



MEDIA RELEASE

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITOR / CHIEF REPORTER

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New Voter List is Highly Accurate, Says Independent Audit

Dhaka: A nationwide independent audit of Bangladesh's electoral roll with photographs, conducted by Washington-based International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), has found that 100 percent of names on the list were found to be legitimate voters and 99 percent of eligible voters are included on the list.

The independent audit consisted of two nationwide surveys sampling nearly 17,000 individuals of voting age across the country. It has concluded that the list has been compiled with a high degree of accuracy.

The external audit found that the voter list was geographically uniform, suggesting that the registration process was administered evenly throughout the country.

The audit reported that photographs were of good quality and will help ensure that all voters have the opportunity to exercise their voting entitlement in the upcoming election.

The independent audit also found that more than 99 per cent of respondents had confidence in the accuracy of the voter list and gave positive evaluations of the voter registration process.

The results indicate that the list is of comparatively very high quality compared to international standards and that the voter list is a significant improvement from all previous voter lists.

The report stated that the independent audit "found [Bangladesh's] voter list to be highly accurate in capturing the information of registered voters, and also...the voter registration process was extremely effective in ensuring the registration of voting age adults... The high rate of accuracy in the voter list is encouraging for the electoral process in Bangladesh."

The independent audit was designed, supervised and analyzed by international election experts Mr. Peter Erben, Mr. Luis Martinez Betanzos, Mr. Rakesh Sharma, Mr. Michael Yard, and Ms. Rola Abdul-Latif of IFES, the world's premiere election assistance organization working in more than 100 countries.

The audit was conducted from September 15 to November 2, 2008, using statistical sampling methods with a $\pm 1.5\%$ margin of error.

The independent external audit was sought by UNDP following the electronic registration of over 80 million people in the span of just eleven months.

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For further information please contact: Mr. A M Sakil Faizullah, Communications Manager, UNDP via email: sakil.faizullah@undp.org, ph: +88 02 811 8600, ext. 2417, mob: +88 01713 049900