

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

No.F.16(1)/2024-Legis

Islamabad, the 29th February, 2024

All Members of the
National Assembly of Pakistan

Subject: ELECTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Madam/Sir,

The National Assembly at its meeting to be held on **Sunday, the 3rd March, 2024** shall, to the exclusion of any other business proceed to elect without debate one of its Muslim members to be the Prime Minister.

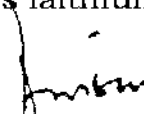
2. Any member may propose or second the name of any Muslim member for a candidate for election of Prime Minister. The nomination paper signed by the proposer, the seconder and by the candidate stating that he has consented to the nomination shall be delivered to the Secretary, National Assembly **by 2.00 p.m. on Saturday, the 2nd March, 2024.** The Speaker shall, in the presence of the candidates or their proposers or seconders who wish to be present, **scrutinize the nomination papers at 3.00 p.m. on the same day in the Chamber of the Honourable Speaker.**

3. The voting shall be recorded in accordance with the procedure set out in the Second Schedule to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007. The detailed procedure for election as provided in rules 32 to 35 alongwith the copy of the Second Schedule is attached herewith for your perusal and information.

4. The nomination papers can be obtained from the Legislation Branch.

With regards.

Yours faithfully,


(TAHIR HUSSAIN)
Secretary General

THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, 2007

- 32. Election of the Prime Minister.**- (1) After the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker following a general election or whenever the office of the Prime Minister falls vacant for any reason, the Assembly shall, to the exclusion of any other business, proceed to elect without debate one of its Muslim members to be the Prime Minister.
- (2) Any member may propose or second the name of any Muslim member for election as Prime Minister, hereinafter referred to as the candidate.
- (3) Every proposal shall be made on a separate nomination paper in the form set out in the First Schedule and shall be signed by the proposer and seconder and also by the candidate stating that he has consented to the nomination.
- (4) A candidate may be nominated by more than one nomination paper, but no member shall subscribe to more than one nomination paper, either as proposer or as seconder.
- (5) Every nomination paper shall be delivered by the candidate or his proposer or seconder to the Secretary by **2.00 P.M.** on the day preceding the day on which the election of Prime Minister is to be held.
- 33. Scrutiny.**- (1) The Speaker shall, in the presence of the candidates or their proposers or seconders who may wish to be present, scrutinize the nomination paper and may reject a nomination paper if he is satisfied that-
- (a) the candidate is not a member of the Assembly;
- (b) any provision of rule 32 has not been complied with; or
- (c) the signature of the proposer, the seconder or the candidate is not genuine:
- Provided that---
- (a) the rejection of a nomination paper shall not invalidate the nomination in respect of a candidate by any other valid nomination paper; and
- (b) the Speaker shall not reject a nomination paper on the ground of any defect, which is not of substantial nature and may allow any such defect to be remedied forthwith.
- (2) The Speaker shall endorse on each nomination paper his decision accepting or rejecting it and shall, in case of rejection, record briefly the reasons therefor.
- (3) The decision of the Speaker accepting or rejecting a nomination paper shall be final.
- 34. Withdrawal.**- A candidate may withdraw his candidature at any time before the election takes place.

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35. Poll.- (1) Before commencement of the poll, the Speaker shall read out to the Assembly the names of the validly nominated candidates who have not withdrawn, hereinafter referred to as the contesting candidates, in the order in which their nomination papers were received and proceed to hold the poll in accordance with the procedure set out in the Second Schedule.

(2) If there is only one contesting candidate and he secures the votes of the majority of the total membership of the Assembly, the Speaker shall declare him to have been elected.

(3) If there is only one contesting candidate and he fails to secure the votes of the majority of the total membership of the Assembly, all proceedings shall commence afresh.

(4) If there are two or more contesting candidates and if no contesting candidate secures such majority in the first poll, a second poll shall be held between the candidates who secure the two highest numbers of votes in the first poll and the candidate who secures a majority of votes of the members present and voting shall be declared to have been elected as Prime Minister:

Provided that, if the number of votes secured by two or more candidates securing the highest number of votes is equal, further poll shall be held between them until one of them secures a majority of the votes of the members present and voting.

PROCEDURE FOR RECORDING OF VOTES

1. Before voting commences, the Speaker shall direct that the bells be rung for five minutes to enable members not present in the Chamber to be present. Immediately after the bells stop ringing, all the entrances to the Lobby shall be locked and the Assembly staff posted at each entrance shall not allow any entry or exit through those entrances until the voting has concluded.
2. Before commencement of the poll, the Speaker shall read out to the Assembly the names of the validly nominated candidates who have not withdrawn, in the order in which their nomination papers were received and proceed to hold the poll. The Speaker shall ask the members who wish to vote in favour of the candidate to pass in single file through the entrance where tellers shall be posted to record the votes. On reaching the desk of the tellers, each member shall, in turn, call out the division number allotted to him under the rules. The tellers shall then mark off his number on the division list simultaneously calling out the name of the member. In order to ensure that his vote has been properly recorded, the member shall not move off until he has clearly heard the teller call out his name. After a member has recorded his vote, he shall not return to the Chamber until bells are rung under paragraph 3.
3. When the Speaker finds that all the members who wished to vote have recorded their votes, he shall announce that the voting has concluded. Thereupon the Secretary shall cause the division list to be collected, count the recorded votes and present the result of the count to the Speaker. The Speaker shall then direct that the bells be rung for two minutes to enable the members to return to the Chamber. After the bells stop ringing, the Speaker shall announce the result to the Assembly.