

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

**A
BILL**

to provide for the establishment of Horizon University

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the establishment of the Horizon University at Islamabad and for matters connected with and ancillary thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY**

1. Short title and commencement.— (1) This Act may be called the Horizon University Act, 2023.

(2) It Act shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions.— In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:

- i. "Academic Council" means the Academic Council of the University;
- ii. "Advisor" means Advisor to the Chairman;
- iii. "Authority" means any of the authorities of the University;
- iv. "Affiliated institution" means an educational institution authorized by the Board to conduct academic programmes, research and development projects as approved by the University;
- v. "Board of Directors" means Board of Directors of the MRK Education Systems LLP registered under section 7 of the Limited Liability Partnership Act (2017), Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan vide Registration No. 0221280 dated 24th January 2023;
- vi. "Board of Governors" shall mean the Board for the purposes of this Act and shall comprise of members of the Board of Governors;
- vii. "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Horizon University who shall also be the Chairman Board of Directors of MRK Education Systems LLP;
- viii. "College" means an educational institution, by whatever name described, maintained and administered by the University;
- ix. "Commission" means the Higher Education Commission set up under the Higher Education Commission Ordinance, 2002 (LIII 2002);
- x. "Controller" means head of the examination department of the University;
- xi. "Dean" means the head of a Faculty or the head of an academic body granted the status of a Faculty by this Act or by the Statutes or Regulations;
- xii. "Department" means a teaching department maintained and administered, or recognized by the University in the manner prescribed;
- xiii. "Director" means head of an academic institute established and managed by the University;

- xiv. "Executive Committee" means the Executive Committee of the University;
- xv. "Faculty" means an administrative and academic unit of the University consisting of one or more departments, as prescribed;
- xvi. "Government" means the Federal Government of Pakistan;
- xvii. "Officer" means an Officer of the University specified in section 7 of this Act;
- xviii. "Patron" means Patron of the University;
- xix. "Prescribed" means prescribed by Statutes, Regulations or Rules and made under this Act;
- xx. "Principal" means the head of a college or an academic unit of the University;
- xxi. "Pro-Rector" means Pro-Rector of the University;
- xxii. "Rector" means the Rector of the University;
- xxiii. "Registrar" means Registrar of the University;
- xxiv. "Search Committee" means the Search Committee set up by the Board of Governors under section 15;
- xxv. "Schedule" means a Schedule to this Act;
- xxvi. "School" means an educational unit by whatever name described, maintained and administered by the university;
- xxvii. "Sponsoring Body" means MRK Education Systems LLP;
- xxviii. "Statutes" "Regulations" and "Rules" mean respectively the Statutes, the Regulations and the Rules made under this Act and for the time being in force;
- xxix. "Teachers" include Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, Lecturers, Tutors engaged on whole-time basis by the University or by a constituent College and such other persons as may be declared to be teachers by Regulations;
- xxx. "University" means the Horizon University established under this Act;
- xxxi. "University Teacher" means a whole-time teacher appointed and paid by the University, or recognized by the University as such; and
- xxxii. "Vice Chairman" means Vice Chairman of the University.

CHAPTER II THE UNIVERSITY

3. Establishment and Incorporation of the University.— (1) There shall be established a University to be called the "Horizon University" in the private sector having its principal seat in Islamabad.

(2) The University shall consist of the following, namely:-

- (a) the Patron, Chairman, Vice Chairman, the members Board of Governors, the members of Executive Committee, the Rector, the Deans and such other officers as may be prescribed;
- (b) the members of the authorities of the University established under this section 22;
- (c) all University teachers and persons recognized as students of the University in accordance with terms prescribed from to time; and

- (d) all other full-time officers and members of the staff of the University:

Provided that the powers of the University shall be exercised by Board of Governors of the University.

(3) The University shall be a body corporate by the name of the Horizon University and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal, and may sue and be sued by the said name;

(4) The University will be a multi-campus university with its principal seat at Islamabad, and in addition, may set up any number of campuses, colleges and institutes any time after its establishment at such places as the board may determine.

(5) The University shall be competent to acquire and hold property, both movable and immovable, and to lease, sell or otherwise transfer any movable and immovable property which may have become vested in or been acquired by it and may use its properties for any purpose as it may deem fit;

(6) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the University shall have academic, financial, and administrative autonomy, including the power to employ officers, teachers and other employees on such terms as may be prescribed, subject to the terms of this act and the Higher Education Commission Ordinance, 2002 (LIII of 2002). In particular, and without prejudice to the authority granted to the Commission by the law, the Government or an authority or auditor appointed by the Government shall have no power to question the policy underlying the allocation of resources approved by the Board of Governors in the annual budget of the University;

(7) All properties, rights, profits and interests of whatever kind, used, enjoyed, possessed, owned or vested in, or held in trust by the University or any of its departments, schools, colleges, institutes or other such academic units shall pass to the University established under this act.

4. Powers and Purposes of the University.— The University shall have the following powers, namely:

- (i) to provide for education and scholarship in such branches of knowledge as it may deem fit, and to make provision for research, service to society and for the application, advancement and dissemination of knowledge in such manner as it may determine;

Provided that in case of medical, engineering, and other professional education, approval of the relevant Accreditation councils/forums shall be a pre-requisite.

- (ii) to provide life-long learning, deliver courses, degree programmes, diplomas and certificates through virtual, online and distance learning and through such educational facilities to a large segment of the population at its designated campuses, study centres, places of work and residences through the integration of satellite, television, internet and intranets and emerging technology etc., or through conventional methods;

- (iii) to prescribe courses of studies to be conducted by it through its departments, schools, institutes, colleges and other academic units;

- (iv) to hold examinations and to award and confer degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions to and on persons who have been admitted to and have passed its examinations under prescribed conditions;
- (v) to employ local or foreign persons as officers, teachers and other employees of the University and to lay down terms and conditions that may be different from those applicable to government servants in general;
- (vi) to enter into agreements and contracts with local or foreign organisations, institutions, universities, bodies and individuals and establish offices anywhere in Pakistan or in any foreign country to promote the functions and activities of the University including but not limited to collaborations and such arrangements as to facilitate offering of dual, joint and split-degree programmes with foreign Universities and authorities;
- (vii) to confer honorary degrees or other distinctions on persons of eminence in the manner prescribed;
- (viii) to provide for such instruction for persons not being students of the University as it may prescribe, and to grant certificates and diplomas to such persons;
- (ix) to establish programmes for the exchange of students and teachers between the University and other universities, educational institutions and research organisations, inside as well as outside Pakistan;
- (x) to provide career counselling and job search services to students and alumni;
- (xi) to maintain linkages with industry and alumni;
- (xii) to develop and implement fund-raising plans and programmes;
- (xiii) to provide and support the academic and professional development of the faculty and employees of the University;
- (xiv) to confer degrees on persons who have carried on independent research under prescribed conditions;
- (xv) to accept the examinations passed and the period of study spent by students of the University at other universities and places of learning recognized by the Commission, equivalent to such examinations and periods of study in the University, as it may prescribe, and to withdraw such acceptance;
- (xvi) to collaborate and sign agreements with other universities, public authorities or private organisations, inside as well as outside Pakistan, in such manner and for such purposes as it may deem fit;
- (xvii) to establish and lay down eligibility criteria for Professorships, Associate Professorships, Assistant Professorships and Lectureships and any other posts and to appoint foreign and local persons thereto;
- (xviii) to create posts for research, extension, administration, and other related purposes and to appoint any local or foreign persons thereto;
- (xix) to institute and award financial assistance to students in need, fellowships, scholarships, bursaries, medals and prizes under prescribed conditions;
- (xx) to establish teaching faculties, schools, departments, colleges, faculties and other academic units or centers of learning for the development of teaching and

research and to make such arrangements for their maintenance, management and administration as it may prescribe;

- (xxi) to provide for the residence of the students of the University and the colleges, to institute and maintain halls of residence and to approve or license hostels and lodging;
- (xxii) to maintain order, discipline and security on the campuses of the University and the colleges;
- (xxiii) to promote the extra-curricular and recreational activities of such students, and to make arrangements for promoting their health and general welfare;
- (xxiv) to demand and receive such fees and other charges from students and attendees as it may determine and to receive financial contributions and donations from any national and foreign donor, person, governmental and non-governmental organisation and agency;
- (xxv) to decide appropriate allocation and utilization of the properties, funds, gifts and profits gained by the University between the partners of MRK Education Systems LLP or any other person or organisation as the Board of Directors may determine;
- (xxvi) to make provision for research, advisory or consultancy services and with these objects to enter into arrangements with other institutions, public or private bodies, commercial and industrial enterprises under prescribed conditions;
- (xxvii) to enter into, carry out, vary or cancel contracts;
- (xxviii) to receive and manage property transferred and grants, contributions made to the University and to invest any fund representing such property, grants, bequests, trusts, gifts, donations, endowments or contributions in such manner as it may deem fit;
- (xxix) to provide for the printing and publication of research and other works; and
- (xxx) to do all such other acts and things, whether incidental to the powers aforesaid or not, as may be requisite or expedient in order to further the objectives of the University as a place of education, learning, and research.

5. University open to all classes, creeds. etc. — (1) The University shall be open to all persons of all genders and of whatever religion, race, creed, class, colour or domicile and no person shall be denied the privileges of the University on the grounds of religion, race, caste, creed, class, colour or domicile.

(2) An increase in any fee or charge that is in excess of ten percent per annum on an annualized basis from the last such increase may not be made except in special circumstances, and only with the approval of the Patron.

(3) The University shall Institute financial aid programmes for students in need, to the extent considered feasible by the Board of Governors given the resources available, so as to enable admission and access to the University and the various opportunities provided by it to be based on merit rather than ability to pay:

Provided that the University may institute self-finance schemes not covering more than ten percent of the total number of candidates in any on-campus taught course or research-based programme of study.

6. Teaching at the University. — (1) All recognized teaching in various courses shall be conducted by the University or the colleges in the prescribed manner and may include lectures, tutorials, discussions, seminars, demonstrations, distance learning and other methods of Instruction as well as practical work in the laboratories, hospitals, workshops and other governmental or private organisations.

(2) The authority responsible for organizing recognized teaching shall be such as may be prescribed.

CHAPTER III OFFICES OF THE UNIVERSITY

7. Principal Officers.— The following shall be the principal officers of the University, namely:

- (a) the Patron;
- (b) the Chairman;
- (c) the Vice Chairman;
- (d) the Advisor;
- (e) the Rector;
- (f) the Pro-Rectors;
- (g) the Deans;
- (h) the Directors;
- (i) the Principals of the colleges;
- (j) the Heads of the teaching and research departments;
- (k) the Registrar;
- (l) the Treasurer;
- (m) the Controller of Examinations; and
- (n) such other persons as may be prescribed by the Statutes or Regulations to be the principal officers of the University.

8. Patron. — (1) The President of Pakistan shall be the Patron of the University.

(2) The Patron shall, when present, preside at the convocation of the University or he/she may authorize the Chairman to preside over the convocation of the University.

(3) Every proposal to confer an honorary degree shall be subject to confirmation by the Patron.

9. Visitation.-(1) The Patron may, in accordance with the terms and procedures as may be prescribed, cause an inspection or inquiry to be made on his own motion or at the request of the Commission in respect of any matter connected with the affairs of the University and shall, from time to time, direct any person or persons to inquire into or carry out inspection of:

- (a) the University, its building, laboratories, libraries and other facilities;
- (b) any institution, department or hostel maintained by the University;
- (c) the adequacy of financial and human resources;
- (d) the teaching, research, curriculum, examination and other matters of the University;
- (e) such other matters as the Patron may specify.

(2) The Patron shall communicate to the Board of Governors his views with regard to the result of visitation and shall, after ascertaining the views of the Board of Governors, advise the Chairman on the action to be taken by it;

(3) The Chairman shall, within such time as may be specified by the Patron, communicate to him such action, if any, as has been taken or may be proposed to be taken upon the results of visitation;

(4) Where the Board of Governors does not, within the time specified, take action to the satisfaction of the Patron, the Patron may issue such directions as he deems fit and Board of Governors shall comply with all such directions.

10. Chairman.— (1) The Chairman of the University shall be appointed by the Board of Directors of MRK Education Systems LLP, on such terms and conditions as it may determine.

(2) The Chairman shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the University.

(3) The Chairman shall, in absence of the Patron preside over the meetings of the Board of Governors and the Convocation of the University.

(4) The Chairman shall be competent to make decisions of expenditures and distribution of the profits earned by the University.

(5) The members of the Board of Governors as well as the Rector shall be appointed by the Chairman in the prescribed manner.

(6) Where the Chairman is satisfied that the proceedings of any Authority or orders of any office are not in accordance with the provisions of the Act, statutes, regulations or the rules, s/he may after calling upon such Authority or officer to show cause as why such proceedings shall not be annulled, by order in writing annul such proceedings or orders.

(7) The Chairman may remove any person from the membership of any Authority if such person:

- (a) has become of unsound mind; or
- (b) has become incapacitated to function as member of such Authority; or
- (c) has been convicted by a court of law for an offence involving moral turpitude; or

- (d) has absented himself from two consecutive meetings without just cause; or
- (e) has been guilty of misconduct, including use of position for personal advantage of any kind, or gross inefficiency in the performance of functions.

(8) Where the respective Authority does not, within the time specified, take action to the satisfaction of the Chairman, the Chairman may issue such directions as s/he deems fit, and the respective Authority shall comply with all such directions.

11. Removal from the Board of Governors.— (1) The Chairman may remove any person from the membership of the Board of Governors on the ground that such person:

- (a) has become of unsound mind; or
- (b) has become incapacitated to function as member of the Board of Governors; or
- (c) has been convicted by a court of law for an offence involving moral turpitude; or
- (d) has absented himself from two consecutive meetings without just cause; or
- (e) has been guilty of misconduct, including use of position for personal advantage of any kind, or gross inefficiency in the performance of functions.

(2) The Chairman shall remove any person from the membership of the Board of Governors on a resolution calling for the removal of such person supported by at least three-fourths of the membership of the Board of Governors:

Provided that before passing such resolution the Board of Governors shall provide the member concerned a fair hearing:

Provided further that the provisions of this section shall not be applicable to the Vice-Chairman in his capacity as a member of the Board of Governors.

12. Vice-Chairman.— (1) The Vice Chairman of the University shall be appointed by the Board of Directors of MRK Education Systems LLP on such terms and conditions as it may determine;

- (2) In the absence of Chairman, or where the position of the Chairman falls vacant due to any reason, the Vice Chairman shall exercise powers of Chairman.
- (3) The Vice Chairman shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Chairman.

13. Advisor.— (1) The Advisor to the Chairman shall be appointed by the Chairman for a period of four (04) years, which may further be extended to another similar term on such terms and conditions as determined by the Chairman.

(2) The Advisor shall:

- (a) advise the Chairman on strategic, academic, research, quality, regulatory, staff and operational matters of the University;

- (b) advise the Chairman on the conduct and allied matters associated with the business and meetings of the Board of Governors.

14. Rector.— (1) There shall be a Rector of the University who shall be an eminent academic and shall be appointed by the Chairman on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Board of Governors.

(2) The Rector shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the University responsible for all administrative and academic functions of the University and for ensuring that the provisions of this Act, Statutes, Regulations and Rules are faithfully observed in order to promote the general efficiency and good order of the University. The Rector shall have all powers prescribed for this purpose, including administrative control over the officers, teachers and other employees of the University and entrusted to him by the Board of Governors.

(3) The Rector shall, if present, be entitled to attend any meeting of any Authority or body of the University.

(4) The Rector may, in an emergency that in his opinion requires immediate action ordinarily not in the competence of the Rector, take such action and forward, within seventy-two hours, a report of the action taken to the members of the Executive Committee for approval.

(5) The Rector shall also have the following powers, namely:

- (a) to direct teachers, officers and other employees of the University to take up such assignments in connection with examination, administration and such other activities in the University as he may consider necessary for the purposes of the University;
- (b) to sanction by re-appropriation an amount not exceeding an amount prescribed by the Board of Governors for an unforeseen item not provided for in the budget and report it to the Board of Governors at the next meeting;
- (c) to make appointments of such categories of employees of the University and in such manner as may be prescribed by the Statutes;
- (d) to suspend, punish and remove, in accordance with prescribed procedure, from service officers, teachers and other employees of the University except those appointed by or with the approval of the Board of Governors;
- (e) to delegate, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, any of his powers under this Act to an officer or officers of the University; and
- (f) to exercise and perform such other powers and functions as may be prescribed.

(6) The Rector shall present an annual report before the Board of Governors within three months of the close of the academic year. The annual report shall present such information as regards the academic year under review as may be prescribed, including disclosure of all relevant facts pertaining to:

- (a) academics;
- (b) research;
- (c) administration; *and*
- (d) finances.

(7) The Rector's annual report shall be made available to the Chairman, prior to its presentation before the Board of Governors.

15. Appointment and Removal of the Rector.— (1) The Rector shall be appointed by the Chairman on the basis of recommendations made by the Board of Governors;

(2) A Search Committee for the recommendation of persons suitable for appointment as Rector shall be constituted by the Board of Governors in the manner prescribed by the Statutes and shall consist of three eminent members of the society nominated by the Chairman of whom one shall be appointed the Convener, two members of the Board of Governors, Advisor to the Chairman, two distinguished University Teachers who are not members of the Board of Governors and one academic of eminence not employed by the University. The two distinguished University Teachers shall be selected by the Board of Governors through a process, to be prescribed by Board of Governors that provides for the recommendation of suitable names by the University Teachers in general. The Search Committee shall remain in existence till such time that the appointment of the next Rector has been made by the Chairman.

(3) The persons proposed by the Search Committee for appointment as Rector shall be considered by the Board of Governors and of these a panel of three, in order of priority, shall be recommended by the Board of Governors to the Chairman:

Provided that upon advice of the Advisor or otherwise, the Chairman may decline to appoint any of the three persons recommended and seek recommendation of a fresh panel. In the event of a fresh recommendation being sought by the Chairman, the Search Committee shall make a proposal to the Board of Governors in the prescribed manner.

(4) The Chairman may also appoint the Rector in the manner prescribed by the Statutes directly in consultation with the Board of Governors without constituting the Search Committee as specified at sub-section (2) of section 15.

(4) The Rector shall be appointed for a renewable tenure of four years on such terms and conditions as determined by the Chairman. The tenure of an incumbent Rector shall be renewed by the Chairman on receipt of a resolution of the Board of Governors in support of such renewal.

(5) The Board of Governors may be pursuant to a resolution passed by three-fourths of its membership, recommend to the Chairman the removal of the Rector on the ground(s) of inefficiency, moral turpitude, mental incapacity or gross misconduct, including misuse of position for personal advantage of any kind:

Provided that prior to a resolution for the removal of the Rector being voted upon, the Rector shall be given an opportunity of being heard.

(6) A resolution recommending the removal of the Rector shall be submitted to the Chairman and that the Chairman may accept or decline the recommendation of the Board of Governors and accordingly order removal of the Rector or otherwise.

(7) At any time when the office of the Rector is vacant, or the Rector is absent or is unable to perform the functions of his office due to illness or such other cause(s), the Board of Governors shall make such arrangements for the performance of the duties of the Rector as it may deem fit.

16. The Pro-Rector (Academics & Research).— (1) There shall be a Pro-Rector (Academics & Research) of the University and shall be appointed on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Board of Governors.

(2) The Pro-Rector (Academic & Research) shall assist the Rector on matters relating to teaching, research academic programme, extension and other development projects.

(3) Subject to the overall supervision of the Rector, he/she shall formulate and recommend to the committee or the council for approval rules & regulations relating to the academic and research matters of the University.

(4) The Pro-Rector (Academics & Research) shall have following powers;

- (a) To liaise with other universities, learning institutions, industry and research organisation for apprenticeship and placement of the students, training of the teachers, and other academic and research activities;
- (b) To submit recommendations to the council on the courses of study to be taught in the University giving due consideration to the advice of the advisory board constituted for the purpose;
- (c) To supervise the admission of the students, to the courses of the study and examination of the University
- (d) To co-ordinate the award of fellow ships, stipends, medals, and prizes;
- (e) To arrange convocations;
- (f) To make such arrangements of the scrutiny of the papers marks and results as he may consider necessary;
- (g) To co-ordinate the teaching and the research work of the schools or faculties of the University;
- (h) To control and manage the publications and circulation of periodicals magazines, journals, and books and dissemination of scientific technological and other related information;
- (i) To perform such other functions and exercise such other powers as may be entrusted or delegated to him by the board, the committee, the council or the rector and;

- (j) To delegate any of his/her power(s) to appropriate level of management subject to such conditions as may deem fit.

17. The Pro-Rector (Foreign accreditation and foreign educational arrangements and agreements and linkages).— (1) There shall be a Pro-Rector (Foreign accreditation and foreign educational arrangements and agreements and linkages) of the University and shall be appointed shall be appointed on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Board of Governors. The incumbent may be a Pakistani or a foreign national and the seat may be operated within Pakistan or abroad.

(2) He shall advise the Chairman on international accreditations, memberships and linkages for the University with foreign educational institutions and authorities within Pakistan and abroad.

(3) He shall, upon approval of the Chairman, develop such arrangements to facilitate and sign international accreditations, memberships, and linkages for the University with foreign educational institutions and authorities within Pakistan and abroad on such terms and conditions as may be determined through such arrangement.

18. Registrar.— (1) There shall be a Registrar of the University to be appointed by the Board of Governors on the recommendation of the Rector on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Statutes.

(2) The Registrar shall be a full-time officer of the University and shall:

- (a) be the administrative head of the secretariat of the University and be responsible for the provision of secretariat support to the Authorities of the University;
- (b) be the custodian of the common seal and the academic records of the University;
- (c) supervise the process of election, appointment or nomination of members to the various authorities and other bodies in the prescribed manner; and
- (d) perform such other duties as may be prescribed under Statutes and assigned by the Board of Governors.

(4) The term of office of the Registrar shall be a renewable period of four years:

Provided that the Board of Governors may, on the advice of the Rector, terminate the appointment of the Registrar on ground(s) of inefficiency, moral turpitude, mental incapacity or gross misconduct, including misuse of position for personal advantage of any kind in accordance with the procedure prescribed under rules.

19. Treasurer.— (1) There shall be a Treasurer of the University to be appointed by the Chairman on the recommendation of the Board of Governors on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed;

- (2) The Treasurer shall be reporting to the Chairman;
- (3) The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the University and shall:

- (a) manage the assets, liabilities, receipts, expenditures, funds, profits and investments of the University;
 - (b) prepare the annual and revised budget estimates of the University and present them in the manner prescribed by the Statutes;
 - (c) ensure that the funds of the University are expended on the purposes for which they are provided;
 - (d) have the accounts of the University audited annually so as to be available for submission to the Board of Governors within six months of the close of the financial year;
 - (e) utilize, distribute and dispose funds and profits of the University on advice of the Chairman;
 - (f) perform such other duties as may be prescribed under Statutes and determined by the Board of Governors.
- (5) The term of office of the Treasurer shall be a renewable period of four years:

Provided that the Board of Governors may, on the advice of the Chairman, terminate the appointment of the Treasurer on ground(s) of inefficiency, moral turpitude, mental incapacity or gross misconduct, including misuse of position for personal advantage of any kind in accordance with the procedure prescribed under rules.

20. Controller of Examinations.— (1) There shall be a Controller of Examinations, to be appointed by the Board of Governors on the recommendation of the Rector, on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

(2) The minimum qualifications necessary for appointment to the post of the Controller of Examinations shall be as may be prescribed.

(3) The Controller of Examinations shall be a full-time officer of the University and shall be responsible for all matters connected with the conduct of examinations and perform such other duties as may be prescribed.

(4) The Controller of Examinations shall be appointed for a renewable term of four years;

Provided that the Board of Governors may on the advice of the Rector, terminate the appointment of the Controller of Examinations on ground(s) of inefficiency, moral turpitude, mental incapacity or gross misconduct, including misuse of position for personal advantage of any kind in accordance with the procedure prescribed under rules.

21. Functions and Powers of the Board of Directors.— (1) The Board of Directors shall be responsible for financial viability of the University including responsibility for ensuring effectiveness of its operations and their continuity including:

- (a) to provide strategic leadership and guidance to the University:

- (b) to determine policy framework for investment of unapplied income of the University in securities and acquisition of Immovable property; and
- (c) to hold, control and administer the property, funds and resources of the University and borrow or raise funds for the purposes of the University upon such security as may be required;
- (d) to appoint Chairman and Vice Chairman and determine the terms and conditions of their appointment and removal;
- (e) to hire a firm of Chartered Accountants for audit of the University accounts.

CHAPTER IV AUTHORITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY

22. Authorities.— (1) The following shall be the Authorities of the University, namely:

- (a) Authorities established by this Act:
 - (i) Board of Governors;
 - (ii) Executive Committee;
 - (iii) Academic Council; and
 - (iv) Finance and Planning Committee;
- (b) Authorities to be established by the Statutes:
 - (i) Board of Advance Study & Research;
 - (ii) Board of Faculty;
 - (iii) Board of Studies;

(2) The Board of Governors, the Executive Committee, the Academic Council and the Finance & Planning Committee may set up such other committees or sub-committees, by whatever name, as considered desirable through Statute or Regulations as appropriate to be the Authorities of the University for the purposes of this Act.

23. Board of Governors.— (1) The body responsible for the governance of the University shall be described as the Board of Governors, and shall consist of the following, namely:

- (a) the Chairman who shall be the Chairperson of the Board of Governors;
- (b) the Vice Chairman,
- (c) the Rector;
- (d) the Pro Rectors;
- (e) Secretary Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Government of Pakistan or his nominee.
- (f) two members of MRK Education Systems LLP;
- (g) two persons from society at large being persons of distinction in the fields of administration, management, education, academics, law, accountancy, medicine, fine arts, architecture, agriculture, science, technology and

engineering such that the appointment of these persons reflects a balance across the various fields:

Provided that the special focus of the University to be declared in the manner prescribed, may be reflected in the number of persons of distinction in an area of expertise relevant to the University who are appointed to the Board of Governors;

- (h) senior most Dean of the University;
- (i) one person nominated by the Chairperson Higher Education Commission, Islamabad; and
- (j) the Registrar who shall be the Secretary of the Board of Governors.

(2) All appointments to the Board of Governors shall be made by the Chairman.

Provided that effort shall be made, without compromising on quality or qualification, to give fair representation to women on the Board of Governors.

(3) The Board of Governors shall meet at least once in a calendar year or as determined or called by the Chairman;

(4) Service on the Board of Governors shall be on honorary basis;

(5) In the absence of the Chairman, meetings of the Board of Governors shall be presided over by the Vice Chairman. Whereas, in case of absence of the Vice Chairman the meeting shall be presided by such member, not being an employee of the University or the Government, as the Chairman may, from time to time, nominate. The member so nominated shall be the convener of the Board of Governors.

(6) Unless otherwise prescribed by this Act, all decisions of the Board of Governors shall be taken on the basis of the opinion of a majority of the members present. In the event of the members being evenly divided on any matter, the person presiding over the meeting shall have a casting vote.

(7) The quorum for a meeting of the Board of Governors shall be two thirds of its membership, a fraction being counted as one.

24. Powers and functions of the Board of Governors.— (1) The Board of Governors shall have the power of general supervision over the University. The Board of Governors shall have all powers of the University not expressly vested in an Authority or in officer by this Act and all other powers not expressly mentioned by this Act that are necessary for the performance of its functions.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing powers, the Board of Governors shall have the following powers:

- (a) to approve the proposed annual plan of work, the annual and revised budgets, the annual report and the annual statement of accounts;
- (b) to oversee the quality and relevance of the University's academic programmes and to review the academic affairs of the University in general:

- (d) to approve the appointment of the Deans, Directors, Principals, Professors, Associate Professors and such other senior faculty and senior administrators as may be prescribed under Statutes;
- (e) to institute schemes, directions and guidelines for the terms and conditions of appointment of all officers, teachers and other employees of the University;
- (f) to approve recommendations of the Academic Council on schemes and plans for the establishment and organisation of faculties, schools, colleges, teaching departments and such other academic unit(s);
- (g) to approve strategic plans of the University;
- (h) to approve financial resource development plans of the University;
- (i) to consider the drafts of Statutes and Regulations proposed by the Executive Committee and the Academic Council and deal with them in the manner as provided for in sections 32 and 33, as the case may be.
- (j) to annul by order in writing the proceedings of any Authority or officer if the Board of Governors is satisfied that such proceedings are not in accordance with the provisions of this Act, Statutes or Regulations after calling upon such Authority or officer to show cause why such proceedings should not be annulled;
- (k) to recommend to the Chairman removal of any member of the Board of Governors in the manner as prescribed under rules;
- (l) to make appointment of members of the Executive Committee, other than ex officio members, in the manner as prescribed under rules;
- (m) to make appointment of members of the Academic Council other than ex officio members, in the manner as prescribed under rules;
- (n) to remove any person from the membership of any Authority if such person:
 - (i) has become of unsound mind; or
 - (ii) has become incapacitated to function as member of such Authority; or
 - (iii) has been convicted by a court of law for an offence involving moral turpitude.
- (o) to determine the form, provide for the custody and regulate the use of the common seal of the University.

(3) The Board of Governors may delegate all or any of the powers and functions of any Authority, officer, or employee of the University to any Authority, committee, officer or employee for the purpose of exercising such powers and performing such functions and for this purpose the Board of Governors may also create new posts or positions.

25. **Visitations.**— The Board of Governors may, in accordance with the terms and procedures as may be prescribed, cause an inspection to be made in respect of any matter connected with the University.

26. **The Executive Committee.**— (1) There shall be an Executive Committee of the University consisting of the following:

- (a) the Vice Chairman; who shall be its Chairman
 - (b) the Rector;
 - (c) the Pro-Rectors;
 - (d) the Advisor;
 - (e) the Deans, Directors and Principals;
 - (g) the Treasurer;
 - (h) the Controller of Examinations; *and*
 - (i) the Registrar who shall be the Secretary of the Executive Committee
- (2) Members of the Executive Committee, other than ex officio members, shall hold the office for three years.
- (3) The quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be one-half of the total number of members, a fraction being counted as one.
- (4) The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice in a calendar year or as determined or called by its Chairman;
- (5) The Chairman of the Board of Governors whenever desire may review the decisions taken by the Executive Committee and refer back to them for reconsideration or directly decline such decisions for further implementation.

27. **Powers and duties of the Executive Committee.**— (1) The Executive Committee shall be the executive body of the University and shall, subject to the provisions of this Act and the Statute, exercise general supervision over the affairs and management of the University.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing powers, and subject to the provisions of this Act, the Statute and directions of the Board of Governors, the Executive Committee shall have the following powers:

- (a) to consider the annual report, the annual and revised budget estimates and to submit these to the Board of Governors;
- (b) to transfer and accept transfer of movable property on behalf of the University;
- (c) to enter into, carry out and cancel contracts on behalf of the University;
- (d) to cause proper books of account to be kept for all sums of money received and expended by the University and for the assets and liabilities of the University;
- (e) to receive and manage any property transferred, and grants, bequests, trust, gifts, donations, endowments, and other contributions made to the University;

- (f) to administer any funds placed at the disposal of the University for specified purposes;
- (g) to provide the buildings, libraries, premises, furniture, apparatus, equipment and other means required for carrying out the work of the University;
- (h) to consider proposal for establishment of residences and hostels for the students, teachers and administrative staff of the University;
- (i) to recommend to the Board of Governors for admission of educational institutions to the privileges of the University and withdraw such privileges;
- (j) to cause for the inspection of faculties, schools, colleges, departments or any other academic unit(s) of the University;
- (k) to report to the Board of Governors on matters with respect to which it has been asked to report;
- (l) to recommend appointment of members to the Board of Governors for various Authorities in the manner as prescribed under rules;
- (m) to propose drafts of Statutes for submission to the Board of Governors;
- (n) to take actions necessary for the good governance and administration of the University in general and to this end exercise such powers as are deemed fit;
- (o) to delegate any of its powers to any Authority or officer or a committee; and
- (p) to perform such other functions as to be assigned to it by the provisions of this Act, the Statutes or by the Board of Governors.

28. Academic Council.— (1) The Academic Council shall be the body of the University to make decisions regarding academics and academic programmes of the University in the manner prescribed under the Statutes. The Council shall comprise of the following:

- (a) the Rector; who shall be its Chairman
- (b) the Pro-Rectors;
- (d) the Advisor;
- (e) the Deans;
- (f) Directors / Principals / Heads of Schools, Institutes, Colleges, Departments and any other academic unit(s); and
- (g) The Registrar who shall be the Secretary of the Academic Council.

(2) The Academic Council can co-opt any expert of any relevant field, specialty or discipline from outside of the University for rendering advice on any specific academic matter;

(3) The Board of Governors shall appoint the members of the Academic Council, other than the ex officio and the elected members, on the recommendation of the Rector

and shall remain in force until they are rescinded or replaced by new Statutes framed in accordance with this Act.

33. Regulations.— (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act and the Statutes, regulations may be made to regulate or prescribe all or any of the following matters:

- (a) the courses of study for degrees, diplomas and certificates of the University;
- (b) the manner in which the teaching shall be organized and conducted;
- (c) the admission and expulsion of students to and from the University;
- (d) the conditions under which students shall be admitted to the courses and the examinations of the University and shall become eligible for the award of degrees, diplomas and certificates;
- (e) the conduct of examinations;
- (f) conditions under which a person may carry on independent research to entitle him / her to a degree;
- (g) the institution of fellowships, scholarships, exhibitions, medals and prizes;
- (h) the use of the Library;
- (i) all other matters which by this Act or the Statutes are to be or may be prescribed by Regulations.

(2) Regulations shall be proposed by the Academic Council and shall be submitted to Executive Committee for consideration and onward submission to the Board of Governors which may approve them or withhold approval or refer them back to the Executive Committee for reconsideration.

(3) A Regulation proposed by the Academic Council shall not be effective unless it receives the approval of the Board of Governors.

34. Amendment and repeal of Statutes and Regulations.— The procedure for adding to amending or repealing the Statutes and the Regulations shall be the same as that prescribed respectively for framing or making Statutes and Regulations.

35. Rules.— (1) The Authorities and the other bodies of the University may make Rules consistent with this Act, Statutes or the Regulations, to regulate any matter relating to the affairs of the University which has not been provided for by this Act or that is not required to be regulated by Statutes or Regulations, including rules to regulate the conduct of business and the time and place of meetings and related matters.

(2) Rules shall be proposed by Executive Committee and submitted to the Board of Governors which may approve them or withhold approval or refer them back to the Executive Committee for reconsideration.

(3) Any rule proposed by the Executive Committee shall not be effective unless it receives the approval of the Board of Governors.

CHAPTER VI UNIVERSITY FUND

36. **University fund.**— (1) The University shall have a fund to which shall be credited its income from fees, charges, donations, trusts, bequests, endowments, contributions, grants and all other such sources of funds.

(2) No contribution, donation or grant which may directly or indirectly involve any immediate or subsequent financial liability for the University, shall be accepted except for grants, donations, contributions for research, development by national and international donors, bodies, where a liability is created by mutual agreement.

(3) The University may take up loans and source financing to support any of its operations and developmental projects with the approval of the Chairman.

37. **Audits and Accounts.**— (1) The Accounts of the University shall be maintained in such form and in such manner as may be prescribed by the Board of Governors. The University may open and operate an account in a foreign country or locally in foreign currency to receive fees and funds and make payments for the operation of the University.

(2) The departments, schools, colleges, institutes or other such academic units of the University and all other bodies in accordance with this Act, Statutes and Regulations of the University shall be independent cost centres of the University with authority vested in the head of each cost centres to sanction expenditure out of the budget allocated to it. Provided that re-appropriation from one head of expenditure to another may be made by the head of a cost centres in accordance with and to the extent prescribed by the Statutes;

(3) All funds generated by departments, schools, colleges, institutes or other such academic units of the University through consultancy, research or other provision of service shall be made available without prejudice to the budgetary allocation otherwise made, after deduction of overheads in the manner and to the extent prescribed by Statutes, to the departments, schools, colleges, institutes or other such academic units of the University for their development. A part of the funds so generated may be shared with the University teachers or researchers in charge of the consultancy, research or service concerned in the manner and to the extent prescribed by Statute;

(4) No expenditure shall be made from the funds of the University, unless a bill for its payments has been issued by the head of the cost centre concerned in accordance with the relevant statutes and the Treasurer has verified that the payment is provided for in the approved budget of the cost centre, subject to the authority to re-appropriate available to the head of the cost centre;

(5) All expenses of the University funds shall require prior sanction of the Chairman and at times where ex post facto sanction may be required;

(6) Provision shall be made for an internal audit of the finances of the University;

(7) Without prejudice to the requirement of audit by an auditor appointed by Government in accordance with the provisions of any other law in force, the annual audited statement of accounts of the University shall be prepared in conformity with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) by a reputed firm of chartered accountants and signed by the Treasurer. The annual audited statement of accounts so prepared shall be submitted to the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan for observations;

(8) The observations, if any, together with such annotations as the Treasurer may make, shall be considered by the Executive Committee and shall be placed before the Board of Governors within six months of closing of the financial year.

CHAPTER VII GENERAL PROVISIONS

38. Opportunity to show cause.— Except as otherwise provided by law no officer, teacher or other employee of the University holding a permanent post shall be reduced in rank, or removed or compulsorily retired from service for cause arising out of any act or omission on the part of the person concerned unless he has been given a reasonable opportunity of showing cause against the action proposed to be taken.

39. Appellate Authority.— Where an order is passed by the Rector punishing any officer, teacher or other employee of the University or altering or interpreting to his disadvantage the prescribed terms or conditions of his service, s/he shall have the right to appeal to the Chairman whose decision shall be final.

40. Appeal to the Executive Committee and the Board of Governors.— Where an order is passed punishing any officer (other than the Vice Chairman and Rector), teacher or other employee of the University or altering or interpreting to his disadvantage the prescribed terms or conditions of his service, he/she shall, where the order is passed by any officer or teacher of the University other than the Vice Chairman and Rector, have the right to appeal to the Executive Committee against the order, and where the order is passed by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, have the right to appeal to the Board of Governors.

41. Appointment in service of the University.— The University through its Chairman may employ such persons in its service as may be necessary, on such remunerations and terms and conditions by due process or as per regulations while in exceptional need if it is determined by the Chairman, persons can be appointed by the Chairman on immediate and urgent basis on suitable remunerations and terms and this information shall be provided to the Board of Governors in its next meeting.

42. Benefits and Insurance.— The University shall constitute for the benefit of its officers, teachers and other employees schemes, as may be prescribed, for the provision of post-employment benefits as well as health and life insurance while in service.

43. Removal of difficulties.— (1) if any question arises as to the interpretation of any of the provisions of this Act, it shall be placed before the Patron and Higher Education Commission (HEC) whose decision thereon shall be final.

(2) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any of the provisions of this Act, the Patron may make such order after obtaining the views of the Board of Governors not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear to him to be necessary for removing the difficulty.

(3) Where this Act makes any provision for anything to be done but no provision or no sufficient provision has been made as respects the authority by whom, or the time at which, or the manner in which, it shall be done, then it shall be done by such authority, at such time, or in such manner as the Patron may direct after obtaining the views of the Board of Governors.

44. Indemnity. — No suit or legal proceedings shall lie against the University or any Authority, officer or employee of the University or any person in respect of anything which is done in good faith under this Act.

CHAPTER VIII THE SCHEDULE

See Section 32 (3)

1. The Faculties.— (1) There shall be a faculty for a teaching department or a group of teaching departments. The University shall include the following faculties and such other faculties as may be prescribed by the Board of Governors:

- i. Faculty of Management Sciences
- ii. Faculty of Computing
- iii. Faculty of Medical and Dental Sciences
- iv. Faculty of Allied Health Sciences
- v. Faculty of Sciences
- vi. Faculty of Social Sciences
- vii. Faculty of Arts and Humanities
- viii. Faculty of Architecture and Planning
- ix. Faculty of Legal and Administrative Studies
- x. Faculty of Agricultural Sciences
- xi. Faculty of Online and Distance Education
- xii. Establishment of a Life Long Learning Centre in the emerging disciplines of business, science, and technology to provide a strong base for economic growth and human development, and to provide quality technical and vocational education to students;

2. Composition of the Academic Council.— (1) The Academic Council shall consist of:

- i. The Rector, who shall be its Chairman;
- ii. All the Pro-Rectors;

- iii. All the Deans;
 - iv. All the Heads of the teaching departments, colleges and institutes;
 - v. All Professors and Associate Professors of the University;
 - vi. Two Assistant Professors and two lecturers to be nominated by the Board;
 - vii. Three eminent persons one each from the field of arts, sciences and engineering to be nominated by the Board;
 - viii. Advisor (Academics) of the Higher Education Commission or nominee; *and*
 - ix. The Registrar who shall be the Secretary of the Academic Council.
- (2) Members appointed by nomination shall hold office for three years.
- (3) The quorum for a meeting of the Academic Council shall be one-third of the total number of members, a fraction being counted as one.

3. Board of Advance Studies And Research— (1) The Board of Advance Studies and Research shall consist of:

- i. The Rector, who shall be its Chairman;
 - ii. All the Pro-Rectors
 - iii. All the Deans;
 - iv. One University professor from each faculty other than dean to be appointed by the Board;
 - v. One member nominated by the Chairman; and
 - vi. Three members from the relevant research organisations and Governmental departments to be nominated by the board of Governors; *and*
 - vii. The Registrar shall be the Secretary of the Board of Studies;
- (2) Term of the members of board of advance studies other than the ex-officio member shall be three years and the quorum will be one half of total number of members.
- (3) The functions of the Board of Advanced Studies and Research shall be to:
- i. advise the Authorities on all matters connected with the promotion of advanced studies and research publication in the University;
 - ii. consider and report to the Authorities on the institution of research degrees in the University;
 - iii. propose regulations regarding the award of research degrees;
 - iv. appoint supervisors for postgraduate research students and to approve titles and synopses of their theses or dissertations;
 - v. recommend panels of names of examiners for evaluation of their other research examinations; and
 - vi. perform such other functions as may be prescribed by Statutes.

4. Board of Faculty— (1) There shall be a Board of each Faculty which shall consist of:

- i. The Dean or Associate Dean of the Faculty;
- ii. The Heads of the teaching departments in the Faculty;

- iii. One teacher to be nominated by the Academic Council, who though not assigned to the faculty, has in the opinion of the Academic Council, important bearing on the subjects assigned to the faculty;
 - iv. One expert in the field from outside the university to be appointed by the Board of Governors;
 - v. One member to be nominated by the Rector;
- (2) The members other than ex-officio members shall hold office for a period of three years.
 - (3) The quorum for a meeting of the Board of Faculty shall be one half of the total number of members, a fraction being counted as one.
 - (4) The Board shall meet at least once every semester.
 - (5) The Board of each Faculty shall, subject to the general control of the Academic Council and the Board of Governors, have the power:
 - i. To co-ordinate the teaching, and research work in the subjects assigned to the Faculty;
 - ii. To scrutinize the recommendations of the Board of Studies comprising the Faculty with regard to the appointment or paper-setters and examiners for graduate and post graduate examinations and to forward the panels of suitable paper-setters and examiners for each examination to the Rector;
 - iii. To consider any other academic matter relating to the Faculty and report thereon to the Academic Council;
 - iv. To prepare a comprehensive annual report regarding the performance of each department, comprising the Faculty for presentation to the Academic Council; *and*
 - v. To perform such other functions as may be prescribed by Statutes.

5. Dean.— (1) There shall be a Dean for each faculty to be appointed by the Board of Governors on recommendation of the Rector, on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

- (2) The Dean shall be in-charge of the faculty and shall assist the Rector on the matters related to teaching, research, academic programmes and extension of other development projects.
- (3) Subject to overall supervision of the Rector, the Dean shall formulate and recommend to the Academic Council, rules and regulations relating to academic and research matters of the faculty.
- (4) The Dean shall also have the following powers:
 - i. to collaborate with universities, industry and other research organisations;
 - ii. to formulate recommendations to the Academic Council on the courses of study to be taught in different departments of the faculty;
 - iii. to co-ordinate the award of fellowships, stipends, medals and prizes;
 - iv. to co-ordinate the teaching and research work of the faculty;

- v. to perform such other functions and exercise such other powers as may be entrusted or delegated to him by the board or the Rector: *and*
- vi. to delegate any of his powers to appropriate levels of management subjects to such conditions as he may deem fit.

6. Board of Studies— (1) Board of Studies of all the departments shall consist of:

- i. The Chairman / Head of the concerned teaching department (ex-officio);
- ii. All the Professors and Associate Professors of the concerned teaching department;
- iii. Two university teachers other than a Professor or an Associate Professor to be appointed by the Academic Council;
- iv. One industry expert to be nominated by the Rector.

(2) The Board shall meet at least once every semester.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Horizon University, a private sector entity, is a project of MRK Education Systems LLP which is duly registered with the Security Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and is legally empowered for establishing a new University in Islamabad subject to fulfilment of all requirements and formalities. The University shall be prominently situated at the link road of Islamabad and Rawalpindi providing easy access by road as well as by the metro bus service. With the main campus situated on the main road and spread on acres of land and having its imposing architecture, the University will be an icon for Islamabad and Pakistan.

Education plays a pivotal role in the development of vital human resources whose skills and knowledge are acceptable in the international job market and by the society at large. An internationally acceptable workforce with such attributes is essential for the economic revival of our country. The establishment of this university is to augment the Government initiative to establish Education Institutions at all levels and particularly in Higher Education and MRK Education Systems LLP has come forward to do its part with the same mission and shall be investing Billions of Rupees for this cause and will create jobs for its graduates internationally by getting all international and national accreditations for the University and prepare its graduates accordingly.

It is worth noting that such huge investment prior to this Act for establishment of a University has not been made before in the education Sector solely by a private party which underlines the dedication and determination that MRK Education Systems LLP has in making International University Islamabad a prestigious hub of knowledge and recognition for Pakistan's education industry.

The Horizon University of Islamabad will be a duly accredited comprehensive University offering programmes which are in demand nationally and internationally and this will bring immense social benefits for the local population of Islamabad and Rawalpindi and adjoining areas/ regions as well as to students from all parts of the world and Pakistan by their own Hostel facilities of high standard. The University and the MRK Education Systems LLP is

all set to fulfil all requirements of the HEC and has submitted comprehensive information to HEC about its facilities, finances, and land as per check list of the HEC and a copy of that Letter is attached as Annexure A.

The bill seeks to achieve the aforesaid objectives through the above University in the private sector.

Sd/-

Ms. Zahra Wadood Feroze
Member, National Assembly