



PRESS RELEASE

The Electoral Complaints Commission Issues a Sanction for Misuse of Government Resources August 10, 2009

The Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) announces the issuance of a fine of 75,000 Afs. to Muhammad Karim Khalili, the second Vice President of Afghanistan and a candidate for the Vice Presidency of Hamid Karzai. The respondent was found to have violated Article 53(r) of the Electoral Law; and Articles 6.2 and 7.4 of the IEC Election Campaign Regulation.

Muhammad Karim Khalili used Ministry of Defense helicopters for campaign purposes without following the policy established by the Independent Election Commission for the use of government helicopters by all candidates.

Presidential Candidates may use Ministry of Defense helicopters for campaign purposes **by way of formal application through the IEC. Presidential Candidates are requested to contact the IEC for further information.**

The ECC reminds government officials about the need to remain impartial during the remainder of the electoral campaign

The ECC is investigating a number of complaints regarding the behavior and conduct of government officials and the misuse of government resources during the election campaign and expects to be announcing its decisions shortly. As the campaign period is coming to its conclusion the ECC reminds all government officials of Article 7 of the IEC regulation on Electoral Campaign, which states:

Government Departments Officials should observe the following points during electoral campaigns:

- Avoid direct or indirect intervention in favor of or against a certain party or candidate while on duty;*
- Avoid intervention in meetings, gatherings, and peaceful rallies;*
- Avoid preferential behavior such as explicit criticism against or support for a candidate;*
- Avoid using government facilities in favor of or against a candidate;*
- Avoid removing or destroying posters and other materials and publicity means of candidates.*

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