

PARTICIPATION OF MINISTERS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

PRESS RELEASE

Rao Muhammad Akhtar - Press Secretary

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PROF. KHURSHID AHMAD



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Islamabad (July 04, 2005): Senator Professor Khurshid Ahmad has expressed anguish on the report that some 80 Federal and Provincial Ministers, Ministers of State belonging to the PML(Q) and its associates and another over 100 MNAs, Senators and MPAs are planning to contest elections for Nazims in different Provinces.

“There cannot be a bar for any one to contest election for Nazim”, Prof. Khurshid Ahmad pointed out, “but it is highest form of dishonesty that elected Nazims and Naib Nazims have been relieved and caretakers appointed on the ground that sitting Nazims’ participations in election would influence the outcome of elections.”

“What justification can there be for Ministers, Ministers of State, MNAs, Senators and MPAs to contest elections without resigning their positions first”, he asked.

“If the Government wants to maintain even the semblance of impartially and transparency in elections, all those Ministers and Members of the Parliament or Provincial Assemblies who want to contest local bodies elections, must resign and be at par with other candidates in the contest otherwise this would be a blatant effort at elections rigging and direct interference by the Government through its Ministers and parliamentarians in the elections and the whole exercise is bound to lose its credibility, which is already seriously dented by the appointment of caretakers belonging to the establishment, major re-demarcations of constituencies and transfers of public servants and police personnel”, he concluded.
