

**[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;

**AND WHEREAS** the territories of Pakistan comprise the Provinces of Balochistan, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Punjab, and Sindh; the Federal Capital and the Federally Administration Tribal Areas;

**AND WHEREAS** the population of Pakistan has increased from 33.8 million in 1951 to projected 132.35 million in 2011 and though in most of the developing countries of the world, the provinces/states have increased manifold with the increase in population, the number of provinces in Pakistan remained static;

**AND WHEREAS** the provincial boundaries are not sacrosanct and kept changing in Indo-Pak subcontinent since 1526 on administrative grounds and for the convenience and wellbeing of the people,

**AND WHEREAS** the social service delivery system warrants effective decentralization and the proximity of the Government to the governed, especially, in developing countries in Asia and South East Asia, more provinces need to be churned out;

**AND WHEREAS** it is expedient to bifurcate and even trifurcate an existing province, subject to a referendum to be held, particularly for the southern region of Punjab province (s), under Clause (6) of Article 48 of the Constitution, for the ascertainment of the aspirations of the people, in such a manner that the delineated territories of the new provinces, carved out from the existing provinces, would comprise such number of divisions or districts with their names and boundaries as may be determined on the basis of the referendum result;

It is enacted as follows:

**1. Short title and commencement.**- (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Twentieth Amendment) Bill, 2012.

(2) It shall come into force at once, save as otherwise provided in the Act.

**2. Amendment of Article 1 of the Constitution.**- In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, hereinafter referred to as the Constitution, in Article 1, in clause (2),-

(a) in paragraph (a),-

(i) after the word and comma “Balochistan,” the words and comma “the Hazara,” shall be inserted; and

(ii) the word “and” shall be omitted, and after the words and semi column “Sindh;” the brackets, words and semi column “and Southern Punjab; (one or more provinces to be ascertained through a referendum)”, shall be added.

3. **Amendment of Article 51 of the Constitution.**- In the Constitution, in article 51, in clause (3), in the table, in column 1,-

- (i) after the words “Khyber Pakhtunkhwa” the words “the Hazara” shall be inserted; and
- (ii) after the word “Sindh”, the words and brackets “Southern Punjab (one or more provinces as ascertained through the referendum)” shall be inserted.

4. **Amendment of Article of 106 of the Constitution.**- In the Constitution, in Article 106, in clause (1), in the table, in column 1,-

- (i) after the words “Khyber Pakhtunkhwa” the words, “the Hazara”, shall be inserted; and
- (ii) after the word “Sindh” the words and brackets “Southern Punjab”, (one or more provinces as ascertained through the referendum)” shall be inserted.

5. The allocation of general seats and seats for women to the newly carved out provinces, as provided under clause (1) of Article 51 and clause (1) of Article 106, shall be made on the basis of the population in the same proportion as it exists in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.

6. **Amendment of Article of 239 of the Constitution.**- In the Constitution, in Article 239, clause (4), shall be omitted and clauses (5) and (6) shall be renumbered as clauses (4) and (5).

#### **STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

The overgrowth of population almost in geometrical proportion, increased demand for delivery of social services and the inaccessibility of the Chief Executive, his Cabinet Members and the bureaucracy including the law enforcing agencies, are the factors that have rendered dispensation of justice to the people of the far flung areas almost impossible. Besides administrative inconvenience, the cultural and social diversity within the ideological unity also necessitates greater harmony with a psychological bias. Hence the need of more provinces.

**Sd/-**

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