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Editorial

Dear Readers,

The National Assembly of Pakistan hosted the 2nd General Conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO states on May 31-June 3, 2021 in Islamabad with galaxy of Members of National Parliaments and delegates comprising of experts from Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Uzbekistan participated in person while Hon Speakers and MPs from Iran, Turkmenistan and ECO Secretariat attended virtually in absorbing deliberations towards Promoting Parliamentary Partnership for Regional Integration.

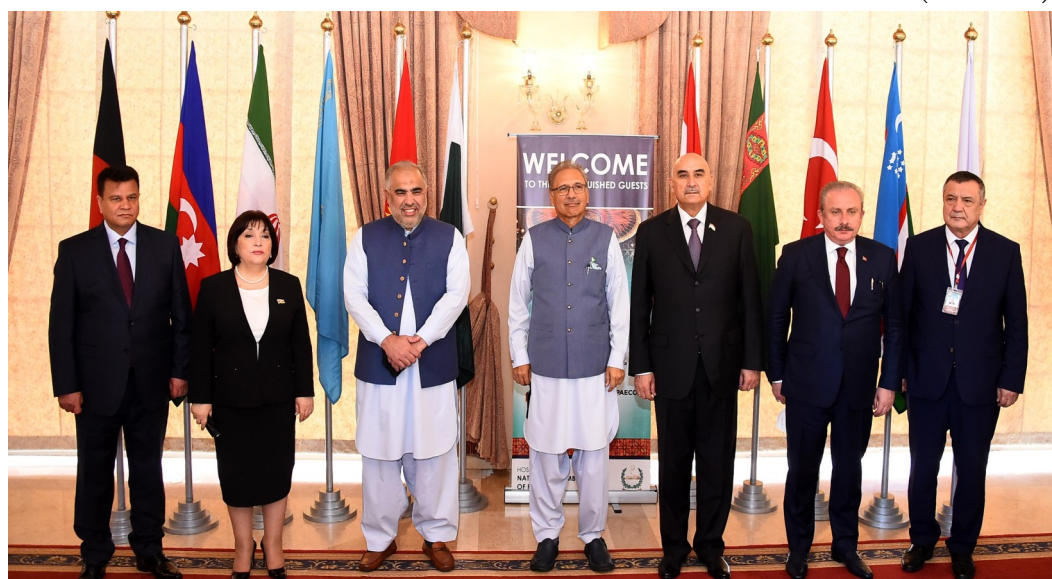
The initiative of the Hon. Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Mr Asad Qaiser and the effort put up by the National Assembly was lauded by all the member states. The team Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services, as per its tradition, contributed in the preparation and organization of the PAECO 2nd General Conference in close coordination with the National Assembly for a memorable initiative towards regional connectivity, trade and advancing tourism for sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

This Issue of the PIPS Parliamentary Research Digest includes the PAECO declaration text, an analytical article on Rural Economy, an opinion piece on non-profit sector as well as a compilation of response of world leaders on the recent Israeli tyranny unleashed on the innocent Palestinians. We welcome feedback of our invaluable readers. Please Do not hesitate to send your feedback or contact for any of our services at research@pips.gov.pk

Happy reading and profound regards,

Muhammad Rashid Mafzool Zaka

Director General (Research)



Group Photo of H.E. the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi with the Hon. Speakers of the National Parliaments of ECO countries at the inaugural ceremony of 2nd General Conference of the PAECO on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, in Islamabad

Early Responses on Israeli tyranny in Palestine

Compiled by

Jimshaid Asghar

Assistant Director (Research), PIPS

1. “Strongly condemn Israeli Forces' attack esp during Ramazan on Palestinians in Qibla-e-Awaal, Al-Aqsa Mosque, violating all norms of humanity & int law. We reiterate support for Palestinian ppl. Int community must take immediate action to protect Palestinians & their legitimate rights”
(Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan official twitter handle, 9th May, 2021)
2. “Israel’s occupation of Palestine must end & illegal settlements & apartheid like regime imposed in the occupied territories must be dismantled. Implementation of UN res for establishment of independent & contiguous Palestinian State w/ Al-Quds Al Sharif as its capital, imperative”
(Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Shah Mehmood Qureshi official twitter handle, 21st May, 2021)
3. “De-escalation of the Palestine-Israel conflict is “an absolute must” said the UN Secretary-General on Wednesday, declaring that the mounting death toll, including children, was totally unacceptable.”
(UNSG Antonio Guterres, 12th May, 2021)¹
4. “The current violence in Gaza & Israel only perpetuates the cycles of death, destruction & despair, and pushes farther to the horizon any hopes of coexistence & peace. Fighting must stop immediately. The @UN is actively engaging all sides towards an immediate ceasefire.”
(UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres official twitter handle)
5. We condemn ALL violence and ALL incitement to violence. No force should be used against those exercising their rights peacefully.
(UN Human Rights official twitter handle, 15th May, 2021)
6. “I believe the Palestinians and Israelis equally deserve to live safely and securely and enjoy equal measures of freedom, prosperity and democracy,” Biden said. “My administration will continue our quiet, relentless diplomacy toward that.”
(Joe Biden, US President, 20th May, 2021)²
7. “We have seen over & over again that a ceasefire alone will not obtain justice for victims. Unless the world presses Israel to address root causes, it is likely there will be another round of civilian deaths & destruction.”
(Amnesty International official twitter handle, 22nd May, 2021)
8. “Israel’s actions, which are against the decisions by humanity’s common organizations, fundamental human rights, the international law and all human values, must be stopped immediately. Otherwise, no person on earth will have any confidence left in international organizations or rules.”
(Recep Tayyip Erdogan official twitter handle, 13th May, 2021)
9. “We stand in solidarity with the Palestinians who continue to be oppressed and thrown out from their homeland. The ethnic cleansing and apartheid system practiced by the Zionist regime must be stopped immediately,”
(Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin statement, Malaysian Prime Minister, 16th May, 2021)³

¹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/05/1091852>

² <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2021/05/21/US-President-Biden-publicly-addresses-Palestine-Israel-violence-for-first-time>

³ <https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2021/05/16/various-parties-organisations-firmly-back-malaysian-govts-stand-on-palestin/1974535>

OPINION

Rural Economy of Pakistan: An Engine of Economic Growth**Adila Shahzadi**

Research Analyst NED-CPDI with PIPS Economy and Budget Desk (2021)

1. Introduction

Rural economy refers activities in rural areas related to “consumptions and production.” The rural economy can be segregated into two main sectors i.e. farming and non-farming sectors. The farming sector is linked with agriculture and its sub-sectors. Pakistan is agriculture-based country and it is the largest sector having 19.3 percent share in total GDP and almost 65 percent share in total value of exports. Almost 17 million people, which present 39 percent of total labour force in the country, are employed within this sector.¹ According to the Population Census of Pakistan 2017, about 64 percent of the total population in Pakistan lives in rural areas.² The rural economy provides as the main source of the livelihood of the rural households. Yet majority Pakistanis living in our villages are facing many challenges such as subsistence agriculture, lower agriculture productivity/ potential, rural poverty, limited access to basic needs, low literacy rate, malnutrition, poor health and sanitation facilities, environmental deterioration and low life expectancy.³ These issues can be mitigated by focusing specifically on agricultural research and development, as well as monitoring and evaluating rural development programs.

2. Rural Economy and Economic Growth

The rural economy holds special position in the development and economic growth of an economy as it can create various productive, decent and beneficial jobs. The development of the rural economy can be ensured by focusing on the farming and non-farming sectors. Agriculture sector is considered to be the backbone of rural economy as it has a significant share in total employment, exports and total output of the economy. Land degradation can be improved by adopting innovative and modern technologies, which in turn can increase rural people's sources of income.⁴ According to International Labour Organization, the rural population is almost 64 percent of the total population of Pakistan and hence the home for more than 80 percent of the total poor of the country. In rural areas, pragmatic policies, development programs, and realistic works can alleviate poverty and thus improve the nutritional needs of rural people, providing the country with more energetic labor.⁵ By analyzing the importance of the rural economy for economic growth, the 2030 agenda for “Sustainable Development” also pays serious consideration towards the development of rural areas and agriculture sector.

3. Issues/ Challenges of Rural Economy

¹ Finance Division Pakistan, “Agriculture,” in Pakistan Economic Survey 2019-20 (Islamabad: Printing corporation of Pakistan Press, 2020)

² Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), *Population Census of Pakistan 2017*, (Islamabad: PBS, 2017).

³ Mirza B. Baig and Nowshad Khan, “Rural Development in Pakistan: From Vision to Action,” June 2007, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/242289416_Rural_Development_in_Pakistan_From_Vision_to_Action/link/543e34700cf2d6934ebd198b/download

⁴ International Labor Organization, “Rural Economy,” 21 May 24, 2021. https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/economic-and-social-development/rural-development/WCMS_546216/lang-en/index.htm

⁵ International Fund for Agriculture Development, “Pakistan,” 22 May 24, 2021. <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/operations/w/country/pakistan>

The rural economy of Pakistan is facing many challenges or issues. These issues are considered to be the major hurdles/impediments in the way of rural development. Some of them are discussed here.

- a. **Subsistence Agriculture/Lower Agriculture Potential:** Agriculture sector is the most important sector of the rural economy and food security. Despite of its importance and the agriculture sector of Pakistan is facing decline. The growth rate of this sector has declined to 2 percent during the last five years from 5.5 percent in 1960. The share of this sector in the total GDP has also been declining from 40 percent in 1960s to 19.3 percent during the last year. Not only is it declining, but it is also dominated by a few major crops (Wheat, Rice, Sugarcane, Maize, and Cotton) in an era of modernization and innovative technologies. These major crops have about 22 percent share while minor crops (Sorghum, Millet, Grams etc.) have 11 percent share in the total value addition of agriculture sector during FY 2018-19.⁶ Though a large number of farmers grow vegetables, fruits, and lentils, these are limited to specific regions. Agriculture departments made numerous efforts to persuade farmers to grow high-value oilseed crops and use modern farming technologies, but the efforts were ineffective. Still a large number of farmers are sowing traditional crops and not availing the benefits of high-valued crops. The reason behind production of the traditional crops is well-established marketing system as it forecasts prices before harvesting and ease of selling their crops.⁷
- b. **Rural Poverty:** The major issue of the poverty is mostly associated with the rural people and in Pakistan the poverty has been deeply enrooted since its inception and got high quantum over many years. According to the information of International Fund for Agriculture Development, the poverty crisis of Pakistan's economy is largely centered in its around 45,000 villages. As the rural population of Pakistan is more than 64 percent and represent 80 percent of total poor population so the development of the this rural sector is a real challenge to curtail the vicious cycle of the poverty. The farmers in rural areas of Pakistan mostly have small agricultural land and almost 35 percent people are living in such conditions where they have inadequate or limited access to various social services. The well-being, security and integrity of Pakistan's economy is dependent upon its rural sector but the rural sector of Pakistan shows a gloomy shades of poverty; higher population growth poor physical infrastructure, lower productivity and unemployment.⁸
- c. **Limited Access to Basic Needs:** Poor health facilities, higher population growth rate, problem of malnutrition, issues of water supply and improper sanitation condition can be seen in rural areas. According to a report of Asian Development Bank, only 87 percent and 35 percent of the rural population have access to the safe water, and sanitation respectively. While 30 to 50 million people in rural areas are malnourished which is adversely impacting the productivity.⁹
- d. **Low Literacy Rate:** Literacy rate in rural areas of Pakistan is very low as compared to urban areas. The main reason is that rural areas are not provided with adequate educational facilities, schools and highly qualified teaching staff. According to the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2019-20, rural literacy rate stood at 51 percent. The failure of repeated governments

⁶ Asif Maqbool and Muhammad Khalid bashir, "Rural Development in Pakistan: Issues and Future Strategies," 28 May, 2014. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/216413804_Rural_Development_in_Pakistan_Issues_and_Future_Strategies

⁷ Dr. Babar Shahbaz, "The Rural Economy at the cross-roads," *Nation*, April 30, 2020. <https://nation.com.pk/30-Apr-2020/rural-economy-at-the-crossroads>

⁸ Dr. M Sadiq Malik, "Pakistan and its rural dilemma," *News*, April 18, 2018 <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/305740-pakistan-and-its-rural-dilemma#:~:text=Pakistan's%20economy%2C%20security%2C%20solidarity%20and,production%20and%20productivity%3B%20unemployment%3B%20massive>

⁹ Asif Maqbool and Khalid Bahsir

is evident in achieving any improvement in the the literacy nor any effort made to introduce alternate education model emphasizing on making farmers sensitized viz a viz benefits of modern and scientific technologies in their farming operations and businesses rather than literacy only.

- e. **Inadequate Health Facilities:** Access to basic and good health facilities is the fundamental need and right of every person as it can directly contribute to the economic growth and social well-being of an economy. Unfortunately, the healthcare facilities in rural areas of Pakistan are inadequate and insufficient as many villages of Pakistan do not have hospitals, health centers, basic health units and dispensaries. According to the Economic survey of Pakistan 2019-20, only 1.1 percent of GDP is spent on health facilities.
- f. **Inappropriate Agriculture and Rural Development Policies:** A major issue of rural economy is that mostly the policies of rural development are biased towards large farmers and small farmers are ignored. According to Agriculture Census of Pakistan 2010 there are more than 90 percent of farmers in Pakistan having small landholdings. Furthermore, a rigid cropping pattern prevails in rural areas, resulting in a lack of agricultural sector modification and, as a result, more unemployment. Climate change, dwindling natural resources, land degradation, and antiquated agricultural management practices are all reducing land productivity. The natural resource base is deteriorating over time. Land degradation is increasing and land productivity is decreasing as a result of poor agricultural practices and climate change. For example, nearly 40% of the water in Sindh province has become saline.¹⁰

4. Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Rural Economy

The coronavirus disease or Covid-19 pandemic adversely affected the global economies. Pakistan GDP growth rate was not spare from the havoc of this pandemic. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics the GDP growth rate during 2019-20 was -0.4 percent and this negative growth slows down the economy. To analyze the impact of Covid-19 on the rural economy Asian Development Bank conducted a survey in rural areas of Punjab, as it is the largest province of Pakistan. The results of the survey showed that 33 percent of the rural households lost their jobs, wages and non-farming earnings. Fruits, vegetables and milk producers in the rural areas were also badly affected due to the closure of markets. Informal sector in rural areas was also affected and is contributed to almost 70 percent total rural employment. Unemployment was also increased in the rural areas as most of the people were dependent on informal sector. Not only farming sector was disturbed but non-farming sector of the rural economy was also faced clampdown.¹¹

5. A Review on Programs for the Development of Rural Economy

Since its inception, Pakistan has been working on various agricultural and rural development programs to enhance the productivity and living standard of the rural people. Some of them are enlisted below:

- i. Village Aid Programme
- ii. Basic Democracies System
- iii. Rural Works Programme
- iv. Integrated Rural Development
- v. Peoples Works Programme
- vi. Local Govt. and Rural Development
- vii. Peoples Programme

¹⁰ Asif Maqbool and Khalid Bahsir

¹¹ Asian Development Bank, "COVID-19 Impact on Farm Households in Punjab, Pakistan: Analysis of Data from a Cross-Sectional Survey," (Pakistan: Asian Development Bank, 2020) file:///C:/Users/MZ%20COMPUTERS/Desktop/Research%20Data/covid-19-farm-households-punjab-pakistan.pdf

- viii. Tameer-e-Watan
- ix. Social Action Programmes
- x. Khushal Pakistan
- xi. Tameer-e-Pakistan
- xii. Khushal Pakistan Programme.

The main objectives of the above mentioned programs were to improve the quality of life in rural areas, social well-being and the development of agriculture sector. Unfortunately, these programs could not gain required results. Multiple reasons were identified behind their poor performance, i.e. improper institutional mechanism, inadequate research, lack of collaboration, mutual understanding and coordination among rural development departments and nation-building departments.¹²

6. Outlook of Farming/Non-Farming Sectors w.r.t Rural Economy

As discussed, that farming and non-farming sector are considered to be the vehicle for the development of the rural economy therefore in this section special attention will be given to both sectors.

a. Farming Sector

The farming sector is primarily associated with agriculture or activities that are directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture. Agriculture sector can be classified into its sub-sectors such as crops, livestock, fishing and forestry.

- i. **Crops:** Agriculture is the most important sector of the rural economy and food security. This sector's growth rate has slowed to 2% over the last five years, down from 5.5 percent in 1960. This sector's share of total GDP has also been declining, from 40% in the 1960s to 19.3% last year. During the fiscal year 2018-19, these major crops account for approximately 22% of total agricultural value addition, while minor crops (sorghum, millet, gram, and so on) account for 11% of total agricultural value addition. Despite the slowing of crop share in the agriculture sector, it is still regarded as a major source of income for rural households and foreign exchange.
- ii. **Livestock Sector:** Livestock subsector is the most important subsector and has surpassed the crop sector. According to the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2019-20, livestock has 11.7 percent share in GDP and 60.6 percent share to the overall agriculture. Most rural Pakistanis have one or two buffaloes, cattle, sheep, or goats to meet their basic needs for food and income. Without a doubt, this sector has seen positive growth; however, significant attention has not yet been paid to value addition. Milk processing companies have established some selling points in some rural areas, but the majority of farmers still rely on middlemen.
- iii. **Research and Development:** The goal of agricultural research is not only to increase production, but also to improve the incomes and living conditions of rural households. Agricultural research is a major contributor to shifts in agricultural production systems and changes in rural economies. It specifically aids in increasing agricultural productivity, increasing income, and changing agricultural practices.¹³ In Pakistan, agricultural research is often conducted either by federal/provincial government or different higher education agencies. Total share of expenditure on

¹² Asif Maqbool and Muhammad Khalid bashir

¹³ European Commission, "The role of agricultural research for the development of sustainable agriculture and food security in SubSaharan Africa," *ROSA Newsletter*, October 2013. <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/file/16156/download?token=Ww-8UsHh>

R&D is only 0.23597 percent of the GDP.¹⁴ In Pakistan, public agricultural R&D is heavily reliant on government and foreign funding. In comparison to most countries in the Asia-Pacific region, Pakistan has a relatively small agricultural research staff (3,678).¹⁵ Total number of PhD scholars in Pakistan is 14,151 in different disciplines during the last ten years.¹⁶

- iv. **Support Price Mechanism:** Support price refers to as the minimum guaranteed price to a farmer at which the government can buy the surplus agricultural commodities that will cover the cost of production. As per Agriculture Census 2010, more than 90 percent of rural farmers have small landholdings. Farmers lack adequate storage facilities as well as the financial resources to hold on to their marketable surplus in the hope of higher prices later in the season. As a result, farmers are under pressure to sell their produce at market prices in order to meet their financial obligations during the harvest season, when prices are at their lowest. The situation is exacerbated further by the pressure from money lenders to return their funds. In such cases, the support price mechanism operates and aids in the development of the rural economy.
- v. **Agricultural Subsidies:** Agriculture subsidy can be defined as the financial assistance that is given to the farmers and agri-businesses by the government for enhancing their income, stabilizing food prices and managing the smooth provision of the agricultural supplies. It is critical to the development of the rural economy, particularly in developing countries where the economy is based primarily on agriculture. According to a study conducted by the Punjab Economic Research Institute, there is a positive relationship between fertilizer subsidy and major crop yield in Pakistan. Fertilizer subsidies in Pakistan and India have increased in the last decade when compared to the 1980s and 1990s. According to the analysis, a 1% increase in fertilizer subsidies resulted in a 0.26 percent increase in maize and a 0.07 percent increase in sugarcane.
- vi. **Input-Output Price Policy:** Input-output price policy is critical for agricultural and rural economic development. It has multiple advantages, including the ability to analyse the overall profitability of agriculture and its impact on agricultural production. Analyzing yields and production can also help to balance supply and demand in the economy. It also reduces the risks and uncertainties associated with production.

- b. **Non-farm Activities:** The rural economy is largely associated with agriculture; however, non-farm activities play an important role in the rural economy. Non-farm economy comprises activities such small business, daily wage earners, migration to cities, agricultural processing, mining, construction, commerce, transport and a whole range government services.¹⁷ These are also dominated by small labour intensive enterprises and play a significant role in rural development. Farming households consider migration as an effective

¹⁴ World Bank, "Pakistan - Research and Development Expenditure (% Of GDP)," (Pakistan: Trading Economics, 2017). [https://tradingeconomics.com/pakistan/research-and-development-expenditure-percent-of-gdp-wb-data.html#:~:text=Research%20and%20development%20expenditure%20\(%25%20of%20GDP\)%%20in%20Pakistan%20was,compiled%20from%20officially%20recognized%20sources](https://tradingeconomics.com/pakistan/research-and-development-expenditure-percent-of-gdp-wb-data.html#:~:text=Research%20and%20development%20expenditure%20(%25%20of%20GDP)%%20in%20Pakistan%20was,compiled%20from%20officially%20recognized%20sources).

¹⁵ ASTI Indo-Pacific, "TOTAL AGRICULTURAL R&D SPENDING (EXCL. PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT SECTOR)," 2020 <https://www.asti.cgiar.org/indo-pacific/pakistan>

¹⁶ "Pakistan Produces Around 14000 PhD Scholars During Last Ten Years," News, June 19, 2019. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/pakistan-produces-around-14000-phd-scholars-d-648809.html#:~:text=Pakistan%20had%20produced%20a%20total,during%20the%20last%20ten%20years>.

¹⁷ "Developing the rural non-farm economy," Dawn, May 04, 2009. <https://www.dawn.com/news/968070/developing-the-rural-non-farm-economy#:~:text=Non%2Dfarm%20rural%20sector%20thus,significant%20role%20in%20rural%20development>.

strategy to support their rural families. The researchers also agreed that rural to urban migration have various positive effects on rural economy. Poverty is mainly associated with rural areas and hence, it can be minimized by developing simultaneously the farm and the non-farm sectors. In the past, rural development was synonymous with agricultural development and was focused on agricultural growth. But the importance of rural non-farm enterprises cannot be ignored as these enterprises can significantly reduce rural unemployment.¹⁸

7. Way Forward

The rural economy can grow up by adopting some given measures such as

- a. **Adoption of Innovating Technologies:** Modern and innovative technology has a greater potential for increasing agricultural productivity. The rural poor, particularly small landholders can demonstrate their willingness to participate in policy development and implementation, as well as in the adoption of cost-saving technologies.
- b. **Development of Agro-Based Industries:** There is an urgent need to develop and promote agro-based industries in rural areas. Public and private interventions in the development of agro-based industries have the potential to create more employment opportunities in rural areas. This can help not only with rural-urban migration, but it can also help to reduce rural poverty.
- c. **Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Development Programs:** Multiple past projects were ineffective due to lack of proper monitoring and evaluation of rural development programs. Therefore, to ensure the successful implementation of rural development programs, a strong system of monitoring and evaluation must be adopted.
- d. **Provision of Education and Health Facilities:** To address the problems of public health and education for a rapidly growing population, various practical measures must be adopted. This demand for establishment of schools and health facilities on modern lines. Such facilities would provide agriculture, in particular, and the rural economy in general, with a productive, healthy, and educated labor force.
- e. **Enhanced Role of R&D and Agriculture Extension Services:** It entails the development of high-yielding improved and hybrid seed varieties, integrated pest management, and improved agronomic management. The government can remove market imperfections with the help of research and development, thereby protecting farmers' interests. Effective agricultural research and extension services can also help to reduce the yield gap by increasing farmer awareness of technology transfer and assisting farmers in becoming good managers.

¹⁸ Dr. Babar Shahbaz, *Nation*. <https://nation.com.pk/30-Apr-2020/rural-economy-at-the-crossroads>

OPINION**Non-Profit Sector in Pakistan: Problems and Prospects****Qazi Kabir Ahmed**

President, Olives' Trust Pakistan

1. Introduction

Generally, a non-profit sector includes not-for-profit organization (NPO), which is a tax-exempted organization established for advocacy, service delivery, religious charity, charitable, literary, artistic, scientific or educational purposes. It is called a nonprofit concern because its shareholders or trustees do not benefit financially from the organization. The money earned in this sector is retained by the organization, and used solely for its own expenses, operations, and programs. The nonprofit sector includes private, voluntary, and nonprofit organizations and associations. It is frequently referred to as the third sector because it operates alongside the government or public sector on the one hand and the private sector on the other. In the recent decades, this particular sector of economy rose in prominence with its area of operation/influence expanding from education, social welfare, advocacy and community development to arts, culture and international relations.¹

In Pakistan, non-profit sector has been playing a critical role in people's life. These organizations and civil society associations provide services to meet a range of humanitarian needs: ministering to the sick through patient's welfare services, hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes; educating thousands in schools and universities, as well as in community education programs. The programs are designed based on international best practices evolved over the years during crises and disasters. NPOs in Pakistan have played an integral role in rehabilitation and development of vulnerable communities. They have come up with commendable creative and innovative ideas to impart information for community welfare.² However, most of these organizations have been labeled as foreign agents, money mongers and threat to indigenous culture and traditions as well as anti-Islam and anti-state.

2. Expansion in the NPO Sector

At the time of partition in 1947, Pakistan's infant government lacked the financial and administrative resources to rehabilitate the refugees and simultaneously provide basic facilities and services to the citizens. The incapability of the state rendered the need for external assistance and laid the foundation of NPOs in the country. Initially NPOs focused their work on catering basic needs including education, health and shelter and most of the work revolved around rehabilitation of refugees or providing basic service delivery. There wasn't much growth witnessed in this sector for the next three decades. However, their number and circle of activities widened in the 1980s and 1990s, respectively.³ At the dawn of the new millennia, there was a significant rise in the number of NPOs; it had increased to 45000 organizations with a quarter million employees and members up to 6 million in number. With expansion in the number, the range of activities diversified as well. NPOs were actively engaged in advocating for civic amenities, religious rights and civic education, lobbying for human rights and establishing and running community schools in vulnerable communities.⁴

¹ Helmut K. Anheier, *Nonprofit Organizations Theory, Management, Policy*, (New York: Routledge, 2005), 4.

² Hameed-ur- Rehman, and Muhammad Ismail, "Study on the role of non-governmental organizations in imparting primary education in Pakistan," *International Journal of Contemporary Research in Business* 4, no. 1 (May 2012): 751-769.

³ Rehman, "Imparting Primary Education," 754.

⁴ Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy, *Enabling Environment for Non-profit Organizations in Pakistan*, March, 2020, Available at <https://www.pcp.org.pk/uploads/Enabling-Environment.pdf>

The substantial rise in the number of NPOs in the new millennia can be associated with considerable inflow of foreign funds, especially in the form economic assistance, donations and grants and even loans through international economic institutions. The major reasons for the financial assistance and aids to Pakistan were the deplorable political, security and economic situation of the country after 2000. Pakistan had transitioned from dictatorship to a controlled democracy and gradually to a fully functional democracy; at the same time, the nation had witnessed the worst violence and terrorism. Moreover, the once growing economy was warped due to terrorism and later underwent massive privatization and liberalization. As a front line ally to US in her War against Terrorism, Pakistan paid a heavy price in the form of loss of precious lives of more than 50,000 innocent citizens and security personnel especially the police in addition to huge and unprecedented financial losses. As frontline ally and directly suffering the spillover effects of US invasion of Afghanistan, required that the international community; US allies in WOT in particular, aid Pakistan with capacity building and money through this difficult period. Moreover, Pakistan's environmental degradation and horrific natural calamities i.e. 2005 earthquake and floods in 2010-2011, called for immediate need for sustainable development model to create balance between depleting natural resources and booming population. Surfacing of immense economic, environmental, political and social challenges in limelight and the government under-equipped to remedy them paved the path for international NGOS to operationalize in Pakistan.⁵

Unfortunately, the sector was monopolized by a privileged class in the absence of a well-defined national policy for NPOs and weak opportunities to local community activists. On the one hand, NPOs served as a source of employment for the kith and kin of the privileged, while on the other, they became a symbol of prestige for the select few who understand the art of preparing proposals and reports in the bureaucratic lexicon. Musa Jalalzai noted in 1998 that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were becoming a threat to the security of state as well as to the country.⁶ The owners of several of these supposedly non-profit organizations were pocketing most of the funds meant for development projects. Yet they provided for employment to many middle class qualified young professionals. At the same time few NGOs developed into well-connected and powerful people, who exercise influence over government policies and decisions as well as lobby effectively with foreign donors to acquire funds and cover up their tracks after squandering millions.

There is no denying the fact that some of the NGOs are involved in commendable services to the community but unfortunately not all of them fall in that category. A considerable majority of them became money-making devices for influential local elite. Analysts believe that many western nations developed intelligence networks and NGOs become effective tools to cover agents who can use the facility to infiltrate sensitive institutions and areas

The experience of Sudan is before us. When the government of Sudan took over the rebel-controlled areas the authorities found that all the three NGOs working there were actually engaged in supplying arms to rebels⁷. For instance, Nadia Naviwala captured in her article that

“The suspicion surrounding foreign-funded NGOs has grown with a series of incidents over the past decade. In 2010, the New York Times reported on a network of Pentagon contractors in Afghanistan and Pakistan tasked with collecting

⁵ Faiza Shah, “The rise of NGO's and their harmful impact on Pakistan,” *The Herald*, August 11, 2016 Available at <https://herald.dawn.com/news/1152863>

⁶ Musa Jalalzai, *The NGOs Conspiracy in Pakistan*, (Lahore: Classic, 1998).

⁷ Jalalzai, *The NGOs Conspiracy*.

information on the inner workings of militant groups and tribal structures, treading a fine line between espionage and research.”⁸

Musa Jalalzai also identified that the situation was rapidly getting out of hands. He pointed out dire need for laws to govern working of NGOs as well as creating an enabling environment for NPOs who are delivering their services transparently. The legislation must facilitate and incentivize local community to serve as NPOs rather than families of NPO managers and powerful elite away from NGOs to avoid conflict of interest. It was the reason that the Government of Pakistan started checks on their activities around 2016 onwards through raising the registration process requirements. It had then become more obvious that many donors continue to donate despite the awareness that their taxpayer's money is grossly misused indicating that they have hidden motives.

As far as larger and well established NPOs are concerned, global concepts and transformations in organizational management significantly impacted their management and organizational structure. NPOs started undertaking development interventions in early 1980s; with heavy foreign aid and international support, they also improved resource mobilizations and fund-raising mechanisms as well as reformed/up-to-date organizational structures by adopting the latest corporate concepts and practices. Consequently, lavish corporate environment, lucrative salaries, donor driven agendas, and elite lifestyle was witnessed within the NPOs who are primarily considered to be consumers of charity and grants from hard earned money of the people of donor nations and taxpayers. Unfortunately, Nonprofit management became a subject of business studies academically and such organizations are overwhelmed with business leaders, accounts and audit professionals, and corporate experts leaving far behind the true essence of voluntarism, advocacy, service delivery and social work. Dedicated social work by genuine local activists have now been replaced by opportunism and donor driven agenda to pocket as many funds as possible. On the other hand, the responsibility of this misconduct falls on those donor agencies that pay less attention to the end beneficiaries, proposed plan of action and instead look for the financial portfolios of nonprofits for grant of funds, hence supporting the monopoly in the sector of humanitarian welfare.

The standard for winning grants and funds sometimes becomes a matter of personal relationships. Most NPOs have become “the middleman” and “contractors” that retain the larger share of funds and sometimes all of it while the communities for whom those funds are intended most often remain unaware and deprived. Though these NPOs frequently advocate for transparency and accountability and propagate against corruption in government but in fact they themselves have least transparency and accountability as they often do not respect minimum wages and appropriate work environment especially in field areas and mostly found spending more in urban centres.

3. Current Legal Framework: Challenges and Opportunities for the NPOs

In light of the region's geopolitical developments, the activities of NPOs in Pakistan have received increased attention. Several incidents in recent years have prompted the government to regulate the previously unregulated NPO sector. The regulatory and monitoring framework is primarily intended to streamline the operations and funding systems of both local and international NGOs. In 2013, the government issued regulations requiring all organizations receiving foreign funding to undergo additional security measures. According to a recent report, “Prime Minister Imran Khan has tightened the noose around nongovernmental organizations, alleging that they are working against the state” and “the government has intensified a

⁸ Nadia Naviwala, “Pakistan uses regulations to tighten grip on INGOs,” devex, Accessed on May 19, 2021, <https://www.devex.com/news/pakistan-uses-regulations-to-tighten-grip-on-ingos-91003>

crackdown on NGOs under the pretext that they receive foreign funds, promote the "enemy agenda" and are working against the state.”⁹ This crackdown raised a hue and cry among NPOs as they fear their operations might become difficult. Many international NGOs were asked to roll back their operations and leave the country, several denied registrations and many are still under review by the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and Economic Affairs Division (EAD). As per MoI website, 75 INGOs have been allowed to operate in Pakistan. Local NGOs also need to seek NoC and sign MoU with the government to obtain foreign funds and implement development projects. Multi-agency diligence and security clearance as well as new multilayered reporting requirements are some of the key conditions. Many NPOs criticize these conditions set by the government and are consistently calling for one window operations to address them. Larger and resourceful NGOs are able to manage the finances, efforts and time investment for these procedural constraints but resource poor, small grass root NGOs who are the real representatives of the vulnerable segments of society find it hard to meet the new regulatory requirements.

The key challenge to mainstream and regularize the NPO sector lies in the diversity of registration laws. In Pakistan, there are several laws under which a NPO could be registered. NPOs are free to operate under their own constitution, memorandum of association, or by-laws. If these NPOs are registered under an Act, they are obligated to abide by its provisions and follow the procedures outlined in that law. The following is a list of relevant laws in Pakistan governing the establishment and operation of non-profit organizations.

- The Societies Registration Act, 1860
- The Religious Endowment Act, 1863
- The Trust Act, 1882
- The Charitable Endowments Act, 1890
- The Charitable and Religious Trusts Act, 1920
- The Mussalman Wakf Validating Acts, 1913 and 1930 and the Mussalman Wakf Act, 1923
- The Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies Registration and Control Ordinance, 1961
- Section 42 of the Companies Act 2017 (formerly Companies Ordinance, 1984) as a Nonprofit Company
- Income Tax Ordinance 2001

The country's prevalent multiple registration laws contribute to confusion pertaining to the regulation and complicate NPO sector mainstreaming. There are inconsistencies in the body of legislation, for example, the size of membership required for registration varies across laws, and the definition of organization falling under each category of law varies across registration provisions. As a result, there is no proper and consistent definition of a “Nonprofit Organization” within the Pakistani legal framework. A recent report of Pakistan Center for Philanthropy (PCP) narrates this situation by saying that,

“While such variety in the legal framework may permit NPOs the flexibility of decision for registration, there is a need to guarantee that the definitions used to depict “charitable purposes” and “nonprofit organization” are consistent across the laws. Similarly, it is important that the term NPO ought to be perceived in the body of the laws overseeing or influencing the nonprofit sector. The variations existing in the laws relating to the administration and accountability of the NPO sector has contributed to weakening the government regulatory mechanisms. The government fears that some NPOs may be linked with “anti-state” activities and be able to frustrate accountability. Furthermore, the government is also concerned that some organizations

⁹ Haroon Janjua, “Why is the Pakistani government cracking down on NGOs?,” DW, Accessed on May 19, 2021, <https://www.dw.com/en/why-is-the-pakistani-government-cracking-down-on-ngos/a-56537755>

have been created exclusively to apportion monetary benefits in the name of charitable purposes. NPOs on the other hand complain that the government is constraining efforts of the sector by changing legal milieu. Given the context, there is a need to review and improve the legal framework governing the NPO sector. Such a legal framework should help in weeding out problematic organizations while facilitating those that genuinely contribute towards the development priorities of the country.”¹⁰

Some provincial governments (KP, Punjab, Sindh) have recently introduced provincial Charity Acts to establish provincial charity commissions as a single government body to regulate and control NPOs. All NPOs registered are required to get themselves reregistered with provincial charity commissions. This may prove a positive step towards easing the business of NPOs in Pakistan but the government would also have to consider the lengthy procedures of issuing NoCs and signing MoUs with local NGOs through introducing and maintaining a one window operation system and reducing burden of paper work. This has already been committed and initiated by EAD. It is expected that these charity commissions would be able to provide effective regulatory and control services by taking over the charge and saving time, efforts and resources required to meet the EAD and MoI requirements. However, government's due diligence should continue to separate the black sheep from genuine and committed NPOs in the country. The biggest challenge with the sector, however, is family enterprises of elites, politicians and bureaucrats as well as the missionary foreign agents who have made these NPOs a lucrative business for personal gains and enjoy deeper access within the decision-making quarters of government and international donors. The government must launch a crackdown against international NGOs who are suspects of espionage, but also carry out a forensic and social audit of the local NPOs. The government should also present report on this subject in the Parliament so that families who have exploited billions of dollars of donor funds in the name of poor and vulnerable Pakistanis to build their assets are exposed and the NPOs dedicated to their cause are acknowledged and honored.

4. Categorizing the different groups in the sector

As depicted from the discussions above and commonly agreed by the experts and practitioners of the NPO sector in Pakistan, NPOs can easily be divided into the following categories based on their activities, thematic areas of operation and sources of funding; where the last stands as the key.

- i. **Espionage Groups:** A significant character of some NPOs remains that they promote specific school of thought, culture or philosophy. It also includes many local NPOs with grass roots connections but their strings being pulled through foreign hands as intelligence tools. They receive massive funds from abroad and their operations and mostly advocacy oriented.
- ii. **Voluntary and Philanthropic Group:** This group could include local and international NPOs with purely voluntary and philanthropic agenda. From Edhi homes, to Ukhuwat's interest free loans, from Orangi Pilot Project in Karachi to the TCF and AKDN schools in Gilgit-Baltistan there are so many examples of valuable contributions from this group across Pakistan. These NPOs are mostly service oriented and conduct relief programs in calamities and disasters and community uplift programs in general.
- iii. **Business NPO Groups:** This group is most opportunist, concentrated towards grabbing funds from donors and government. They have close links and even blood relations with bureaucracy and urban elite as well as with staff in donor agencies. They continue

¹⁰ Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy, *Enabling Environment*.

changing their agenda and the “the buzz word,” as per latest requirements. They are mostly led by retired civil military bureaucrats, politicians, kith and kin of people employed in donor agencies and embassies. Businessmen, contractors and corporate leaders also found NPOs an easy way to pocket larger profits with meager to no investment. Origin of major bulk of these NPOs could be traced back to 2005 earthquake disaster, which proved to be an easy access to opportunist business minded class who ran NPOs on the lines of profitable business concerns.

- iv. **Govt. NGOs and Bilateral Agencies or International NGOs:** These include GoNGOs (Governmental NGOs like RSPs, PPAF etc) Bilateral Agencies and International NGOs. Enormous funding chunks, loans and technical assistance programs are carried through this group.

5. Way Forward

The new legal framework in Pakistan requires agency clearance for the issuance of NoC by the Ministry of Interior or a Memorandum of Understanding with the EAD. These agencies can comprehensively capture the aforementioned indicators in a matter of days. However, because there is no single platform and one-window operations mechanism, the framework has only benefited monopolies while opening up another source of corruption at various layers of this validation process.

- i. **Creating an enabling environment:** The government officials involved in registration and other procedures must be cooperative, knowledgeable and honest. Eradication of corruption and prevention of the use of influence in this process are critical in identifying and holding accountable corrupt and felonious groups and organizations.
- ii. **Legal and institutional reforms:** The Parliamentary advice must be sought in the case. Both legal and institutional reforms are incredibly important to save and streamline the NPO sector in Pakistan. It is crucial to harmonize the laws at federal and provincial level to avoid inconsistencies, gaps and confusion.
- iii. **Empowered provincial bodies:** The establishment and implementation of provincial "Charity Commissions" is a positive step toward mainstreaming this sector, but it will yield no results as additional yearly renewal and registration costs as another burden for NPOs. First we need an instrument like 501 (C) of USA as a single standard for NPO status for all the organizations willing to be nonprofit. National and Provincial Social Welfare Councils should be empowered through legislation and capacity development to control, monitor and supervise the NPO sector as a single controlling body. The role and responsibilities of EAD and MoIs should immediately be minimized and transferred to “Charity Commissions” and “Councils of Social Welfare” as the key coordinating departments of government directly mandated with the task of social welfare. Provincial social welfare departments have very limited role in regulating and coordinating the NPO sector and are only concerned with the domain of voluntary social welfare act, having no authority to interfere with organizations registered under other Acts. Social welfare departments should be empowered enough to manage, control and monitor the NPO sectors at district and tehsil level. Social welfare department can be a vital source for grooming and developing NPOs at grass root level.
- iv. **Capacity assessment and certification:** One such capacity assessment and certification is being performed by Pakistan Center for Philanthropy (PCP). PCP certification is one of the key milestones for NPOs to secure more local and international funding as well as corporate social responsibility grants and investments. PCP must not charge handsome

amounts for this certification. Benefits must not go always to particular set of corporates/organizations well equipped with human, financial and technical resources but opportunities to allow local youth and volunteers to take up this effort of contributing in the sector. Social welfare department can perform the same role as PCP and save the NPOs from affording such luxuries and enable smaller NPOs to operate at smaller scale.

In the current context of COVID-19 pandemic, poor and underprivileged segments of society are in a dire need of livelihood, health and psycho-social support. The pandemic has become a global disaster and it calls for an active involvement and empowerment of the NPO sector because government alone cannot fulfill the entire needs gap. Government should immediately relax the rules and open the field for NPOs to perform in this critical time by lifting certain restrictions i.e. MoU and NoC requirements and foreign funds transfer limitations. But at the same time government must remain vigilant about the services provided and funds utilized by the NPOs as well as other governmental and nongovernmental actors in the response against COVID-19 and extension of other development and welfare services in Pakistan.

**2nd General Conference of
Parliamentary Assembly of Economic Cooperation
Organization (PAECO)
Islamabad
June 1st & 2nd, 2021**



**ISLAMABAD DECLARATION
ON ENHANCING REGIONAL TRADE AND
CONNECTIVITY**

We, Heads (Speakers/Chairpersons/Presidents) of PAECO Parliaments, participating in the 2nd General Conference of PAECO, hosted by the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 1st & 2nd June 2021 in Islamabad, while:

Underscoring the importance of PAECO for supporting ECO's broad objectives aimed at promoting socio-economic development of Member States;

Appreciating the collaboration of Member Parliaments in advancing regional cooperation for the benefit of the peoples;

Welcoming the entry into force of PAECO charter after ratification by Azerbaijan and adoption of PAECO's rules of business by the Executive Council in accordance with article 5b(iv);

Urging remaining Member States to sign/ratify PAECO's Charter;

Reiterating our commitment to the principles and objectives of PAECO Charter;

Recognizing the need to enhance parliamentary dialogue and interaction under the umbrella of PAECO as an effective tool in fulfilling ECO's socio-economic objectives;

Underlining the significance of PAECO in exploiting the potential of Parliamentary diplomacy to bring about regional connectivity and economic integration in the ECO region;

Expressing gratitude to the National Assembly of Pakistan for hosting the PAECO Secretariat and meeting its financial needs since 2013;

Considering the evolving regional and international situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic leading to considerable challenges that have bearing on our sustainable development goals (SDGs); and

Recognizing the grave human rights violations of the oppressed peoples of Palestine and Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

HAVE AGREED TO:

Emphasize on the need of further enhanced cooperation within the framework of PAECO for enhancing trade, regional connectivity and people to people contact;

Strongly support and encourage the implementations, operationalization and strengthening of the following mechanisms and arrangements within the ECO as building blocks for regional cooperation and integration as well as increase in the intra-regional trade and connectivity among ECO member states such as;

- ❖ ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA)
- ❖ ECO Trade and Development Bank
- ❖ ECO Reinsurance Company
- ❖ ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity Assessment Accreditation and Metrology (ECO –RISCAM)
- ❖ Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investments among ECO Member States
- ❖ ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA):
- ❖ Other institutional and regulatory ECO frameworks dealing with regional integration in terms of trade, finance, investment

Early establishment of the general fund for PAECO Secretariat in accordance with Article 7(a) of the charter, for making the Secretariat fully functional;

Appreciate efforts of PAECO Secretariat for associating PAECO with Inter-Parliamentary Union as an observer;

Establish a Committee in accordance with Article 4(h) of the charter to examine issues impeding complete operationalization of PAECO's inter parliamentary diplomacy aspect and recommend resolution thereof;

Establish PAECO Branch (ECO Parliamentary Group) in the respective parliaments of the Member States in accordance with Article 2(c) of the charter to coordinate inter parliamentary activities in the region and follow up of PAECO matters in their respective parliaments;

Encourage the early establishment of the ECO Reinsurance Company to promote growth of national and regional underwriting and retention capacities, minimize the outflow of foreign exchange from the region and support economic development of the member states;

Recognize that the trade is an engine of economic growth and vital for sustainable socioeconomic development as well as to boost regional economic recovery in the aftermath of COVID-19;

Urge Member States to take effective measures for enhancing intra-regional trade through early implementation of ECOTA;

Underscore the importance of transit trade, reducing the cost of doing business, and financial infrastructure in expanding intra-regional trade volumes;

Encourage the Member States and the Secretariat to take effective steps in implementation of regional infrastructural projects, ECO Transit Trade Framework Agreement (ETTFA), and operationalization of ECO corridors;

Acknowledge the significance of regional connectivity in transforming landlocked countries into land-linked countries;

Emphasize on the need of simplification of visa processes for businessmen and tourists;

Comprehend the important role of tourism in strengthening people-to-people contact, cultural cooperation and regional development;

Invite the relevant authorities of the Member States to undertake concrete measures to facilitate intra-regional tourism by promoting youth/cultural exchanges, encouraging health tourism, enhancing linkages among professional bodies, facilitating visa arrangements and relaxing visa insurance;

Underline the importance of participation of women in socio-economic development;

Suggest activities like operation of web-portal for women entrepreneurs, exchange of delegates, holding of exhibitions and organizing training workshops;

Highlighting the importance of cooperation between the PAECO Secretariat and the ECO Secretariat;

Reaffirm solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine and Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir and condemn their gross human rights violations;

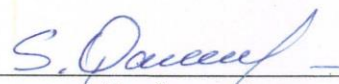
Deplore the unilateral economic sanctions and extra-territorial jurisdiction or political pressures as tools applied in violation of the United Nations Charter and International Law and Express our full support to ECO Member States affected by such illegal tools;

Express thanks to the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the 2nd General Conference of PAECO and;

Welcome the offer by Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to hold the 3rd General Conference of PAECO in 2022 in Kabul



Speaker
Wolesi Jirga
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



Speaker
Milli Majlis
Republic of Azerbaijan



Speaker
National Assembly
Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Speaker
Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli,
Republic of Tajikistan



Speaker
The Grand National Assembly
Republic of Turkey



Speaker
Legislative Assembly of the Oliy Majlis
Republic of Uzbekistan

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS**Glimpses of The Fifteenth Provincial Assembly of Sindh
(13th August, 2018 -31st March, 2021)****Muhammad Hanif Buriro**Deputy Director (Legislation)
Provincial Assembly of Sindh

The General Elections-2018 were held in Pakistan on Wednesday, July 25, 2018, to elect members of the National Assembly and the four Provincial Assemblies. The Election Commission of Pakistan in pursuance of sub-section (3) of Section 75 and sub-section (1) of Section 98 of the Elections Act, 2017 (XXXIII of 2017) published names of candidates returned to the Provincial Assembly of Sindh as a result of General Elections-2018 vide its Notification No.F.2(40)/2018-Cord dated 07th August, 2018. The then Acting Governor of Sindh Agha Siraj Khan Durrani summoned the Provincial Assembly of Sindh, in exercise of powers conferred upon him under clause (a) of Article 109 of Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973 to meet on Monday, the 13th August, 2018 @ 10:00 A.M. at the Sindh Assembly Building, Karachi. The newly elected Members of the 15th Provincial Assembly of Sindh made their Oath before the Assembly in the form set out in the Third Schedule of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The schedule for Election of the offices of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker was issued as per the provisions as contemplated in Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973 and Rules of Procedure, Provincial Assembly of Sindh, 2013. At that time the then Speaker, Provincial Assembly of Sindh was serving as Acting Governor of the Province, who nominated Mir Nadir Ali Khan Magsi, MPA in exercise of powers vested upon him under Rule 6(2) of Rules of Procedure, Provincial Assembly of Sindh:

Rule 6(2): "The sitting held under sub-rule (1) shall be presided over by the outgoing Speaker or, in his absence, by such a person as may be nominated by the Governor".

to preside over the process of scrutiny of nomination papers for the offices of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, Provincial Assembly of Sindh on Tuesday, the 14th August, 2018.

The Election for offices of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker was held in Assembly's sitting held on Wednesday, the 15th August, 2018, resulting Agha Siraj Khan Durrani, Member, Provincial Assembly of Sindh elected as Hon Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh, for 02nd consecutive term, and Ms. Rehana Laghari, Member, Provincial Assembly of Sindh elected as Honorable Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh. On the same date both took Oath of their offices in the form set out in the Third Schedule of the Constitution, as contemplated in Article 53(2) read with Article 127 of Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973. The schedule for Election of the office of the Chief Minister was issued on Wednesday, the 15th August, 2018 as per the provisions as contemplated in the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure. The election for the office of Chief Minister was held on Thursday, August 16, 2018, and Mr. Murad Ali Shah, MPA received (97) votes, indicating a majority of the total membership of the Provincial Assembly as contemplated by Article 130 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Honorable Speaker, Provincial Assembly of Sindh intimated the result of election to the Honorable Governor, Sindh as required under Rule 22 of Rules of Procedure, which provides:

Rule 22: "The Speaker shall, as soon as may be, inform the Governor the name of the Chief Minister elected under these rules".

Thereafter, Mr. Murad Ali Shah, MPA took oath for office of the Chief Minister of the Province before the Honorable Governor of Sindh. The Honorable Speaker, on request of (58) Members of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh belonging to Opposition Benches, declared Syed Firdous Shamim Naqvi, MPA as Leader of Opposition with effect from 17th September, 2018. When Syed Firdous Shamim Naqvi, MPA tendered his resignation as Leader of Opposition, Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 17th January, 2021, the Hon. Speaker, on the request of (59) Members of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh belonging to Opposition Benches, declared Mr. Haleem Adil Sheikh, MPA as the new Leader of Opposition on 25th January, 2021.

The schedule for the election of Standing Committees and other Committees, as outlined in the Rules Procedure, was issued on 15th March, 2019. The proposals were received for only 22 committees and the number of candidates was equal to the number vacancies to be filled. The proposed candidates were declared as elected. The schedule for the election of the Standing Committee on Auqaf, Religious Affairs, Zakat, and Ushr was issued on 24th September, 2019. The proposals were received for Standing Committee on Auqaf, Religious Affairs, Zakat and Ushr. The number of candidates was equal to the number vacancies to be filled. The proposed candidates were declared as elected.

The Honorable Speaker constituted the Business Advisory Committee on 09th January, 2019 consisting of Hon Agha Siraj Khan Durrani, Speaker, (Chairman), Mr. Haleem Adil Sheikh, MPA (Member), Mr. Kanwar Naveed Jameel, MPA (Member), Mr. Hasnain Ali Mirza, MPA (Member), Mr. Muhammad Qasim, MPA (Member), Syed Abdul Rasheed, MPA (Member), Mr. Saeed Ghani, MPA/ Minister to Government of Sindh (Member), Mr. Mukesh Kumar Chawla, MPA/ Minister to Government of Sindh (Member), Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, MPA/ Minister to Government of Sindh (Member), Ms. Shamim Mumtaz, MPA (Member), Mr. Ghulam Qadir Chandio, MPA (Member) and Dr. Sohrab Khan Sarki, MPA (Member) as required under Rule 202(1) of Rules of Procedure of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh.

Rule 202(1): "On the commencement of the Assembly or from time to time, as the case may be, the Speaker may, in consultation with the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition, nominate a Business Advisory Committee consisting of not more than twelve members including the Speaker who shall be the Chairman of the Committee."

Unfortunately, Hon. MPAs Mr. Muhammad Wajahat, Syed Ghulam Shah Jillani, Syed Ali Mardan Shah, Ms. Shahnaz Begum, Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Baloch, Jam Madad Ali Khan and Mr. Bashir Ahmed Halepoto, died during the period. The Members who made their oath on the vacated seats of the aforementioned expired Members were Syed Hashim Raza, MPA, Pir Syed Saleh Shah Jilani, MPA, Ms. Sharmila Sahebah Faruqi, MPA, Syed Ameer Ali Shah, MPA, Mr. Muhammad Yousuf Baloch, MPA and Jam Shabbir Ali Khan, MPA. The Election Commission of Pakistan has yet to announce the election for the seat vacated by the death of Mr. Bashir Ahmed Halepoto, MPA.

Mr. Moazzam Ali Khan, MPA, took his oath twice in the current Assembly, the first time on 13th August, 2018. On court orders, he was ceased to be returned candidate w.e.f. 22nd August, 2019. Thereafter, his name was published as a candidate returned to Provincial Assembly of Sindh as a result of Bye-Election held on 17th October, 2019 and he took his oath for the second time on 29th October, 2019.

Last year, the pandemic of COVID-19 plunged the entire world into uncertainty, routine activities were disrupted, political and social life hit a snag. Keeping in view the pandemic, the Honorable Speaker, Provincial Assembly of Sindh as well as the Honorable Chief Minister, Sindh took personal interest in devising the strategy for conducting the virtual sessions of the Assembly. There was no provision in the Rules of Procedure for holding virtual sessions. To overcome procedural difficulties regarding conduct of virtual sessions, the Provincial Assembly of Sindh in its sitting held on Monday, the 15th June, 2020 carried out/ adopted the following amendments in Rules of Procedure of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh, 2013:

- 1- In sub-rule (1) of Rule 3 of Rules of Procedure of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh after the words “*date, time and place*” the words “*and manner of the sitting*” be added.
- 2- After sub-rule (2) of Rule 3 of Rules of Procedure of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh following proviso be added:

“Provided that in case of emergency that makes it impracticable or unsafe for the Members to assemble at a single location, the Speaker may order for holding Session by using any means of electronic communication including video conference or any audio-visual arrangements.”

Provincial Assembly of Sindh took the lead in holding virtual sessions across the country. Despite the pandemic, the Sindh Assembly remained at the top for strong legislative work. During this tenure, the Sindh Assembly received a total of (71) Government Bills, of which (50) were passed, (13) were referred to the appropriate Standing Committees, (03) were withdrawn, and (05) are under consideration.

Bills Received	Bills Passed	Passed Bill Returned With Governor's Message	Referred To Committees	Withdrawn	Bills Under Consideration /Lapsed
First Parliamentary Year With Effect From 13th August, 2018 To 12th August, 2019					
27	18	-	08	-	01
Second Parliamentary Year With Effect From 13th August, 2019 To 12th August, 2020					
25	22	-	01	02	-
Third Parliamentary Year With Effect From 13th August, 2020 To 31st March, 2021					
19	10	-	04	01	04
71	50	-	13	03	05

The following are the Acts passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh Acts during this tenure:

01. The Sindh Zakat and Ushr (Amendment) Act, 2018.
02. The Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Institute of Trauma at Karachi Act, 2018.
03. The Sindh Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases Act, 2018.
04. The Code of Civil Procedure (Sindh Amendment) Act, 2018.
05. The Sindh Local Government (Amendment) Act, 2019.
06. The Sindh Local Government (Second Amendment) Act, 2019.
07. The Sindh Institute of Child Health and Neonatology Act, 2018.
08. The Sindh Injured Persons Compulsory Medical Treatment (Amal Umer) Act, 2019.

09. The Sindh Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (Amendment) Act, 2019.
10. The Provincial Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019.
11. The Sindh Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (Amendment) Act, 2019.
12. The Sindh Reproductive Healthcare Rights Act, 2019.
13. The Sindh Charities Registration and Regulation Act, 2019.
14. The Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Act, 2019.
15. The Provincial Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2020.
16. The Sindh Prohibition of Preparation, Manufacturing, Storage, Sale and use of Gutka and Manpuri Act, 2019.
17. The Coastal Development Authority (Amendment) Act, 2019.
18. The Sindh Women Agricultural Workers Act, 2019.
19. The Sindh Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Act, 2019.
20. The Establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman for the Province of Sindh (Amendment) Act, 2020.
21. The Sir Cowasjee Jahangir Institute of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Hyderabad Act, 2019.
22. The Aror University of Art, Architecture, Design and Heritage, Sukkur, Act, 2019.
23. The Sindh Stamps (Sindh Amendment) Act, 2020.
24. The Sindh Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Act, 2020.
25. The Sindh COVID-19 Emergency Relief Act, 2020.
26. The Sindh Shops and Commercial Establishment (Amendment) Act, 2020.
27. The Shaheed Allah Buksh Soomro University of At, Design and Heritages Jamshoro, Act, 2020.
28. The Sindh Teaching Hospitals (Establishment of Management Board) Act, 2020.
29. The Drugs (Sindh Amendment) Act, 2020.
30. The Sindh Covid-19 Emergency Relief (Amendment) Act, 2020.
31. The NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi (Amendment) Act, 2020.
32. The Education City (Amendment) Act, 2020.
33. The Sindh Board of Technical Education and the Sindh Boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education (Amendment) Act, 2020.
34. The Sindh Safe Cities Authority Act, 2019.
35. The Ziauddin University (Amendment) Act, 2020.
36. The Sindh Wildlife Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Management Act, 2020.
37. The Sindh Finance (Amendment) Act, 2020.
38. The Sindh Seized and Freezed Institutions (Madaaris and Schools) Act, 2020.
39. The Sindh Seized and Freezed Facilities (Hospitals and Dispensaries) Act, 2020.
40. The Sindh Waqf Properties Act, 2020.
41. The Sindh Co-operative Societies Act, 2020.
42. The Sindh Trusts Act, 2020.
43. The Barrett Hodgson University at Karachi (Amendment) Act, 2020.
44. The Sindh Parliamentary Secretaries (Salaries, Allowances and Privileges (Amendment) Act, 2021.
45. The Sindh Control of Narcotics Substance (Sindh Amendment) Act, 2021.
46. The Sindh Water Management (Amendment) Act, 2018.

There were total (120) Private Bills received out of which (01) bill was passed, (02) bills were introduced, (83) are under process to obtain consent of Government, (29) bills are declared as

money bills, (02) bills were referred to the appropriate Standing Committees, and (04) bills were withdrawn.

Private Bills Received	Leave Granted/ Introduced	Under Process To Obtain Government Consent	Money Bills	Referred To Committee	Withdrawn/ Leave Not Granted/ Disposed Off	Passed
First Parliamentary Year with effect from 13th August, 2018 to 12th August, 2019						
42	02	14	21	01	03	01
Second Parliamentary Year with effect from 13th August, 2019 to 12th August, 2020						
65	-	56	08	-	01	-
Third Parliamentary Year with effect from 13th August, 2020 to 31st March, 2021						
13	-	13	-	-	-	-
120	02	83	29	02	04	01

There were a total of (586) notices of Resolutions received, of which (88) were passed, (03) were withdrawn, (02) were rejected by the House, and the remaining notices (493) lapsed.

RESOLUTIONS				
Received	Withdrawn	Rejected by the House	Passed	Lapsed
First Parliamentary Year With Effect From 13th August, 2018 To 12th August, 2019				
317	02	02	46	267
Second Parliamentary Year With Effect From 13th August, 2019 To 12th August, 2020				
177	01	-	32	144
Third Parliamentary Year With Effect From 13th August, 2020 To 31st March, 2021				
92	-	-	10	82
586	03	02	88	493

There were a total of (59) motion notices received, of which one (01) was carried, one (01) was withdrawn, and the remaining (57) notices were lapsed.

MOTIONS				
Received	Withdrawn	Rejected by the House	Carried	Lapsed
First Parliamentary Year with effect from 13th August, 2018 to 12th August, 2019				
37	01	-	-	36
Second Parliamentary Year with effect from 13th August, 2019 to 12th August, 2020				
18	-	-	01	17
Third Parliamentary Year with effect from 13th August, 2020 to 31st March, 2021				

04	-	-	-	04
59	01		01	57

There were a total of (19) Assembly Sessions summoned, with the Assembly covering (271) days, of which (187) days were actual sittings, (55) days were holidays, and (29) days were no sessions.

SESSION DAYS				
Number of Sessions	Days Covered	Actual sittings of the House	Holidays	No Sittings
First Parliamentary Year with effect from 13th August, 2018 to 12th August, 2019				
05	131	93	32	06
Second Parliamentary Year with effect from 13th August, 2019 to 12th August, 2020				
07	101	69	11	21
Third Parliamentary Year with effect from 13th August, 2020 to 31st March, 2021				
07	39	25	12	02
19	271	187	55	29

There were a total of (1350) Call Attention Notices received, of which (431) were allowed and laid on the floor of the House, and (919) were lapsed. There were a total of (7253) questions received, of which (5698) were allowed, (476) were disallowed, (160) were withdrawn, and (919) were laid on the floor of the House. There were a total of (55) Privilege Motions received, of which (04) were referred to Committee, a report of (01) Privilege Motion was presented/adopted, (10) Privilege Motions were withdrawn, (04) Privilege Motions were ruled out of order, (06) Privilege Motions were disposed of, (02) Privilege Motions were disallowed, and (28) Privilege Motions lapsed. A total of (617) adjournment motions were received, of which (24) were admitted, (14) were withdrawn, (02) were disallowed, (15) were ruled out of order, and (562) were lapsed.

ANNEXURE 1

TENURES OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF SINDH, PAKISTAN

- i. First Legislative Assembly of Sindh was from 27th April, 1937 to 29th March, 1945,
- ii. Second Legislative Assembly of Sindh was from 12th March, 1946 to 10th September, 1946.
- iii. Third Legislative Assembly of Sindh was from 17th February, 1947 to 17th July, 1947 & 04th February, 1948 to 29th December, 1951.
- iv. Fourth Legislative Assembly of Sindh was from 12th September, 1953 to 14th October, 1955.
- v. Fifth Provincial Assembly of Sindh was from 02nd May, 1972 to 13th January, 1977.
- vi. Sixth Provincial Assembly of Sindh was from 30th March, 1977 to 05th July, 1977.
- vii. Seventh Provincial Assembly of Sindh was from 12th March, 1985 to 30th May, 1988.
- viii. Eighth Provincial Assembly of Sindh was from 30th November, 1988 to 06th August, 1990.
- ix. Ninth Provincial Assembly of Sindh was from 04th November, 1990 to 19th July, 1993.
- x. Tenth Provincial Assembly of Sindh was from 19th October, 1993 to 06th November 1996.
- xi. Eleventh Provincial Assembly of Sindh was from 20th February, 1997 to 20th June, 2001.
- xii. Twelfth Provincial Assembly of Sindh was from 12th December, 2002 to 18th November, 2007.
- xiii. Thirteenth Provincial Assembly of Sindh was from 05th April, 2008 to 19th March, 2013.
- xiv. Fourteenth Provincial Assembly of Sindh was from 29th May, 2013 to 28th May, 2018
- xv. Current is the Fifteenth Provincial Assembly of Sindh from 13th August, 2018 till to date.



Glimpses of Oath of Members of the Fifteenth Provincial Assembly of Sindh



Glimpses of Oath of Members of the Fifteenth Provincial Assembly of Sindh



Group photo of the Honourable President, Islamic Republic of Pakistan with the distinguished parliamentary delegates of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan attending the 2nd General Conference of PAECO in Islamabad on Tuesday, June 01, 2021



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