



# IEC to Announce Parliamentary Election Date Next Week

KABUL - Independent Election Commission (IEC) will announce the parliamentary election date next week, Ahmad Yousuf Nuristani, head of IEC said Monday. Head of IEC says that the government is accountable to people if does not provide the expenses of election. Nuristani considered the President's decree on formation of selecting committee illegal, citing he will continue to his work as long as the government force him to get out of the commission.



"The selecting committee is illegal, introduction of new commissioners is also illegal," said Ahmad Yousuf Nuristani, head of IEC. Meanwhile, Nuristani noted that the commission will announce the date of Parliamentary election next week and the government is obliged to provide the expenses of election. Nuristani regarding to the work of IEC commissioner said that any commissioner who does not want to work can resign. (ATN)

## 20 Afghan Businessmen Attend Punjab Int'l Expo

KABUL - Embassy of India in Kabul in partnership with Kabul Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) and PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industries (PHDCCI) facilitated the participation of a delegation of 20 Afghan businessmen from Afghanistan to attend buyer sellers meet in conjunction to Punjab International Expo held in Amritsar from

December 04 to 06, 2015. During the three-day event, intensive meetings between buyers from Afghanistan and sellers from India took place and nearly 20 business deals were made. This laid the ground for further negotiations on marketing, product placement, logistics, payments, and other details around an actual ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

## Ulomi Praises Special Forces Following Embassy Attack

KABUL - Minister of Interior, Noorulhaq Ulomi, addressed a press conference on Monday afternoon where he praised the Afghan special forces for their efforts to eliminate the insurgents who attacked the Spanish Emba-

sy compound last week. The incident occurred on Friday night after one insurgent detonated a car bomb, blowing through a wall in the compound. This opened the way for three others to enter. ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

## UN Envoy Lauds Iran's Role in Afghanistan Development

TEHRAN - The UN Secretary-General's special representative and head of the UN assistance mission in Afghanistan lauded Iran's "significant role" in peace and development of its neighboring Afghanistan. Talking to IRNA on the sidelines of 'Heart of Asia' conference in Islamabad, Nicholas Haysom said,

"Iran is an important neighbor and one of the most important neighbors of Afghanistan and we believe it has played a significant role in regard to the economic development of the war-torn country. "Iran has played a major role in the economic development, particularly ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

## Kabul's Air Pollution at Alarming Levels

KABUL - With the onset of winter, the vast majority of people in Afghanistan have turned to burning coal and wood to heat their homes - a move that seriously impacts the quality of air.

In densely populated Kabul, this is of serious concern to environmentalists who say air pollution is worrying in the capital. Afghanistan's Environment Watch and other environmentalists warn that unless government does something to improve air quality, people's lives will be in danger. "Unfortunately mechanisms and systems which are used in heating are not standard and the government does not have processes in place to lower air pollution in winter," said Najat Malik Yar a member of Afghanistan's Environment Watch. Investigations show that high levels of toxic particles - up to 1000 mg per cubic meter - have been recorded in Kabul. Anything over 300 mg per cubic meter is considered harmful to people's health, said experts.



Environmentalists warn that with a toxic reading of these levels, other countries would declare an emergency. "While the environmental protection department is directly responsible for the health and ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## Recent Attacks a 'Slap in the Face of Peace Process': HPC

KABUL - High Peace Council (HPC) said Sunday that any move which causes a threat is "a slap in the face of peace", referring to recent attacks that hit Afghan cities last week.

Last week, Kabul-Islamabad agreed to restart the stalled peace talks with the Taliban following months of tension between the two neighbors. Attacks in other areas have killed and wounded more than 100 people ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## Large Volumes of Afghan Heroin Transit Turkey to Balkans, Further to EU: Russia

MOSCOW - Large shipments of Afghan heroin are transited Turkey into the Balkan states and on into the European Union, the head of Russia's Federal Drug Control Service said Monday. "In this case, the trafficking of oil coincides with the trafficking of narcotics, only they are being sent

to different directions. If Afghan heroin is passing through Turkish territory and further on to the territories of the Balkan states and then on to the European Union, then oil is flowing into Turkey," Viktor Ivanov told journalists. Moscow Could Raise Issue of Sanctions ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

### Islamic Republic of Afghanistan: Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (MRRD): National Solidarity Program (NSP) Request for Expressions of Interest (REoI) For International Individual Consultant: Operations Advisor (Reference # MRRD/NSP III/CN/114)

Country: Afghanistan  
Ministry: Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (MRRD)  
Type: Individual (International) Consultant  
Project ID: P117103  
Grant #: TF 098459-AF or any other NSP grant as may be available  
Issue Date: 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2015  
Closing Date: 05<sup>th</sup> January, 2016

#### I. General Introduction:

The National Solidarity Program (NSP) is the largest of the Afghanistan Government's national programs and is one of the largest community driven development program in the world. The Program is implemented by the Afghanistan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and is currently into its 13<sup>th</sup> year of implementation its and 3<sup>rd</sup> phase.

NSP consists of four core elements:

- Facilitation at the community level to assist communities establish inclusive community institutions known as Community Development Councils (CDCs);
- Building the capacity of CDCs and community members;
- Providing direct block grant transfers to fund approved subprojects; and
- Linking CDCs to government agencies, NGOs and donors to improve access to services and resources.

By the end of NSP III, i.e. September 2016, the NSP proposes to cover around 35,600 communities with a first round of block grants and around 11,800 communities with a repeater block grant. The oversight and management of the NSP is handled by a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) comprising 1 HQ and 34 provincial management units. The HQ offices comprise two directorates and 9 departments. The PIU also contracts a firm to serve as its Financial Management Agent (FMA). NSP's field facilitation of the communities is contracted to 31 firms, including NGOs, a UN agency and some private firms that form the NSP 'Facilitating Partners' (FPs). The communities, through elected CDCs, themselves are the Implementing Partners.

#### II. Introduction to the NSP's Operations Directorate

The NSP PIU is managed by an Executive and an Operations Directorates. The Executive Directorate focuses on strategy, policy formulation, donor relations, fund raising and overall oversight of the Program. The Operations Directorate focuses on operational policies, work and budget planning and field implementation. The Operations Directorate directly manages the 10 HQ departments which include finance, procurement, administration, human resources management and training, management information systems, public communications (together called "Support Departments"), community capacity development, engineering, FP management, and monitoring and evaluation (together called "Program Departments"). Outside the Departments, the Directorate directly oversees the Gender, Environmental and Social Safeguards Office, and the Field Operations and High Risk Area Units. It also directly oversees the work of the 34 provincial offices and 31 FPs. It oversees budget implementation of US\$ 1.35 billion for NSP III, and an average budget of US\$ 250 million per year.

#### III. Roles and Responsibilities of the Operations Adviser

##### A. NSP Strategic & Operational Framework:

- Assist the Director of Operations in strategic management of the program by outlining medium and short term program implementation plans - this includes, but is not limited to, advising on the design of special projects, roll-outs and overall budgets and work plans.
- Support the operations directorate in the last year of NSPIII implementation, closing and ensure that all operational issues are flagged and resolved in a timely manner.
- Compile data; monitor, analyze and report to the NSP management on adherence to the NSP III closure plans. Make revisions to the work and budget plans as per actual implementation progress on the ground.
- Support NSP management to prepare the Client's (MRRD's) Implementation Completion Report (ICR) for the NSP III.
- Work closely with the Director of Operations in preparing, reviewing and providing feedback on proposed policies, proposals and project documents submitted to the Directorate of Operations; provide key inputs and where necessary lead on the development of similar items by the Directorate of Operations.
- Analyze the operational components of the program and highlight and analyze strengths and challenges in an ongoing manner; develop comprehensive recommendations upon request to the Director of Operations on how to leverage the strengths and address the challenges.
- Compile inputs from FPs and field offices and prepare Operational Manual revisions for NSP III if required.

Complete ToR is available in the NSP and ACBAR Websites

##### V. Qualification Requirements:

**Academic Qualifications:** At a minimum, a master's degree in project management and/or a related field is required. A PhD in a relevant field is preferable.

**Work Experience:** A minimum of 6 years of direct operations experience in large scale and large budget development programs is required. At least 2 years of experience in development programs related to CDD, local government, working in high risk areas, rural development and/or service delivery etc. is required. Prior experience in Government at a senior/advisor level in Afghanistan is considered preferable.

Previous applicants should NOT re-apply.

##### Submission of Expression of Interest:

Expressions of interest (EoI) must be delivered to the address below or by E-Mail to the ID shown below no later than **05<sup>th</sup> January, 2016**. The subject line (of the email or the cover letter if submitted in person) should refer to the position being applied both by title and by the reference number stated in this document. Note: No telephone inquiries will be entertained.

Previous applicants should NOT re-apply.

##### Address of Focal Person for Enquires and Submission of EoIs:

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