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ORDINANCE NO. I OF 2022

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ORDINANCE

*further to amend the Elections Act, 2017*

WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Elections Act, 2017 (XXXIII of 2017) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

AND WHEREAS, the Senate and the National Assembly are not in session and the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action:

NOW THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 89 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance namely:-

1. **Short title and commencement.**— (1) This Ordinance shall be called the Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendments of section 181, XXXIII of 2017.**— (1) In the Elections Act, 2017 (XXXIII of 2017), after section 181, the following new section 181(A) shall be inserted, namely:—

“181A **Act to have overriding effect.**—Notwithstanding anything to the contrary under this Act, rule or code of conduct or any other law, a member of Parliament (Majlis-e-Shoora), provincial assembly or elected member of Local Government, including member holding any other office under the Constitution or any other law shall, subject to sections 170 clause (a) sub-clause (v), 175 (h), sub-section (1) of section 180, 181 and 182, may visit or address public meetings in any area or constituency during election campaign.”.

## STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASONS

Restrictions to participate in election campaigns, on elected representatives as well as office bearers of political parties holding government portfolios, warrant to be removed based on following justifications: -

- i. Providing ample opportunities to the parties for projection of their manifestos in the interest of general public during election campaigns;
- ii. Freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Constitution may not be jeopardize by placing such restrictions relating to elections;
- iii. All the contestant parties may be given level playing field in election campaigns by ensuring equal opportunities to all and to strengthen the party based elections.
- iv. To preserve peoples' right to information from all the contestants about their manifestos and programmes for their betterment;

2. Accordingly, there has been persistent demand of elected representatives as well as overwhelming number of voters that the elected representatives including Members of Senate, National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and office bearer of political parties may interact with the voters during elections.

3. This Bill is designed to achieve the aforesaid objectives.

**Murtaza Javed Abbasi,** )  
**Minister for Parliamentary Affairs**