

UNAMA**United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan**

Strategic Communication and Spokespersons Unit, Kabul, Afghanistan

Transcript<http://unama.unmissions.org>**PRESS ENCOUNTER TRANSCRIPT****The United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Ján Kubiš****(near-verbatim; edited for clarity)****Polling Centre at Malalai Girls High School – Saturday, 5 April 2014**

Ján Kubiš: This is a very good day for Afghanistan and I would like to congratulate the people of Afghanistan. This is a really very historic moment and I'm very much encouraged and touched by the people of Afghanistan because now we are receiving reports – of course, it's too early to say – but still, we are receiving reports that many people are showing their wish to vote.

They are queuing in places all around the country. This is indeed both a signal and manifestation of the maturity of the people of Afghanistan. They know that they have – and you know that you have – the fate, the future, of yourselves and your country in your hands.

Also it's a truly Afghan characteristic that despite the weather, despite problems, despite challenges, despite threats and intimidation, you decided, in good numbers according to the preliminary reports, to come and vote for your future.

This is the true Afghanistan and people of Afghanistan. They are showing their resolve and braving the bad weather and intimidation, and I very much admire this show of character.

I hope that everything will work well. I hope that people will come and will vote for their candidates – whoever that is, and candidates for the Provincial Council – in good numbers, and I hope that, at the end of the day, we will be able to say this really is a historic moment, opening a totally new chapter for the country.

And I also hope that the respective electoral institutions will be adequate to meet this challenge of the people coming to vote. The preparations have been good, but now the challenge is there – I hope that there will be enough ballot papers in all the polling stations, that they will be open in spite of the weather, and open for the a chance for the people to vote.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Reuters: What's your take on the transparency of this process? Do you believe this process will be a transparent one and that there won't be any violations and any fraud?

Ján Kubiš: This is a requirement. In our discussions with both the Independent Election Commission and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission, we are urging these two bodies to work in full transparency. We have been doing it before and we are doing it now, as well. And I can tell you that both chairmen of these two commissions are telling us 'yes, we are working and will be working in a fully transparent way because this is one of the most important elements that will instill confidence in the process, but (also) in the results.' That's why, yes, transparency is very important.

Tolo News (translated from Dari): What's your message to the candidates? Because the results are not yet out but they are making claims of fraud. What would be your message?

Ján Kubiš: My message to the candidates is, first of all, guide your supporters not to commit fraud in your name. There are many supporters and many of them are in a position to facilitate fraud. So they should guide all the supporters – also through their agents, through their representatives, through domestic observers – that they should work as well to prevent fraud.

And the second (point) is – because, indeed, nowhere in the world is there a perfect election, there are always some problems – report problems. And if there is fraud then report fraud to the respective institutions, and request them to act accordingly with the laws and regulations of the country, and give them time to adjudicate before making public complaints and before stirring up certain emotions.

Give trust to the system. The system and structures are there and, therefore, we need to give them a chance to operate. And here again, the question of transparency of the work of these two electoral institutions is very important, and it is necessary that the candidates and the public request full transparency from these two institutions when they adjudicate complaints. Tashekor.