



RASSED Statement on the Guarantees of Decentralization and Municipal Elections' Integrity

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- **RASSED: A pre-printed ballot with candidates' names and photos enhances the elections integrity.**
- **RASSED requests the government to support the Independent Elections Commission.**
- **RASSED praises the Independent Elections Commission efforts on the executive instructions.**

In the context of monitoring and evaluating the entire stages of the electoral process, RASSED emphasizes the importance that the decentralization and municipal elections integrity guarantees and compatible with international standards and best practices regulating the electoral process, and in the same context RASSED praises the efforts done by Independent Elections Commission (IEC) efforts when the IEC sent a request to the Legislative and Opinion Bureau regarding printing the pre-printed ballot in advance which is the methodology used since 2013 parliamentary elections, as RASSED team held a meeting with the IEC and discussed the legal and logistical challenges facing printing pre-printed ballot with candidates' names and photos that facilitates the polling process and enhances its integrity. RASSED also urges the government to intensify the efforts of applying the integrity guarantees to be an effective support to the IEC to execute a fair, free, and transparent elections, moreover RASSED call the related government bodies to review all legal possibilities enabling the commission to print pre-printed ballot including candidates' names and photos and requests the government to review and benefit from the experience and Fatwa that faced the IEC in 2013 parliamentary elections.

The statement indicates that no democratic country worldwide adopted the pre-printed ballot and dropped the practice, especially that allowing voters to write the candidates name on pre-printed ballot contributes the practice of illiterates voting which facilitates votes buying that effects the integrity of the entire electoral process, RASSED as a monitoring organization and a partner in developing and enhancing the electoral reform ensures that al the needed efforts will be vested to emphasize applying integrity guarantees and especially the in advance pre-printed ballot.



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In the same context, RASSED praises the effort made the IEC to include the campaign ceilings in the executive instructions dedicated to the electoral campaigns stage of candidates and building a work plan that involves the national institutes and the IEC to have the mandate on controlling electoral campaigns expenditures during decentralization and municipal elections to minimize the money influence on voters, moreover the IEC should monitor the financial declarations and publish it to public.

The report shows that the executive instructions forms a road map for the elections and its development is a key part in the production of transparent, fair, and free elections. The lessons learnt from 2016 parliamentary elections must be taken into considerations and the executive authority needs to provide all necessary financial and technical support to the IEC to develop the electoral process, especially that we are in a reform process that needs collaboration of all related bodies and enhance positive networking and promote transparency to develop the electoral reform process.