

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD ON 7th JUNE, 2016

A meeting of the Business Advisory Committee was held on 7th June, 2016, at 3:45 p.m. in Committee Room No.4, Parliament House Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Senator Mian Raza Rabbani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan.

2. The agenda of the meeting was as under:-

- i. Confirmation of Minutes of meeting dated 31st May, 2016.
- ii. Compliance report regarding earlier decisions of the Business Advisory Committee.
- iii. Laying of Senate Budget before the House in the spirit of transparency and openness.
- iv. Operationalization of Committee on Ethics.
- v. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. Following Members attended the meeting:-

1)	Senator Mian Raza Rabbani, Chairman Senate	Chairman
2)	Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq	Member
3)	Senator Saeed Ghani	Member
4)	Senator Saleem Zia, Chief Whip, PML (N)	Member
5)	Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo	Member
6)	Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed	Member
7)	Senator Sirajul Haq	Member
8)	Senator Dr. Jahanzeb Jamaldin	Member
9)	Senator Samina Abid in place of Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak.	
10)	Mr. Amjed Pervez	Secretary Senate

4. Meeting started at 3:45 p.m. with the recitation from the Holy Quran. The Committee started consideration of the following agenda items.

AGENDA ITEM NO.I: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING DATED 31st MAY, 2016.

5. As no objection was raised by any Member, therefore, the Committee confirmed the minutes of the meetings dated 31st May, 2016.

AGENDA ITEM NO.II: COMPLIANCE REPORT REGARDING EARLIER DECISIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

6. Secretary Senate briefed the Committee about the compliance report on the following earlier decisions of the Committee.

- i. **Decision of the Committee regarding the proposal of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to prorogue the current session on 2nd June and re-summon the Budget session on 3rd June.**

Secretary Senate informed the Committee that the decision of the Committee to continue the current session from 2nd June onward till the conclusion of Budget debates and submission of recommendations to the National Assembly was duly conveyed to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the minutes of the Committee were also transmitted to them.

- ii. **The proposal of the Parliamentary Affairs to re-schedule the calendar of sessions of the Senate for Parliamentary year 2016-17 according to the parliamentary calendar of session of National Assembly.**

Secretary Senate apprised the Committee that letter has been written to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs advising them to adjust the schedule of the National Assembly sessions according to the approved Senate calendar of sessions as the calendar of sessions of the Senate has already been approved by the Prime Minister.

- iii. **Withholding of decisive action in the constitutional matter for two weeks till resumption of functions by the Prime Minister/Leader of the House in the National Assembly.**

Secretary Senate stated that the matter has been kept pending till resumption of functions by the Prime Minister/Leader of the House in the National Assembly.

The Chairman also explained the trend of the Members during budget speeches in this regard.

AGENDA ITEM NO.III: LAYING OF SENATE BUDGET BEFORE THE HOUSE IN THE SPIRIT OF TRANSPARENCY AND OPENNESS.

7. The Chairman explained the Members the idea behind the agenda item and apprised the Members that under the existing constitutional scheme and rules of procedure the Budget of the Senate is approved by the Senate Finance Committee and the House has nothing to do with the same but keeping in view the spirit of transparency and openness, it is proposed that the Budget of the Senate may also be laid in the House for information of the Members and other stakeholders.

8. The Members exhaustively deliberated upon the idea and there was a split opinion of the Committee in this regard. Senators Mushahid Hussain Syed, Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq, Saleem Zia, SaminaAbid and Saeed Ghani were of the view point that the Budget of the Senate should be laid before the House whereas Senators Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah, Sirajul Haq and Dr. Jahanzeb Jamaldini were of the view that since the House Business Advisory Committee has membership of parliamentary leaders of all the parties, therefore, it would be suffice to lay the budget before the Business Advisory Committee only.

9. **After detailed deliberations, the Committee decided that the Budget of the Senate of the current Financial Year, as approved by the Finance Committee, and the expenditure incurred during the last four Financial Years shall be laid before the House and from the next year, the Budget of the Senate, as approved by the Finance Committee, will be got approved by the House before inclusion of the same in the Federal Budget.**

Agenda Item No.v: OPERATIONALIZATION OF COMMITTEE ON ETHICS.

10. The Chairman explained the background of the agenda item and the amendments made by the Secretariat in the draft rules in view of the speeches of the Members in the House.

11. **The Committee principally agreed on the operationalization of the Committee on Ethics, however, the agenda item was deferred till next meeting of the Committee with the direction to circulate the amended draft to all the Members of the Committee.**

Agenda Item No.vi: ANY OTHER ITEM WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR.

12. Senator Saeed Ghani pointed out non-receipt of the detail of medicines availed by the Members from the Dispensary in the Parliament House despite the fact that an official was deputed in the dispensary to take record of the each Member.

The Chairman directed the Secretary to look into the matter.

13. Senator Dr. Jahanzeb Jamaladini spoke about the enhancement of salaries of the Members.

Senator Saeed Ghani shared the opinion of the Minister for Finance in a meeting in this regard that the allowances should reasonably be enhanced gradually.

The Chairman suggested the Members that since the Government is already working on this matter, therefore, the Members should not show a hurry in this regard rather they should wait and see.


14. Senator Sirajul Haq requested the Chairman to give a break in the House proceedings for Zohar prayer.


The Chairman and the Committee agreed with the suggestion.

15. In juxta position, the Committee decided as under:-

1. The minutes of the meeting dated 31st May, 2016 were confirmed.
2. The Committee decided that the Budget of the Senate for the current Financial Year, as approved by the Finance Committee, and the expenditure incurred during the last four Financial Years shall be laid before the House. The Budget of the Senate, as approved by the Finance Committee, will be got approved by the House in future before inclusion of the same in the Federal Budget.
3. The Committee principally agreed on the operationalization of the Committee on Ethics.
4. The Committee decided to have break for Zohar prayer during the Budget Session.
5. The Committee directed the Secretariat to compile record of medicine facility availed by the Members from the Dispensary and convey to Member.

16. The Meeting ended with vote of thanks to and from the Chair.


(Amjed Pervez Malik)
Secretary Senate


(Mian Raza Rabbani)
Chairman Senate of Pakistan