

The usual procedure was that an objection to the result of the elections of the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce is made, and often accepted, dissolving the board elected by the merchants which expresses their wishes in the choice of the persons they believe will exert efforts in order to provide different services to merchants.

The reasons for acceptance of the objection is because of administrative mistakes in the election procedures, which will lead in the end to judicial ruling revoking the election results. These factors led "Business Today" to ask important questions on how to avoid making any mistakes in the procedures of next elections, that will take place on 13 June, in order not to be subject of objection.

After it was decided that it will be conducted on 13 June

Merchants propose a plan not to accept objections to the next elections

Fairness in the application of procedures and participation of merchants is the doorway to sound elections

Mr. Abbas Zaki, Chairman of the Cairo Chamber of Commerce, confirmed that they prepared the election lists, that will allow for fair elections that cannot be contested.

He added that voting right is granted to all merchants who paid subscriptions and completed procedures and legal documentation, whose which now total 17 thousand.

Mr. Zaki called for the necessity of taking required measures, so that the elections of the Cairo Chamber of Commerce, scheduled for June 13, would be extremely fair. This will enable each merchant who meets the criteria to give his vote in utter freedom, indicating that we all abide by the regulations defined by law. Dr. Zaki asked the merchants to attend the election of a board that represents their real

desires, in addition to the necessity of registering the companies' delegations, so that the legal criteria are met upon voting.

He referred to the objections in the previous elections which were due to inquiries into some regulations and procedures, used by some people to object to the elections. He also referred to the necessity of completing the procedures and all regulations and conditions in order to achieve fair elections that no one can ever object to.

Linkage

Dr. Nader Riad, Board Member of the Cairo Chamber of Commerce indicated that the elections of the chamber are not subject to suspicion, because this entity is known for its continuous success since its establishment.

Dr. Nader Riad continued, that in order to avoid the continuous objections in the elections of the chamber, the candidates who will be chosen by the merchants must have ties and harmony among themselves, and must be keen to respect all merchants.

Dr. Riad added that the members must provide all the services to the merchants, so that the chamber may be able to continue to fulfill its mission successfully as it did in the previous decades.

Dr. Nader Riad mentioned that the objections to the results of the elections of the previous boards, were due to the failure of some candidates to get a chair on the board. They object to the fairness of the elections, and they resort to legal bases by some lawyers in order to achieve their goals and dissolve the board.

Dr. Riad stated that these election contests give a bad reputation to the Cairo Chamber of Commerce and defame its long history in serving the merchants and the national economy. It also hinders the progress of the Chamber in solving the merchants' problems, representing them in a good light and submitting them to concerned authorities to settle them, especially with the many coming challenges that

the merchants will face in the next period e.g. the implementation of GATT and the European partnership agreement, while the merchants are facing taxes and customs problems.

The Necessity of Participation

Mr. Mamdouh Thabet Mekki, Treasurer of the Cairo Chamber of Commerce stated that the elections must take place according to the law, with the application of all provisions of the regulations and that the election lists must be prepared in a way to avoid objections to the elections.

Mr. Mekki asked the merchants to participate positively in the elections by their votes, in a manner that reflects the real wish of the merchants in the elected board. Mr. Mekki added that at least the 17,000 merchants who paid the subscriptions must be available, or at least 80% of them must be available, in order to obtain the best choice on the elected board.

Mr. Mekki called for the necessity of representing women in the board of the Chamber of Commerce. Business women and the ladies who own commercial institutions must nominate themselves in the elections of Cairo Chamber of Commerce; in order to get an integrated board representing all merchants' categories: women and men.

Mr. Mamdouh Thabet Mekki urged the candidates to conduct election campaigns in an appropriate and quiet atmosphere that matches the businessmen of the Cairo Chamber of Commerce, away from defamation and the twisted methods that some candidates resort to, and to avoid impudence, during the elections, and not to over exaggerate in election advertising.

Dr. Tharwat Bassily, Board Member of the Cairo Chamber of Commerce, confirmed that the results of the Chamber elections will not be correct and effective, unless it is conducted through the voting of at least 30% of the registered merchants who paid the subscriptions, in order to represent the real wish of the merchants.

Dr. Bassily called for a minimum number of voting merchants so that the voting merchants would not be less than that average, in order to enrich the elections and the choice of the merchants is on the highest levels of accuracy. Attaining membership of the board must reflect the real choice of the largest possible group of merchants.

Dr. Bassily confirmed the necessity of conducting the elections of the Cairo Chamber through formal procedures that provide complete freedom to the merchants in the choice of the candidates to represent them without pressure from any party or group.

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