

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD ON 26th SEPTEMBER, 2016**

A meeting of the Business Advisory Committee was held on 26th September, 2016, in Committee Room No.4, Parliament House Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Mian Raza Rabbani, Chairman, Senate of Pakistan.

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

- i. Confirmation of Minutes of meeting dated 5th September, 2016.
- ii. Compliance report regarding earlier decisions of the Business Advisory Committee.
- iii. Business to be transacted during the 253rd Session.
- iv. Finalization of Code of Conduct for the Members' Senate of Pakistan.
- v. Proposal for the amendment in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012 regarding holding of public hearings.
- vi. Deliberations on roadmap for enhancing Role and Powers of Senate and weightage/ equality of voting in the Joint Sitting of the Parliament.
- vii. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. Following Members attended the meeting:-

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| 1) Senator Mian Raza Rabbani | Chairman |
| 2) Senator Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, | Deputy Chairman |
| 3) Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq | Member |
| 4) Senator Aitzaz Ahsan | Member |
| 5) Senator Saleem Zia, Chief Whip, PML (N) | Member |
| 6) Senator Mushahid Ullah Khan | Member |
| 7) Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi
vice Senator Hasil Khan Bizenjo | Member |
| 8) Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar | Member |
| 9) Senator Hidayat Ullah | Member |
| 10) Senator Taj Haider | Member |
| 11) Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak | Member |
| 12) Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi | Member |
| 13) Senator Dr. Jahanzeb Jamaldini | Member |
| 14) Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood | Member |
| 15) Senator Sirajul Haq | Member |
| 16) Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed | Member |
| 17) Mr. Muhammad Anwar | Additional Secretary |

4. Meeting started at 1:10 p.m. with the recitation from the Holy Quran.

AGENDA ITEM NO.I: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS DATED 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2016.

5. As no objection was raised by any member, therefore, the Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting dated 5th September, 2016.

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

6. Additional Secretary (Legislation) submitted compliance report on the earlier decisions/directions of the Committee. The Committee showed satisfaction on the compliance report.

The Committee directed that the names of the Members whose contribution to the Edhi Fund is still awaited may be provided to the Parliamentary Party Leaders concerned.

AGENDA ITEM NO.III: BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED DURING THE 253RD SESSION.

7. The Committee decided to take up the routine business of the Members during the Session. It was decided that a unanimous Resolution condemning the recent aggression shown by India and the atrocities and brutalities in occupied Jammu and Kashmir will be passed by the House. The Committee also agreed upon discussion on International Day of Democracy. The Committee also approved the laying of the report of the Auditor General of Pakistan.

AGENDA ITEM NO.IV: FINALIZATION OF CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE MEMBERS' SENATE OF PAKISTAN.

8. Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak pointed out the term "conflict of interest" having been used in the draft. Senator Aitzaz Ahsan also pointed out some formatting improvement in the draft. Thereupon, after deliberation, the Committee decided that the draft Code of Conduct may once again be circulated to the Members on their mailing address as well as through electronic mail and in the House. The Chairman further suggested that the text of the Code will be read out in the House for clarity of the Members and then the Members will be given an opportunity to submit any suggestion till Monday the 3rd October, 2016, where after the Code of Conduct shall become operational w.e.f. 3rd October, 2016.

AGENDA ITEM NO.V: PROPOSAL FOR THE AMENDMENT IN THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN THE SENATE, 2012 REGARDING HOLDING OF PUBLIC HEARINGS.

9. The Committee after deliberation approved the proposed amendment in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012 i.e. substitution of sub-rule (3) of rule 187.

AGENDA ITEM NO.V: DELIBERATIONS ON ROADMAP FOR ENHANCING ROLE AND POWERS OF SENATE AND WEIGHTAGE/EQUALITY OF VOTING IN THE JOINT SITTING OF THE PARLIAMENT.

10. The agenda item was deferred.

AGENDA ITEM NO.VI: ANY OTHER ITEM WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR.

11. **Issues relating to Question Hour:**

Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak suggested that the Secretariat may be directed to inform the Members through SMS or telephone call one day prior to setting down of their questions in the House in order to ensure the presence of the concerned Members in the House.

Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar pointed out the Ministers should be restrained to give unnecessary lengthy replies due to which question hour exhausts in replies of few questions.

The Members suggested that the provision of rule 58 regarding placement of written answers to the questions on the Tables, two hours before the commencement of sitting, may be altered from two hours to four hours in order to provide ample time to the Members to go through their questions and answers.

The Committee decided that this particular point relating to rule 58 may be deferred today but will be discussed in length in next meeting to arrive at a conclusion.

12. **Issue of non-releasing of development funds for Senators:**

Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood pointed out the issue of non-releasing of development funds to the Senators.

The Chairman suggested that he will arrange a meeting of the Members with the Finance Minister to take up the instant issue with him.


13. **Refurbishing and renovation of Ayes and Noes Lobbies:**


The Committee decided that a specific prayer area may be established in the Banquet Hall in order to provide adequate, spacious and appropriate space for offering of prayers during the session.

14. The Committee made the following decisions:-

1. The minutes of the meeting dated 5th September, 2016 were confirmed.
2. The Committee directed that the names of the Members whose contribution to the Edhi Fund is still awaited may be provided to the Parliamentary Party Leaders concerned.
3. The Committee decided that a unanimous resolution condemning the recent aggression shown by India and the atrocities and brutalities in occupied Jammu and Kashmir be passed by the House.
4. The Committee decided to have discussion in the House to commemorate the International Day of Democracy.
5. The Committee approved the laying of the report of the Auditor General for Pakistan in the House.
6. The Committee decided that the draft Code of Conduct may once again be circulated to the Members on their mailing address as well as through electronic mail and in the House which will become operational w.e.f. 3rd October, 2016.
7. The Committee approved the proposed substitution of sub-rule (3) of rule 187.
8. The Committee decided to discuss in length in next meeting, the provision of rule 58 regarding placement of written answers to the questions two hour prior to commencement of sitting.
9. The Committee agreed upon the suggestion of the Chairman to arrange a meeting of the Members with the Finance Minister to discuss the issue of non-releasing of development funds for the Senators.
10. The Committee decided that a specific prayer area shall be established in the Banquet Hall in order to provide adequate, spacious and appropriate space for offering of prayers during the session.

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


(Muhammad Anwar)
Additional Secretary (Legislation)


(Mian Raza Rabbani)
Chairman Senate of Pakistan