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By: World and Business News Staff, -



## [Irregularities emerge from Egypt polls](#)

*Well, I guess they come with the territory...*

Though they weren't supposed to, on a court of law disposal basis I was telling you about the other day, hundreds of independent Egyptian monitors couldn't help themselves not to report a variety of irregularities during the country's first contested presidential election on Wednesday. The guilty part? They pointed toward supporters of incumbent Hosni Mubarak. Several civil society organizations who monitored the vote listed the different types of abuses that interfered with the polling in statements obtained on Thursday by AFP. Here is such a list:- More than 1 000 customs employees voted collectively for Mubarak in the Alexandria governorate. Similar cases were reported elsewhere in the country. - The judge manning the Sadat school polling station in the southern town of Kaws left his post. Delegates from Mubarak's National Democratic Party (NDP) stuffed the ballot box with 470 votes for Mubarak. - NDP delegates threatened to have voters arrested and their social benefits cut if they did not cast their ballot for Mubarak in the southern governorate of Beni Sueif. - In Al-Buhayra area, public transport was used to ship villagers to polling stations. They were urged to vote for Mubarak. - In the Mediterranean province of Port Said, NDP officials exercised pressure on voters inside polling stations. - In Cairo's Sayyeda Sakina school, an electoral official ticked the Mubarak box on the ballot for several illiterate voters. - In Cairo's Nasr City area, people carrying up-to-date voters cards were denied the right to vote because they did not produce an NDP card. - Several polling stations across the country were not equipped with curtains and voters had to make their choice under the supervision of NDP delegates. - Mubarak supporters actively campaigned all day inside and outside polling stations across the country. Pictures of Mubarak were even plastered on the walls inside some polling stations. - Security forces and intelligence forces were seen inside polling stations where they had not been invited by the judge. - Civil servants employed by the water authority were promised a free subscription at the administration's club if they voted for Mubarak. - The indelible ink in which voters were due to dip their finger to prevent double-voting was missing from several polling stations. As you can see for yourselves, there are lots of irregularities for a first time! But you know what they say: one can only learn from mistakes. Or not... Anyway, as the entire process was doomed even before it started, according to most, this shouldn't be any surprise! Struggle for democracy has a way of bringing such situations to the surface...