

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD ON 18th January, 2017

A meeting of the Business Advisory Committee was held on 18th January, 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. Further consideration of draft constitution (amendment) Bill, 2016 prepared in the light of decision of the house Business Advisory Committee. Consideration of draft Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 prepared in the light of decision of the House Business Advisory Committee.
- ii. Conveying the recommendation 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 Parliament Committee on Election Reforms.
- iii. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. Following Members attended the meeting:-

1)	Senator Mian Raza Rabbani	Chairman
2)	Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq	Member
3)	Senator Saleem Zia	Member
4)	Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar	Member
5)	Senator Taj Haider	Member
6)	Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed	Member
7)	Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah	Member
8)	Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood	Member
9)	Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi	Member
10)	Senator Ilyas Ahmad Bilour	Member
11)	Mr. Amjed Pervez	Secretary Senate

4. Meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran. The Chairman welcomed the Members.

AGENDA ITEM NO.I:

FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016 PREPARED IN THE LIGHT OF DECISION OF THE HOUSE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016 PREPARED IN THE LIGHT OF DECISION OF THE HOUSE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

5. The Committee principally approved the draft Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 and termed it as the much needed step to make Pakistan a stronger federation reflecting and protecting the interests and rights of all the Federating Units. However, given the fact that the said Bill, after passage from the Senate, will have to be passed by the National Assembly, various options were discuss to build a broad based consensus in the both Houses of Parliament. Senators Raja Muhammad Zafar-Ul-Haq, Leader of the House, Taj Haider and Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah were of the view that a consultative process with the political parties shall be initiated, whereas, Senators Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar, Muhammad Talha Mehmood, Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi and Mushahid Hussain Syed were of the view that a resolution in this regard shall be passed by the Senate, pursuant to which the consultative process may be initiated.

6. After detailed deliberation the Committee decided as under:-

- i. **A Resolution regarding enhancement of Role and Powers of the Senate shall be passed by the House;**
- ii. **The Secretariat was directed to prepare the draft Resolution and circulate the same amongst the Members of the Committee before the next meeting;**
- iii. **Members of the House Business Advisory Committee may start lobbying with their respective political parties.**

AGENDA ITEM NO.II:

CONVEYING THE RECOMMENDATION 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 PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE ON ELECTION REFORMS.


7. The agenda item was deferred till next meeting of the HBAC.


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

8. The Committee discussed the issue of balloting of Private Members' Resolutions and Motions under rule 218. Taking notice of the fact that there are some Members who give notices in bulk which increases the probability of selection of their items in the ballot more often and the other Members who give less number of notices remain deprived of their right to raise the issues in the House, the Committee suggested that the balloting system should be changed.

The Committee decided that the draw should remain continued till the selection of five resolutions and five motions of distinct members but in case there are not total five members who have given notices then more than one item can also be selected of a member as per the draw result.

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


(Amjed Pervez)
Secretary Senate


(Mian Raza Rabbani)
Chairman Senate of Pakistan