances of consolidation of democracy. Since democratic consolidation is an embodiment of legitimacy of a civilian regime as well as recognition and respect of democratic institutions, fairness, and most credible elections must not therefore be an exception to these emboldments. The Widan Jegs elections held on 20 and 21st October, 2018, has been termed as a weak and mismanaged elections by most Afghan citizens. Politicians and people argue that, if national elections are not held in a free, fair, and transparent manner, they would have severe negative consequences for democracy. The implications of Electoral malpractices therefore manifest in issues such as distrust and outright violations of electoral act with impunity due to weak democratic institutions, electoral violence, ethnically-based politics, rampant corruption and governance, poverty and lack of internal democracy which is visible in incapacity factor in politics.

The moral foundation of the state in its capability to meet its obligations to the citizens, and citizens ability to obey the laws of the state has been questioned. As instructedly observed, these issues which have triggered electoral crises are mostly technical and logistical problems, however for many politicians, winning election is more important than results that occurs due to applications of violence as part of their overall campaign strategy. For Afghan politicians, it's either to gain an unfair advantage over their opponents, or to disrupt the process outright when it is clear that they are not the winning side of the divide. This makes democracy to remain dormant and uncontrolled; if troubling lead to minimal benefit emanating from it. This is therefore visible how free and fair the election is not the root cause of the problem. For the implications of Electoral malpractices therefore manifest in issues such as distrust and outright violations of electoral act with impunity due to weak democratic institutions, electoral violence, ethnically-based politics, rampant corruption and governance, poverty and lack of internal democracy which is visible in incapacity factor in politics.

Electoral malpractices: Implications on Democratic Consolidation in Afghanistan

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