

## PRESS RELEASE

### Massive rigging in Karachi and Hyderabad cities during the general elections 2024. More than two-third of the sitting members of legislatures lack popular mandate.

Islamabad, 18 October 2024. A new comparative audit methodology of election results reveals massive rigging in Karachi and Hyderabad cities during the General Elections 2024. The report highlights that runner-up/losing candidates were declared winners through doctoring Form-47 in the fifteen national constituencies in Hyderabad and Karachi, the largest urban centres in the province of Sindh.

Ahead of the contentious 26<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments Bill, whose draft allegedly is not even known to ministers till today, PATTAN-Coalition 38 intends to remind the people that more than two-thirds of the sitting members of legislatures lack popular mandate. Hence have no right to amend the Constitution was passed through a free and fair election as well as unanimously. Moreover, an incomplete parliament which lacks women's and minorities' constitutional and whose many members have allegedly been under constant harassment or coerced to accept hefty amounts to vote for the controversial must not attempt to amend it.

Therefore, civil society strongly rejects every attempt by the ruling coalition to amend Pakistan's Constitution and electoral laws.

Our network has been providing proof of gerrymandering and electoral fraud to the stakeholders since the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 through a rigorous audit of the electoral record of the Election Commission. Our new comparative audit methodology strongly substantiates the previous findings too.

Our results (see attached table) show massive discrepancies and fraudulent counting on all the audited fifteen seats as candidates backed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) won each of these elections, yet other candidates belonging to Mutahida Quami Movement Pakistan (MQMP) and Pakistan People's Party were declared the winners by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). This raises serious questions about the legitimacy of the current parliament and its right to pass lasting changes to the Constitution through the proposed amendment which will significantly affect fundamental rights of all Pakistani citizens. We urge the judiciary, lawyers, political parties, media, and civil society to ensure and demand that the people's mandate is restored before any amendments to the Constitution are allowed.

Based on our audit of these constituencies, we report the following findings:

1. Overall, PTI-backed candidates were comfortable winners on all these fifteen seats, with a winning margin of more than 30,000 votes on most seats despite low-turnout trends in Hyderabad and Karachi. Thirteen of these seats were fraudulently awarded to MQMP, while the other two were awarded to PPP;
2. The range of votes received by PTI-backed candidates was between 15,789 on NA-244 (81% verified) and 77,885 on NA-241 (94% verified).
3. The range of votes received by the PTI opponents was between 2600 votes in NA-235 (99% verified) and 24,252 in NA-220 (64% verified).
4. The MQMP and PPP's votes were fraudulently increased dramatically in all seats, with a range of additions from 13,679 on NA-244 (81% verified) to 94,541 on NA-248 (49% verified) The PTI votes were also slightly altered in Form-47.

Our audit process involved collecting the polling station level results (Form-45), which are completed inside every polling station on Election Day and signed by the polling agents, for the following constituencies: NA-219, NA-220, NA-232, NA-233, NA-234, NA-235, NA-241, NA-242, NA-243, NA-244, NA-245, NA-247, NA-248, NA-249, NA-250.

Both comparative methodologies of audit not only substantiate findings of each other but also establish that nearly two-thirds of ruling coalition MPs had lost elections and have no legitimacy to amend the Constitution. We appeal to all segments of society to speak out against the controversial amendment in the Constitution by a tainted and incomplete parliament.

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#### About PATTAN-Coalition38

PATTAN is one of the leading civil society organisations of Pakistan and has been working to empower marginalised classes to make state and govt bodies accountable for improving governance of elections, disasters and rights. Currently, PATTAN is the secretariat of Coalition38 - a largest network of CSOs, labour unions, CBOs, and intellectuals.

Coalition38 aims to influence the state institutions for the implementation of Articles 3; 29; 37, and 38 of Pakistan's Constitution in letter and spirit through research, awareness raising, social mobilization, networking of civil society including marginalised people and women.