

June 25 , 2010

**REPORT  
OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC  
CENTRAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION  
ON THE ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT OF THE NKR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ELECTIONS OF MAY 23, 2010**

Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly  
Distinguished deputies, partners

According to Part 3 of Article 42 of the NKR Electoral Code let me draw your attention to Central Electoral Commission report on the organization and conduct of May 23, 2010 NKR National Assembly elections of the 5<sup>th</sup> convocation.

Since there was a change in the ratio of the proportional and majoritarian system of the NKR National Assembly according to which 17 deputy mandates were allocated to proportional system and 16 to majoritarian, so the Central Electoral Commission aiming every administrative unit in the respect of a region be submitted to the highest representative body of the country, in July, 2009, in the National Assembly formed 16 constituencies equal to the number of the National Assembly parliamentary seats under the majoritarian system.

According to the provisions of the NKR Electoral Code, since 2010 only those NKR citizens having right to vote have been involved in the electoral commissions who had participated in the professional training courses for conducting of the elections prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission and received qualification certificates.

In pursuance of these requirements of the Electoral Code, Central Electoral Commission in March-April 2010 organized such training courses in Stepanakert and regions according to sub regions, in case of necessity, by several streams. By the results of the training courses 2540 qualified specialists were prepared for the inclusion of the precinct electoral commissions.

After the appointment of regular elections to the National Assembly to be held on May 23 by NKR President on February 5, 2010 and after approving the working plan and schedule of the preparation and conduct of NKR National Assembly elections on February 12, Central Electoral Commission embarked on the implementation of various events for the organization of the elections.

An essential part of the preparatory work was the ensurance of the documents of the National Assembly elections, thus the maintenance of the adoption of sub legislative normative acts in compliance with the requirements of the Electoral Code. The Central Electoral Commission developed, approved, received relevant state registration in the NKR Ministry of Justice and all the necessary instructions, procedures, forms, clarifications, comments, forms of protocols and others- more than 60 documents were sent to the performers such as electoral commissions, communities, region administrations, ministries and concerned services.

"The Manual" was published and provided to the electoral commissions, parties and headquarters of the candidates which included methodological

guidelines for conducting of the elections, instructions and the most important decisions of the Central Electoral Commission.

The NKR Electoral Code has been published and provided to the organizers of the electoral process, observers and representatives of mass media with amendments and supplements made in March of this year.

The work of the voter lists of the parties under the proportional system, and nomination of the candidates and registration under the majoritarian system were carried out within the terms prescribed by the Electoral Code. The Central Electoral Commission registered all the four parties nominated under the proportional system "Azat Hayrenik" "Artsakh Democratic" "NK Communist" and "Armenian Revolutionary Federation", and the Territorial Electoral Commissions 44 deputy candidates nominated under the majoritarian system four from which later withdrew their candidacies after submitting applications of rejection.

272 precinct electoral commissions were formed in the Republic from the persons who had participated in the professional training courses and received qualification certificates for organizing the voting, as well as one precinct electoral commission was formed in Yerevan in the NKR permanent representation in the Republic of Armenia.

As is well known, according to Electoral Code, NKR Police has been compiling and leading the voter lists since 2007. A few months prior to the National Assembly elections the NKR Police authorities introduced a new computer program of forming the voter lists: the voter lists were formed on its basis and within the time limit on April 13 were posted in the polling stations for public awareness, the work of corrections of which lasted more than two months.

However, the numbers of the voters in the final lists which were published and posted in the polling stations two days prior to the elections, especially in Stepanakert, didn't correspond to the numbers pointed in the notifications which had already been distributed to the voters, and some names of the residents of some multi apartment buildings had been left out from the voter lists. It caused some difficulties in the work of the precinct electoral commissions, and numbers of voters not finding their names in the voting lists, didn't take part in the voting. 690 voters 482 from which in Stepanakert, restored their suffrage by the procedure prescribed by the Electoral Code, thus, on the basis of the statement of the Police and court judgement and participated in the voting.

For finding out of all these reasons the leadership of NKR Police appointed service investigation in the result of which the guilty were punished.

The NKR Government decision of March 31, 2010 on the support to the electoral commissions had an important role in the respect of the technical support the performance of the duties of which greatly contributed to the organized and proper conduct of the elections relevant to the requirements of the Electoral Code.

In the process of the preparation and conduct of the elections an essential phase was the pre-election campaign which had been allocated a period of a bit more than a month according to the Electoral Code. The Central Electoral Commission on the basis of the requirements of the Electoral Code had conducted discussions with the representatives of the parties and candidates for defining the procedure for holding the pre-election campaign, had taken onto account their recommendations, had directly

informed the heads of the communities and state officials about the duties of local self-government and state bodies in the respect of the campaign. Other organizational and explanatory work had been implemented, which, in our opinion, partly contributed to the organization of the work in accordance with the prescribed procedure by those who were responsible for pre-election campaign.

It can be noted that the pre-election campaign had generally been conducted in a calm, civilized sphere which is, in public opinion, the result of the stable, healthy moral atmosphere created in the Republic by the efforts of the Republic President in the recent years, behavior of tolerance, cooperation and constructive criticism, which had also noticed and appreciated the international observers.

It should be noted that the parties were carrying out their pre-election campaign relevant to the defined procedure, in the context of political competition, mainly through discussions around their projects.

There was some tension in some constituencies, during the organization of the meetings with the candidates under the majoritarian system especially with the voters according to the place of residence, but, fortunately, due to the taken measures, such cases didn't and even couldn't manage to serious contradictions among various sections of population.

During the preparation and conduct of the National Assembly elections a great attention was drawn to the organization and conduct of the voting. The Central Electoral Commission, in accordance with the procedure of the requirements of the Electoral Code, established the forms and the recitals of the ballots for the elections of the candidates under the proportional and majoritarian systems in time, those samples were delivered to the electoral commissions and polling stations for the voters to get familiar with. The same notation V(-shaped) mark in the ballots by the voter was re-established. In order to exclude the duplicates or falsification of the ballots, the Central Electoral Commission had ordered and issued them with protective watermark.

The electoral commission, mass medias under the leadership of the requirements of the Electoral Code, were carrying out work to ensure the publicity of the National Assembly elections. The sessions of the Central and Territorial Electoral Commissions, their most important decisions, all the events and generally their activities were widely covered on Public Television and Radio, on RA TV and newspapers, on 'Azat Artsakh' republic newspaper as well as on municipal and regional newspapers. Great many interviews, press conferences and live broadcasts on the Public Radio and Public Television of the Chairman and other members of the Central Electoral Commission were organized. Visual materials provided by the Electoral Code thus, wallpapers on the election theme, wallpaper on 'Voting Procedure', samples of the ballots, the electoral lists of the parties, additionally, majoritarian candidates' biographies were developed, published and delivered to all the polling stations and were posted there in order the voters get acquainted with. A video on the procedure of the voting was regularly being broadcasted on TV for more than a week, the updated website and internet connection was functioning. The press center of the Central Electoral Commission, on the social bases, performed a necessary work in the respect of the clarification of the preparation of the elections of the recent days, the voting process on the voting day and then, the results of the voting. It should be noted that NKR National Assembly elections were of great interest as in neighboring countries so in the

international community.<sup>22</sup> local and 124 international observers from the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Canada, Argentina, Germany, France, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Slovakia, the Netherlands, Iran, CIS countries, Armenia, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, the Transnistrian Moldovan Republic had been accredited in the Central Electoral Commission and assumed a mission to observe the voting process. The process of the voting were covered by more than 70 journalists from different countries.

The observers and journalists had an opportunity to observe the voting process in almost all the constituencies of Stepanakert and regions on the voting day, they were at around 180 polling stations. On the common belief of the observers and journalists, which had been protocolled in the relevant conclusion submitted to the Central Electoral Commission and in numerous publications of mass media, Artsakh parliamentary elections, in fact, were conducted in a fair, transparent and democratic manner, which was another step of shared norms rooting of democracy in our country and progress on the development way.

The parliamentary elections of May 23 stood out by active participation. Dislike some fear of pre-election period our voters showing civil maturity and high organization proper to an Armenian, took an active participation in the voting. 66771 voters participated in the parliamentary elections, which conceded the indicator of the former parliamentary elections by 200 voters.

I would like to speak about the receipt of the complaints from the citizens during the process of the preparation and conduct of the National Assembly elections and the results of those discussions. In the first phase of the preparation of the elections the citizens, political parties and candidates applied orally to the Central and Territorial Electoral Commissions as the raised issues were mainly of organizational and technical nature and after the interference of the electoral commissions they got an effective solution, and the gaps or shortcomings were removed.

In the period of May 22 to May 25 we received only 5 written applications two in the Central Electoral Commission, one in the Territorial Electoral Commissions of Stepanakert and Martakert. One of the applications was on the requirement of appealing the voting results and recounting of the ballots in the polling station and the others referred to spreading campaign materials and violations of the voting procedure.

Central and aforementioned Territorial Electoral commissions discussed all those complaints in accordance with the prescribed procedure and term, took measures to remove the cases of violations of the voting procedure. A recount of ballots was done in one polling station and it was assured by the results that minor inaccuracies revealed during the recounting did not effect on the voting results in the given constituency.

It should be noted that no one applied for the NKR Supreme Court with the disputes relating to the results of the elections under the proportional and majoritarian system.

Four political parties and forty four candidates to deputies who had submitted applications and had been registered for participating in the elections, paid deposit: the political parties in the amount of 500.000, candidates 100.000. The electoral deposits were returned to the three political parties which had received mandates in the National Assembly under the proportional system, as well as to the elected deputies and candidates who had received more than 5 percent votes, and the electoral deposits of one

political party and five candidates who had not received necessary votes by the results of the held elections should be transferred to the state budget according to the prescribed procedure.

The four registered political parties and 37 of 44 candidates founded pre-election funds. The total amount of the payments made in the pre-election funds of the political parties has compiled 11018.0 thousand drams, and the expenditure 10971.4 hundred and the incomings in the candidates' funds has compiled 6588.1 thousand drams and the expenditure 6512.4 hundred drams. Other means in the funds compiled 122.3 hundred drams, which should also be transferred to the state budget, unless it is used for charitable purposes in the period of the prescribed three-month time.

At present, the Central Electoral Commission is studying all the details of the organization and conduct of the NKR National Assembly elections of the fifth convocation, means are being developed in the direction of removing the noticed gaps and shortcomings, developing the experience of work of preparation and conduct of the elections which is one of the most important institutes of democracy, improving the electoral processes and, in case of necessity, developing recommendations referring to making amendments in the Electoral Code and submitting it to the National Assembly's discussion.

Thank you.

**NKR Central Electoral Commission  
Chairman**

**S. Nasibyan**