

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A
BILL

further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.**- (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2008.
(2) It shall come into force at once.
2. **Substitution of Article 251 of the Constitution.**- In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for Article 251, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“251 National Language (1) The National Languages of Pakistan shall be Balochi, Punjabi, Pushto, Shina, Sindhi, Siraiki, and Urdu.

- (2) The Official language of Pakistan shall be English until arrangements are made for its replacement with Urdu within fifteen years from the commencement of this Act.
- (3) The Federal Government will establish a fund for the development and promotion of National languages as well as ensure that Arabic and Persian are taught as compulsory subjects at school level
- (4) Without prejudice to the status of National Languages, a Provincial Assembly may by law prescribe measures for the teaching, promotion and use of a provincial language in addition to the national languages.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Since the popular languages of Pakistan which are Balochi, Punjabi, Pushto, Shina, Sindhi, Siraiki, and Urdu have not been given their due status in the Constitution of Pakistan, and a number of popular movements are going on in the country demanding grant of National status to these languages, therefore, it has become imperative to give those languages the status of National Languages of Pakistan. Moreover, the teaching of Arabic and Persian at school level needs to be enforced so that Islam is better understood by our population and so that regionally we remain connected to our age old literary traditions of Persian. Additionally it is important that all these National Languages are developed through a Federal level fund as well as provincial resources. Language promotion makes a country's culture and history richer. The official language should continue being English till Urdu's substitution is made possible within next 15 years.

2. The instant Bill seeks to achieve the aforesaid purpose.

Sd/-
Miss Marvi Memon,
Member, National Assembly.