



The New Line Organization (NLO) Press Release

Date: 29/07/2016 Kabul Afghanistan

Subject: Election Reforms Joint Committee's accomplishments

The New Line Organization, is an electoral observing institution, that monitors establishment of the Election Reforms Joint Committee, an appropriate alternative to mend the previous shortcomings in reforming the electoral system and laws of the country, but regrettably, the deadline set by the government was missed without any tangible results. This proves lack of commitment and intention of the national unity government to amend the electoral system and laws. Otherwise; instead of issuing several decrees and their rejection by the parliament, the government and the parliament could have worked together to develop and approve a reform plan based on the high interests of Afghanistan so that concrete steps would have been taken to hold elections on time. Unluckily, the inconclusive efforts of the committee has made the citizen as well as the NLO worried about uncertain future of elections.

In addition to expressing its concern, the NLO recommends the following points to be observed:

- 1- Bearing in mind the time limitation, the NLO believes the government will not be able to conduct parliamentary elections this year, however as an alternative the government should take preparations for holding the parliamentary and district council elections
- 2- The parliament, as the entity which reflects public intention should cooperate with the government of Afghanistan to hold free, fair and transparent election so that no more time and money shall be waste.
- 3- The NLO is in favor of get-together of all civil society organizations, political parties, national and influential figures to press the government through advocacy and make the electoral reforms a top priority for the government.
- 4- In order to ensure transparent elections, the government should avoid any sort of obvious and out of sight interfere in elections and take practical measures in regard to issuing electronic IDs to citizens.
- 5- If the efforts of the joint committee does not produce any results and the parties do not reach an agreement, the parliament, as per their authority, could pass the relevant presidential decree by two third; the presidential decree should be decided upon as soon as possible or another alternative solution should be introduced, the result of which should be announced to all afghans as well as election observation organization

In conclusion, the NLO requests all political parties and electoral CSOs to unite and act towards realization of electoral reforms and free fair, and transparent elections in the country and prevent the demagoguery by the government and the legislative force.

We believe in youth, the generation of change and development, and work for free fair, and transparent elections.

Sincerely Yours

The NLO