



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL - PAKISTAN

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Honorable President
President House
Islamabad

**Subject: Transparency International Pakistan's Concerns and Recommendations on Elections
Amendment Bill 2026 – Restricting Public Access to Parliamentarians Asset Statements,
Undermining Political Integrity and Legislative Transparency**

Dear Sir,

Transparency International Pakistan would like to seek your attention to recently introduced Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2026 in the National Assembly of Pakistan, restricting public access to parliamentarian's asset statements. The amendment if sailed through the Senate of Pakistan will undermine political integrity and legislative transparency.

The current framework enshrined in Sections 137 and 138 of the Elections Act 2017, provides an essential framework for public oversight by mandating the submission and publication of assets and liabilities statements of the Members of the National Assembly and Senate, in line with global best practices on legislative transparency. However, the proposed amendments risk weakening this mechanism that allows citizens to provide oversight into the financial integrity of public office holders, as quoted below:

137. Submission of statement of assets and liabilities.—(1) *Every Member of an Assembly and Senate shall submit to the Commission, on or before 31st December each year, a copy of his statement of assets and liabilities including assets and liabilities of his spouse and dependent children as on the preceding thirtieth day of June on Form B.*

138. Publication of statement of assets and liabilities.—*The Commission shall publish in the official Gazette the statements of assets and liabilities received by it under section 137 and any person may obtain copies of a statement of assets and liabilities on payment of prescribed fee.*

Crucially, the proposed amendment is also in contravention to Pakistan's progress made under the IMF Governance and Corruption Diagnostic (GCD) report on Pakistan. One of the 15 core benchmark recommendations within the GCD report focuses on improving integrity of senior civil servants by publishing asset declarations. Pakistan has made significant strides on this through the passage of Civil Servants (Amendment) Bill, 2025 by Senate, which mandates civil servants in grades BPS-17 to BPS-22 to publicly declare both their domestic and foreign assets, including those of their immediate family members. By moving to restrict similar disclosures for Parliamentarians, the Election (Amendment) Bill, 2026 creates an uneven application, where the executive branch is held to a higher standard of transparency than the legislative branch.

Furthermore, Pakistan's performance on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), published by Transparency International, is a critical metric used by international investors, the World Bank, and the IMF to assess the country's commitment to the Rule of Law. In all the eight sources used to calculate Pakistan's score on CPI, accountability of the public office holders is the central theme of the questions asked from the experts. On two of the sources, the PRS Group International Country Risk Guide and the World Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment, experts are asked to assess: Transparency, accountability and corruption in the public sector and legislators, and the proposed amendments in the Elections Act may result in lowering the score of Pakistan in future Corruption Perception Index (CPI) of Transparency International.

Additionally, as a State Party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), ratified by Pakistan in August 2007, Pakistan is bound by the resolutions adopted at the 11th Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) held in December 2025 at Doha. Specifically, Resolution on political finance

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transparency, laying down the set of principles agreed at UN-level to promote accountability in funding of political parties and campaigns.

Restricting access to asset declarations is a direct regression from the global consensus that public disclosure is the most effective tool to prevent illicit enrichment and conflicts of interest in the political sphere.

Transparency International Pakistan requests the Honorable President that the Election (Amendment) Bill, 2026, restricting public access to Parliamentarians asset statements shall be withdrawn and stopped, to ensure that a strong law regulating asset disclosures of Parliamentarians is in place in line with global best practices.

TI Pakistan is striving for across the board application of Rule of Law, which is the only way to stop corruption and achieve zero tolerance against Corruption,

Best Regards

Advocate Daniyal Muzaffar
Trustee/Legal Advisor
Transparency International Pakistan

Copies forwarded for the information with request to take action under their mandate to:

1. Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan, PM House, Islamabad
2. Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Islamabad
3. Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Islamabad
4. Chairman, Senate of Pakistan, Islamabad
5. Leader of the Opposition, National Assembly of Pakistan, Islamabad
6. Leader of the Opposition, Senate of Pakistan, Islamabad
7. Chief Election Commissioner, ECP, Islamabad
8. Chairman, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)
9. Chairman, Pakistan Muslim League (N)
10. Chairman, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI)
11. Convenor, Mutahida Qaumi Movement (Pakistan)
12. Amir, Jamaat-e-Islami
13. President, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-F (JUI-F)
14. President, Awami National Party (ANP)
15. President, Balochistan Awami Party (BAP)
16. The President, Balochistan National Party (BNP-M)