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Chief Editor's Note

As usual, the most important event in Parliament House during June was the budget session. The joint session of Parliament was held on 2nd June while the budget session of National Assembly started on 3rd June. On the same day, the Federal Budget 2014-15 was presented by the Finance Minister. The total outlay of budget 2014-15 is Rs. 4,302 billion, 7.9% higher than the size of budget estimates 2013-14. Net revenue receipts are estimated at Rs. 2,225 billion. The provincial share in federal revenue receipts is estimated at Rs. 1,720 billion during 2014-15. Another important figure is the share of current expenditures in total budgetary outlay which is 80.5%. A relatively smaller amount of Rs. 839 billion has been earmarked for development expenditures which is even lower than the estimates of Budget 2013-14 by 8.3%.

The National Assembly approved the Finance Bill for fiscal year 2014-15, on 21st June, with total outlay of Rs. 4.3 trillion accepting some amendments moved by the government and rejecting all ones from the opposition benches. Following nine-day discussion, the 149-page Finance Bill moved by Minister for Finance, Ishaq Dar was passed by the House with majority in clause-by-clause reading. The passing of the Finance Bill successfully brought to an end the budget process which had started on June 3 with the budget speech of the finance minister.

A lot has been said about the pros and cons of Budget 2014-15 in the press and electronic media. A section has been included in current issue of Gazette containing the views of eminent economists about budget 2014-15, already printed in press. Apart from all these technicalities, the nation wants a positive change in their lives and living standards. They have attached hopes to the new budget. We pray that their hopes come true and the new budget proves to be a cornerstone in bringing our economy round.

The Nation was shocked and grieved by the news of sad demise of MNA, Tahira Asif who was hospitalized after being injured by the firing of the unknown assailants on 18th June. Both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker on National Assembly condemned the heinous act of firing on her and expressed their deep condolences to her family.

Another important event was the retirement of Secretary National Assembly, Karamat Hussain Niazi. He served well the Assembly and Secretariat for a long time. We pay tribute to him for his tireless services which will always be remembered in golden words. We also welcome the newly appointed Secretary, Muhammad Riaz and wish him success in serving the Assembly and Secretariat in the best way possible.

Thank You

Ch. Mukhtar Ahmed



President's Address to the Joint Sitting of Parliament

President of Pakistan, Mamnoon Hussain addressed the Joint Sitting of the Parliament at the commencement of new parliamentary year on Monday, June 2, 2014. The address signifies a historic moment in the Parliamentary history of Pakistan as it was the first address of the President to the parliament after the transition of power from one civilian government to another.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, members of the federal cabinet and parliament, chief ministers, governors and the prime minister of Azad Kashmir as well as the chiefs of the three armed forces including Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee attended the joint session of the parliament. Ambassadors, diplomats, members of civil society and important personalities from different segments of life also attended the session.



President of Pakistan, Mamnoon Hussain addressing the Joint Sitting of Parliament on June 2, 2014

In his speech, the President of Pakistan talked about very important issues including the role of minorities in the progress of the country, democracy, economic issues and relationship with the neighbours and the rest of the world.

The speech was delivered in Urdu. A full text of the Presidential Address is provided here for our readers.



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

جناب چیئرمین سینیٹ

جناب سپیکر قومی اسمبلی

معزز ارکان پارلیمنٹ

قابل احترام خواتین و حضرات!

السلام علیکم!

آج کا دن میری زندگی کا ایک نہایت خوشگوار اور بے مسرت دن ہے کیونکہ آج میں پہلی مرتبہ اس معزز ایوان میں آپ سے مخاطب ہوں۔ آپ کے ساتھ میرا یہ رابطہ اور میری اس اجلاس میں شرکت میرے لئے بجا طور پر باعث اعزاز ہے۔ میں اس موقع پر آپ سب کو پارلیمانی سال مکمل ہونے پر مبارکباد پیش کرتا ہوں۔

موجودہ دور میں ایک جمہوری معاشرہ کی شناخت اور مہذب دنیا میں اس کے مقام کا تعین کرنے کے لئے جو معیار مد نظر رکھے جاتے ہیں ان میں جمہوری اداروں، خاص طور پر پارلیمنٹ کی حیثیت، کارکردگی، افادیت اور احوال قابل ذکر ہیں۔ جمہوریت کے تسلسل، فروغ اور استحکام میں بھی پارلیمنٹ جو اہم کردار ادا کرتی ہے اس سے آپ سب بخوبی واقف اور آگاہ ہیں۔ یہ امر نہایت قابل تحسین ہے کہ وطن عزیز میں جمہوری قوتوں اور رسول سوسائٹی نے جمہوریت کی بحالی اور شہری آزادیوں کے حصول کے لئے بے مثال قربانیاں دیں۔ اس جدوجہد میں، آپ سب شامل رہے اور آپ نے آزمائش کی ہر گھڑی میں استقامت اور صبر و تحمل سے کام لیا۔ ہم نے تجربات اور مشاہدات سے اس حقیقت سے آگاہی حاصل کی کہ جمہوریت کشیدگی، محاذ آرائی، مخالفت برائے مخالفت اور انتقام کا نام نہیں بلکہ جمہوریت کی روح مفاہمت، عفو و درگزر، قوت برداشت اور باہمی تعاون سے عبارت ہے۔ جمہوریت کی شان یہی ہے کہ اکثریت کی رائے کا احترام کیا جائے، شخصیات پر قومی اداروں کو نفی دئی جائے اور جماعتی مفادات پر قومی مفادات کو ترجیح حاصل رہے۔ اس تناظر میں جب ہم اپنے جمہوری اداروں اور خاص طور پر پارلیمنٹ کی گذشتہ ایک برس کی کارکردگی پر نگاہ کرتے ہیں تو بجا طور پر اطمینان بخش، حوصلہ افزا، اور خوشگوار منظر نامہ دکھائی دیتا ہے جس کے لئے جملہ ارکان پارلیمنٹ میری اور پوری قوم کی داد و تحسین کے بجا طور پر مستحق ہیں۔ جی بات تو یہ ہے کہ آپ نے وطن عزیز میں جمہوریت کو ایک نئی جہت سے متعارف کرایا اور یوں ایک ایسی مثال قائم کی جو آنے والی ہر نسل کے لئے یقینی طور پر قابل تقلید تصور کی جاسکتی ہے۔

جمہوریت میں پارلیمانی اپوزیشن کا ایک کلیدی کردار ہوتا ہے۔ جمہوریت کا استحکام اور مستقبل اپوزیشن کے تعاون کے بغیر ممکن نہیں۔ مجھے یہ خوشی ہے کہ اپوزیشن نے اپنا یہ کردار بخوبی ادا کیا اور ہر مسئلہ میں حکومت کی رہنمائی کی ہے جس پر وہ مبارکباد کی مستحق ہے۔

خواتین و حضرات!

یہ حقیقت کسی تشریح یا تفصیل کی ہرگز محتاج نہیں ہے کہ قوم کو اپنی پارلیمنٹ سے بے پناہ اور بے شائبہ شوق و اشتیاق سے وابستہ ہیں۔ یہ ایک فطری اور قدرتی امر ہے کہ جہاں پر اعتبار اور اعتماد کا رشتہ استوار ہوتا ہے، وہاں پر توقع اور امید بھی ضرور بندھ جاتی ہے۔ عوام نے اپنے ووٹ کے ذریعہ نہ صرف اپنا سیاسی فیصلہ سنبھالا بلکہ انہوں نے اس کے ساتھ ساتھ آپ پر اپنے اعتماد کا اظہار بھی کیا چنانچہ عوام بجا طور پر توقع رکھتے ہیں کہ آپ ان کی ترقی و خوشحالی کے لئے اپنا کردار ادا کریں، آپ ملک و قوم کی سلامتی اور خوشحالی کے حوالے سے سیاسی سطح پر متحرک اور مستعد رہیں۔ اس باب میں یہ بات نہایت بنیادی حیثیت رکھتی ہے کہ آپ مملکت خدا واد کی نظریاتی اساس سے وفاداری اور وابستگی کا رشتہ استوار رکھنے کے لئے دل و جان سے تیار اور سرگرم عمل ہوں۔

جب میں اس حقیقت کا مشاہدہ کرتا ہوں کہ اہل وطن کا سیاسی شعور نہایت وسیع اور پختہ ہے تو مجھے بے پناہ دلی مسرت محسوس ہوتی ہے۔ ہمارے عوام کو بخوبی علم ہے کہ حالات حاضرہ کے تشیب و فراز کے تناظر میں ان کی اور ان کی حکومت کی کیا ذمہ داریاں ہیں؟ ہمارے عوام جانتے ہیں کہ ہمارے خطہ میں جو تہذیبیاتی رونما ہو رہی ہیں ان کے اثرات کا سامنا کیونکر کیا جاسکتا ہے اور کیونکر کیا جانا چاہیے اس حوالے سے بعض امور ایسے ہیں جن کی طرف میں آپ کی اور اپنے عوام کی توجہ مبذول کرانا چاہتا ہوں۔

اقتصادی اور معاشی استحکام کے بغیر ترقی اور خوشحالی کا کوئی تصور ممکن نہیں ہے اور اس سلسلہ میں سرمایہ کاری کی وہی اہمیت ہے جو کسی ویران زمین کو گلزار میں تبدیل کرنے کے لئے آپیاری کی ہوتی ہے۔ اس سلسلہ میں موجودہ حکومت جو کوششیں کر رہی ہے وہ نتیجہ خیز دکھائی دیتی ہیں۔

پاکستان کو وراثت گردی اور انتہا پسندی کا سامنا ہے ان سے نجات دلانے کے لیے اور پاکستان کو ترقی کی راہ پر گامزن کرنے کے لئے اس مسئلہ کا حل ضروری ہے اور ہم نے اس اہم ترین مسئلہ کو حل کرنے کے لیے ڈائیلاگ کا راستہ چنا۔

پاکستانی ایک پراسن قوم ہیں اور اسی جذبہ کے تحت ہم دنیا کے تمام ملک کے ساتھ خاص طور پر اپنے پڑوسی ممالک کے ساتھ برابری، باہمی احترام اور عزت و وقار کی



جیا پروڈرہ تعلقات کے دائمی، حامی اور خواہاں ہیں۔ ہم افغانستان اور بھارت کی نئی سیاسی قیادت کے ساتھ دوستانہ اور تعمیری تعلقات کو فروغ دینے کے لئے منتظر اور تیار ہیں۔ حال ہی میں وزیراعظم محمد نواز شریف نے بھارت کے نئے منتخب وزیراعظم زید رامودی کی دعوت پر ان کی تقریب حلف برداری میں شرکت کی۔ یہ شرکت دراصل اس اعتبار سے تاریخ ساز اور قابل ذکر رہی کہ منہذب دنیا میں اس فیصلے کے پیچھے کارفرما جذبے کو تقسین کی نگاہ سے دیکھا گیا۔ یہ اس حقیقت کی بھی دلیل ہے کہ ہم بھارت کے ساتھ دوستانہ تعلقات کو فروغ دینے کے لئے ہمدردت تیار ہیں۔ ہماری خواہش ہے کہ کشمیر کے مسئلہ کا حل اقوام متحدہ کی قراردادوں کے تحت اور کشمیری عوام کی امنگوں کے مطابق ہونا چاہیے۔ ہم ایران کے ساتھ اپنے صدیوں پرانے تعلقات کو مستحکم بنانے کے لئے کوشاں ہیں۔ گذشتہ دنوں وزیراعظم محمد نواز شریف صاحب نے ایران کا دورہ کیا جو حقیقی معنوں میں باعینی اور کامیاب ثابت ہوا۔ دونوں ممالک کی قیادت کا مشترکہ موقف اور سوچ یہی ہے کہ ہمارے باہمی برقراری اور برادرا نہ تعلقات علاقے کے امن اور دونوں ملکوں کے عوام کی ترقی کے لئے کلیدی حیثیت رکھتے ہیں۔ انشاء اللہ تعالیٰ پاک ایران گیس پائپ لائن منصوبہ ایک دن ضرور پایہ تکمیل کو پہنچے گا اور یہ ہماری دوستی کی جڑوں کو مزید مستحکم اور مضبوط کرے گا۔ ہم اپنے عظیم پڑوسی ملک چین کے ساتھ تعلقات کی وسعت اور جامعیت سے اچھی طرح آگاہ ہیں۔ ہمیں احساس ہے کہ پاک چین دوستی اب روایتی سفارتی بندھن نہیں بلکہ یہ عصر حاضر میں دو ہمسایہ ممالک کے مثالی تعلقات کا لازوال اور زندہ استعارہ بن چکی ہے۔ عالمی برادری کو خوب معلوم ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے عوام حقیقی معنوں میں ایک جان، دو قالب ہیں۔

خواتین و حضرات!

ہم پاکستانی یورپی یونین کے شکرگزار ہیں کہ اس نے ہمیں اپنی منڈیوں تک رسائی فراہم کی، ہم امریکہ کے ساتھ تعلقات کو بڑی اہمیت کی نگاہ سے دیکھتے ہیں۔ ہم امریکہ کے ساتھ اپنے تعلقات کو خصوصی اہمیت دیتے ہیں۔ ہمارے یہ تعلقات باہمی احترام اور عزت کی بنیاد پر قائم ہیں۔ دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ اور عالمی امن کے استحکام کے باب میں پاکستان اور امریکہ کا تعاون تاریخ میں ہمیشہ دیکھا جائے گا۔

خواتین و حضرات!

ہم نے ملک و قوم کی ترقی کے لئے صحیح سمت میں اور حقیقت پسندی کی پالیسی اختیار کرتے ہوئے جو سفر شروع کیا یہ اسی کا نتیجہ ہے کہ عالمی برادری میں ہماری توجیر اور پذیرائی میں اضافہ ہو رہا ہے۔ چنانچہ سعودی عرب، بحرین، بحرین، برطانیہ، جنوبی کوریا کی ممتاز شخصیات سمیت اقوام متحدہ کے سیکرٹری جنرل نے ہمارے ملک کا دورہ کیا اور ہمارے ترقیاتی منصوبوں پر اظہارِ اطمینان کیا۔ دوسری طرف

ورلڈ بینک اور آئی ایم ایف جیسے بین الاقوامی مالیاتی اداروں نے ہماری اقتصادی کوششوں پر اعتماد کرتے ہوئے ہمیں مالی امداد اور قرضہ کی سہولت فراہم کی۔ عالمی برادری کی طرف سے ہماری حوصلہ افزائی اور بین الاقوامی مالیاتی اداروں کی طرف سے ہماری اقتصادی پالیسیوں پر کیا گیا اعتماد، بلاشبہ اس حقیقت کی نشاندہی کرتے ہیں کہ ہم اپنی منزل کی جانب پوری تہمتی، محنت اور خلوص نیت کے ساتھ گامزن ہیں۔

خواتین و حضرات!

تاریخ کی مسلسل اور اٹل گواہی ہے کہ کوئی قوم راتوں رات اپنے نصب العین کے حصول میں کامیاب نہیں ہوتی، کوئی قوم محنت اور مشقت کے بغیر تاریخ کے صفحات میں اپنا ذکر کرنا چاہے اور نمایاں نہیں کر سکتی اور ایسا کبھی نہیں ہو سکتا کہ کوئی قوم اپنے ہاتھ پر ہاتھ رکھ کر بیٹھی رہے اور خوشحالی اس کے قدم چومنے کے لئے خود اس کے پاس چلی آئے۔ کامیابی کبھی جھولی میں آکر نہیں گرتی بلکہ یہ ان کے ہاتھ آتی ہے جو میدانِ عمل میں جہد مسلسل کرتے ہیں۔ میں اس موقع پر قرآنی مفہوم پر مبنی ایک شعر کے ذریعے اپنی بات کو زیادہ واضح کرنا چاہتا ہوں۔

خدا نے آج تک اُس قوم کی حالت نہیں بدلی

نہ جو جس کو خیال آپ اپنی حالت کے بدلنے کا

قومی تشخص کو برقرار رکھنے کے لئے ایسا اور محنت اولین شرط ہے۔ اپنی خود مختاری کے تحفظ کو یقینی بنانے کے لئے ہمیں اپنے قائد، بانی پاکستان محمد علی جناح کا یہ فرمان ہمیشہ ذہن نشین رکھنا چاہیے: اتحاد، تنظیم اور یقین محکم۔

درپیش مسائل کو حل کرنے اور مشکلات پر قابو پانے کے لئے اجتماعی جدوجہد، باہمی تعاون اور مفاہمت ناگزیر ہیں۔ آج ہمیں ایک مرتبہ پھر اسی جذبہ اور اتحاد سے کام لینا ہے جس کا مظاہرہ ہمیں پاکستان کے دنوں میں کیا گیا تھا۔ ہمیں ایک دوسرے کے شانہ بہ شانہ نہ کھڑے ہو کر ایک ایسی سیسہ پلائی ہوئی دیوار بننا ہے جس سے نکلنے والا خود پاش پاش ہو جائے۔ ہمیں فرقہ واریت، صوبائی عصبیت، لسانی امتیازات اور طائفہ گردی پسندی سمیت دہشت گردی اور اشتعال انگیز نظریات سے اپنے سوچ اور عمل کے دامن کو بچا کر رکھنا



—ہے۔

خواتین و حضرات!

آج ساری مہذب دنیا کے بھترین اور تجزیہ کاروں کی نگاہیں پاکستان پر مرکوز ہیں کیونکہ اس کی 66 برس کی آزادی کے عرصہ میں اس منظر کا پہلی مرتبہ مشاہدہ کیا جا رہا ہے کہ ایک منتخب جمہوری حکومت نے اپنی مقررہ آئینی مدت مکمل کی اور اس کے بعد دوسری منتخب جمہوری حکومت نے اپنی آئینی مدت کا پہلا برس کامیابی سے مکمل کیا۔ مجھے اعتراف اور احساس ہے کہ ہنوز عوام کو لوڈ شیڈنگ، مہنگائی، پیر وزگاری اور دہشت گردی جیسے مسائل کا سامنا ہے لیکن مجھے یہ یاد رکھانا ہے کہ ان مسائل کو حل کرنے کے لئے میسر تو می وسائل کو نہایت دانشمندی، حقیقت پسندی اور دوراندیشی کے ساتھ بروئے کار لایا جا رہا ہے۔ بے روزگاری اور افراد کو رزق حلال کمانے کے مواقع فراہم کرنے کے لئے بلا سو قرضہ جات کی سہولت دی جا رہی ہے، بجلی کی لوڈ شیڈنگ کے خاتمے کے لئے منصوبوں کی تکمیل کی رفتار کو تیز کیا جا رہا ہے اور ایسی اقتصادی پالیسیاں ترتیب دی جا رہی ہیں جو ملکی مفادات کے اعتبار سے نتیجہ خیز ثابت ہوں۔ اس تناظر میں، میں ان چند اہم نکات کی نشاندہی کرنا چاہتا ہوں جو حکومت کی ایک سال کی مختصر مدت کے حوالے سے نہایت قابل ذکر ہیں اور یہ اقدامات اس حقیقت کو اجاگر کرتے ہیں کہ اللہ تعالیٰ کے فضل و کرم سے ہم ایک پر عزم اور حوصلہ مند قوم کی حیثیت سے درست سمت میں پیش قدمی کر رہے ہیں۔

یہ بات ہر پاکستانی کے لئے نہایت حوصلہ افزا ہے کہ ملک میں سرمایہ کاری اور کاروباری سرگرمیوں کا سلسلہ کامیابی کے ساتھ آگے بڑھ رہا ہے۔ اقتصادی حکمت عملی کے تحت جو اقدامات کئے گئے ان میں یورو بانڈز کی کامیابی، یورپی یونین کی طرف سے پاکستان کے لئے جی ایس پی ایس پی ایس ٹیمس کا حاصل ہونا، مجموعی قومی پیداوار میں اضافہ، بجٹ خسارہ میں مسلسل کمی اور ٹیکسٹائل کی برآمدات میں اضافہ قابل تحسین ہے۔ ہم یورو بانڈز کو 7 ارب ڈالر کی حد تک لے جانے کی گنجائش رکھتے تھے لیکن حقیقت پسندی کی پالیسی اختیار کرتے ہوئے ہم نے اس کو 2 ارب ڈالر تک محدود رکھا۔ ان ہی اقدامات کے نتیجہ میں اب ملک میں سرمایہ کاری کو فروغ حاصل ہو رہا ہے اور عالمی منڈیوں میں پاکستانی مصنوعات کی کچھت کے امکانات بھی روشن ہو رہے ہیں۔ ملک میں سرمایہ کاری کے حوصلہ افزاء امکانات یوں بھی روشن دکھائی دیتے ہیں کہ حال ہی میں تھری جی اور فوری جی کی شفاف ترین نیلامی کے ذریعے تقریباً سو ارب ڈالر کی کوئی بنانے کے ساتھ ساتھ ملک میں مواصلاتی انقلاب کا راستہ بھی ہموار ہوا۔ دوست ملک، چین کی طرف سے توانائی اور انفراسٹرکچر کے منصوبوں پر 35 ارب ڈالر کا منصوبہ تیار کیا گیا اور اس کے علاوہ پتھر اب ناگوار اور کناک کوریڈر کا منصوبہ بھی انشاء اللہ حقیقت کا روپ اختیار کرے گا۔ ایسی جزا اور حقیقت ہر پاکستانی کے لئے بجا طور پر اطمینان اور خوشی کا باعث ثابت ہوتی ہے کہ ہمارا اقتصادی اعشاریہ معیاد ہو رہے ہیں اور ایسی طرح پاکستانی روپے کی قیمت میں بھی حوصلہ افزاء استحکام آرہا ہے۔

اقتصادی ترقی کے عمل کو درست سمت میں آگے بڑھانے اور ملک و قوم کی خوشحالی کے خواب کو سرمنہ تعبیر کرنے کے لئے لوڈ شیڈنگ کا خاتمہ ناگزیر ہے۔ اس مسئلہ پر قابو پانے کے لئے بھی ٹھوس اقدامات کئے جا رہے ہیں۔ اس سلسلہ میں یہ بات نہایت قابل ذکر ہے کہ حکومت نے زرگوشی قرضوں کو ختم کر کے نیشنل گرڈ میں 17 سو میگا واٹ بجلی کا اضافہ کیا۔ 24 ہزار 8 سو 70 میگا واٹ بجلی کے 19 منصوبوں کا آغاز کیا گیا جبکہ نئی پوریا اور پلانٹ کو 7 ماہ کی ریکارڈ مدت میں مکمل کیا گیا۔ ورلڈ بینک کی جانب سے توانائی کے منصوبوں اور مالیاتی اصلاحات کے لئے 12 ارب ڈالر کا اعلان کیا گیا جبکہ ماشور پاور پلانٹ کے لئے ایشین ڈویلپمنٹ بینک کی طرف سے ایک ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی جائے گی۔ مجھے یقین ہے کہ یہ اقدامات ہمارے ملک کو لوڈ شیڈنگ کے اندھیروں سے نجات دلانے کے لئے نتیجہ خیز ثابت ہوں گے۔

نوجوانوں کے لئے ایسی سہولتیں فراہم کی جا رہی ہیں جو نہ صرف ان کی تعلیمی اور تحقیقی ضروریات کو پورا کریں بلکہ ان کو روزگار کے مواقع فراہم کرنے، بے روزگاری سے محفوظ رکھنے اور وطن عزیز کا حقیقی معنوں میں سرمایہ بنانے میں معاون ثابت ہوں۔ اس سلسلہ میں وزیراعظم کی یوتھ بزنس لون سکیم، وزیراعظم کی بلا سو قرضہ سکیم، وزیراعظم کا یوتھ اسکل ڈویلپمنٹ پروگرام، اور وزیراعظم کی یوتھ ٹریننگ سکیم قابل ذکر ہیں۔ یہ بات بھی اہم ہے کہ ترقی یافتہ علاقوں کے طلباء کو ان کی تعلیمی فیس کی واپسی کی سکیم کا آغاز بلوچستان سے کیا جا چکا ہے اور ابتدائی طور پر اس سے 30 ہزار طلباء استفادہ کریں گے جن کو ہر سال اوسطاً 40 ہزار روپے بطور تعلیمی فیس ادا کئے جائیں گے۔ اس کے علاوہ ذہین اور محنتی طلباء کو ایپ ناپ کی فراہمی بھی قابل ستائش ہے۔ یہ بات بھی نہایت حوصلہ افزا ہے کہ ان تمام سکیموں میں خواتین کو 50 فیصد حصہ دیا جائے گا جس کے نتیجہ میں نہ صرف خواتین زیادہ اختیاروں کی بلکہ ان کو ہنرمندی و ہمارے میں شامل کرنے میں بھی کامیاب ہو جائیں گے۔ ہم خواتین کو معاشرہ کا ایک ایسا محرک اور فعال رکن دیکھنا چاہتے ہیں جو ترقی اور خوشحالی کے عمل میں مساوی کردار ادا کرتا ہے۔ خواتین اس وقت بھی مختلف شعبوں میں جس کا کردار دینی کا مظاہرہ کر رہی ہیں وہ اس اعتبار سے نہایت قابل ذکر ہے کہ یہ نئی نسل کے لئے حوصلہ افزاء اور قابل تقلید مظاہرہ ہے۔

خواتین و حضرات!

قوم اچھی طرح جانتی ہے کہ ریاستی اداروں کے درمیان تعاون اور اہم اقدامات و تنظیم کی فضاء کو برقرار رکھنا وقت کا اہم تقاضا ہے۔ ایک ایسے وقت میں جب ہمارے دشمن



ہمارے درمیان نفاق اور امتیاز بچیلانے کے لئے سرگرم عمل ہیں، ہمیں اپنی صفوں میں اتحاد اور اعتماد قائم رکھنا ہے۔ ہماری تمام تر توجہ اپنے عوام کے مسائل کو حل کرنے پر مرکوز ہے۔ یہ امر نہایت حوصلہ افزا ہے کہ ہمارے تمام سول اور عسکری ادارے بڑی خوش اسلوبی اور حب الوطنی کے ساتھ اپنے فرائض انجام دے رہے ہیں۔ ملکی سرحدوں کی حفاظت اور دفاع کی ذمہ داری کو ہماری مسلح افواج جس احسن طریقے سے ادا کر رہی ہیں اور دیگر عسکری ادارے جس جانفشانی کے ساتھ دن رات کام کر رہے ہیں اس پر پوری قوم کفخر ہے۔

افواج پاکستان نہ صرف ہماری سرحدوں کی حفاظت کرتی ہیں بلکہ اب داخلی سکیورٹی میں بھی ان کا اہم رول سامنے آیا ہے۔ انھوں نے ہمارے دل آپ کے مستقبل کے لیے ہزاروں قربانیاں دی ہیں۔ سرحدوں کے علاوہ داخلی حفاظت کو بھی یقینی بنانا ہوگا۔

یہاں میں ملک کے عوام اور خصوصاً فانا کے عوام کے حوصلے اور شجاعت کو بھی خراج تحسین پیش کرنا چاہتا ہوں جو پاکستان کے دفاع کے لیے ہمیشہ پیش پیش رہے ہیں اور کبھی کسی قربانی سے دریغ نہیں کیا۔ یہ امر باعث اطمینان ہے کہ حکومت فانا کے عوام کی ترقی کے لیے ہر ممکن کوشش کر رہی ہے۔

خواتین و حضرات!

آج پاکستان میں سول سوسائٹی نہایت بیدار اور متحرک ہے۔ سول سوسائٹی کے اس کردار کو قومی تقاضوں اور عوامی انگلوں کی روشنی میں غیر معمولی اہمیت حاصل ہے لہذا میں سول سوسائٹی سے بجا طور پر توقع رکھتا ہوں کہ وہ اپنا یہ کردار ادا کرتے وقت اور اپنی ترجیحات کو یقین کرتے وقت ملکی قانونی اور عوامی احساسات کو خاص طور پر مد نظر رکھے۔ اس سے نہ صرف اس کی ساکھ اور حیثیت میں اضافہ ہوگا بلکہ وہ رائے عامہ کی تشکیل میں اپنا حقیقی کردار ادا کرے گا اور امن و امان میں مزید اضافہ ہوگا اور گہرائی کا فریضہ انجام دے رہا ہے۔ مزید بلاشبہ آزاد ہے اور اس کی یہ آزادی دنیا کے کئی ممالک کے لئے مثال کی حیثیت رکھتی ہے۔ اہل وطن محسوس کرتے ہیں کہ مزید اپنی آزادی کے ساتھ ساتھ اپنی ذمہ داریوں اور حدود کا یکساں طور پر احساس کرنا چاہیے۔ حکومت مزید باہر کسی قسم کی پابندی کا تصور بھی نہیں کر سکتی البتہ وہ یہ توقع ضرور رکھتی ہے کہ مزید اپنے طور پر اپنے لئے ایسا ضابطہ اخلاق مرتب کرے اور اس پر عمل کرے جس سے قوم کے وقار میں اضافہ ہو اور عوام مزید اپنی انگلوں کا حقیقی ترجمان اور نمائندہ تسلیم کریں۔ عدلیہ کی کارکردگی کی ترمیم کی محتاج نہیں ہے، وہ آئین اور جمہوریت کے تحفظ کو یقینی بنانے کی خاطر اپنی روایات کو نئے اعتبار سے مزین کر رہی ہے۔

مجھے یہ یقین دہانی کرتے ہوئے انتہائی مسرت محسوس ہو رہی ہے کہ ہمارے یہاں اقلیتوں کو شہری کی حیثیت سے برابر کے حقوق حاصل ہیں اور ان کے ساتھ کوئی امتیازی سلوک روا نہیں رکھا جاتا۔ ہم اس حقیقت سے بھی آگاہ ہیں کہ اقلیتوں نے ملک کی تعمیر و ترقی میں ایسا کردار ادا کیا ہے جو قابل تحسین اور قابل اطمینان ہے۔ حکومت کی کوشش ہے کہ اقلیتوں کو سماجی اور سیاسی حقوق دینے کے ساتھ ساتھ ان کو مذہبی حوالہ سے بھی تحفظ فراہم کیا جائے۔ حکومت اقلیتوں کی عبادت گاہوں کی حفاظت کے سلسلہ میں اپنا فرض خوش اسلوبی کے ساتھ ادا کر رہی ہے، اسی طرح وہ اپنے عقائد کے مطابق اپنی مذہبی رسومات اور تقریبات کے ضمن میں آزاد ہیں۔ ہمارا اقلیتوں کے بارے میں وہی نظریہ اور سوچ ہے جس کا اظہار بانی پاکستان قائد اعظم محمد علی جناح نے اپنی 11 اگست کی تقریر میں کیا تھا۔ اقلیتوں کے حقوق کے ضمن میں ہم اپنے قائد کے ویژن کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے ہیں اور اس سلسلہ میں اقلیتوں کا تعاون اور کردار بھی قابل تعریف ہے۔ ہم چاہتے ہیں کہ ملک میں مذہبی اعتبار سے رواداری، ممبر تحمل اور برداشت کے جذبہ یکفر و یگانہ دیا جائے اور ایسے عناصر کی حوصلہ شکنی کی جائے جو مذہبی امتیازات کو ہوا دینے یا اس سلسلہ میں عوام کے جذبات کو مشتعل کرنے کی کوشش کرتے ہیں۔

خواتین و حضرات!

پاکستان میں آئین کی بالادستی اور جمہوریت کی ترقی لازم و ملزوم ہو چکی ہیں اور تمام مسائل کا حل آئین کے اندر رہتے ہوئے مزید جمہوری طریقے کے ذریعے ڈھونڈنا ہے آئین میں تمام پارلیمانی سیاسی قوتوں کا رول موجود ہے یہ وہ آئینی ڈھانچہ ہے جس کے ذریعے وفاق اور وفاقی اکائیوں نے مل کر اپنے مسائل کا حل ڈھونڈنا ہے اور عوام کی ترقی اور خوشحالی کے لیے مل کے کام کرنا ہے۔ جمہوریت، قانون اور آئین کی بالادستی پاکستان کا حال ہے اور یہی پاکستان کا مستقبل۔

مجھے اس معزز ایوان اور اس کے توسط سے پوری قوم کی توجہ اس حقیقت کی جانب مبذول کرانا ہے کہ وطن عزیز میں جمہوریت کا تسلسل اور فروغ نہ صرف ایک قومی تقاضا ہے بلکہ یہ ہماری ملکی سلامتی قومی وقار اور سیاسی تشخص کے لئے بھی نہایت اہم ہے۔ جمہوری عمل کو آگے بڑھانے کے لئے ضروری ہے کہ ہم انہماک و تقسیم اور باہمی احترام کو اپنا شعار بنائیں۔ سیاست میں مفاہمت کا راستہ ہی دراصل کامیابی کا راستہ ہے۔ یہ سیاسی سفر میں ایک ایسا سنگ میل ہے جس کو نظر انداز نہیں کیا جاسکتا۔ مفاہمت ایک ایسی کلید ہے جس سے سیاسی مسائل اور مشکلات کے بند دروازے کامیابی کے ساتھ اور آسانی کے ساتھ کھولے جاسکتے ہیں۔ میرے لئے یہ مشاہدہ انتہائی حوصلہ افزا اور خوشگوار ہے کہ حکومت اور اپوزیشن اپنے اپنے دائرہ کار کے اندر رہتے ہوئے سیاسی اور آئینی سطح پر نہایت مثبت اور قابل تحسین کردار ادا کر رہے ہیں۔ یہ مظاہرہ ان عناصر کے لئے ایک قابل تقلید مثال ہے جو گاہے سیاست کے میدان میں کشیدگی اور محاذ آرائی کو ترجیح دیتے ہیں۔

خواتین و حضرات!



یہاں پر میں ریاستی اداروں سے یہ بات ضرور کہوں گا کہ وہ کئی قوانین کے تحت اپنے فرائض سرانجام دیں۔ وہ سیاسی پسند و ناپسند کو اپنی کسوٹی نہ بنائیں۔ قانون کی نظر میں ہر علاقہ کے عوام برابر ہیں، ان کی زبان، رنگ، نسل، سیاسی وابستگی اور خاندانی پس منظر ناوی حیثیت رکھتے ہیں۔ پاک سرزمین کا ہر باشندہ اور ہر شہری سب سے پہلے پاکستانی ہے اور اس کے بعد اس کی کوئی دوسری حیثیت اجاگر ہوتی ہے۔ اسلام نے اپنی عالمگیر اور ابدی تعلیمات میں انسانوں کے درمیان مساوات سے کام لینے کا جو درس دیا، پاکستان میں اس کی عملی تصویر دکھائی دینی چاہیے۔ ہمیں دنیا پر بیٹا برت کرنا ہے کہ پاکستان محض ایک زمین کا ٹکڑا نہیں ہے بلکہ یہ ایک نظریہ کا نام ہے۔ اس کے حصول کا مقصد اقتدار، مفادات اور تفضیلات ہرگز نہ تھے بلکہ اس کے قیام کے لئے کی گئی پر امن سیاسی جدوجہد کا نصب العین یہ رہا کہ ہم پاکستان کو اسلامی تعلیمات اور نظریات کا عملی گہوارہ بنا سکیں۔ ہم دنیا پر یہ ثابت کر سکیں کہ اسلامی افکار اور تصورات کو حقیقت کا روپ دیا جاسکتا ہے۔ مجھے مکمل یقین ہے کہ اگر آج ہم نظریاتی اور فکری سطح پر خود کو اسلام اور پاکستان کے لئے وقف کر دیں تو ہم دین اور دنیا، دونوں میں سرخرو ہو سکتے ہیں۔

آئیے، ہم آج عہد کریں کہ:

- ☆ ہم پاک سرزمین کو وحشت گردی سے پاک کر کے دم لیں گے۔
- ☆ ہم اپنے ریاستی اداروں کے درمیان تعاون اور اتحاد کو فروغ دیں گے کیونکہ ان کا استحکام، ریاست کا استحکام ہے۔
- ☆ ہم جمہوریت کی بقا اور استحکام کو یقینی بنانے کے لئے اپنے سیاسی اور جماعتی اختلافات کو بالائے طاق رکھ دیں گے۔
- ☆ ہم کرپشن، استحصال، نا انصافی اور عدم مساوات کے خلاف متحد ہو کر جدوجہد کریں گے۔
- ☆ ہم ملک میں مذہبی نظریاتی اور فکری ہم آہنگی کی حوصلہ افزائی کریں گے۔

خواتین و حضرات!

- ☆ میں آپ سب کا ایک مرتبہ پھر شکر یہ ادا کرتا ہوں کہ آپ نے نہایت توجہ اور تامل کے ساتھ میری محرومیت کو سمجھا لیا۔
- ☆ رب العزت سے دعا گو ہوں کہ وہ ہمیں اپنے پیارے پاکستان کی خدمت کرنے کی توفیق اور استطاعت عطا فرمائے۔
- ☆ ہمیں آپس میں محبت اور اخوت کے ساتھ رہنے کا جذبہ عطا فرمائے۔
- ☆ ہمیں پاکستانیت کی جیتی جاگتی تصویر بنائے۔
- ☆ باری تعالیٰ ہم سب کو اپنی رحمت، ہدایت اور فضل و کرم سے نوازے۔ (آمین)

پاکستان پسندہ جاو

☆☆☆



LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

12th Session (June 3 – 21)

National Assembly was summoned by the President to meet on Tuesday, the 3rd June 2014 at 4.00 p.m. It was the 12th Session of the 14th National Assembly. The Session was prorogued on Saturday, 21st June 2014. The important legislative business of the 12th Session during June 2014 is summarized below:

A. Bills

Bills Passed

Three bills were passed during the 12th Session of the 14th National Assembly.

1. The Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils (Amendment) Act, 2014

The Islamabad High Court has been established by an Act of Parliament titled the Islamabad High Court Act, 2010 (XVII of 2010) which has been enacted in pursuance of Article 175 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Earlier the Islamabad Capital Territory was given representation in Punjab Bar Council and since there is an independent High Court for the Islamabad Capital Territory now, the establishment of Islamabad Bar Council is a statutory requirement under the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act, 1973 (XXXV of 1973). The above Amendment Act was passed to fulfill this objective.

2. The Service Tribunals (Amendment) Act, 2014

Some of the provisions of Federal Service Tribunal Act, 1973 are ultra vires to the Constitution of Islamic Republic of

Pakistan, 1973 as held by Honourable Supreme Court of Pakistan in its judgment dated 25.03.2013 in Constitution Petition No.53/2007. Judicial procedure is involved in FST cases; therefore, it is imperative that appointments of Chairman and Members, FST should commensurate with qualifications and experience in the relevant field in line with the procedure adopted for appointment in judiciary. Presently FST does not have power to spend its budget independently, therefore, there is need to make it financially autonomous. Presently Secretary, Law & Justice Division is Principal Accounting Officer of FST. FST does not have the power to get its orders/judgments implemented, therefore, appellants approach respective High Courts for implementation of the orders/judgments of FST, thus, creating extra burden for the High Courts. Thus, provision of such power for FST would not only make it an effective judicial forum but also reduce the burden of the respective High Courts.

3. The Anti-terrorism (Amendment) Act, 2014

Due to the increasing terrorism in the country, more legislative measures are required to enhance the effectiveness of the law enforcing agencies in tackling heinous crime, specially conferring powers of investigation on Rangers, providing legal cover to Joint Investigation Team (JIT), enabling police to become complainants in extortion cases, and special provisions for protections of witnesses (faceless) through video recording. The Bill is designed to achieve the aforesaid purpose.



Government Bills Introduced

Only one Government Bills was introduced during the 12th Session.

1. The Finance Act, 2014

The purpose of this Bill is to make financial provisions for the year beginning on the first day of July, 2014.

Private Members Bills Introduced

No bill was introduced by private members in 12th Session of National Assembly.

B. Ordinances

No ordinance was laid in National Assembly during the month of June 2014.

C. Acts

The following Acts of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) received the assent of the President during the month of June 2014:

1. The Federal Court (Repeal) Act, 2014 (10th June 2014)
2. The National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (Amendment) Act, 2014 (10th June 2014)
3. The Anti-terrorism (Amendment) Act, 2014 (15th June 2014)
4. The Service Tribunals (Amendment) Act, 2014 (17th June 2014)

D. Resolutions

The following six resolutions were moved in the National Assembly during the month of June.

1. Terrorist act in Taftan (Balochistan) (June 10, 2014)

This House strongly condemns the dastardly and inhuman terrorist act

on Zaireen in Taftan, Balochistan on 8th June, 2014 resulting in the loss of many innocent lives and injuries to many others, This House notes that the Prime Minister has already directed the law enforcing agencies to take action against the perpetrators of the attack on the pilgrims and calls upon both the Federal Government and Provincial Government of Balochistan to provide the best possible medical assistance to the injured persons, vigorously pursue the search for the terrorists till they are arrested and brought to justice and ensure security for the Zaireen. This House strongly condemns terrorism and sectarianism in all its forms and manifestations.

2. Terrorist Attack on Karchi Airport (June 10, 2014)

This House strongly condemns the terrorist attack on the old terminal of Karachi Airport on Sunday/ Monday night of 8th- 9th June, 2014 resulting in the loss of many precious lives, injuries to many others and damage to government and private properties. This House also expresses grave concern over the death of seven workers in the cold storage. It prays for the departed souls and expresses its deepest sympathies with the bereaved families.

Airport Security Force, Police and other law-enforcing agencies who successfully and courageously countered the attacks and cleared all the sensitive areas in a very short time. This House salutes all the security personnel who embraced shahadat, sacrificing their lives in the discharge of their duties, defending the national/public interest. This House expresses its full



authority and support for the security and law enforcing agencies and resolves to steadfastly stand with them in the defense of the nation.

3. Military Operation in Tribal Areas (June 16, 2014)

This House expresses its fullest support with the decision of the Government of Pakistan to launch the military operation by our valiant Armed Forces against militants in the Tribal Areas who are using the sacred soil of this country for their nefarious ends, including attacks on Security Forces and law enforcing agencies and public and private properties, resulting in tragic deaths and injuries to thousands of military personnel's and innocent civilians and colossal damage to the economy.

This House calls upon the Federal and Provincial Governments to provide all necessary assistance to the effected families who will be displaced by the military operation, till they are able to return to their homes, This House resolves to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Armed Forces till final victory. This will not only restore peace and tranquility in the region, but also lead to its rapid socio-economic development and prosperity of the people, which is the earnest desire of this House.

4. Birthday of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto (June 21, 2014)

This House recognizes this day as the birthday of Shaheed Prime Minister Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Sahiba, and on this day, pays homage to her indomitable courage and will to fight against extremism

and tyranny, while upholding the ideals and values of democracy, moderation and tolerance, recalls her words, The forces of moderation and democracy must and will prevail against extremism and dictatorship. I will not be intimidated": salutes her single-minded determination to eliminate the scourge of terrorism and pays tribute to her incomparable services for a democratic Pakistan for which she ultimately lay down her life.

5. Attack on MNA, Mrs. Tahira Asif (June 21, 2014)

This House strongly condemns unanimously the dastardly fatal attack with fire arms on prominent, active and energetic lady Parliamentarian Mrs. Tahira Asif belonging to Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), on 18th June, 2014 in broad day light whereby she expired on 20th June, 2014 during her medical treatment in Lahore. This House demands that culprits involved in this heinous crime may be arrested forthwith by the Police of Punjab and be punished.

6. Extension of Federal Judicial Academy (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 (June 21, 2014)

The National Assembly resolves to extend the Federal Judicial Academy (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 (Ord. No. V of 2014) for a further period of one hundred and twenty days w.e.f. 8th August 2014 under proviso to sub-paragraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of clause (2) of Article 89 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan



MNA Tahira Asif : The Parted Soul



Late Tahira Asif was elected on women reserve seat of MQM in 2013 elections. She was considered to be the pivot of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement's organisational work in Punjab, as she joined the MQM after parting ways in 2007 with the Pakistan Muslim League-Q — the party which had made her a member of the National Assembly in 2002 on a seat reserved for women lawmakers from Punjab. She had contested in many local and general elections and her political career spanned over a period of two decades.

Tahira Asif, was shot and injured while resisting an apparent robbery attempt in the Iqbal Town, Lahore neighborhood on Wednesday, 18th June. She passed away early on Friday morning in Sheikh Zayed Hospital. The Speaker and Deputy Speaker of National Assembly condemned the attack on her and expressed their profound grief over her sad demise, in their separate condolence messages to her family. The National Assembly Session was also adjourned in her mourning on Friday, 20th June.

Widespread condemnation of attack was observed from different parts of the society over her death. Sindh Assembly on 20 June 2014 passed a resolution condemning the attack, MQM announced three days of mourning. National Assembly of Pakistan paid her tribute and demanded inquiry into her killing. She will always be remembered for her valuable contributions. May her soul rest in peace!



CALLS ON

Governor Balochistan meets Speaker National Assembly (June 2)

Governor Balochistan, Muhammad Khan Achakzai called on Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Parliament House on 2nd June to discuss the overall security and political situation of the country.

Speaker National Assembly informed him about the legislative process and mechanisms. The Governor congratulated Speaker National Assembly on President's Address to the Parliament and successfully hosting of the 16th Speakers Conference by the National Assembly Secretariat. Both the leaders expressed their satisfaction over the law and order situation in the country. They also commended the steps taken by the government for economic progress and improving the law and order situation.

Business Community meets Speaker NA (June 3)

Representatives of Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Stock Exchange and Trade Organizations from all over the Country called on Speaker, National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Parliament House, on June 3.

Talking with the Representatives of Business Community, Speaker said that present democratic government was committed to create investment and trade friendly environment that will ultimately translate into fast economic growth in the country. He said that measures have been initiated to address law and order situation and energy shortages in the country which were the main impediments in the economic growth. He said that broadening the tax net

and rationalizing the taxes was also on the top of government's agenda.

He said that Business Community was the backbone of the country that has played its proactive role for economic growth in the country. The Speaker said that the Annual Budget Session of the National Assembly has unique importance for all and sundry but the Business Community takes special interest in this Session as it helps shaping their future business plans. He said that keeping in view importance of the Federal Budget, he had invited Business Community to witness the budget session. He asked them to forward their suggestions to the Government for improving the economic situation in the country.

The Representatives of Business Community appreciated the initiatives of inviting them to witness the Budget Speech. They said that they would forward their suggestions to the government after the budget proposals have been presented to the National Assembly. They individually appreciated government's commitment for its measures for stabilizing the economic activity in the country. Later the Business Community witnessed the proceedings of the House.

Czech Parliamentarians meet Speaker National Assembly (June 3)

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security Committee of Parliament of Czech Republic Mr. Franisek Bublan called on Speaker National Assembly on June 3, along with a delegation comprising Members of the Parliament. Various issues of mutual interest including ways and means to enhance parliamentary cooperation between Pakistan and Czech Legislatures were discussed.



The Speaker stressed to cement the existing bonds of friendship between both the nations through enhancing interaction at political, parliamentary and people to people level. He also suggested for active interaction of Business Communities of both the countries to enhance trade activity on either side.

The Speaker apprised the Czech Parliamentarians about the government's commitment to address the law and order situation and energy shortages in the country. He said that all the political parties in the National Assembly have unanimity of views on all such issues.

The Czech Parliamentarians agreed with Speaker for enhancing cooperation in diverse fields. They suggest that parliamentarians could bring both the nation more closer. They appreciated Pakistan's sacrifices in fight against terrorism and extremism.

Deputy Prime Minister of Slovak Republic calls on Speaker, NA (June 9)

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has stressed the need for strengthening of Parliamentary relations between Pakistan and Slovakia. He added that economic ties will also get a boost by enhancing parliamentary interaction. The Speaker was talking to Mr. Miroslav Lajcak, Deputy Prime Minister of Slovak Republic in Parliament House, on 9th June.

The Speaker said that relations between Pakistan and Slovakia are based on mutual goodwill and understanding as well as converging views on important global issues. He said that Pakistan acknowledges Slovak support on international forums. He said that mutual understanding and cooperation will further strengthen relations between both the countries.

The Speaker said that democracy in Pakistan is fully entrenched and the present government is committed to the welfare of its people. He said that present parliament comprise of progressive forces and were on

same page on issues concerning masses. He said that government was focused on revival of economy, overcoming energy shortages, eradicating extremism and promoting human rights.

He thanked Slovakia for its support to Pakistan for attaining GSP+ status in EU. He stressed the need for further enhancing interaction between business communities of both the countries which would be mutually benefited. He urged the Slovak business community to take advantage of investment friendly policies in Pakistan.

Mr. Miroslav Lajcak appreciated Speaker's remarks and said that his country also attaches importance to its relations with Pakistan and wants to further strengthen it though diversification of economic and parliamentary ties. He said that he is accompanied by a delegation of tradesmen and would meet Pakistani business community for exploring avenues of possible cooperation. He said his country acknowledges Pakistan's sacrifice in fight against terrorism and extremism.

Afghan Ambassador calls on Speaker National Assembly (June 11)

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan is in the vital interest of Pakistan and the region. He said that Pakistan believes in mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of its neighbors. He was talking to Mr. Janan Mosazai, Ambassador of Afghanistan in Parliament House on 11th June afternoon.

The Speaker said that both the countries were tied in eternal bonds of brotherhood, religion, culture and history. He said that by active engagement of parliamentarians of the two countries, bilateral relations would further improve and strengthened.

The Speaker expressed his satisfaction on the pace of broadening and deepening bilateral ties with an emphasis on trade and economic cooperation, energy and



infrastructure development. He said that Pakistan is committed to accelerate the realization of trans-regional projects including CASA-1000 and TAPI gas pipeline.

The Speaker said that Pakistan would continue to support an inclusive, Afghan led and Afghan owned peace and reconciliation process. He said that Pakistan had and would support its Afghan brethren staying in Pakistan. He urged the International community to create conducive environment to their early return to their homeland.

Australian High Commissioner calls on Speaker NA (June 11)

High commissioner of Australia Mr. Peter Heyward called on Speaker in Parliament House on 11th June. Various issues of mutual interest and ways to strengthen existing bilateral relations between legislatures of both the countries came under discussion.

The Speaker said that Pakistan attaches importance to its relations with Australia and desired to further strengthen through cooperation in diverse sectors. He informed the High Commissioner that present the Parliament consisted political forces having moderate,

progressive and enlightened outlook and was working for the welfare of masses. He asked for exchange of parliamentary delegations for sharing experiences and parliamentary practices. He stressed the

need for widening cooperation particularly in manufacturing, agriculture and livestock sectors.

The High Commissioner said that Australia also values its relations with Pakistan and wants to further cement them through enhancing parliamentary as well as cooperation in diverse fields. He said that

his government believes in a strong and stable Pakistan which was in the interest of the region. He said that Australian Parliament also wants to enhance its cooperation with National



H.E. Mr. Janan Mosazai, Ambassador of Afghanistan called on Speaker NA, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Parliament House on 11.06.2014



H.E. Mr. Peter Heyward, High Commissioner of Australia called on Speaker NA, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Parliament House on 11.06.2014



Assembly of Pakistan and his Australian counterpart was waiting for see him in Australia.

European Union, Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark calls on Speaker NA (June 27)

Pakistan and European Union enjoy friendly and warm relationship and under the democratic government, Pakistan will further improve its interaction to promote democratic and parliamentary traditions and institutions with the help and Cooperation of European Union, Honorable Speaker of National Assembly

Mr. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said while meeting with the European Union, Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark at National Assembly on 27th June. He said that Pakistan is

seeking Co-operation and guidance from European Union countries to further strengthen the democratic norms in Pakistan. Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark, while responding said European Union is ready to assist Pakistan in its march towards democracy. Referring to National Assembly initiative to become fully automated Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark offered technical and professional assistance to Pakistan.

Honorable Speaker also informed the visiting dignitary that parliament has constitutional Human Rights Commission comprising its members to address the issues relating to Human Rights and fundamental rights. For the first time in the Pakistan's Parliamentary history both sides of the



H.E. Lars Gunnar Wigemark, European Union Ambassador called on Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Parliament House on 27.6.2014

benches appreciated the neutral role of Sardar Ayaz Sadiq specially during the budget debates where he give opposition more time than the treasury benches.

Ambassador while appreciating the role of National Assembly in the political process said, this is a decisive moment for Pakistan where the democratic government led by Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is delivering and Pakistan foreign reserve has gone up and international investment is pouring the country. He also

appreciated the constitution of Electoral Reform Committee of the parliament, which will be notified shortly.

Ms. Maryem Aurangzeb, MNA, who was present, briefed about

steps taken to automate the National Assembly and new initiatives being taken to make National Assembly Secretariat more efficient and economical.

Speaker, NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has emphasized the need to re-structure the Secretariat of National Assembly (June 26)

Honorable Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has emphasized the need to re-structure the Secretariat of National Assembly based on merit, task identification and economy. He was speaking to Dr. Werner Liepach, Country Director Asian Development Bank who called on him this on 26 June 2014 at Parliament House Islamabad.



Sardar ayaz Sadiq informed that the governing Board of PIPS has been re-constituted headed by chairman Senate, with view to improve the parliamentary Service

the occasion, said that the working of National Assembly Secretariat will be monitored and time-lined in the interest of efficiency and economy. Energy audit has



Dr. Werner Liepach Country Director of Asian Development Bank called on Speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House on 26.6.2014

and capacity building of the legislatures. Legislative research and legal drafting will be introduced in PIPS for the training of law makers. In National Assembly, new Human Resources Management with job description, and complete succession plan is being introduced, and an organogram is being developed. He said the new recruitments in National Assembly will be through FPSC and Speaker will have no role in the recruitment to make them transparent and merit basis.

MNA, Ms. Maryem Aurangzeb, Chairperson of Millennium Development Goals in National Assembly also present on

been carried out and 30% wastage has been plugged and National Assembly will go on solar by the end of the year.

Parliamentary studies will be introduced in universities at graduate level in to empower and strengthen the parliamentary services. Dr. Werner Liepach, Country Director Asian Development Bank appreciated the strengthening of democratic and parliamentary roots in Pakistan and assured of cooperation from Asian development Bank in on-going and new initiative of National Assembly for improving its performance and delivery system.



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NA Business Advisory Committee meets

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker, National Assembly chaired a meeting of the House Business Advisory Committee in the Parliament House to discuss the agenda for

Assembly during its 2nd Parliamentary year.

The meeting was attended by Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker, Rana Tanveer



Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly Chairing the meeting of Business Advisory Committee at Parliament House on 06.06.2014

the Budget Session of the National Assembly, on 6th June.

After discussion and taking into account suggestions by representative of the political parties in the National Assembly, it was decided that general discussion on the Budget will continue till 17th June 2014 and thereafter the process of passage of Budget would be initiated. It was decided that the Budget Session will continue till 21st June, 2014.

The Committee decided that the sittings of the National Assembly will be held from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Mondays and from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm with a break of half an hour for Zuhr prayers on rest of the days. It was also decided that the question hour and other non-legislative business will remain suspended during the Budget Session. The Committee also approved the tentative schedule of sessions of the National

Hussain, Minister for Defence Production, Ch. Muhammad Barjees Tahir, Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs/Chief Whip of the Pakistan Muslim League (N), Jam Kamal Khan, Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Resources, MNAs; Ms. Shaista Pervez, Mr. Shahab-ud-Din Khan, Mr. Aijaz Hussain Jakhrani, Dr. Arif Alvi, Sahibzada Tariq Ullah and Syed Ghazi Gulab Jamal.

Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat meets

The Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat met on 11th June at in the Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Rana Muhammad Hayat Khan, MNA to consider the following agenda:-

- i. Detail of recruitment made in CDA (BPS-4 onward) during last five years.



- ii. List of official vehicles along-with their allocation with the CDA officers.
- iii. Detail of officers/officials who are working on deputation in CDA mentioning their parent departments, and the criteria for allotment of plots to the deputationist in CDA.
- iv. Detail of budget/expenditure of CDA incurred during last five years.
- v. Progress report of work on 104 family suits, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.
- vi. Detail of maintenance budget incurred on Parliament House and Parliament Lodges.
- vii. Detail of Plots allotted to the CDA employees during last five years.
- viii. Complete list of Housing Societies and their lay-Out Plans with their legal status, particularly, Senate Secretariat Housing Society.
- ix. Provision of investigation report with reference to CDA's request to FIA for registration of FIR against the management of three Private Housing Schemes in Islamabad vide letter No. CDA/PLW-HS(90)JKCHS/Court Case/93/1287, dated 25-11-2013.
 - a. M/s Multi- Professional Cooperative Housing Society, Zone-II
 - b. M/s J&K Cooperative Housing Society Sector G-15/F-15, Zone-II
 - c. M/s Pakistan Medical Cooperative Housing Society Sector F-II
- x. List of total commercial plots sold by CDA during last five years along-with its value.
- xi. Detail of office bearers of Collective Bargaining Agent in CDA who were sent abroad during the last five years and Competent Authority who granted approval along-with the amount incurred thereupon.

- xii. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

2. The Chairman, Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat enquired as to what improvement brought in the CDA and achievements obtained by CDA so far. The member (Planning) CDA informed that main project of CDA namely Kashmir Highway has almost been completed and a lane of which been opened up for traffic. He further added that opposite lane of Highway being cosmated which to be completed in a few days. He further stated that three sectors namely C-15, C-16, and C-17 are being planned, topography of which have been completed and its detailed design under preparation at present. PC of those sectors have been completed. He further informed that proposed construction of flat complex scheduled in sector I-15, Islamabad have been converted into allotment of plots to the allottees. The Committee decided to hold the next meetings on 1st & 2nd July, 2014 at CDA, Head office, where the Committee further consider the matter concerning to sector I-15, Islamabad.

3. MNAs Malik Ibrar Ahmad, Sardar Muhammad Irfan Dogar, Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti, Ms. Nighat Parveen Mir, Ms. Shahnaz Saleem, Mrs. Seema Mohiuddin Jameeli, Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak, Syed Ali Raza Abidi, Mr. Muhammad Rehan Hashmi and Minister In-charge were present in the meeting.

National Assembly House & Library Committee meets

The Deputy Speaker, National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi has expressed serious concerns on the weak and ineffective security arrangements around the Parliament House, Parliament Lodges and MNAs Hostel in Islamabad. He therefore directed Islamabad Police to beef up the security keeping in view the law and order situation.



The Deputy Speaker was chairing a meeting of the Standing Committee on House and Library in Parliament House, on 13th June.

The Deputy Speaker asked the Ministry of Interior and Islamabad Police to enhance the police force responsible for security of the Parliament and Lodges and equip them with required paraphernalia. He directed for collection of data of people residing in the servant quarters in Parliament Lodges and Government Hostel. He also directed for submission of report of the Judicial Inquiry into 23rd May's incident at the earliest for consideration of the House and Library Committee.

Taking strict view of the delay in construction of additional family suites, the Committee directed the CDA to either get the project completed by November, 2014 or cancel the contract and blacklist the contractor. He said that the Contractor has failed to justify the delay despite provision of mobilization fund. He also directed for

Government Hotel from its present location to some other place which he termed a security threat to the residents of the area.

The meeting was attended by members of the Committee, Additional Secretary M/o Interior, Chairman CDA, Chief Commissioner ICT, DIG Police and other senior functionaries of National Assembly and CDA.

NA Speaker chairs Finance Committee

Finance Committee of the National Assembly met in the Parliament House, on 17th June with Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in the chair.

The Committee approved the continuation of 152 temporary posts in the National Assembly Secretariat in various gazetted and non-gazetted cadres for the financial year 2014-15. The said posts are required to be continued for smooth functioning of the Secretariat therefore, formal approval was



Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker National Assembly chairing the meeting of the Standing Committee on House & Library at Parliament House 13.06.2014

investigation into the matter pertaining to substandard maintenance work of Parliament Lodges. He also expressed his displeasure over delay in award of contract of supply of furniture despite release of funds by the M/o Finance. He also directed for shifting of Tanker Water Supply near

sought for the financial year 2014-15.

The Committee principally approved the appointment of son/daughter /widow/ widower of deceased employees of the National Assembly Secretariat on regular basis in grade 1 to 15, who die while in service. The Committee approved the



regularization of services of 7 employees who were appointed on contract basis under Prime Minister's Assistance package for the deceased employees.

The Members of the Committee individually appreciated the decisions of grant of incentives to the heirs of deceased employees. They appreciated Speaker's initiative for human resources development, automation of official record, creation of paperless environment and austerity in expenditures in the National Assembly

NA Speaker consults Parliamentary Leaders on Electoral Reforms Committee

A consultative meeting was held in Parliament House on 20th June with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in the chair. The meeting was convened to discuss the constitution of a proposed Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms.

The meeting was attended by Syed Khursheed Ahmad Shah, Leader of Opposition, Rana Tanvir Hussain, Minister for Defence Production, Mr. Zahid Hamid,



Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq chairing meeting of the National Assembly Finance Committee at Parliament House on 17.6.2014

Secretariat besides powering Parliament House with solar energy. The Speaker also directed for immediate provision of shade, drinking water and benches in area designated for media and drivers near Gate no.1 of Parliament House.

The meeting was attended by MNAs Ms. Leila Khan, Ms. Shaista Pervaiz, Mian Muhammad Manan, Malik Aitibar Khan, Sardar Amjad Farooq Khosa, Ms. Munza Hasan, Mr. Iqbal Muhammad Ali Khan, Raja Muhammad Javed Ikhhlas, Ch. Armaghan Shubani, Secretary and other senior officers of National Assembly Secretariat.

Minister for Science & Technology, Khawaja Saad Rafiq, Minister for Railways, Sheikh Aftab Ahmad, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, MNAs Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, Maulana Fazl ur Rehman, Mrs. Shahida Akhtar Ali, Mr. Ghous Bux Khan Mahar, Sahibzada Tariq Ullah, Mr Usman Khan Tarrakai, Syed Naveed Qamar, Mr. Abdul Rahim Mandokhail, Mr. Mehmood Khan Achakzai, Mr. Sufyan Yousuf, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Mr. Muhammad Muzammil Qureshi and Dr. Arif Alvi.



The Speaker thanked all the Parliamentary leaders and representatives of political

The Speaker further informed the participants that he will meet Chairman



Speaker NA, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq chairing a consultative meeting of Parliamentary Leaders in National Assembly regarding constitution of Electoral Reforms Committee in Parliament House on 20.06.2014

parties for attending the meeting. He said that the meeting in question has been convened in furtherance of the unanimous motion adopted in the House for constitution of a committee on Electoral Reforms. He said that giving importance to the matter, the Committee should meet on daily basis and evaluate the shortcomings of the previous electoral process and make recommendations to free, fair and transparent elections. He said that he had not consented to the proposal of extension for one month to the committee so it should complete the task assigned to it within the stipulated timeframe. He was confident that the Committee would make comprehensive recommendations acceptable to all.

After detailed discussion, all the participants agreed on composition of the proposed Committee. It was agreed that the committee will comprise of 33-member from all the parliamentary parties in proportion to their representation in Parliament. The major parties decided to relinquish one seat each from their quota to accommodate single member parties in the Parliament, whose representation was otherwise not possible. The Speaker asked the Parliamentary leaders to forward names of their Members to the National Assembly Secretariat at the earliest.

Senate and take him on board regarding constitution of the proposed committee as a similar resolution needs to be moved in the Senate.

Meeting of Standing Committee on Communications

A meeting of Standing Committee on Communications was held under the Chairmanship of Mr. Sayan Yusuf, MNA on 25th June, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. in the Parliament House, Islamabad. The following Members attended the meeting:

1. Mr. Najaf Abbas Sial Member
 2. Mr. Ramesh Lal Member
 3. Mr. Salim Rehrnan Member
 4. Engr. Hamid-ul-Haq Khalil Member
 5. Mr. Muhammad .Muzammil Qureshi Member
 6. Ms. Naseema Hafeez Panezai Member
 7. Engr. Usman Khan Tarakai Member
 8. Ms. Shahjehan NIuneer Mangrio Member
 9. Dr. Darshan Member
 10. Mr. Nazir Ahmed Uughio Member
2. The agenda of the meeting was as under:-
- i. Briefing on Lowari Tunnel;



ii. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. The Chairman, National Highway Authority (NHA) briefed the Committee about Lowari Tunnel which is situated between Darosh and Dir. M/s Geoconsult is the Consultant and Mis SANIBU is the Contractor of the Project. The said Project started in September, 2005 and will be completed in September, 2017 with the cost of Rs.9816 Million. 32 % work has been completed till now, he added.

4 The meeting was also attended by the the senior officers from Ministry of Communications and NHA.

Meeting of the Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication

The Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication met today at in the Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Safdar, MNA to consider the following agenda:

- i. Detail briefing on the function/performance of Virtual University;
- ii. Briefing/discussion on payment of outstanding salaries of contract/daily wages/ contingent paid employees of TIP, Haripur before the Holy month of Ramadan; and
- iii. Any other item with permission of the Chairman.

2. The Rector, Virtual University stated that the Virtual University is Pakistan's first university, completely based on modern information and communication technologies. The university was established by the Government as a public sector, Nut-for-profit institution with a clear mission to provide extremely affordable world class education all over the country and abroad. The Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication decided to constitute a Sub-Committee to

examine the matters concerning Virtual University. The Sub-Committee comprises of Maj. (Retd.) Tahir Iqbal, , Mehar Ishtiaq Ahmad, Syed Ali Raza Abidi, Mr. Zahra Wadood Fatemi, Engineer Dawar Khan Kundi, MNAs as its members and Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, MNA as its Convener.

3. The Committee also took the matter concerning non-payment of outstanding salaries of contract / daily wages/ contingent paid employees of Telephone Industry of Pakistan (TIP), Haripur before the Holy month of Ramadan. The Ministry of Finance informed that issue concerning about outstanding salaries of contract/daily wages/ contingent paid employees of TIP, Haripur before the Holy month of Ramadan will be announced by the Prime Minister of Pakistan during his visit to TIP.

4. MNAs Major (Retd.) Tahir Iqbal, Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry, Mian Muhammad Farooq, Chaudhary Nazeer Ahmad, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Mr. Muhammad Aijaz Ahmed Chaudhary, Mehar Ishtiaq Ahmad, Ms. Farhana Qamar, Ms. Musarat Rafique Mahesar, Syed Ali Raza Abidi, Ms. Zahra Wadood Fatemi and Engineer Dawar Khan Kundi were present in the meeting.

Meeting of the Standing Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Privileges

A meeting of the Standing Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Privileges was held today; 26th June, 2014 at 10:30 am, in Committee Room No. 02, First floor, Parliament House, Islamabad. The agenda of the meeting was as under:

- i. The Question of Privilege raised by Eng. Hamid ulHaq Khalil, MNA regarding misbehavior of Secretary Communication (Mr. Ahmad Hanif) of Khyber PakhtunKhawa, Peshawar.
- ii. The Question of Privilege raised by Mr. Sarzameen Khan, MNA



- regarding misbehavior DPO, District Kohistan of Khyber PakhtunKhawa.
- iii. The Question of Privilege raised by Syed Muhammad SaqlainBokhari, MNA regarding misbehavior of Managing Director, SNGPL, (Mr. ArifHameed)
- iv. The Question of Privilege raised by Mr. GhousBux Khan Mahar, MNA regarding misbehavior of SSP, District Shikarpur (Mr. Abdul Aziz Tunio)

The Committee took up the first item regarding the privilege motion moved by Eng. Hamid ulHaq Khalil, MNA. After detailed deliberations and apology tendered by the Secretary Communications (Mr. Ahmad Hanif) of Khyber PakhtunKhawa, the Committee deferred the question and directed the Secretary to resolve the issues and grievances of the Honorable Member.

Due to absence of Mr. Sarzameen Khan, MNA, his privilege motion was deferred by the Committee. The Committee then considered the third privilege motion raised by Syed Muhammad SaqlainBokhari, MNA and took serious note of the indecorous behavior of the management of the SNGPL. However after unconditional apology submitted by Mr. LiaquatRaza SGM, Mr. Abdul Ahad GM, Mr. ArifHameed MD, SNGPL and Mr. AbidSaeed Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources, the Committee deferred the case.

The Committee directed the Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural resources to instruct all organization under ministry including SNGPL to deal with the people's representatives respectfully and resolve all their issues and concerns on priority basis.

The fourth privilege motion pertaining to Mr. GhousBux Khan Mahar, MNA, who informed the Committee that the SSP, District Shikarpur (Mr. Abdul Aziz Tunio) has submitted a written apology to him and

he has accepted the apology. On the stance taken by Mr. GhousBux Khan Mahar, MNA the Committee disposed of the privilege motion.

The Committee also constituted a Sub-Committee under the convener ship of Chaudhry Mahmood Bashir Virk, MNA to consider and amend the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly. The Sub Committee comprises of the following members:

1. Mohammad Ayaz Soomro, MNA
2. S.A. Iqbal Qadri, MNA
3. Ms. Maiza Hameed, MNA
4. Ms. Shagufta Jumani, MNA

The meeting was attended by Ch. Asadur Rehman, Chaudhry Mahmood Bashir Virk, RanaUmerNazir Khan, Ch. Bilal Ahmed Virk, Mr. Muhammad Raza Hayat Harraj, Ms. KiranHaider, Ms. MaizaHameed, Mr. Imran ZafarLeghari, Mr. Muhammad AyazSoomro, Ms. ShaguftaJumani, Makhdoom Muhammad JavedHashmi, Rai Hassan Nawaz Khan, Mr. S. A. IqbalQuadri and Sheikh Muhammad Akram.

The Standing Committee on Defence Production meets

The Standing Committee on Defence Production met in the Parliament House today, the 26th June, 2014 in Committee Room # 07 under the Chairmanship of Khawaja Sohail Mansoor, MNA regarding briefing on Directorate General Defence Purchase by Ministry of Defence Production (MoDP).

2. The Committee Members were apprised by Brig Asif Hussain Nizami, Deputy Director General Defence Purchase regarding the creation and functions of Directorate General, Defence Purchase (DGDP) Ministry of Defence Production. He informed the Committee about the process of procurement adopted by the Directorate General for Defence requirements.



3. Federal Minister for Defence Production told the Committee that Pakistan can grab 80% business of engineering works from golf by establishing shipyard at Gwadar Port. It was also informed by the Minister that Honorable Prime Minister has issued directions to all law enforcement agencies for given first right to procure any defence equipment. The Committee appreciated the deliberation of Pakistan Navy on providing business to Karachi Shipyard.

4. The Committee was told by the DDG (Director of Procurement) that Chief of Army Staff has authority to approve the purchase upto US\$ 25 million, however, purchase of major defence equipment and weapon system having value more US\$ 25 million is headed by the Secretary, DP alongwith other representatives.

5. Meeting was attended by Mr. Muhammad Khan Doha, Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, Chaudhary Hamid Hameed, Syed Muhammad Ashiq Hussain Shah, Mr. Muhammad Moeen Wattoo, Ms. Amra Khan, Ms. Iffat Liaqat, Mr. Bhawan Das, Mr. Shehryar Afridi, Ms. Asyia Nasir, Mr. Bilal Rehman and Mr. Sajid Hussain Turi, MNAs and besides senior officers from Ministry of Defence Production.

Meeting of the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage

11th meeting of the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage (IB&NH) was held on 30th June at

MNA / Chairperson of the Standing Committee.

The schema of the meeting was to discuss the working of Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) and policy of Government on promoting Arts and Heritage. The Director General, (PNCA) briefed the Committee about the working of PNCA. The Committee showed displeasure on the presentation given by the DG. The Committee discussed in detailed the issues of PNCA and promoting Art in the country. The Committee concluded and gave the following recommendations for the improvement in the working of PNCA; and for promoting Arts & Heritage in country.

1. PNCA's mission of integrating and unifying all of Pakistan needs to be adhered to in all its plans. In 2014's Pakistan it can play a vital role in unifying all cultures.
2. In order to make the workings of the PNCA more efficient and more effective, a structural change in the working apparatus of the PNCA is required. There is a need to create a stronger private / public linkage that will help address grievances of the artist community.
3. The job of the Director General, PNCA is a specialist job & hence the Director General of PNCA needs to be selected on a competitive basis with a short listing of names, from a pool of artists that have considerable



Ms. Marvi Memon, Chairperson Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage chairing the committee meeting at Parliament House on 30.06.2014

2:00 p.m. in Committee Room No. 02, Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was presided over by Ms. Marvi Memon,

contribution and background in Arts & Culture. By getting the right person in place, who has had



- experience in creating international linkages / arts education / social, educational outreach / will give PNCA the benefit of this wide range of expertise and the hands on knowledge of getting things done.
4. The governing body of the PNCA needs to have significant representation from people comprised of mid-late career arts professionals from the arts and culture sector, and their term needs to rotate every 3 years. Their task is to:
 - a) Develop ideas through a consensus of the Governing body of PNCA comprising of mid-late career art professionals from the arts and culture sector.
 - b) Implementation / budgeting annual funds
 - c) Follow up / feedback / reports
 5. The current BOG & its executive committee should be made functional at once as per the legal provisions to advice on issues on regular basis.
 6. There should also be a larger oversight body/committee that oversees the working of PNCA, so that initiatives and problems are voiced, scrutinized and solutions found.
 7. PNCA's policy should clearly outline its outreach for artists with disabilities and cater to their needs.
 8. The contract should be immediately concluded with the Civil Works & HBC, so that proper maintenance of National Art Gallery is carried out.
 9. PNCA ought to provide before the committee its Performance in all of its divisions in last one year, to compare actual performance from plans in paper work along with their defined timelines.
 10. A policy needs to be defined by PNCA for Talent Acquisition and Social Media can also be used to achieve this objective.
 11. Efforts need to be made by PNCA to engage artists and strengthen its linkages with the artist community across Pakistan for a centralized assimilation including all divisions.
 12. "Art Acquisition Committee" needs to meet yearly and should be made functional immediately.
 13. PNCA should design an agenda on priority basis so as to create Employment Opportunities and Job Creation for the Artists certified from PNCA.
 14. PNCA should complete the Structure of its Council and its 27 members with immediate effect & on merit.
 15. PNCA should integrate divisions in its three regional groups to promote National Integrity.
 16. PNCA should conduct art & cultural activities in local schools and far flung areas, free of cost and give the committee a yearly plan to explain in which areas specifically for puppets.
 17. PNCA should immediately revive "National Art Exhibition" and "National Music Festival" which are mandatory to be conducted every year.
 18. There should be an international curator hired for national art gallery, so it can perform its role more effectively.
 19. PNCA to assist artist community in achieving international awards and to give us an action plan as to how they will assist.
 20. Publications by National Art Gallery should be commissioned by a committee which selects renowned art historian or critic, respected scholars on art whose writings will



- contribute to the importance of the national collections and disseminate them internationally.
21. New works must be acquired for its collection, especially contemporary art through the recommendation of a well-respected committee and this process must be fair, transparent and following merit.
 22. Visa support and institutional (PNCA) support could prove quite valuable for Pakistani Artists working internationally. Governmental Support could make the process faster and increase the credibility of the artist and his work.
 23. The Pakistani embassies around the world should show extra interest in promoting art activities internationally and promote the artists, share opportunities and attend events which showcase Pakistan.
 24. Government (federal and provincial) should provide special permission to artists to temporarily use the abandoned spaces/ buildings in the country as pop spaces or maybe form temporary museums/ studios/ exhibition space in such areas.
 25. Small art galleries should be established in smaller cities so the art activity is not concentrated in Islamabad but reaches to a wider public across the country. Coordination with provincial governments.
 26. PNCA should allow and invite different artists and curators on a rotation to organize month/ two month long exhibitions, activities, workshops in the National Art Gallery. This could include dance, theatre and music as well.
 27. PNCA should facilitate inviting international artists, exhibitions and researchers to Pakistan and vice versa. Giving importance and support to art and culture will promote a positive and progressive image of Pakistan towards a brighter future.
 28. The ministry should define a transparent manner of inviting and recruiting local budding talent from all divisions of Pakistan.
 29. Government should plan international exhibitions of Pakistani art and participation of Pakistan in important international art events, such as Venice Biennale and others, so the country's image as a civilized, cultural and peace loving nation spreads/improves globally. List of all such international events need to be part of the calendar for targets of PNCA.
 30. Govt. must promote a protectionist policy and form some barrier to entry against foreign imports of entertainment products, so local art is nurtured.
 31. Govt./PEMRA needs to ensure broadcasters follow the 10 % Rule of airing non-Pakistani Products/Content on TV/Radio networks to provide local artists equitable playing field.
 32. There is dire need for Govt. to ensure strict adherence by broadcasters to copyrights laws and royalty collection for both local and foreign content aired.
 33. Above mentioned Royalty should be poured into a centralized agency which should be supervised by Intellectual Property Organization (IPO).
 34. The revenue from Public Broadcast should reach the entire team connected with the piece of art aired.
- The meeting was attended by Mr. Tahir Iqbal Ch., Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry,



Ms. Leila Khan, Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti, Dr. Azhar Khan Jadoon, Ms. Naeema Kishwar Khan, Ms. Zeb Jaffar, Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari, Ms. Ghulam Bibi Bharwana and Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb MNA. Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National

Heritage and senior Officers of M/o Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage; and Director General, Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) also attended the meeting.

FOREIGN VISITS AND DELEGATIONS

NA Deputy Speaker meets with Chairman State Duma

Deputy Speaker, National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi who is on official visit to Moscow, Russia to attend Third International Parliamentary Forum, has said that Pakistan values high its relations to Russia and wanted to further strengthen the existing relation though enhanced parliamentary and economic cooperation.



Russian State Duma Chairman Sergey Naryshkin

He expressed these views in his meeting with Mr. Sergey Naryshkin, Chairman State Duma of Russian Federation in Moscow on June 27.

The Deputy Speaker has stressed upon the need to further enhance the ties between Pakistan and Russia in diverse fields. He also underlined the need for frequent high level contacts between leadership of both the countries as well as parliament to parliament and people to people interactions. The Deputy Speaker said that both the countries had similar views on various international issues and were already supporting each

other in various global fora. He also emphasized the need of closer cooperation between Russia and Pakistan to effectively combat the menaces of drug trafficking and terrorism and to ensure peace and stability in the region.

Chairman of State Duma Mr. Sergey Naryshkin said that Russia attaches importance to its relations with Pakistan and wanted to further fortify them

through enhanced cooperation in all fields. He also agreed for enhancing parliamentary cooperation between State Duma and National Assembly of Pakistan.

Deputy Speaker National Assembly meets Deputy Speaker Grand National Assembly of Turkey

The Deputy Speaker met with the Deputy Speaker Grand National Assembly of Turkey on the sideline of Third International Parliamentary Forum on “New Dimensions of Parliamentary Dialogue in Modern Age” held in Moscow.



Talking to Deputy Speaker Turkish Grand National Assembly the Murtaza Javed Abbasi said that Pakistan considers Turkey its brother and a trusted friend who has always stood by in times of need. He said that religion, history and culture bind both the nations in fraternal bonds. He lauded the unwavering Turkish support to Pakistan at regional and international level. He appreciated Turk assistance in socio-economic sectors in Pakistan. He stressed the need for enhanced interaction between the parliamentarians of both the brotherly countries.

The Deputy Speaker Grand National Assembly of Turkey has said that Turkey gives immense importance to its warm and brotherly relations with Pakistan and wanted to further cement them through enhanced

parliamentary cooperation. He said that Pak-Turk parliamentary friendship group in Turkish Grand National Assembly exists and its Members were keen to interact with their Pakistan counterparts. He was confident that such interaction would further cement ties between both the brotherly countries.

The Deputy Speaker, Murtaza Javed Abbasi also met with Deputy Speaker, Indonesia, Deputy Speaker Algeria, Deputy Speaker Austria and Parliamentary Delegation of German Bundestag on the sideline of Third International Parliamentary Forum on “New Dimensions of Parliamentary Dialogue in Modern Age” held in Moscow from 25-27 June, 2014 and discussed the matters pertaining to common interest and share experiences.

OTHER NEWS

Three Day National Conference on MDGs concluded, Legislators’ participation urged in achieving rule of law and good governance

Monday, 2nd June, 2014

The 3-days National Parliamentary Conference on MDGs was held at the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Affairs starting from 2nd June. The conference was formally inaugurated by the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. National and provincial Task Forces on the MDGs operating at the federal and provincial levels participated in the conference. Experts from different areas of the MDGs also spoke in dedicated sessions spanning three days.

The conference was called in response to UNDP research indicating that Pakistan adopted 16 targets with 41 indicators. Of the 34 indicators for which data is available, 24 are off track and unlikely to be met by 2015. The legislators will review current MDG status and work to determine a way forward.

The Chairperson of the Special MDG Task Force, Member of the National Assembly Marriyum Aurangzeb, opened the first session. She briefed the participants on the purpose and expected outcomes of the conference. “This is the first time we have all met together, the national MDG Task Force and the provincial MDG Task Forces. This conference will help Parliamentarians to gain tools and techniques to achieve the MDGs.”

Mr. Shakeel Ahmed, UNDP Policy Analyst, provided an overview of the current MDG status and the post-2015 agenda.

The first session of the conference, “Peace and Stability, Good Governance, Monitoring and Accountability: Driving Socio-economic Development Reforms” highlighted the role of elected representatives in ensuring rule of law as well as improving governance in Pakistan. The speakers included representatives of the



World Bank, UNDP and international law experts.

UNDP Assistant Country Director Amir Goraya thanked the parliamentarians for gathering to discuss the development issues of the country. "Parliamentarians can play a pivotal role in achieving the MDGs," he said.

Mr. Zubair Bhatti, World Bank Pakistan Governance Chief, shared his experiences working with elected representatives as a civil servant and the importance of their role in development. "Elected officials need to develop capable institutions that can reach down to the lowest tier of the society. You need to strike a balance between long-term development and managing your constituency."

International Law Expert Barrister Ahmar Bilal Soofi emphasised the need to legislate on MDG related subjects. "Challenges of governances have increased in the post-18th amendment scenario," he stated.

The Speaker NA, Mr. Ayaz Sadiq urged the law makers of the country to play the role of oversight in achieving the MDG targets.

Tuesday, 3rd June, 2014

The Speaker, National Assembly, Mr. Ayaz Sadiq urged the law makers of the country to play the role of oversight in achieving the MDG targets. Mr. Sadiq encouraged the young legislators to pool in their knowledge and energies along with the donors, international agencies to meet the targets set by the 8th Millennium Development Goals. The Speaker was inaugurating the first ever National Workshop of Parliamentarians at Pakistan Institute of Parliament Services (PIPS) Islamabad on June 3.

He was addressing the conveners and Members of the task force of four Provincial Legislatures, including AJK and Gilgit Baltistan Assemblies. Some Senior Parliamentarians members of Civil Society academia and Media were also present on the occasion.

Mr. Sadiq urged the democratic and parliamentary force to rise above the political divides and work with dedication for the social and economic development of the country.

The Speaker termed the occasion as unique and land mark in our parliamentary history and said that meeting of MDGs will bring social development and improve the quality of life for the common people.

The parliament will play the role of oversight in the development of the Social Sectors, he further said. He also praised the extensive turn out of the parliamentarians and appreciated their commitment and resolve. We are determined to reduce poverty, sickness and illiteracy, he added. The Hon'able Speaker also inter-acted with delegates of all provinces and shared views on the conference, and exchange mutual experiences. He praised the interest and involvement of MNA Ms: Maryem Aurengezeb in holding this conference and also appreciated the team work of legislators, the Secretaries of PIPS and National Assembly. While addressing the ceremony, he praised the role of Media and cautioned them to act with responsibilities while discharging their duties. The ceremony concluded with the delegates lightening the candle of hope and prosperity.



ملک کی معاشی ترقی میں تاجر برادری کا کردار انتہائی اہمیت کا حامل ہے: ڈپٹی اسپیکر قومی اسمبلی

اسلام آباد: 05 جون 2014: ڈپٹی اسپیکر قومی اسمبلی مرتضیٰ جاوید عباسی نے کہا ہے کہ تاجر برادری ملک کی معاشی ترقی میں ریڑھ کی ہڈی حیثیت رکھتی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ موجودہ حکومت تاجر برادری کو درپیش مسائل کے حل اور ان کی فلاح و بہبود کے لیے ترجیحی بنیادوں پر اقدامات اٹھا رہی ہے انہوں نے ان خیالات کا اظہار لورہ ایجنٹ آباد میں انجمن تاجران لورہ کے نو منتخب عہدیداروں کی تقریب حلف برداری کے موقع پر عوامی اجتماع سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔

ڈپٹی اسپیکر نے کہا کہ حالیہ بجٹ متوازن اور عوام دوست بجٹ ہے اور موجودہ حالات میں اس سے بہتر بجٹ پیش کرنا ممکن نہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا بجٹ میں دیگر معاشی شعبوں کی طرح کاروبار کے فروغ کے لیے متعدد مراعات دی گئی ہیں اور کسی ایک شعبے پر بوجھ ڈالنے کے بجائے ٹیکس نیٹ کو بڑھانے پر توجہ دی گئی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ان اقدامات سے تاجر برادری کے اعتماد میں اضافہ ہوگا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم یو تھ لون اسکیم کے تحت نوجوانوں کو آسان شرائط پر قرضے فراہم کیے جا رہے ہیں جن سے بے روزگاری کی شرح میں کمی ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ ملکی معیشت پر بھی بہتر اثرات مرتب ہوں گے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومت تاجر برادری کو درپیش مسائل سے بخوبی آگاہ ہے اور ان کے حل کیلئے ترجیحی بنیادوں پر اقدامات اٹھا رہی ہے اور ملک میں کاروبار کے لیے سازگار ماحول فراہم کرنے کے لیے پرعزم ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ توانائی کی قلت ملک کی معاشی ترقی راہ میں بڑی رکاوٹ ہے جس کے خاتمے کے لیے تمام وسائل کو برو کار لایا جا رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے اس امید کا اظہار وزیر اعظم میاں محمد نواز شریف کی قیادت میں موجودہ جمہوری حکومت ملک کو درپیش مسائل کو حل کرنے میں جلد کامیاب ہوگی اور ملک کی ترقی کی راہ پر گامزن ہوگا۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ اسپیکر قومی اسمبلی نے وزیر خزانہ کی بجٹ تقریر کے موقع پر ملک بھر سے ایوان صنعت و تجارت، بسٹاک ایکسچینج اور دیگر تاجر تنظیموں کے نمائندوں کو بجٹ تقریر کو سننے اور اس پر تجاویز دینے کیلئے خصوصی طور پر مدعو کیا۔ انہوں نے لورہ کی انجمن تاجران کے نو منتخب نمائندوں کو مبارکباد دیتے ہوئے تاجر برادری کو درپیش مسائل کے حل کے لیے ہر ممکن تعاون کا یقین دلایا۔

لورہ کی انجمن تاجران کے صدر نے ڈپٹی اسپیکر کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہوئے علاقے کی ترقی اور تاجر برادری کو درپیش مسائل کے حل کے لیے ان کی خصوصی دلچسپی کو سراہا اور موجودہ حکومت کی اقتصادی پالیسیوں پر اپنے اعتماد کا اظہار کیا اور موجودہ بجٹ کو عوام دوست بجٹ قرار دیا۔

NA Speaker urges young parliamentarians to play their role in country's progress

Wednesday, 11th June, 2014

The level of debate in the Parliament has gone up in the recent years with more young parliamentarians being elected to the House. These views were expressed by the Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq while speaking to the ceremony held to reactivate the Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF) on 11th June at Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS).

The Speaker said that he believed in the capacities of young parliamentarians and

therefore he nominated half of the members of Parliamentary Friendship Groups from younger age group keeping in view their enthusiasm and energies. He said that all political parties and each province would be given representation in the executive council of YPF. He noted that the YPF of 13th National Assembly had played an active role and made good impression of the country during their foreign visit to United States, European Union and NATO Headquarters in Brussels and to many other countries. He further stated that there were many donor agencies wanted to work with the Parliament and he would get the YPF through to them



once they make up their yearly calendar of activities. He told young lawmakers that they can use the services of PIPS as support to their parliamentary functions.

The ceremony was also attended by the Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Ms. Anusha Rehman, former Deputy Speaker National Assembly Faisal Karim Kundi, and Member National Assembly Asiya Nasir. The elections for the posts of President, General Secretary, Joint Secretary and Treasurer of YPF will be held on 12th June in the chamber of Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Murtaza Javed Abbasi.

While addressing to the ceremony, Ms. Asiya Nasir recalled her experiences as member of YPF in the previous National Assembly. She said it would be third term of YPF after successful experiences in 12th and 13th National Assemblies.

Pakistan and Japan are good trading partner & the bi-lateral relationship will grow; stated by Mr. Awais Ahmad Khan Laghari Chairman Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs National Assembly

Tuesday, 17th June, 2014

Pakistan and Japan are good by trading partner & the bi-lateral relationship will grow under the leadership of Prime Minister, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. The present government is focusing on creating business & investment friendly policies. This was stated by Mr. Awais Ahmad Khan Laghari Chairman Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs National Assembly, welcoming Mr. Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki, Chief Representative of JICA on 17th June. While Briefing Mr. Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki, about the achievement of the Standing Committee Mr. Laghari said that the Standing Committee is now operating as a think tank for the government of Pakistan on the issue relating the Foreign Policy. It advises the government on issues of relationship of major contributions and its views are taken seriously by the

government. All major parties are represented by the senior parliamentarians.

The government of Pakistan is looking for building constructive relationship with the donor's country which contributed to the economy. The need to be recognized by the civil society and by the government, Mr. Laghari appreciated the contribution & Cooperation of JICA fund in Pakistan.

In his remarks Mr. Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki said that Pakistan & JICA enjoy 60 years of Cooperation. JICA wishes to bring Japanese technology to Pakistan & focus technology operation for big project simply for power & agriculture sector. The Japanese add agencies invested more than 50 million US \$ in the power sector and also contributed 50 million US \$ for Polio eradication through W.H.O.

Mr. Laghari while highlighting the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Said the 1st year of government has strengthened the business & Economy in the country. The Prime Minister is taking personal interest in empowering the youth and women along with other marginalized section of the society.

According to Mr. Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki, Japanese is single donor to Pakistan and gives special importance to its operation in Pakistan. Both sides agreed to hold a seminar in Islamabad attended by the JICA & Members of National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. In order to attract more Japanese investment in Pakistan Mr. Laghari lead special emphasis community participation in development in Micro-Financing schemes at gross roots level and Rural Areas need to be developed.

NA Speaker & Deputy Speaker Congratulate nation on Advent of Ramazan

Sunday, 29th June, 2014

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker National Assembly have congratulated the nation on advent of Ramazan on Monday June 30, 2014. In their separate congratulatory



messages to the nation, the Speaker said that he is pleased to extend warm felicitation to all fellow citizens, many happy returns on the occasion of the arrival of blessed month of Ramazan.

The Speaker said that this month arrives to purify souls and replenish them with faith, piety and readiness for the life, thereafter. "This magnanimous month comes to discipline the souls for tolerance, humanity and shunning of haughtiness" he added. He said that we should all plead to Almighty Allah for compassion and mercy, salvation

this Holy month with our brethren who have been displaced from their homes due to "Operation Zarb-e-Azab" against extremism and terrorism in North Waziristan. They prayed to Almighty Allah to enable all of us to do what he is pleased with, bless Pakistan with peace, security and stability and eliminate extremism and terrorism from the country.

Private-Public Cooperation is necessary to meet residential deficiency in the Country:
Deputy Speaker NA

Wednesday, 18th June, 2014

ملک میں رہائشی سہولیات کی کمی کو پورا کرنے کے لیے نجی اور سرکاری شعبے کا اشتراک ضروری ہے ڈپٹی اسپیکر قومی اسمبلی
اسلام آباد: 18 جون 2014 ڈپٹی اسپیکر قومی اسمبلی مرتضیٰ جاوید عباسی نے کہا ہے کہ ملک میں رہائشی سہولیات کی کمی کو پورا کرنے کے لیے نجی اور سرکاری شعبے کی شراکت داری انتہائی ضروری ہے۔ انہوں نے ان خیالات کا اظہار آج غوری ٹاؤن اسلام آباد میں اسٹیٹ ویشن کے نام سے قائم کیے جانے والے پراپرٹی آفس کے افتتاحی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ تقریب سے گفتگو میں ممبران قومی اسمبلی ڈاکٹر طارق فضل چوہدری، ڈاکٹر عبید اللہ، ملک ایرار اور راولپنڈی اسلام آباد ریئل اسٹیٹ سے تعلق رکھنے والی کاروباری شخصیات اور مہمانوں کی ایک بڑی تعداد نے شرکت کی۔

ڈپٹی اسپیکر نے کہا کہ ریئل اسٹیٹ کا شعبہ ملکی معیشت کا ایک اہم شعبہ ہے اور یہ ملک کی اقتصادی ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کر رہا ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومت ملک میں ریئل اسٹیٹ کے شعبے کی ترقی اور رہائشی سہولتوں کی کمی پر قابو پانے کے لیے خصوصی اقدامات اٹھا رہی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اپنے گھر کا حصول ہر شہری کا بنیادی حق ہے اور موجودہ حکومت نے حالیہ بجٹ میں کم آمدنی والے شہریوں کے لیے گھر تعمیر کرنے کے لیے آسان شرائط پرقرضے فراہم کرنے کے لیے خطیر فنڈ مختص کیے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومت کی طرف سے گھروں کی تعمیر سے اٹھائے گئے اقدامات سے نہ صرف بے گھر لوگوں کے لیے اپنے گھر کا حصول ممکن ہوگا بلکہ اس سے ملک میں اقتصادی سرگرمیوں میں اضافہ ہوگا اور روزگار کے نئے مواقعے میسر ہوں گے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ حکومتی اقدامات سے ہاؤسنگ اور ریئل اسٹیٹ کے شعبوں کو بھی فروغ حاصل ہوگا۔ آخر میں انہوں نے ملکی سلامتی ترقی اور اسٹیٹ ویشن کی انتظامیہ کی کامیابی کے لیے دعا کی۔

from misdeeds, strength to recite and understand Quran and teaching of Holy Prophet (PBUH).

The Deputy Speaker said that in this Holy month, Allah may grant us all stronger faith, manifest expression of brotherhood, affection, adherence to Islam and philanthropy making us all one entity.

Both the leaders urged upon all the Pakistanis to share the joys and bounties of

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker condole the death of Haji Muhammad Saifullah Khan

Sunday, 1st June, 2014

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly have condoled the death of Haji Muhammad Saifullah Khan, former Minister of Religious Affairs and renowned constitutional expert.



In their separate condolence messages, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker expressed their deep sense of grief and sorrow over the sad demise. They prayed to Almighty Allah to shower his blessing on the departed soul and grant strength and fortitude to bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss with equanimity.

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker condemn terrorists attack at Karachi

Monday, 9th June, 2014

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker National Assembly have strongly condemned the terrorists attack at Karachi Airport and paid rich tribute to the security personnel who laid their lives in operation against the terrorists.

In their separate statements, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker termed it a shameful act of terrorism. They said that the elements involved in such activities were the enemies of humanity and the country. They said that such shameful acts could not deter the Government from its firm resolve to fight against terrorism. They were confident that the culprits involved in such activities will not be spared and will be brought to justice.

They prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the souls of martyred in eternal peace and sympathized with bereaved families and prayed for early recovery of injured.

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker condole the death of Zulfiqar Ali Balti

Monday, 9th June, 2014

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly have condoled the death of Zulfiqar Ali Balti, Personal Photographer of Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

In their separate condolence messages to bereaved family, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker have paid rich tribute to the professional services of Zulfiqar Ali Balti. They expressed their deep sense of

grief and sorrow over the sad demise and prayed for eternal peace of departed soul. They also prayed for grant of strength and fortitude to members of the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss with equanimity.

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker condole the death of Nawab Khair Bukhsh Marri

Thursday, 12th June, 2014

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly have condoled the death of veteran politician, Nawab Khair Bukhsh Marri.

In their separate condolence messages, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker expressed their deep sense of grief and sorrow over the sad demise of Nawab Khair Bukhsh Marri. They paid rich tribute to his services for the strengthening of the democracy in the country and the welfare of the people of the Baluchistan. They prayed to Almighty Allah to rest departed soul in peace and grant strength and fortitude to the members of bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss with equanimity.

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker condemn the murder of Handery Maseih, MPA, Balochistan Assembly

Saturday, 14th June, 2014

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker National Assembly have strongly condemned the murder of Handery Masieh, MPA, Balochistan Assembly, who assassinated today.

In their separate condolence messages the Speaker and Deputy Speaker expressed sorrow and grief over the assassination of Handery Masieh. They paid rich tribute to his services for the minorities. They sympathized with member of the bereaved family and asked the law enforcing authorities to apprehend the culprits and bring them to justice.

**Deputy Speaker pays his tributes to Martyr Assistant Sub-Inspector**

Sunday, 15th June, 2014

Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Murtaza Javed Abbasi has paid tribute to Assistant Sub-Inspector ASF, Asad Shahnawaz who was martyred during the terrorist attack on Karachi Airport. He said that Asad laid down his life to protect the national assets and the Nation is proud of him. He announced to construct a road in Asad's native village which will be named after him and to give his brother a government job.

The Deputy Speaker expressed his deep sympathy with the family of the martyre and prayed Almighty Allah to to rest his sould in eternal peace and grant courage to bereaved family to bear his departure with patience and courage.

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker condole the death of aunt of MQM Quaid Altaf Hussain

Monday, 16th June, 2014

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker National Assembly have condoled the death of Aunt of MQM Quaid, Altaf Hussain.

In their separate condolence messages to bereaved family the Speaker and Deputy Speaker expressed their heartfelt grief and sorrow over the said demise. They prayed Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to bereaved family to bear the loss with patience and forbearance.

NA Speaker, Deputy Speaker condole the death of mother of Senior Journalist Rana Ghulam Qadir,

Tuesday, 17th June, 2014

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan have condoled the sad demise of mother of Rana Ghulam Qadir, Senior Journalist.

In their separate condolence messages to Rana Ghulam Qadir, the Speaker and the

Deputy Speaker expressed their deep sense of grief and sorrow over the passing away of his mother. They prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant fortitude and courage to him and other members of the family to bear the irreparable loss with equanimity.

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker condemn the killing of son of Senator Saleh Shah

Thursday, 19th June, 2014

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker National Assembly have strongly condemned the killing of son of Senator Saleh Shah who assassinated at Wana today.

In their separate messages to Senator Saleh Shah, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker strongly condemned the assassination of his son and term it inhuman act of militancy and extremism. They said that whole the nation was united against the terrorism and such cowardice act cannot deter the firm resolve of the government to fight against terrorism and militancy. They said that culprits involved in this tragic incident would not be spared and brought to justice. They expressed their heartfelt grief over the tragic death of his son and prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant the courage to him and other members of the family to bear the irreparable loss with equanimity.

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker condole the death of MNA, Tahira Asif

Friday, 20th June, 2014

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Deputy Speaker National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi have expressed their profound grief over the sad demise of MQM Legislator Tahira Asif who was hospitalized after being injured by the firing of the unknown assailants on Wednesday.

In their separate condolence messages to her family, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker expressed their profound grief and sorrow over her death. Paying rich tributes to Tahira Asif, the Speaker and the Deputy



Speaker said that she was a politician of high repute and a devoted social worker who rendered valuable contributions in legislative business during her tenure as Member, National Assembly and worked for the betterment of marginalized segments of the society. Her services will be remembered for a long time to come, they said.

They said that the culprits involved in the tragic incident wanted to destabilize the democratic process in the country. They said that culprits would be apprehended and taken to task. They prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss with equanimity.

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker condole the death of former MNA Pir Shujaat Qureshi

Monday, 23rd June, 2014

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly have condoled the death of seasoned politician and former MNA Pir Shujaat Qureshi.

In their separate condolence messages to bereaved family, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker expressed their deep sense of grief and sorrow over the passing away of Pir Shujaat Qureshi. They prayed to Almighty

Allah to shower his blessing over the departed soul and grant courage and strength to members of the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss with equanimity.

They also condoled the death of sister of Member National Assembly Ramesh Lal. In their separate condolence messages to Ramesh Lal the Speaker and Deputy Speaker expressed grief and sorrow over the sad demise of his sister and prayed for grant of fortitude and patience to him and other members of the family to bear this irreparable loss.

NA Speaker and Deputy Speaker condole the death of Makhdoom Naveed-Uz-Zaman

Wednesday, 25th June, 2014

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker and Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly have condoled the death of Makhdoom Naveed-uz-Zaman younger brother of Makhdoom Amin Fahim.

In their separate condolence messages to Makhdoom Amin Fahim, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker said that they were shocked to learn the sad news of death of his brother. They expressed their deep sense of grief and sorrow over the sad demise. They prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage and strength to him and other members of the family to bear this irreparable loss with equanimity.

Press Corner (Budget 2014-15)

The Budget: Fiction vs Reality

Dr Muhammad Yaqub

The News – June 5, 2014

In presenting the budget for FY14, Finance Minister Dar had made four major statements last June. First, that the PML-N government “inherited a broken economy”.

Second, he gave an economic vision of the PML-N government to restore its intrinsic vitality with a commitment “to build an economy that is not dependent on others except through trade and investment” and promised “to protect our economic sovereignty by refusing to live on handouts and foreign goodwill”.



Third, that the government would “limit itself within the broader limits of resources” determined by revenue collected through taxation and there was a promise of major fiscal reforms to expand the tax base and make it more equitable. Fourth, that the PML-N government would “protect our weak and poor segments of population” from further economic hardships, which implied that inflation would be brought down and the fruits of development shared by all.

The finance minister was right about the ‘broken economy’ but has turned out to be grossly inadequate in the fulfilment of the lofty goals of the PML-N’s economic vision enunciated in his last year’s budget speech. But he could not muster courage to accept blame for his failure to make progress in achieving the main goals of his economic vision of the last budget. Instead, he has relied on two things to make the economic situation look better than it is – dubious accounting gimmickry and a massive effort to obtain foreign loans and grants and use them to cover up failures in undertaking structural reforms.

Unfortunately for the country, the IMF abandoned its professional approach and was very supportive of a patchwork to generate foreign exchange to ensure payments to itself and at the same time help the government to postpone difficult policy measures.

While an exhaustive review of the present state of the economy is not possible here, it is important we bring out the contrast between the fiction produced by the finance minister in his budget speech and the ground realities of structural macroeconomic

imbalances that remain deeply entrenched. The minister gave a long list of economic ‘achievements’ relating to reserves, exchange-rate appreciation, lowering of government bank borrowing, reduced budget deficit, falling inflation and rising rate of economic growth. What he did not explain was that these developments were not the outcome of economic policy reforms pursued by the government but of the generosity of foreign lenders and foreign remittances of the Pakistani labour force working abroad – and some figure fudging by his economic team.

If the impact of exogenous factors and data fudging is taken out of the national income accounts, and budgetary, balance of payments, exchange rate and monetary developments, it would become very clear that structurally the economy continues to remain on the same weak turf that was inherited by this government.

At the very outset of his speech, the finance minister claimed to have achieved in FY14 “the highest growth rate in the last six years”. The Institute of Policy Reforms has calculated that, when recalculated correctly, the real rate of growth of the GDP in FY14 “is close to 3.5 per cent and not 4.1 percent, which means that the GDP growth rate in FY14 is lowest in the last four years”. According to the government’s own data, there was a sharp increase in reliance on foreign loans in FY14 as compared with FY13. What happened to the dreamland of self-reliance so eloquently explained by the finance minister last year has been mentioned nowhere in the budget speech.

Domestically, the government was not able to mobilise additional tax revenues as



projected by the finance minister and there was a shortfall of Rs200 billion in revenue generation compared with the target for FY14. The fixed investment and export growth also fell well short of the budget targets.

A lower budget deficit has been realised on paper through innovative accounting techniques rather than tax reforms. Even then, if adjustments are made for clearance of circular debt by the present government that became a part of the budget deficit for FY13 or the new circular debt that has accumulated during the period of the present government is added to the deficit for FY14, the budget deficit as a percentage of the nominal GDP remains about the same in both the years.

The minister boasted of keeping inflation to a single digit but did not fully explain how he could achieve it in the context of the overhang of liquidity in the economy and continued excessive government bank borrowing and money creation. If downwards biases introduced in the construction of official price indices are removed, statistics could show that inflation remained in double digits in FY14.

As for the “weak and poor” segments of the population, their situation has gone from bad to worse in the first year of the PML-N government. Their real incomes have fallen, and they have continued to face rising energy and electricity cost and a high rate of price increases of items of daily use. The employment situation is no better and economic inequality has widened. One does not need to travel to Tharparkar to see grinding poverty. It can be seen on one’s way to the lush Raiwind farms.

In the circumstances, the proclamations of the finance minister in several different places in the budget speech that the “health of the economy has been restored”..., “Pakistan is much strong, healthy and prosperous” now and that it has been “put on firm path of stability and growth” are, to say the least, not true.

Turning to the budget for FY15, the most disappointing part of the finance minister’s speech was his setting lofty targets with no coherent macroeconomic policy framework to back them up. In fact, the economic targets and micro economic policies announced in the budget are mutually inconsistent and cannot be fit into a coherent and consistent macroeconomic framework.

He has set the target of achieving a growth rate of 7 percent by FY17 without explaining how he would finance an investment level of 22 percent of the GDP to achieve that target. There is no mention in his speech as to how he will increase the present low rate of domestic saving to the neighbourhood of about 18 percent of the GDP to achieve his investment target. In its absence, excessive borrowing will fuel inflation and stand in the way of achieving balance of payments viability and single digit inflation target. He has also not explained how the rate of saving could increase in the context of negative real rate of returns on financial savings.

The minister has promised to keep the rate of inflation to single digit by micro managing individual prices. Such micro-management of prices is not effective in an expansionary macroeconomic setting. In fact, expansionary [c1] fiscal and monetary policies and fixed nominal exchange rate are



inconsistent with the objective of lowering rate of inflation, promoting export-led growth and ensuring balance of payments viability. He has also shown no awareness of the critical role of an autonomous central bank to contain monetary expansion and use interest rate policy to realise the inflation target.

The minister has set the target to reduce the budget deficit to 4 percent of the GDP, increase tax revenue to 13 percent of GDP, accelerate invest to 22 percent of the GDP and increase foreign exchange reserves to \$22 billion in the next three years. These are laudable targets but their achievement is contingent on the implementation of an internally consistent and strong package of macroeconomic policies that is missing from the budget speech.

There is no mention of structural taxation reforms that could increase the tax-to-GDP ratio by about 4 percentage points of GDP in three years. At the same time, the budget has 74 “mega projects of motorways, highways, bridges, tunnels and regional roads” and new rail links, special projects and packages

Budget Thoughts

Khurram Husain

Dawn – June 5, 2014

IN his budget speech, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar referred to a stable exchange rate as one of his government’s biggest achievements of the past year, referring to it as the “single most important indicator of economic stability”.

The argument is that the exchange rate determines so many other prices, especially

for all the vested interest groups of business community. There is no mention of how those capital-intensive projects are to be financed by the government along with rising debt servicing, and mounting defence expenditure.

Interestingly, and while there is no plan to expand the income tax base to agriculture and service sectors, there is a promise to change the share of direct taxes in the tax mix. Most of the new revenue will be generated in FY14 by withholding tax on electricity bills, immovable properties, interest income and dividends, cash withdrawals which all are regressive in their incidence.

If not for prudent economic management, the Ministry of Finance is well-advised to develop a macroeconomic framework with economic inter-linkages and put in it the budget targets and policies incorporated in the budget to realise the folly of adopting an accounting approach to target setting and policy formulation.

The writer is a former governor of the State Bank of Pakistan.

oil, which cascades through the economy and impacts activity across the board. “A stable exchange rate is the lynchpin of a stable economy,” he continued.

It’s true that this government has stabilised the exchange rate, and brought it to a level nobody really thought possible. Many speculators were burned in the process. It’s also true that the reserves position has been stabilised, and the fears of a potential financial crisis that were so prominent the same time last year have now receded.



But a view that sees a stable exchange rate as `the lynchpin of a stable economy` could be more expensive to sustain than what the minister has bargained for. Let`s recall that the Musharraf government had also committed itself to a stable exchange rate, keeping the rupee steady at 60 to a dollar for almost half a decade.

However, the policy angered exporters, and consumed foreign exchange in growing quantities. Eventually, the government resorted to accommodating the exporters by doling out tax exemptions instead, and began to face tough choices when the inevitable balance of payments problems arose in 2006, and accelerated throughout 2007.

Something along those lines appears to already be under way. The present budget provides textile exporters with tax drawbacks in varying quantities provided they increase their export receipts by 10pc. Mark up on two key lending facilities for exporters the export refinance rate and the long-term financing facility have both been reduced by two percentage points.

Duty-free import of machinery will continue. In time look for these measures to widen, and more provisions offering tax and other benefits to exporters to start creeping in, partially as a consequence of the commitment to a stable exchange rate.

Nobody denies that a stable exchange rate brings some benefits, but it`s debatable whether it should be given the kind of importance the finance minister gave it in the budget speech.

The problem with hanging your hat on the exchange rate is that it becomes a test case when the tide turns. When that happened to

the Musharraf government sometime in 2006 or 2007, the dilemma they faced was either to continue throwing scarce foreign exchange at maintaining the exchange rate, or admit defeat and allow a devaluation and thereby risk igniting speculative sentiment against the rupee.

The finance minister took some pride in managing the country`s debt profile. He says foreign borrowing has increased while domestic borrowing has gone down substantially. Getting government out of domestic debt markets was an important precondition for growth since government had been picking up all bank liquidity and then some, leaving nothing behind for private investors in a classic case of `crowding out`.

Not only that, the minister says replacing domestic with foreign borrowing improves the quality of the debt, since foreign loans have `low cost and longer tenors`, whereas the stock of domestic debt came at very high interest and was increasingly denominated in short tenors of three to six months only. He says the amount of money saved on debt servicing, as a result of this shift from domestic to foreign borrowing, is Rs24bn.

This is fair enough, but there is one drawback to foreign borrowing that he doesn`t mention: servicing of foreign loans is in foreign exchange, making continued reserve accumulation all the more crucial. Some notable increases in expenditures include defence, which has enjoyed steady 10pc increases over the past five years at least, not including those portions of the defence outlays that are embedded in the civilian budget.



This year, the hike in defence spending is a little larger still, more than Rs70bn, taking the total to Rs700bn. Greater transparency in the defence budget is a crucial element of strengthening democracy, as is greater parliamentary say in the framing of the threat assessment on which defence allocations are based.

A very large allocation has been made for a system of roads and highways in connection with the North-South corridor Rs113bn for 74 projects to build roads and highways all the way from Karachi and Gwadar to Khunjerab.

Big boosts have also been given to the railways Rs77bn as well as the National Income Support Programme, which includes the BISP and the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, increased from Rs75bn to Rs118bn.

Subsidies have been brought down very optimistically. Last year, the government

budgeted Rs 165bn as subsidies for Wapda/Pepco, but ended up paying Rs245bn instead.

This year they've budgeted Rs156bn, a sign they intend to get tough with the power bureaucracy, a signal further clarified by the appointment of Nargis Sethi as secretary, water and power. Things are about to get interesting in the power sector.

The budget is fairly typical of Mian Sahib: friendly to big business, stubbornly wedded to outdated notions, grandiose road-building projects passed off as infrastructure investment, and so on. A lot of visible activity is about to get under way, but how much it'll all mean depends on the structural changes they're able to implement.

The writer is a business journalist based in Karachi.

PERSPECTIVE

The Articles published in this section present the views of writer and do not necessarily reflect the policy of Gazette or National Assembly Secretariat.

Miseries of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and our responsibilities

Ashtar Hussain

YPA, National Assembly Secretariat



As the operation 'Zarb-e-Azb' is launched in the North Waziristan Agency (NWA), on June 15, 2014, a mass of the population is required to

vacate the areas. This had led to assert a great pressure on the neighboring areas, while the IDPs themselves are facing unbearable difficulties. Despite the IDPs, perhaps none can feel the pain they are



going through, as this is the extreme of the pain to vacate your home for an un-announced duration of time. Thus they leave their homes and are compelled to live either in the IDPs Camps or to live with their relatives (if any) in the settled areas. Here this is worth mentioning, that the social capital – existing in the Pakistan in general while in the Pashtoon Customary in particular – is one of the greatest supports which the IDPs have in such conditions. But Pushtoons – being famous for their traditions – do not prefer to become a burden on someone else for long time.

As the operation is launched in extremely hot weather, and is now entered in the Month of Ramadan, the life in camps becomes miserable. The camp life is full of troubles, as the basic needs are merely provided to the IDPs on such a short notice, with a very much high number of almost 0.5 million registered IDPs. Any outbreak of infectious diseases; un-availability of the basic needs, i.e. water, food, sanitation, especially for women; lack of medicine; power shortage; and over-crowding are some of the other problems which add more fuel to the fire. In the previous incidents of natural disasters and different military operation, it is observed frequently that the ration of the IDPs was being sold in the markets. There have also been the issues of the corruption.

Geographically, NWA is one of the mountainous regions of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), where people depend mostly on horse and sheep breeding for their livelihood. Being the rural belt, majority of the population (almost more than 60%) is below poverty line. In such situations it is difficult for them even to vacate their homes and when they do, they cannot bring their belongings with them. There are many other issues which is another topic to have discussion on.

In such situations where our beloved country is confronted with so many challenges – terrorism being the most hazardous for the economic growth and prosperity – we must support and pray for Pak Army and the Security Agencies to be done with successful operation with less casualties. The Security Agencies are physically involved in the operation, while the IDPs are confronting agonies, contributing to the cause. What come in the public responsibilities are to support the Security Agencies to boost their morals, while take a very much good care of the IDPs to provide them with due facilities. The aid providing agencies – government or non-government organisations – must make it sure to utilize all the available resources with efficient and a fair mechanism. This is the time to come together and fight against terrorism, either way we can.

Long live Pakistan!



Pakistan Protection Ordinance

Hira Mushtaq

YPA, National Assembly Secretariat



The essay provides a summary of the Pakistan Protection Ordinance and the criticism on the ordinance. The emphasis is given to access the grounds that provide space for making special laws to deal with them.

What is Pakistan Protection Ordinance?

The President of Pakistan enforced Pakistan Protection Ordinance 2013 on December 5 2013 through a Statutory Regulatory Order. It was laid before the National Assembly on November 7, 2013. The amendments were introduced later on under the name Protection of Pakistan (Amendment) Ordinance on 22nd January 2014. It was presented to the National Assembly On January, 30 2014 and to the Senate On February 05, 2014. On February 7, 2014, the National Assembly of Pakistan, the lower house of the country's legislature, passed a resolution to extend three anti-terrorism ordinances for a 120-day period, including the Protection of Pakistan Ordinance (PPO). The report on the Protection of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill, 2014 was presented to the House By the Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee On Interior, Rana Shamim Ahmed Khan, MNA On April 02, 2014. On April 07, 2014 The National Assembly Passed the Protection of Pakistan (amendment) Bill 2014 PPO is an Ordinance to provide for protection against waging of war against Pakistan and the

prevention of acts threatening the security of Pakistan.

The Pakistan Protection Ordinance has under the Scheduled offences prescribed certain offences that will come under the course of PPO. The definition clause of PPO includes enemy alien term for all such persons who fail to establish their citizenship of Pakistan or are deprived of such citizenship by virtue of involvement in scheduled offences.

Section 3 of PPO has given powers to officer of the police, armed forces and civil armed forces in certain aspects like use of such force as may be deemed necessary and appropriate against a person committing or likely to commit scheduled offence.

The section 5 of the PPO has declared all the scheduled offences provided under this ordinance as cognizable and non-bailable. This section has an important impact as bail of hardened terrorist comes up as a big obstacle on the way of combating terrorism. Under the section 5(3) Where it appears that inquiry cannot be completed within the period of twenty-four hours the accused shall be produced before the Special Judicial magistrate to apply for remand by the head of Joint Investigation Team. Section 5(4) provides that Judicial Magistrate may remand the accused but the period may not exceed sixty days.



Under the same section is provided mechanism of investigation and inquiry where a Joint Investigation Team shall be established.

Section 6 of the PPO provides for preventive detention where a person can be detained not more than ninety days if there are grounds to infer that person acting in a manner prejudicial to security, integrity or defense of Pakistan.

Section 19 of the PPO provides that an appeal against the final judgment of a Special court shall lie to the High Court.

PPO also provides for the establishment of special courts and the Joint Investigation Team will submit their report to special courts upon completion of investigation. Burden of proof shall also lie on the accused.

Why Such Laws are required?

Many democracies have implemented laws specifically to fight terrorism, including nations which had hitherto lived in relative peace. Some of them are explicitly titled 'anti-terrorism', some are branded as 'patriotic' while others are amendments to existing criminal codes.

Terrorism has existed for centuries in many countries under different names and guises such as militant nationalism, separatism and independence movements.

Because the so-called 'war' against terrorism could not be fought along conventional lines, with military responses to organized aggression, the new laws tried to be pre-emptive and to rely more on the

structures and methods of the security services which, by their very nature, tended to be more secretive and less directly accountable to the general citizenry.¹

Countries across the globe have developed special laws to combat the emerging terrorist activities. Australia is one among those countries that have passed new laws regarding terrorism and the positive result of this legislation in Australia - apart from any effect it might have had on preventing terrorist acts was to clarify a number of legal issues which had either become dubious over the years or which had not been updated to reflect a socially, economically and technologically complex 21st century society.

Causes of terrorism:

Ethnic strife erupts in one part of the region or another from time to time. The major causes of this are political alienation, grievances that can be blamed on others and as a by-product of poverty and hostility. Transnational terrorists are recruited from populations with no voice in their own government and see no legitimate way to promote change in their own country. Most of these factors are issues of governance and economic policy.

The particularly disturbing fact is that some of the causes of the present violence emanate from processes which are simply beyond the jurisdiction of the nation-state. The men of violence in our midst including the suicide bombers, are frequently driven

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http://www.thenewsmanual.net/Resources/medialaw_in_australia_06.html



by a self-image of participating in a larger, almost global, struggle in which their nation state in their judgment, is aligned with the forces of evil. They target institutions of society in the hope of breaking that nexus. In this sense, violence is part of an insurrection that transcends national boundaries.

James Kurth professor of political science wrote an essay under the title “Splitting Islam”. Contemplating the best options to defeat the global Islamic insurgency directed at the United States, its allies and the West more generally he discuss in detail the benefits of encouraging a Shia-Sunni split strategy.²

The terrorism is thus not the product of national factors it has certain factors linked to it that are outside the ambit of national policies.

Criticism on PPO:

The Pakistan Protection Ordinance (PPO) 2013 not only violates human rights conventions, it might also suppress political and civil rights movements in Pakistan, said human rights advocates.³

The analysis showed the PPO 2013 violated Article 9 and 10 (1) of the Constitution by allowing law enforcement officials to fire even on apprehension of scheduled offences and arrest without warrant on reasonable suspicion. The preventive detention clause of the PPO 2013, which states that the

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<http://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/splitting-islam/>

³ <http://www.nation.com.pk/islamabad/15-Dec-2013/protection-of-pakistan-ord-enforced>

interior secretary can authorize detention for not more than 90 days, is also in violation of the human rights declaration and the rights covenant, both of which have been ratified by Pakistan.⁴

A lot of criticism came out of the discussion generated on the comparative analysis of the PPO with reference to Constitution Of Pakistan and the international covenants of UDHR and ICCPR to which Pakistan is signatory. In total the PPO violates approximately 67 clauses of Constitution of Pakistan, UDHR and ICCPR, a couple of examples of the criticism are given below:

- The PPO has given Armed and civil forces the powers of firing even on apprehension of Scheduled offenses. This clause is in contradiction of the Article 9 of Constitution of Pakistan, Article 2 of UDHR and Article 6, clause 1 of ICCPR.
- The PPO also provides the Armed and civil forces to arrest any person on reasonable suspicion without having any arrest warrant. This clause is in violation of the Article 10 of Constitution Of Pakistan, Article 2, 9 & 12 of UDHR and Article 9 clause 1 of ICCPR.⁵

Lawyers maintain that several sections of the PPO that relate to lawful way of arrest based on solid evidence, right of legal help,

⁴ <http://tribune.com.pk/story/638516/pakistan-protection-ordinance-new-law-voted-down-by-rights-advocates/>

⁵ <http://www.spopk.org/spo/index.php/spo-resources/news-and-media-spo/386-consultation-on-pakistan-protection-ordinance-ppo-2013-implications-for-human-political-legal-rights-of-the-citizen>



recourse to court, protection against torture inter alia are inconsistent with certain articles of the Constitution of Pakistan such as:

- Article 9 which talks about one's right to live with freedom (as per their own will) unless it contradicts law.
- Article 10, which deals with some of the crucial fundamentals of arresting a person. A person who is arrested or taken into custody has the right to consult a legitimate practitioner in regard to his defense. Person arrested should be presented before a magistrate within 24 hours of the arrest, and cannot be detained longer than that unless authorized by the magistrate. This however, does not apply to any person under preventive detention.
- 10 A speaks about the right to fair trial that a person holds in regard to any criminal charges filed against him.
- Article 14 provides protection against torture ; in case of extracting evidence, no person shall be subject to torture and violation of a person's dignity and invading one's privacy of home is proscribed
- Article 24 talks about one's property rights. A person's property cannot be taken into possession if it does not contradict law in any way. Nonetheless, if prevention of danger, safety measures for the public and other humanitarian issues are the reason for taking over somebody's

property then it is fair to take legal action intended for the said property.⁶

Comparative Analysis:

The PPO is stated to provide for speedy trials of offences falling under the Schedule of the PPO and to protect against waging of war against Pakistan and prevent acts threatening security of Pakistan. The logical grounds for the PPO cannot be ascertained in the presence of Anti-Terrorism Amendment Act 2013. After incorporating amendments the Anti-Terrorism Act has been made stronger. It provides for preventive detention for 30 days, forfeiture of the property of terror suspects, interception of communication between suspects etc.

In the United Kingdom there are five major Anti-Terrorism legislations. ⁷As compared to the preventive detention of ninety days incorporated in the Pakistani legislation and enemy aliens facing unlimited detention in the UK conditions are imposed on the movement of suspected persons via a control orders.

Anti-Terrorism laws were also introduced in India that was also subjected to amendments. The current Indian Terrorism law imposes burden of proof upon the police as compared to PPO where burden of proof lies on the accused. The bail can be applied

⁶ <http://crss.pk/story/5709/crss-critique-of-the-protection-of-pakistan-ordinance-ppo/>

⁷ Terrorism Act 2000, Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, Terrorism Act 2006 and Counter-Terrorism Act 2008.



as per normal CrPc provisions in India while PPO has made all scheduled offences non-bailable.

Conclusion:

All over the world, special laws have been promulgated to deal with terrorism and insurgencies, and the inherent powers for legislation cannot be challenged on the matters that bring peace. In many cases, these laws do not conform to the high bench mark of fundamental rights of the citizens, but in the greater interest of the society compromises are made even in most advanced democratic countries. The need,

however, is to ensure the law is not misused and only holds people to account who challenge and violate the writ of the state and endanger the lives of the innocent citizens.

It is time that we put aside our parochial political contests for some time and develop a national exit strategy. Pakistan Protection ordinance has a significance which lies in the way the law is used. Right to life is a human right but it ceases to exist for person who infringes others right to life. This is the Islamic law as well.

Youth and Politics

Afsana Afsar

YPA, National Assembly Secretariat



I remember during my undergraduate studies, once our teacher told us that during his school days he used to bunk classes to watch film in cinema. According to him, it was the only entertainment at that time, but today politics has replaced movies and even his three year old grandson enjoys it.

This made me realize that how the media has made politics sensationalized and entertaining. The breaking news of some politician having fake degree or heated arguments between politicians in a current affairs program is nothing less entertaining than a movie. Politics undoubtedly caters to a larger audience today. Even a small child senses it when there is a clash between

government and opposition and knows that Sheikh Rashid gives good ratings to a show.

The youth is undoubtedly much more informed and educated today. The number of young parliamentarians in Pakistan is increasing with every election in Pakistan. Similarly the count of women Parliamentarians is also growing. Young parliamentarians have been a part of every elected National Assembly, but their number has exceeded during the 2013 elections. The recent Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF) election is an example of that.

In the recent elections the minimum age of elected parliamentarians has become very much closer to that of eligibility i.e. 25 years. This is in itself a good sign for our political system. I remember when I was



young, if somebody asked me what I would want to be when I grow up. My only answer was to become a doctor. In fact most of the girls wanted to be a doctor and for boys it was probably an engineer or a pilot. The idea of studying social sciences was a big no-no at that time. But today what I am glad to witness is that firstly the options have become varied and secondly politics has a quiet prominent place in that list. Today if u ask a kid about his or her future professional options, politician being the answer has quite a good chance.

Also given that a huge amount of money was involved in politics and electoral process, people belonging to financially weaker backgrounds remained away from the scenario of politics. Earlier parents themselves were reluctant of politics and allowing their children to enter politics was a big deal then. For most, it started from the school or college council and ended right there. Only few of them could make it happen after that. The rest of the big names in politics usually came from political family backgrounds. Hence politics was confined only to a few families. But today the picture is totally opposite. Media has changed the political landscape especially in Pakistan. Apart from that a lot of projects regarding youth have been introduced in the recent past. Young Parliamentary Associates programme, Youth Parliament and initiatives like these are surely proving to be remarkable when it comes to orientation of the political system for the youth.

After becoming a Young Parliamentary Associate, unconsciously I started to make comparisons between this programme and

the previous one that I was part of i.e. Youth Parliament. As both of these programmes had different focuses, they were fairly different from each other. But one thing common was that my colleagues in both the projects were educated, competitive and had a sound knowledge of national and international politics. After having an extensive interaction with the talented cream of Pakistan, I came to the analysis that undoubtedly we have the best raw material in the world in terms of youth, all we need is polishing and then we have no competition.

Quaid e Azam regarded youth as the greatest asset and repeatedly emphasized the role of youth in politics. In fact he saw the young men and women as the leaders of tomorrow.

This made me remember one of my visits to the National Assembly of Pakistan as part of the Youth Parliament delegate. We were sitting in the visitor's gallery and watching the session. As we were comparing the real parliamentary proceedings and that of our mock, one of my colleagues said that seeing this attitude of the politicians in the house I will never enter such a system. Hearing this, my senior colleague commented that you cannot change a system from outside, to fix a system you have to be a part of it. I totally agreed to this statement.

I think now is the time for the youth to take the responsibility and play their role in the conventional political system of Pakistan. For example for practical understanding of politics, different projects can be initiated at university level and beyond. Similarly academic courses may be offered to enlighten the youth on different political



systems. So if we want to take Pakistan forward in its true sense then we as youth need to participate and try hard to improve

this system. Our collective efforts will lead us to a better Pakistan.

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