

Corrigendum and Clarification

Central Executive Committee Elections 2026 (Term 2026–2028)

Issued pursuant to the direction of the Directorate General of Trade Organizations | Sunday, 30 August 2026

1. Background

On 27 August 2026 the Secretary General placed before the Directorate General of Trade Organizations (DGTO), vide letter Ref. No. P@SHA/SG/2026-27/0210, the decision of the Central Executive Committee of 26 August 2026 on the distribution of the ten general seats between the Corporate and Associate classes, and sought the Regulator's feedback.

The DGTO has issued a detailed clarification, with the approval of the Regulator (Trade Organizations), setting out the mandatory legal requirements governing this election. That communication has been placed on the official record of the Secretariat and of the Election Commission. This notice conveys its effect to the membership.

Members are reminded that, under Section 32 of the Trade Organizations Act 2013 and Article 15 of P@SHA's Articles of Association, the Act and the Rules made thereunder prevail over anything to the contrary in the Memorandum, the Articles, or any internal decision of the Association.

2. Revised allocation of the ten general seats

The allocation of 08 Corporate and 02 Associate seats, announced on 29 August 2026, **stands withdrawn**. The DGTO has held that an 8:2 division disproportionately disenfranchises the Associate class, and has directed that the seats be re-adjusted to an equitable and legally compliant ratio. The requirement in Rule 21(5)(b) of the Trade Organizations Rules 2013 and Article 10(b) of the Articles of Association that at least fifty per cent of the Committee be from the Corporate class is a statutory floor, and not a basis for restricting the representation of the Associate class.

The Regulator has directed that the allocation fall within a range of 6 Corporate : 4 Associate to 7 Corporate : 3 Associate. From within that range the Election Commission has, in its meeting of 30 August 2026, duly approved an allocation of **07 Corporate and 03 Associate seats**. This preserves the Corporate majority required by Rule 21(5)(b) while restoring meaningful representation to the Associate class. The ten general seats accordingly stand allocated as follows:

Class	Registered voters	General seats
Corporate	351	07
Associate	197	03
Total	548	10

The two seats reserved for women entrepreneurs remain additional to these ten seats.

3. Nominations — proposer and seconder must be of the same class

Under Rule 18(9) of the Trade Organizations Rules 2013 read with Rule 21(5)(c) and Article 10(c) of the Articles of Association, a candidate for a Corporate seat must be proposed and seconded by registered voters of the Corporate class, and a candidate for an Associate seat by registered voters of the Associate class. A nomination proposed or seconded across classes is invalid and is liable to be rejected by the Election Commission in scrutiny under Rule 18(11).

The Election Commission has verified that every nomination in the list of candidates displayed on 29 August 2026 satisfies this requirement, each candidate having been duly proposed and seconded by registered voters of their own class. The list of candidates is therefore unaffected.

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4. Two-year bar on former members of the Committee

Rule 21(15) of the Trade Organizations Rules 2013 provides:

“On completion of term, office-bearers and members of the executive committee shall not be eligible to contest election or co-option in any representative capacity in the trade organization for the next two years.”

Any person who served as a member of the Central Executive Committee, or as an office-bearer, during the term 2024–2026 is therefore not eligible to contest these elections. The Election Commission applied this bar in its scrutiny under Rule 18(11), and the candidates in the list displayed on 29 August 2026 are accordingly compliant.

5. Ballots, voting and verification

- Separate and distinctly identifiable ballot papers, with distinct serialised counterfoils, will be issued for each class at every polling centre. A Corporate member may vote only on the Corporate ballot and an Associate member only on the Associate ballot.
- Marking more candidates than the seats available on a ballot voids that ballot.
- Marking fewer candidates than the seats available does **not** invalidate a ballot. Rule 19(10) provides that no ballot paper shall be invalid for failure to have cast all votes on all seats contested for in the election.
- Voting is in person by secret ballot. Postal ballots, proxies and electronic or remote votes are not admissible under Rule 18(1).
- Every voter must produce an original CNIC or original Passport. Identity will be verified against the specimen signature record and photograph held under Rule 15. Photocopies and digital images will not be accepted.
- Polling will be held simultaneously at all three notified centres — Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Lahore and Karachi.

6. Seats reserved for women entrepreneurs

The position is unchanged. Two seats are reserved for women entrepreneurs in addition to the ten general seats. The electoral college for these seats is the newly elected Central Executive Committee, and polling for them follows the election of the general seats. A woman representative retains the full right to contest a general seat of her own class on merit. Under Rule 21(8), a reserved seat that remains vacant cannot be filled by a member of any other category.

7. Election of office-bearers

For the information of members and of candidates, the newly elected Committee will elect the office-bearers subject to two statutory conditions: under the second proviso to Rule 21(2), the Chairman and the Senior Vice-Chairman may not be from the same Province; and under Rule 21(10) read with Articles 10(h) and 19 of the Articles of Association, they may not belong to the same class of membership.

8. Schedule

The notified schedule is unchanged and the list of candidates displayed on 29 August 2026 stands. Polling will be held on Thursday, 17 September 2026 and the final list of candidates will be displayed on Saturday, 12 September 2026. All Elections 2026 material is published at <https://www.pasha.org.pk/elections-2026/>, and the complete Election Schedule 2026 remains available at <https://www.pasha.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/PASHA-Election-Schedule-2026-signed.pdf>.

Queries may be addressed to the Election Commission at electioncommission@pasha.org.pk, with a copy to sg@pasha.org.pk.

Issued by the order of the Election Commission

Syed Ali Abbas Hasani



Syed Ali Abbas Hasani

Secretary General

Pakistan Software Houses Association for IT & ITES (P@SHA)

Dated: Sunday, 30 August 2026