

## **Speech**

**By**

**Sardar Ayaz Sadiq**

**Lieutenant General Nasir Khan Janjua**

**President National Defence University!**

**Excellencies!**

**Members of the Faculty!**

**Graduates of the National Security and War Course!**

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen!**

It's my pleasure to join you all at the Graduation Ceremony of the successful participants of the National Security and War Course of the National Defence University.

I am grateful to the President and the administration of the NDU for inviting me here and enabling me to share my thoughts and views with the able faculty and alumni of this fine seat of learning.

I begin by offering my felicitations to all Course participants, who have successfully completed the task and are being awarded with the graduation certificates today. This is indeed a great achievement.

For almost a year, all of you remained deeply involved in an exciting and absorbing intellectual discourse, which not only enabled you to grasp the geo-strategic, socio-political and ethno-cultural dynamic of our country but which also made it possible for you to fully understand the challenges confronted by our nation. I am sure that with this new knowledge; you are better placed to serve your people. What is more, the synergy created by your combined learning will also greatly contribute towards enhancing the capacity and potential of our civil services as well as the Armed Forces.

And when I say this, Ladies and Gentlemen ---I in fact speak from my own past experience.

NDU is of course not new to me. I feel privileged to have been associated with this stimulating atmosphere for nearly six weeks as a participant of its 3<sup>rd</sup> National Security Workshop, held in 2004. I was a newly elected Member of the Parliament then and was chosen by the NDU Faculty as the Shadow Prime Minister for the Course.

Little did we all know at that time that of those 54 class mates:

- At least 4 would become federal ministers;
- One of us would be the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee while two others would rise to become Lieutenant Generals
- Five would serve as provincial ministers
- Many others would be elected or re-elected to the national and provincial legislatures.
- And of these elected Members, one would be the future Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan by the grace of Almighty Allah

Hailing from different regional, political and institutional backgrounds, we all jointly strived to plan strategies and propose solutions after heated discussions and listening to each-others' points of views. I am sure that the lessons learnt at that time, went a long way in shaping our respective carriers, enabling us to take informed decisions through a pragmatic approach.

And I consider this, Ladies and Gentlemen, as the most distinct and unique feature of the NDU. This national institution is a vital link among state institutions; it brings in conflicting political mind-sets under one roof and enables diverse opinions to converge on one page. The discourses, initiated in the lecture halls and classrooms of this University do not only facilitate the process of developing a unified national approach but it has also enabled the healthy and consistent growth of Civil-Military relationship in Pakistan.

A fine example in this regard were the two joint visits to Germany by parliamentarians and officers of the armed forces. I had the honour of participating in both and in one of these visits, the President of your University Lt. General Nasir Janjua was also a member of our team. Thanks to the combined and unified approach of our delegation, we succeeded in presenting a strong case for a democratic Pakistan, confronted with the challenges of global war on terror. As a result, not only were we able to win the crucial German support but we also showed to the world that as a proud and self-respecting nation, we are all on one page.

This understanding between the Political and Military leadership was indeed the most vital factor in the peaceful transition of power, which took place under a complete civilian set-up for the first time in our history after 11th May Elections. And the credit for developing this harmonious relationship surely also goes to all institutions.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Abraham Lincoln once said and I quote:

“Divided house can’t withstand foreign onslaught.”

The complex and compound challenges faced by today’s Pakistan call for concerted and joint efforts by all stakeholders. An emerging democracy cannot flourish in an atmosphere of fear, marred by the absence of rule of law. Neither can it deliver without good governance, fair-play, transparency and accountability

of all. We all, therefore, have to combine our respective efforts to build a stronger democracy, which is the only formidable defence against the enemies from within as well as from the outside.

The Constitution of Pakistan provides an ideal framework of such partnership as it clearly defines the role and scope of each institution.

The newly elected Government and the 14<sup>th</sup> National Assembly are both determined to follow this constitutional path and seek sustainable and long-term solutions through dialogue and mutual consultation among all stakeholders. This was evident from the first policy statement of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, delivered from the floor of the House, soon after his election. I have every reason to believe that his policy of national harmony and reaching out, as adopted in Baluchistan by engaging the nationalist parties and respecting the mandate of other political parties in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, will go a long way in strengthening the federation and the territorial integrity of the state.

I am also pleased to inform you that the process of dialogue between the Government and Opposition parties has also been initiated to work out a combined and broad-based national strategy, to address all issues related to national security and development.

It is nevertheless a long and pain-staking process, which requires patient and continued efforts by all state institutions. A culture of acceptance and tolerance has to be inculcated into the minds and hearts of our people at all levels in order to fully benefit from the fruits of democracy. There is, therefore, a strong need of a meaningful collaboration among our think-tanks, the Civil Society, Media and research institutions. The newly established Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services provides an ideal venue for developing a working mechanism with the Parliamentarians. We will, therefore, welcome any suggestion of a joint programme and combined research through this important platform of PIPS.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen!**

As a responsible democracy, Pakistan holds a genuine desire for peace and friendly relations with all nations of the world. For centuries, our lands and people have preached the message of love, respect and peace and we continue to adhere to these noble values. I am sure that the guest participants of this course from the allied countries have had ample chance to witness this true and real face of Pakistan.

Your presence here must have been a mutually enriching experience and I sincerely hope that upon your return, you will project the true image of Pakistan and also become our ambassadors in your respective countries.

In today's inter-connected and inter-dependent world, nations cannot prosper in isolation.

----- So let us build bridges and work together for the combined prosperity of our people.

----- Let us respect the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of each nation, no matter how big or small.

----- Let us make the world a better and secure place to live for our children.

I am confident that as proud Graduates of the National Defense University, equipped with enhanced knowledge, competence, and increased capacity for analysis and decision-making, you will work for these ideals and make your institution proud of each one of you.

I once again congratulate you all --- the graduates; their families, the faculty and also the Administration of the NDU --- and wish you the very best in all your future endeavours.

**Thank you very much.**

**Pakistan Zindabad.**