

Reading Comprehension Text

“Election Day Chaos in Constituency 14”

In Constituency 14, people were excited because the country was preparing for a very important election. The outgoing president had finished his mandate, and everyone was curious to know who would replace him. A public opinion poll predicted a tight race between the prime minister and a young reformer supported by many activists.

On election morning, citizens rushed to the polling stations to get their ballot papers. Everyone was proud to use the franchise, especially young voters who were participating for the first time. However, things quickly became... interesting.

First, a rumor began spreading: some politicians were accused of vote rigging. Apparently, a suspicious truck full of “already marked ballots” was seen behind a party stronghold. “This is nonsense!” shouted the prime minister’s team. “We are honest people!” But some citizens were not convinced.

Meanwhile, inside Parliament, things were not calmer. The speaker of the Parliament announced that the assembly was temporarily in recess because several members were arguing loudly about who should be investigated first for corruption. One MP even lost his parliamentary privilege after being caught accepting kickbacks on a government contract. As the attorney general opened an inquiry, journalists whispered that this could lead to impeachment of a minister.

Back in the streets, tension rose. When the election supervisors announced that no candidate had won enough votes, they declared a run-off election. Some people cheered, but others became angry. Several demonstrators claimed the system was designed only “to hoodwink the citizens.” One man said the politicians were trying “to bamboozle the whole nation,” although he could not even spell the word.

As the situation heated up, the government imposed a curfew “for security reasons.” Of course, nobody believed that. Many said it was only to stop people from protesting. A group of young troublemakers started to riot, shouting that the leaders were guilty of embezzlement and had stolen public money for years.

In the middle of all this chaos, the sitting head of state appeared on national TV. He looked calm, maybe too calm. “My dear citizens,” he began, “we will amend the constitution to guarantee stability.” People looked at each other and whispered, “Hmm... that never ends well.”

Finally, a week later, a by-election was organized in one district after irregularities were confirmed. This time, everything went smoothly. Citizens voted peacefully, the counting was transparent, and even the activists congratulated the supervisors.

In the end, democracy survived—just barely. The reformer won the final vote, and the outgoing president said, “I wish him luck. He’ll need it.” The people laughed, shook their heads, and went back to their normal lives, already waiting for the next political drama.