



Volume-I Issue 2024

2024  
March - June

# NEWSLETTER

## 16th National Assembly

On February 29, 2024, three hundred and seventeen MNAs took oath during the 16th National Assembly's inaugural session.



Members of the 16th National Assembly of Pakistan taking oath in the National Assembly Hall on February 29, 2024 at Parliament House, Islamabad

### The Presidential Address at the commencement of 1st Parliamentary year: A Symbol of National Unity



President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza before the Presidential Address to the Joint Session of the Parliament on 18th April, 2024.

The 1st Parliamentary year commenced with the address of the President to joint sitting of the Parliament on April 18, 2024. This session marked the formal inauguration of the new Assembly, with the President delivering the address, highlighting the government's legislative priorities and the agenda for the upcoming parliamentary term.

### Federal Budget 2024-2025



Finance Minister, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb presented the budget during the budget session on June 12, 2024, at Parliament House, Islamabad.

The 16th National Assembly's 6th session saw the 2024-2025 Federal Budget presented and passed after 58 hours of intense debate across 10 sittings.



## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

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It is my privilege to present the latest edition of the National Assembly Newsletter, which provides a comprehensive overview of the key activities and significant milestones within the National Assembly.

Following the general elections held on February 8, 2024, the 16th National Assembly was constituted, with 317 Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) taking oaths on February 29, 2024. Notably, 36% of the general seats were secured by first-time MNAs. The inaugural session witnessed the election of key parliamentary leaders, including the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and Prime Minister.

On April 18, 2024, the President delivered the inaugural address at the first joint session of the 16th Parliament, to commence the new parliamentary year.

Additionally, the Federal Budget for 2024-2025 was presented and passed during the 6th session, following 58 hours of robust debate.

As the 16th National Assembly embarks on its legislative journey with renewed vigor, a significant first step has been the presentation of the federal budget, underscoring the Assembly's commitment to fiscal prudence. The election of Standing Committees and Parliamentary forums is also underway, and once these bodies are established, they will begin their essential role in shaping the legislative process.

This newsletter is a testament to our ongoing dedication to legislative excellence and the continued progress of Pakistan. I invite you to explore the updates and achievements highlighted in these pages.

## 16TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: A POLITICALLY PIVOTAL COALITION GOVERNMENT TAKES PLACE



Members of the 16th National Assembly of Pakistan taking oath in the National Assembly Hall on February 29, 2024 at Parliament House, Islamabad.

The 16th National Assembly of Pakistan was constituted following the February 8th, 2024, elections. In these elections, no single political party achieved a simple majority, resulting in a coalition government.

The Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N) led the coalition, forming the federal government with the support from eight other political parties: Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP), Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Pakistan Muslim League (PML), Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), Pakistan Muslim League Zia (PML-Z), Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), and National Party (NP).

A significant development was the emergence of the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) as the largest parliamentary party. This occurred after a majority of independent lawmakers, supported by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), joined SIC. SIC now sits on the opposition benches.

The House is currently short of 26 members due to a pending Supreme Court decision regarding SIC's eligibility for reserved seats for women and non-Muslims.



Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, taking the oath as a Speaker from the outgoing Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf at Parliament House, Islamabad on 1st March, 2024



The Inaugural Session of the 16th National Assembly witnessed the administration of the oath to 317 Members of the National Assembly (MNAs)-elect on 29th February 2024. The outgoing Speaker of the 15th National Assembly, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, administered the oath to 302 MNAs-elect out of a total strength of 336. Subsequently, the newly elected Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, administered the oath to an additional 15 MNAs-elect, bringing the total to 317.

Prominent politicians who were sworn in included PML-N



**Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Deputy Speaker, taking the oath from the Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, Islamabad on 1st March, 2024**

former premier Nawaz Sharif, former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, former President Asif Ali Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, and Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazal (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman. Additionally, three Senate members — PML-N's Nuzhat Sadiq, JUI-F's Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, and PPP's Yousuf Raza Gilani — resigned from the upper house to join the National Assembly, underscoring the significant political transitions. The later, however, resigned from his seat from National Assembly for Senate's candidacy.

Notable PTI leaders, some of whom joined the Assembly under the SIC banner, were also sworn in. These leaders included Barrister Gohar Khan, Ali Muhammad Khan, Omar Ayub Khan, and Sher Afzal Marwat, reflecting PTI's continued influence in the assembly.

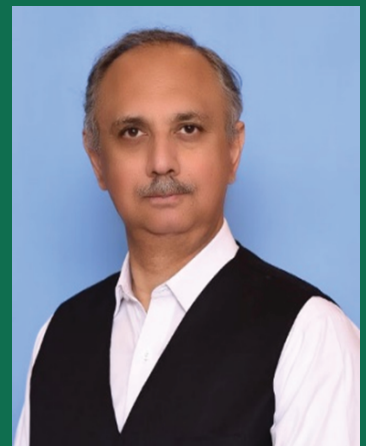
The composition of the National Assembly reflected significant changes, with 96 out of the 266 general seats (36%) occupied by the first-time elected MNAs. Among these, 52 are PTI-backed independent candidates, 15 belong to PML-N,

while both the PPP and MQM-P had 11 each. Notably, six women new candidates won seats in direct contests for the first time, highlighting progress in female political representation.

The inaugural session also saw the election of key Parliamentary Leaders. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq (NA-120 Lahore, Punjab, PML-N) was elected as the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with 199 votes, and Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah (NA-208 Shaheed Benazirabad-II, Sindh, PPP) was elected as the Deputy Speaker with 197 votes. Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif (NA-123 Lahore-VII, Punjab, PML-N) was elected as the 24th Prime Minister of Pakistan and secured 201 votes. This session, spanning 16 days and comprising seven sittings, marked a significant start to the 16th National Assembly's tenure.

Speaker National Assembly, on 2nd April 2024, declared Omar Ayub Khan, MNA as the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly of Pakistan under Rule 39 of the Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly.

This period of political realignment and new leadership signifies a crucial phase for Pakistan, with the coalition government and a diverse opposition set to navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead.



**Omar Ayub Khan, Leader of Opposition, National Assembly**

## The Presidential Address at the Commencement of First Parliamentary Year: A Symbol Of National Unity



President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani at the commencement of 1st Parliamentary year, 18th April, 2024.

The first joint sitting of the Parliament of the 16th National Assembly was convened for the inaugural address by the President on April 18, 2024. The proceedings were scheduled to commence at 4 PM and lasted for 30 minutes. Out of 336 Members of the National Assembly (MNAs), 248 (74% of the total) were present, along with representation from the Senate and provincial legislatures. The Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, presided over the session and invited President Asif Ali Zardari to address the assembly.

Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, addressed both Houses assembled under clause (3) of Article 56 of the Constitution. In the opening remarks of his address, the President expressed profound gratitude to all Parliamentarians and Provincial Assembly members for reposing their trust in him for a second Presidential term. He emphasized the need for the nation to overcome polarization in politics, underscoring the pivotal role of the Parliament in

reinstating public trust in the parliamentary system.

President Zardari stated, "Let us not mistake constructive disagreement and the robust discourse of a maturing democracy for a zero-sum mentality." He reflected on the 18th Amendment implemented during his previous tenure, highlighting his deliberate choice to delegate the powers of the President to the Parliament. He stressed that the Parliament must exercise those powers with the wisdom and maturity necessary for the country's progress.

As a "unifying symbol of a joint and unified federation," the President called for the urgency of "turning a new page." He urged, "If we perceive today as a fresh start where we invest in our people and prioritize public needs, we will pave the way for inclusive growth." He urged Parliamentarians to reflect on their priorities and agendas for the nation's progress.



The President asserted his firm belief that by embracing the vision of the country's leaders, Pakistan can effectively confront its challenges and nurture an environment of mutual respect and political reconciliation. He remarked that the challenges facing the country are not insurmountable; they require dialogue, parliamentary consensus, and a well-defined timeline for implementing robust reforms aimed at addressing root causes.

President Zardari concluded by reiterating the critical role of Parliament in the democratic process, urging members to rise above partisan divisions and work collectively for the nation's betterment. He expressed hope that the session would mark the beginning of a new era of cooperation and progress, with a renewed commitment to the principles of democracy and good governance.



President Asif Ali Zardari addressing the Parliament on 18th April, 2024.

## Federal Budget 2024-2025: A Glimpse



Finance Minister, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb presented the budget during the budget session on June 12, 2024, at Parliament House, Islamabad.

The Federal Budget for the year 2024-2025 was presented by the Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb during the 6th session of the 16th National Assembly of Pakistan. The general discussion on the budget lasted for 58 hours and 35 minutes over 10 sittings.

The 6th session convened on June 6, 2024, and was prorogued on June 28, 2024, encompassing a total of 13 sittings. These sittings accumulated 69 hours and 38 minutes, averaging 5 hours and 21 minutes per sitting. The longest sitting was on June 24, lasting 11 hours and 19 minutes, while the shortest was on June 12, lasting only 1 hour and 10 minutes. The Assembly managed to dispose of 98% of its agenda items. On average, 232 MNAs (75%) were recorded as present per sitting.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attended 7 out of the 13 sittings (54%), while the Leader of the Opposition, Mr.

Omar Ayub Khan, attended all 13 sittings. The session saw the passage of six government bills and two resolutions, the laying of two ordinances, and the extension of one ordinance.

The session was primarily focused on the annual Finance Bill, 2024, introduced by Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Finance and Revenue, on June 12. The House discussed the proposals from June 12 to June 28, and the demands for grants from June 25 to June 28.

The total time spent on the budget debate was 58 hours and 35 minutes across 10 days. The opposition criticized the budget for increasing taxes in various sectors. Despite significant opposition, the bill successfully passed through the legislative process on June 28. It was then swiftly forwarded to the President, who granted his assent on June 29, officially enacting the bill into law.



## Salient features of the Annual Federal Budget for the year 2024-2025: -

- » Total outlay: Rs18.877 trillion.
- » GDP growth target: 3.6% for Fiscal Year 2024–2025.
- » Tax collection target: PKR 13 trillion (40% higher than last year's target).
- » Additional revenue measures required: PKR 2 trillion.
- » Increase in direct taxes: 48%.
- » Increase in indirect taxes: 35%.
- » Education spending: Rs. 103.781 billion (Higher education: Rs. 79 billion, a decrease of Rs. 2 billion).
- » Healthcare allocation: Rs. 27 billion.
- » 25% increase in salaries for government employees from Grade-1 to 16.
- » 20% increase in salaries for government employees from Grade-17 to 22.
- » 15% raise in the pension of retired government employees.
- » Minimum wages increased from Rs. 32,000 to Rs. 37,000.
- » Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) budget enhanced by 27% to Rs. 593 billion.
- » Export refinance scheme increased from Rs. 3.8 billion to Rs. 13.8 billion.
- » Additional Rs. 86.9 billion proposed for reimbursing TT charges for the Pakistani diaspora.
- » Total development budget: Rs. 1500 billion.
- » Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) allocation: Rs. 1400 billion.
- » Additional Rs. 100 billion through public-private partnerships.
- » Defense requirements allocation: Rs. 2122 billion.
- » Infrastructure development: Rs. 824 billion.
- » Energy sector: Rs. 253 billion.
- » Transport and communication sectors: Rs. 279 billion.
- » Water sector: Rs. 206 billion.

Source: Budget in Brief and Finance Minister's Speech.  
[https://www.finance.gov.pk/fb\\_2024\\_25.html](https://www.finance.gov.pk/fb_2024_25.html)

The approved budget incorporates several revisions from its initial proposal presented on June 12, 2024. Key adjustments made by the government included:

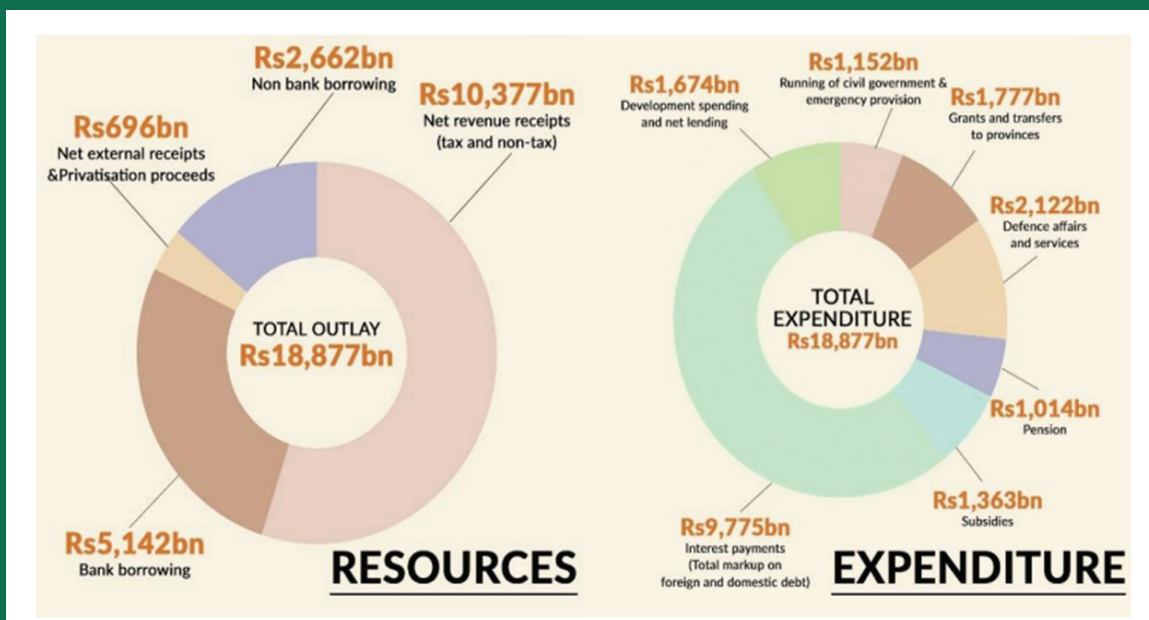
- Continuing reduced tax rates for hybrid vehicles until June 30, 2026, with rates of 8.5% for vehicles up to 1800cc and 12.75% for those between 1801-2500cc.
- Increasing the Federal Excise Duty (FED) on cement from Rs. 3 per kg to Rs. 4 per kg.
- Extending sales tax benefits for erstwhile FATA/PATA for another year.
- Subjecting exporters to the standard corporate tax rate of 29% plus applicable Super Tax, replacing the previous 1% tax on export turnover.
- Introducing a 10% surcharge on income tax for individuals or Associations of Persons (AoPs) earning above Rs. 10 million annually.
- Gradually increasing the levy on petrol and diesel from Rs. 60 to Rs. 70 per liter, with assurances from the Finance Minister of a phased implementation.
- Imposing Rs. 50 per liter levy on light diesel oil and kerosene, and Rs. 70 per liter levy on high-octane fuel.

During the budget discussions, 180 out of 312 MNAs participated, compared to 101 members in the previous year, who spent 31 hours and 46 minutes across 13 sittings. The Finance Bill, 2024, with a total outlay of Rs18.877 trillion for the fiscal year 2024-25, passed smoothly through the Lower House.

Specific amendments proposed by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb Khan were introduced, while all

amendments proposed by opposition members were rejected.

Additionally, an amendment proposed by the PPP to enhance salaries and allowances for legislators was approved. Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel emphasized that this amendment aims to increase benefits for parliamentarians, ensuring that unauthorized air tickets and travel vouchers may be carried forward to the next financial year instead of getting expired.



Pakistan budget for fiscal year 2024-25



## Championing Democracy and Global Cooperation: Speaker Ayaz Sadiq's Address at the 148th IPU Assembly in Geneva



Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq addressing the 148th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly at Geneva, Switzerland on 24 March, 2024.

The 148th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly held in Geneva, Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, delivered a powerful address that underscored the critical importance of democracy, peace, and the rule of law in fostering global growth and development.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to peaceful dialogue as a means of fostering cooperation and mutual understanding among nations. He emphasized the value of Parliamentary Friendship Groups in strengthening ties between parliaments worldwide, facilitating closer collaboration on issues of shared concern.

In his address, Speaker Ayaz Sadiq expressed deep concern over the escalating violence in Gaza, describing the scale of

death and destruction as unimaginable. He highlighted the tragic loss of over 30,000 civilian lives, including a significant number of women and children, and condemned Israel's actions as gross violations of international humanitarian and human rights laws. He categorically stated that Israel's deliberate targeting of civilian areas is constituted as war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Speaker called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, and he reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the Palestinian people in their struggle for self-determination. He reiterated Pakistan's stance on the establishment of a viable, secure, contiguous, and sovereign State of Palestine, based on pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

## Deputy Speaker Advocates for Global Cultural Preservation at 6th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue



Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah in a group photo with the participants of 6th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku on 2nd May, 2024.

On May 2, 2024, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah addressed the 6th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku, Azerbaijan where he highlighted the significance of cultural diversity and collaboration in an increasingly complex world.

In his speech, the Deputy Speaker emphasized that preserving cultural heritage is essential for the future. He warned of the challenges posed by modernization, urbanization, and climate change, urging the international community to take collective action. He called for collaborative efforts across sectors, involving governments, cultural institutions, local communities, and international organizations to protect cultural legacies.

Shifting focus to Pakistan, the Hon. Deputy Speaker proudly discussed the country's rich cultural heritage, from the ancient Indus Valley civilization to its diverse regional cultures. He

noted Pakistan's strong legal framework, including the Antiquities Act of 1975 and the Environmental Protection Act of 1997, which safeguard cultural assets.

The Deputy Speaker advocated for the use of advanced technologies in preservation efforts and emphasized the importance of inclusivity, ensuring that all cultures and communities are represented. He urged the global community to increase financial support, adopt sustainable practices, and strengthen international cooperation to protect cultural heritage.

In conclusion, Syed Ghulam Mustafa reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to cultural preservation and called on nations worldwide to join in safeguarding our shared cultural legacy for future generations.



## CALLS ON / MEETINGS WITH THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER BY THE FOREIGN DIGNITARIES FROM 1ST MARCH TO 30TH JUNE 2024

| S.No. | Name of Ambassadors/ High Commissioners/ Foreign VVIP Dignitaries   | Date of Call on              |
|-------|---|------------------------------|
| 1.    | H.E. Mr. Donald Blome Ambassador United States of America   | 15 <sup>th</sup> March, 2024 |
| 2.    | H.E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam Ambassador Islamic Republic of Iran   | 15 <sup>th</sup> March, 2024 |
| 3.    | H.E. Mr. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Alzaabi Ambassador United Arab Emirates  | 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024  |
| 4.    | H.E. Dr. Mehmet Paçacı Ambassador Republic of Turkiye   | 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024  |
| 5.    | Mr. Najy Ben Hassine Country Director of the World Bank   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2024   |
| 6.    | Iranian Parliamentary delegation  | 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2024   |
| 7.    | H.E. Mr. Khazar Farhadov Ambassador Republic of Azerbaijan  | 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2024  |
| 8.    | H.E. Ms. Marriott British High Commissioner   | 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2024  |
| 9.    | H.E. Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin Ambassador Republic of Kazakhstan   | 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2024  |
| 10.   | H.E. Dr. Seyed Ebrahim Raisi President Islamic Republic of Iran   | 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2024  |
| 11.   | H.E. Mr. Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy Ambassador Kingdom of Saudi Arabia   | 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2024  |
| 12.   | H.E. Mr. Manuel Frederico Pinheiro Da Silva, Ambassador of Portugal   | 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2024  |
| 13.   | H.E. Mr. Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater Ambassador State of Qatar   | 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2024  |
| 14.   | H.E. Mr. Mitsuhiro WADA Ambassador of Japan<br>(accompanied by Mr. MIZUSAWA Maki, First Secretary of the Japan Embassy) | 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2024    |
| 15.   | Dr. Maen Khreasat Ambassador Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  | 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2024    |
| 16.   | H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Turkmenistan                                     | 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2024    |
| 17.   | H.E. Mr. Charles Delogne, Ambassador Kingdom of Belgium, Belgium  | 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2024    |
| 18.   | H.E. Mr. Albert Khorev Ambassador Russian Federation  | 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2024    |

## LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

### GOVERNMENT BILLS LAID IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY = 05

| S.No. | Date                         | Bill   |
|-------|------------------------------|--|
| 1.    | 15 <sup>th</sup> March, 2024 | The Legal Aid and Justice Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2024   |
| 2.    | 15 <sup>th</sup> March, 2024 | The Civil Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2024                      |
| 3.    | 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2024  | The National University of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2024 |
| 4.    | 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2024  | The Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024                          |
| 5.    | 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2024   | The Finance Bill, 2024                                       |

### PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS LAID IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY = 01

| S.No. | Date                         | Bill   |
|-------|------------------------------|--|
| 1.    | 23 <sup>rd</sup> April, 2024 | The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Article 25) |

### GOVERNMENT BILLS PASSED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY = 06

| S.No. | Date                         | Bill  |
|-------|------------------------------|---|
| 1.    | 29 <sup>th</sup> April, 2024 | The Tax Laws (Amendment) Act, 2024                                    |
| 2.    | 10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2024  | The National Highway Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2024                 |
| 3.    | 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2024   | The Pakistan Postal Services Management Board (Amendment) Bill, 2024) |
| 4.    | 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2024   | The Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024     |
| 5.    | 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2024   | The Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024          |
| 6.    | 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2024   | The Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2024                                  |



## ACTS OF PARLIAMENT = 10

| S.No. | Date                         | Bill   |
|-------|------------------------------|--|
| 1.    | 4 <sup>th</sup> April, 2024  | <b>The Islamabad University of Health Sciences and Emerging Technologies, Islamabad Act, 2024</b> ((Act No. I of 2024) |
| 2.    | 14 <sup>th</sup> April, 2024 | <b>Toshakhana (Management and Regulation) Act, 2024</b> (Act No. III of 2024)  |
| 3.    | 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2024  | <b>Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) (Amendment) Act, 2024</b> (Act No.II of 2024)             |
| 4.    | 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2024  | <b>The Federal Ziauddin University Act, 2024</b> (Act No. IV of 2024)  |
| 5.    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024     | <b>The Tax Laws (Amendment) Act, 2024</b> (Act No.V of 2024)   |
| 6.    | 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024   | <b>The Pakistan Postal Services Management Board (Amendment) Act, 2024</b>   |
| 7.    | 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024   | <b>The Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2024</b>   |
| 8.    | 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024   | <b>The Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2024</b>  |
| 9.    | 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024   | <b>The National Highway Authority (Amendment) Act, 2024</b>  |
| 10.   | 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2024   | <b>The Finance Act, 2024</b> (Act No. X of 2024)   |

## ORDINANCES LAID = 12

| S.No. | Date                         | Bill  |
|-------|------------------------------|---|
| 1.    | 15 <sup>th</sup> March, 2024 | <b>The Establishment of Telecommunication Appellate Tribunal Ordinance, 2023</b> (Ordinance No. VIII of 2023) |
| 2.    | 15 <sup>th</sup> March, 2024 | <b>The Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023</b> (No. VI of 2023)  |
| 3.    | 15 <sup>th</sup> March, 2024 | <b>The Privatization Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023</b> (No. VII of 2023)                             |
| 4.    | 15 <sup>th</sup> March, 2024 | <b>The National Highway Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023</b> (No. V of 2023)                             |
| 5.    | 15 <sup>th</sup> March, 2024 | <b>The Pakistan Postal Services Management Board (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023</b> (No. IV of 2023)             |
| 6.    | 15 <sup>th</sup> March, 2024 | <b>The Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023</b> (No. III of 2023)               |
| 7.    | 15 <sup>th</sup> March, 2024 | <b>The Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023</b> (No. II of 2023)                     |
| 8.    | 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2024  | <b>The Apostille Ordinance 2024</b> (Ordinance No. 1 of 2024)   |

|     |                              |   |
|-----|------------------------------|---|
| 9.  | 29 <sup>th</sup> April, 2024 | <b>The Seed Ordinance 2024</b> (Ordinance No. II of 2024)                                 |
| 10. | 13 <sup>th</sup> May, 2024   | <b>The Cannabis Control and Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2024</b> (Ord.No. IV of 2024) |
| 11. | 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2024    | <b>The National Accountability (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024</b> (Ord. VI of 2024)          |
| 12. | 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2024    | <b>The Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024</b> (Ord. V of 2024)                         |

### Details of the Calling Attention Notices, Adjournment Motions and Questions of privilege in the National Assembly during the period March 2024 to June 2024.

|                          | Lapsed | Brought before the House | Disallowed | Under Process | Discussed in the House | Admitted but lapsed | Referred to Standing Committee | Total |
|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Calling Attention        | 168    | 31                       | -          | -             | -                      | -                   | -                              | 199   |
| Adjournment Motion       | 7      | -                        | 7          | -             | -                      | -                   | -                              | 14    |
| Questions of Privilege   | -      | -                        | 10         | 23            | -                      | -                   | -                              | 33    |
| Motion under Rule 259    | 1      | 2                        | 7          | -             | 2                      | 55                  | -                              | 65    |
| Motion under Rule 244(B) | -      | -                        | -          | -             | -                      | -                   | 1                              | 1     |

### Questions (Period March 2024 to June 2024)

| S. No. | Questions Received | Answered | Disallowed |
|--------|--------------------|----------|------------|
| 1      | 1662               | 130      | 59         |

### Translation of Data / Assignments completed during the period from 1st March 2024 to 30th June 2024 is as follows:-

| Contents                  | Quantity (No.) | Contents                        | Quantity (No.) |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Questions                 | 350            | Motions                         | 00             |
| Private Members Bills     | 43             | Cut Motions                     | 430            |
| Resolutions               | 05             | Senate Messages                 | 17             |
| Committee Reports         | 09             | Senate Recommendations Document | 01             |
| Circulars                 | 03             | Orders of Day                   | 33             |
| Communications of Notices | 04             | Summons                         | 06             |
| Objects & Reasons         | 03             | Ballot Bills                    | 07             |
| Group Admitted List       | 34             | Miscellaneous Papers/Documents  | 12             |
| Replies                   | 330            |                                 |                |



## COMMITTEES AT WORK

The Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, finalized the names of the members for 40 Standing Committees on 12th June 2024. This action was

taken in pursuance of the motion adopted during the National Assembly session held on 17th May 2024.



Elections for Standing Committees held on 29th June 2024 at the Parliament House, Islamabad.

### Committees Meetings and Performance (March 2024 to June 2024)

| S.No. | Name of Committees  | Chairman/Convener                   | Meetings Held | Bills    |              |         |
|-------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------|--------------|---------|
|       |                     |                                     |               | Referred | Disposed off | Pending |
| 1.    | Aviation Division   | Nawabzada Iftikhar Ahmed Khan Babar | 01            | 01       | Nil          | Nil     |
| 2.    | Cabinet Secretariat | Not Elected                         | Nil           | Nil      | Nil          | Nil     |
| 3.    | Climate Change      | Munaza hassan                       | 01            | --       | --           | --      |
| 4.    | Commerce            | M. Jawed Hanif                      | 01            | --       | --           | --      |
| 5.    | Communications      | Mr. Ajaz Hussain Jakhani            | 01            | Nil      | Nil          | Nil     |
| 6.    | Defence             | Fateh Ullah Khan                    | 01            | --       | --           | --      |

|     |   |                            |     |     |     |     |
|-----|---|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 7.  | Defence Production  |                            | --  | --  | --  | --  |
| 8.  | Economic Affairs Division   | Muhammad Atif              | 01  | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 9.  | Federal Education,<br>Professional Training,<br>National Heritage and Culture | --                         | --  | 01  | 01  | --  |
| 10. | Finance and Revenue   | Sayed Naveed Qamar         | 01  | 01  | 01  | --  |
| 11. | Foreign Affairs   | Ms. Hina Rabani Khar       | 01  | 01  | Nil | Nil |
| 12. | Government Assurances   | Not Elected                | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 13. | Housing and Works   | --                         | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 14. | Human Rights  | --                         | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 15. | Industries and Production   | Syed Hafeezuddin           | 01  | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 16. | Information and<br>Broadcasting   | Mr. Pullain                | 01  | 01  | Nil | Nil |
| 17. | Information Technology<br>and Telecommunications                              | Syed Amin Ul Haq           | 01  | 01  | Nil | 01  |
| 18. | Interior  | Raja Khurram Shahzad Nawaz | 01  | 01  | Nil | Nil |
| 19. | Inter Provincial<br>Coordination  | --                         | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 20. | Kashmir Affairs and<br>Gilgit Baltistan                                       | --                         | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 21. | Law and Justice   | Ch. Mahmood Bashir Virk    | 01  | 05  | Nil | 05  |
| 22. | Maritime Affairs  | Abdul Qadir Patel          | 01  | 01  | 01  | --  |
| 23. | National Food Security<br>and Research  | Syed Hussain Tariq         | 01  | 01  | Nil | Nil |
| 24. | Narcotics Control   | Mr. Malik Shah             | 01  | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 25. | National Health Services,<br>Regulation and Coordination                      | Dr. Ramesh Kumar Millani   | 01  | --  | --  | --  |
| 26. | Overseas Pakistani and<br>Human Resource Development                          | --                         | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 27. | Parliamentary Affairs   | Rana Iradat Sharif Khan    | 02  | 01  | 01  | Nil |
| 28. | Privatization   | Muhammad Farooq Sattar     | 01  | Nil | Nil | Nil |



|     |   |                          |     |     |     |     |
|-----|---|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 29. | Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety         | Mir Ghulam Ali Talpur    | 01  | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 30. | Planning, Development and Special Initiatives | Syed Abdul Kadir Gillani | 01  | --  | --  | --  |
| 31. | Energy (Petroleum Division)                   | Syed Mustafa Mehmood     | 01  | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 32. | Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony     | --                       | --  | --  | --  | --  |
| 33. | Railways                                      | Rai Hassan Nawaz         | 01  | --  | --  | --  |
| 34. | Science and Technology                        | Khawaja Sheraz Mehmood   | 01  | 01  | --  | 01  |
| 35. | States and Frontier Regions                   | Not Elected              | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 36. | Water Resources                               | Mr. Khalid Hussain Magsi | 01  | Nil | Nil | Nil |

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT

The Project Management Unit was formed in July 2013 to streamline the donor-driven activity, negotiate meaningful work plans with optimum utilization of funds and acts as the central coordination cell for the Secretariat.

In September 2020, Special Initiatives Wing was created in the National Assembly Secretariat and the Project Management Unit was made the central part of this Wing.

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STRATEGIC PLAN (NASP) 2024-29:

The Strategic Planning Committee of the 16th National Assembly has been constituted which held its first meeting on 15 May 2024. PMU has actively supported the National

### INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT:

One of the very important components of the strategic planning framework 2019-23 as per its Goal-2 is to devise strategy for "Parliament to effectively communicate, and positively engage with its publics to develop their ownership and trust for the House." Furthermore, it pre-conceives that National Assembly shall effectively communicate with citizens to raise their awareness about the Parliament, parliamentary values and parliamentary processes including parliamentary business and proceedings of the House.

Assembly Strategic Plan Committee in its establishment / working during the strategic plans of 2014-2018 and 2019-2023. The Committee has diverse membership from political parties represented in the National Assembly of Pakistan.

- PMU facilitated the exercise of assessment and evaluation of the National Assembly Strategic Plan 2019-23 and 2014-2018 in collaboration with Mustehkam Parliamaan. Implementation and Logical Frameworks and Budgetary Allocations within the National Assembly Secretariat were also facilitated in the past, to bring the Secretariat led activities in line with the organization's strategic goals.

Therefore, as part of the National Assembly Strategic Plan 2019-23, it was decided that steps would be taken to "enhance and encourage citizen participation." This included comprehensive Youth Engagement Plan by providing high caliber graduates, regular internship programs in various sections of the Secretariat.

Considering the above, PMU has continued providing various internship opportunities to talented youth/ students and graduates from all over Pakistan.

For the period between March-June 2024 alone, around 250 interns served in the Secretariat hailing from various universities of Islamabad and other areas of Pakistan especially far-flung areas of Sindh, Southern Punjab, Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan.

#### **CENTRAL COORDINATION OF DONOR FUNDED PROJECTS:**

The Project Management Unit serves as the central hub for coordinating with the Economic Affairs Ministry vis a vis international grants and parliamentary strengthening initiatives in Pakistan. It plays a vital role in representing the National Assembly of Pakistan during consultations, particularly in the development and signing of key projects that bolster parliamentary functions and capacity-building efforts. Following projects are underway:

#### **The 'Support to Parliament' Project / IP5 Project (Mustehkam Pakistan):**

The IP5 Project is an assistance package of EUR 15 million to the Parliament, signing of the financing agreement of which (by EAD) took place in December 2018.

PMU led the consultation. The project implementation is due to start tentatively by the first quarter of year 2021 by the GIZ and PIPS.

The overall objective of the IP5 program is to support the consolidation of parliamentary democracy in the federal and provincial legislatures of Pakistan – Senate, National Assembly and 4 Provincial Assemblies.

#### **National Governance Program**

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)'s Reforms and Innovation in Government for High Performance Project (the 'Project') has been providing support to the federal government in key reform initiatives for the last eight years. The reform agenda is anchored in various themes including performance management, evidence-based policy planning, and strengthening governance and institutional capacity of public sector.

#### **Technical Assistance to Parliamentary Committees**

Support in this area includes working with the relevant parliamentary committees (e.g. Public Accounts Committee, Finance and Revenue Committee, Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, etc.) to better equip them to

exercise their oversight function.

Project Management Unit facilitated the preliminary meetings of the implementing partner UNDP with the Special Initiatives and Committees Wings of this Secretariat to chalk out the project plan after thorough project scoping and needs assessment.

#### **EU's project on Women participation and leadership in governance and democratic processes in Pakistan**

Project Management Unit is facilitating the coordination with the Economic Affairs Division and UN Women and UNDP Pakistan on EU's project on Women participation and leadership in governance and democratic processes in Pakistan. The Project aims to ensure women's full participation and equal opportunities at all levels of decision making in political and public spheres of life in Pakistan.

This would be done by strengthening enabling conditions for the participation of women and socially marginalized groups in democratic and governance processes ensuring women adopt behaviors and attitudes for equal participation and leadership as voters, aspiring leaders, contestants, local councilors and parliamentarians and incorporating affirmative measures for increased and effective women's participation and representation in the institutional and legislative frameworks.

#### **SUPPORT TO PARLIAMENTARY PLATFORMS:**

Project Management Unit facilitated reconstitution of parliamentary forums. It also provided organizational supervision and support to the following parliamentary platforms:

- Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC)
- Sustainable Development Goals Secretariat (SDGs Secretariat)
- Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF)
- Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights
- Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS)



## COORDINATION WITH DIFFERENT DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Project Management Unit has been engaged with various local and foreign development partners on regular basis including ministries and divisions. Around 20 think tanks, partners and expert groups from various national and international organizations were engaged to support the working of the Secretariat with zero financial liability on the Secretariat.

### These included:

- Hans Seidel Foundation (HSF)
- Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)
- Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS)
- OXFAM International
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP)
- UN Women
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)
- Democracy Reporting International (DRI)
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- British Council, Pakistan
- Shoor Foundation
- PILDAT
- Sightsavers
- National Dialogue Forum (NDF)
- MANTAQ Centre for Research
- Anthro Insights (PVT) LTD
- Tech Valley
- GIZ Pakistan
- Signify Consulting, Pakistan
- Asia Foundation Pakistan

## PICTURE GALLERY



Ambassador Donald Blome's meeting with Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, focused on enhancing bilateral relations between Pakistan and the United States, at Parliament House on 16th March, 2024.



The head of the Pakistan delegation, Speaker Mr. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, sits alongside the Palestine delegation, headed by Deputy Speaker Mr. Musa Hadid at the 148th IPU conference, Geneva Switzerland on 23rd March 2024.



Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah chairing a meeting with Senior Officers of CDA regarding issues related to Parliament Loges in Parliament House on 28th March, 2024.



Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq visited the Embassy of China Republic and met with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong to offer condolence over the death of Chinese Nationals in a suicide attack in District Shangla on 2nd April, 2024.



Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with Iranian Parliamentary Delegation at Parliament House on 4th April, 2024.



Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Khazar Farhadov called on the Speaker of the National Assembly Hon. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, at the Parliament House on 17th April, 2024.



British High Commissioner Ms. Jane Marriot called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House on 18th April, 2024.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, receiving guests Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani at the Joint Session in Parliament House on 18th April, 2024



Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in meeting with Iranian delegation headed by President of Iran Dr. Seyed Ebrahim Raisi on 22nd April, 2024.



Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Mr. Nawaf Bin Saeed Ahmed Al-Maliky called on Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House on 23rd April, 2024.



Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, plants a Magnolia Grandiflora sapling in the lawn of Parliament House on 25th April, 2024



Political Counselor British High Commission, Ms. Zoe Ware called on Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah at Parliament House on 25th April, 2024.



Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq presiding meeting to discuss matters related to present and upcoming Budget Session of National Assembly at Parliament House on 13th May, 2024.



Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah addressing the briefing session on Empowering Parliamentarians for Effective Budgetary Oversight on 14th May, 2024.



Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq presiding the meeting of the National Assembly Strategic Plan Committee at Parliament House on 15th May, 2024.



A 20-member delegation from Global Bridges, a non-profit organization of the Federal Republic of Germany, led by Dr. Hans Albrecht, visited Parliament House on 20th May, 2024.



The Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq held a meeting with the Speaker of House of Commons, United Kingdom, Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle at the House of Commons in London on 24th May, 2024.



A delegation of Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) representatives and spouses of Ambassadors/ High Commissioners visited the Parliament of Pakistan on 29th May, 2024.



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq inaugurating Art Exhibition of Mr. Jimmy Engineer at the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) in Islamabad on 5th June, 2024.



Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq inscribing his remarks in condolence book at Iranian Embassy, Islamabad on 5th June, 2024.



Deputy Speaker National Assembly Syed Mir Ghulam Mustafa Shah participated in the event organized by the National Commission for Human Rights Pakistan on 7th June, 2024.



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a group photo with participants of 3rd Pakistan-China Joint Consultative Meeting of Political Parties on CPEC in Islamabad on 21st June, 2024.



Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Syed Mir Ghulam Mustafa Shah, celebrates the birthday of Benazir Bhutto on 21st June, 2024



The National Assembly Standing Committee on Privatization elected MNA Dr. Farooq Sattar as its Chairperson in its meeting held on 29th June, 2024 at Parliament House.



## EDITORIAL BOARD

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