Mohib to UN: Afghans Voted for Freedom

NEW YORK - "We all voted not just for a president, but we also voted for democracy. We voted for our Constitution. We voted for freedom and sovereignty. We voted for prosperity and connectivity. We voted for peace. We voted for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan," Mohib said. He also thanked the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces for protecting citizens during this historic vote. Because of their professionalism, most attacks that were intended to inflict casualties on civilians were averted," he added.

He said that Afghans are resolved in their commitment to democracy and peace but uncertainty lies with those who stand in the way of peace. "To the Taliban and their foreign sponsors, hear this news, a message from the Afghan people. Join us in peace, or we will continue to fight. And, as my colleague Ambassador Adela Raz said last week here at the United Nations: This is a fight we can win," he added.

He said Afghan-led initiatives such as the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process and the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan, are already paying economic dividends opening new frontiers for trade and the (More on P4).

Mohib to Afghan Security Advisor: IEC is independent legislature

Mohib said to the nation by the election commission about the fate of elections in Afghanistan. "I call on all the other honorable candidates to stop their street judgments and leave the IEC to determine the winner of the election. "I have heard that the head of election commission has said that they are not counting votes casted without biometric, we will make even her father to count it," Mohib said while speaking at the general session of the Upper House of Parliament.

Muslimyar Threatens IEC to Count Non-Biometric Votes

KABUL - Chairman of Afghanistan's Senate, Fazel Hadi Muslimyar said on Tuesday that he will force Afghanistan's Independent Election commission (IEC) to count non-biometric votes. "I have heard that the head of election commission have said that they are not counting votes casted without biometric, we will make even her father to count it," Muslimyar said while speaking at the general session of the Upper House of Parliament.

Muslimyar who is a front row supporter of President Ashraf Ghani's team made the remarks after the IEC leadership announced on Monday that the commission was decided to inval all non-biometric votes. "I want to question even a single vote without biometric verification," he added.

On Monday, Abdullah Abdullah, Ghani's main rival claimed victory and called on electoral management bodies to validate only the biometric votes. Meanwhile, another presidential candidate Mohammad Qasim Fahim also responded that by law it is only the election commissions that will announce the winner of the election. "I call on all the other honorable candidates to step their street judgments and let Afghan like other civilized nations of the world have a formal judgment by the institutions that are authorized to issue the verdict, which is the Independent Election Commission and the Electoral Complaints Commission," Fahim said.

IEC Secretariat Blamed for Technical Problems, Withholding Data

KABUL - Independent election observers on Monday blamed the secretariat of the Afghan Election Commission for the technical issues in Saturday's presidential elections, as well as for not communicating polling information quickly or consistently. According to the observers, officials from the IEC secretariat failed to share details of the polling centers with the election commission and this led to an "information gap" among the IEC members.

"We want them to be accountable as an institution," said Nusrat Rahili, head of the Fair and Free Election Forum of Afghanistan (FEFA). Along with failing to inform the list of voters, the IEC commission did not tackle the issue of the biometric systems, Rahili said. "Workers were assigned who did not have enough experience, and inexperienced people face problems," said Sayed Javad Hashimi, an election observer, referring to many reported incidents of problems with the biometric systems. "From a technical and operational perspective, the secretariat is responsible for the delivery of election materials and other logistical concerns are among their key responsibilities," said the leadership of the IEC secretariat, which is accountable to the IEC. "We are committed to the transparency of the elections."

The IEC secretariat chief says that the reporting on election numbers was too broad and not continuous. "The secretariat is responsible for gathering all reports and then referring them to the election commission for approval. The secretariat is responsible for sharing the report with the public, too. The numbers that were shared with the nation by the election commission about (More on P4).

IEC National Tally Center Starts Functioning

The national tally center is the most important department within the IEC that determines the fate of elections in Afghanistan. Mohib said that it is the only source for the announcement of the elections result; therefore, all candidates must await for the official announcement.

He also urged all candidate agents and electoral observers to view tallying and processes at IEC.

At the same time, Hawa Alam Nuristani the Chairperson of IEC called on all offices to respect the announcement of final result. Despite of (More on P4.).

Afghan Security Advisor Meets with UN Secretary General

NEW YORK - National Security Advisor Hamidullah Mohib on Monday met with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in New York and discussed Afghan elections, the security situation, and prospects for peace, Mohib's office said. The UN SG expressed his strong commitment to Afghanistan's enduring peace and stability. Mohib on Monday addressed the 74th session of the United Nations Assembly where he said that almost three million Afghans voted in the country's presidential elections on September 28 despite the "threat of terrorism."

"We all voted not just for a president, but we also voted for democracy. We voted for our Constitution. We voted for freedom and sovereignty. We voted for prosperity and connectivity. We voted for peace. We voted for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan," Mohib said.

Also in New York, Mohib met with the foreign minister of Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov, and discussed bilateral issues, regional stability, development, and cooperation in the region. Mohib highlighted Turkmenistan's role in Afghanistan's regional projects, Mohib's office said. (Telos News)