

STATEMENT

On April 30, 2010 the Election Committee (EC) for the 2010 elections of MCA-Armenia Program's Stakeholder Committee (SC) and Governing Council (GC) representatives of civil society was formed. If in the past all the Election Committees were composed of seven members, this one included all the 13 applicants, which was a surprise for many. Following the first voting it was clear that seven of the EC members were affiliated with one party. Thus, in fact:

1. Six different layers of the civil society were represented each by one vote, while one layer was represented by seven votes.

Being unable to coordinate and organize the EC activities the Committee was deemed to inaction for around 18 days and only 3 days prior to the elections summoned its first working meeting (the first formal session was held on April 30th, at which also the Committee chair was elected). Before the first formal working session the Committee had organized so called working meetings with the participation of some EC members and several violations occurred during those meetings.

2. The working meetings were organized without voting on their dates and agenda.

We, the below signing EC members, attempting to participate in these working meetings and monitor the actions of some of the members, observed the following:

3. Reviewing in content of the first folder that contained 79 of the received applications we noticed that in 63 of them different deficiencies were present. However, the EC chairperson and secretary as well as some of the EC members considered that on 21 of these were to be qualified as deficient. We tried to remind them that the applications should be filled in fully in order to be considered valid. Anyway, they thought that some of the application items were not that important and could be missing.
4. Following the working meeting the EC chairperson called the applicants whose application he qualified as invalid and made correction in the applications endorsing those by his signature. These actions were not voted for in the Committee, in the same way as the determination of which application was valid and which one-not. I would like to emphasize that the Election Procedure requires sending back the deficient applications.
5. One more important circumstance-during the session, the SC assistant Victoria Grigoryan let it known that not all the corrections made by the EC chairperson were based on telephone calls as some of the applicants told V.Grigoryan that they did not receive any calls.

As already mentioned the first formal session was summoned three days before the elections. The first agenda item was the approval of the work-plan. It turned out that in those few days the Committee should have undertaken works that were planned for 20 days. Following the approval of the so-called action plan some of the EC members started a series of violations:

6. It was decided to consider the partial completion of item 1.3 of the Procedure as acceptable.
7. It was decided that in case item 2.4 was not filled in the application is considered to be fully completed.
8. The same was decided in respect of item 1.6.

9. It was decided to accept one of the applications tentatively, something not referred to in any way in the Procedure.
10. It was decided to refuse two more applications that were filled in with deficiencies, but the 5-day period of removing those was not ensured.
11. The ballot paper included the name of Gabriel Balayan as a voter, which is unacceptable given that:
 - 11.1 The latter's application was received later than the submission deadline.
 - 11.2 The latter's application was filled in with deficiencies (including the missing CV of the applicant), which were corrected only after he was registered as a candidate.
12. The ballot papers includes the name of Sona Harutyunyan, whose application was also deficient with the copy of the applicant organization registration certificate missing. This flaw was corrected only after Sona Harutynyan was registered as a candidate.

Given the above noted facts, we, the below signing EC members, refuse to sign the final minutes summarizing the results of the elections and declare that:

1. Based on the above described obvious electoral violations the elections could not have been considered legitimate;
2. Section 3.3.6. required that the ballots were signed by all the members of the Election Committee, which did not happen because of the mentioned reasons and in respect with which the relevant statement was made. Thus, the ballot papers could not be considered legitimate and it could not have been allowed to use them for the elections.
3. We, the below signatories, not accepting the results of these appalling elections require that the results of these elections that are a far stretch from legitimacy, be canceled and annulled, and new elections announced.

Signed by:

EC member V.Asryan

EC member Tatevik Avagyan

EC member Lilit Kamalyan

EC member Lilit Kamalyan, authorized representative of Amalya Balabekyan