



## **RESOLUTION NO. 562**

### **Acknowledging that:**

The Constitution of Pakistan upholds the right to vote for every citizen of Pakistan;

The Constitutional duty assigned to the Election Commission of Pakistan to conduct free and fair elections is contingent upon inclusivity and ensuring the participation of all regions and people;

The voter turnout in colder areas remains notably high during moderate weather conditions;

January and February are recognized as the coldest months in a majority of the areas of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa;

Various groups and political parties have expressed significant reservations regarding anticipated difficulties in ensuring the participation of residents in cold areas during the electioneering process

### **Noting with great concern that;-**

**Recent incidents, including the foiled attempts on the lives of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and former MNA Mr. Mohsin Dawar, as well as threatening calls targeting Awami National Party's Provincial Chief Mr. Aimal Wali Khan and other political figures, have raised concerns about the safety of political leaders;**

**The Ministry of Interior has conveyed serious threats to the lives of prominent politicians, further exacerbating the challenges faced by political parties in exercising their right to free and fair election campaigning;**

**There has been a marked increase in attacks on security forces and citizens claiming precious lives particularly in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan Provinces. The intelligence agencies have warned of militant attack threats on election rallies in the two provinces;**

-:2:-

**Increase in attacks targeting both security forces and civilians, resulting in the loss of valuable lives, particularly in the northwestern region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan Provinces;**

**Alerts issued by intelligence agencies, indicating imminent threats of militant attacks on election rallies within the aforementioned provinces may have potential impact on the safety of citizens and the democratic electoral process;**

**Cognizant of the resurgence of the Covid-19 virus in the country and health sector's concerns about potential further spread;**

Reaffirms that while holding the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan regarding the elections date in the highest esteem for the Upper House of the Parliament, the Senate of Pakistan, being the defender of the rights of all federating units, **is obligated to ensure the constitutional guarantees and to alleviate fears of the smaller provinces especially vulnerable geographical territories;**

**The Senate of Pakistan hereby RESOLVES that,-**

**Conducting elections without addressing legitimate concerns, facilitating sufficient opportunities for election campaigns, and guaranteeing the safety of politicians and citizens would amount to a violation of the fundamental right to vote and political participation, as safeguarded by the Constitution of Pakistan;**

The Elections scheduled for 8th February 2024 may be postponed to facilitate the effective participation of people from all areas of Pakistan and belonging to all political shades in the electioneering process. This delay aims to protect and uphold their constitutional right to political participation;

The Election Commission of Pakistan is urged to promptly implement the postponement and ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place to facilitate the smooth conduct of elections on the revised date;

The process of filing of nomination papers and scrutiny shall continue with the revised/extended timelines;

-:3:-

The Election Commission of Pakistan shall engage proactively with relevant stakeholders, political parties, and communities in to address their concerns and foster an environment conducive to free and fair elections.

The Senate of Pakistan **EXPRESSES** confidence in the ability of the Election Commission of Pakistan to effectively manage and oversee the revised election schedule, ensuring the integrity and fairness of the electoral process.

Moved by Senator Dilawar Khan on his behalf and on behalf of Senators Manzoor Ahmed, Prince Ahmed Umer Ahmedzai, Naseebullah Bazai, Sana Jamali and Others Passed by the Senate of Pakistan Islamabad, Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.