

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2017**

\*\*\*\*\*

A meeting of the Business Advisory Committee was held on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2017, in Committee Room No. 3, 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 meetings dated 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2017.
- ii. Compliance report regarding earlier decisions of the Business Advisory Committee.
- iii. Business to be transacted during the 259<sup>th</sup> Session.
- iv. Consideration of draft Resolution prepared in the light of decisions of the House Business Advisory Committee.
- v. Events to mark the end of Parliamentary Year 2016-17 and beginning of parliamentary year 2017-18.
- vi. Conveying the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole to "Consider mode of elections of Members of Senate, pros and cons of single transferable voting system, alternates, poll reforms etc." to the Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms.
- vii. Consideration of Bills drafted by the Senate Forum for Policy Research (SFPR).
- viii. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. Following Members attended the meeting:-

1)	Senator Mian Raza Rabbani	Chairman
2)	Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Member
3)	Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq	Member
4)	Senator Mushahid Ullah Khan	Member
5)	Senator Taj Haider	Member
6)	Senator Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi	Member
7)	Senator Ilyas Ahmad Bilour	Member
8)	Senator Muhammad Azam Khan Swati	Member
9)	Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood	Member
10)	Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi (In place of Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo)	
11)	Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar	Member
12)	Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah	Member

- 13) Senator Hidayat Ullah Member  
14) Mr. Aftab Ahmed Sheikh, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs  
15) Mr. Amjed Pervez Secretary Senate

4. Meeting started at 1:00 p.m. with the recitation from the Holy Quran. The Chairman welcomed the Members.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.I: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS DATED 9<sup>TH</sup> AND 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2017.**

5. As no objection was raised by any member, therefore, the Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2017.

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

6. Secretary Senate submitted compliance report on the earlier decisions/directions of the Committee. The Committee showed satisfaction on the compliance report.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.III: BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED DURING THE 259<sup>TH</sup> SESSION.**

7. The Committee decided to take up the routine Government, Private Members' and Senate Business during the session. It was further decided that Senate will remain in Session till Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.IV: CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION PREPARED IN THE LIGHT OF DECISIONS OF THE HOUSE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

8. The Committee unanimously approved the draft with slight amendments and decided that the Leader of the House on behalf of all the parliamentary party leaders in the Senate shall move the resolution in the House.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.V: EVENTS TO MARK THE END OF PARLIAMENTARY YEAR 2016-17 AND BEGINNING OF PARLIAMENTARY YEAR 2017-18.**

9. Secretary Senate apprised the Members regarding a newly established practice of commemorating completion of one parliamentary year and beginning of next

parliamentary year, which was put into place last year, and placed following proposals for commemoration of completion of Parliamentary Year 2016-2017:-

- I. Debate in the House on “agenda of Senate for the next Parliamentary year”.
- II. Launch of following publications-
  - a. Annual report to the People of Pakistan.
  - b. Rulings of the Chair.
  - c. Committees Journal.
  - d. Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, along with the Code of Conduct.
  - e. Standing Orders.
- III. Seminar titled “Enhancement of powers of Senate for a stronger Federation”.

**The Committee appreciated and endorsed the proposals.**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.VI: CONVEYING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO “CONSIDER MODE OF ELECTIONS OF MEMBERS OF SENATE, PROS AND CONS OF SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTING SYSTEM, ALTERNATES, POLL REFORMS ETC.” TO THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL REFORMS.**

10. The Committee discussed the agenda item at some length, however, further discussion was deferred.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.VII: CONSIDERATION OF BILLS DRAFTED BY THE SENATE FORUM FOR POLICY RESEARCH (SFPR).**

11. Secretary Senate briefed the Committee that following Bills have been received from the Senate Forum for Policy Research (SFPR), for developing consensus, as subsequently the Bills will be introduced in the name of the Hon’ble Leader of the House, Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq:-

- i. The Supreme Court of Pakistan (Power to Review) Bill.
- ii. The Council of Common Interest (Rules of Procedure) Bill.
- iii. The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill.

12. The Committee extensively examined the Bills. Regarding “The Supreme Court of Pakistan (Power to Review) Bill”, the Committee was of the opinion that this is an important legislation which should be done in consultation with the main stakeholder i.e. the Judiciary. Furthermore, the Supreme Court rules and judicial precedents established from time to time shall also be taken into account while preparing a draft legislation in this regard. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar ul Haq, Leader of the House proposed that the Bills may be kept pending till his consultation with the former Senator Ch. Muhammad Anwar Bhinder, who drafted said Bill.

13. Regarding “The Council of Common Interest (Rules of Procedure) Bill”, the Committee was of the considered view that in terms of clause 5 of article 154, Constitution, 1973, rule making is an exclusive domain of the Council of Common Interests (CCI). However, the Committee desired that a comparative statement may be prepared by the Secretariat highlighting the lacunas in the said rules and proposed amendments by SFPR.


14. Consideration of “The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill”, was also deferred on the request of the Hon’ble Leader of the House, Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar ul Haq, till his consultation with the former Senator Ch. Muhammad Anwar Bhinder, who drafted said Bill.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.VIII:**

**ANY OTHER ITEM.**

15. The Leader of the House and all the Parliamentary Party Leaders endorsed the steps taken by the Chairman Senate over the refusal of visa by the United States Consulate to the Deputy Chairman Senate, Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri who was to participate in the meetings of IPU being held in New York at 11:00 AM.

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

  
(Amjed Pervez)  
Secretary Senate

  
(Mian Raza Rabbani)  
Chairman Senate of Pakistan