



SENATE OF PAKISTAN



REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS & INTER-FAITH HARMONY

For the period from
July, 2012 to November, 2014

Presented by
SENATOR HAFIZ HAMDULLAH
Chairman

MUHAMMAD HASSAN KHAN
Additional Secretary/Secretary Committee



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Hafiz Hamdullah
Honorable Chairman,
Standing Committee on Religious Affairs
& Inter-Faith Harmony

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Abbreviations

HGO	Hajj Group Organizers
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
TAAP	Travel Agents Associations of Pakistan
ASA	Air Service Agreement
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
PIA	Pakistan International Airlines
IDB	Islamic Development Bank
ETPB	Evacuee Trust Property Board
PTV	Pakistan Television
HOAP	Hajj Organizers Association of Pakistan

PREFACE

It gives me immense pleasure to present the report of the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony. Since its constitution in July, 2012, the Committee had ten (10) meetings and deliberated upon various matters of public importance relating to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony.

I am grateful to the Committee members for extending valuable support through active participation in the meetings and contributing their thoughtful insights by highlighting issues that can directly or indirectly maximize the efficacy of Ministry and its attached offices.

I appreciate the unflagging support provided by the Senate Secretariat, especially the Secretary Committee, Mr. Muhammad Hassan Khan, supporting staff of Committee Branch and my personal staff for their tireless efforts in agenda setting, liaison with Ministries concerned and disseminating the information to concerned quarters regarding the recommendations made during the Committee meetings.

It would be worthwhile to mention that the circulation of this report as well as the future ones would definitely prove beneficial for the better understanding of the Committee System of the Senate of Pakistan, especially the working and performance of the Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony.

The Committee left no stone unturned by touching all the burning issues pertaining to the Hajj Policies and operations through vigilant oversight. The recommendations made by the Committee have always been aimed at suggesting ways and means to facilitate the Hajj pilgrims so that they perform Hajj rituals in a pristine manner.

It will be unjust if the cooperation extended by the Ministry of Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and all other associated offices is not acknowledged for producing the desired information in the form of working papers and implementing the Committee recommendations in letter and spirit. The Committee ardently desires that the concerned offices implement the recommendations highlighted in this report as well for the best interest of the public.

(SENATOR HAFIZ HAMDULLAH)
Chairman Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of the primary functions of the Standing Committees is parliamentary oversight of the executive. The Committees are mandated to probe into the matters of public importance and suggesting affirmative actions through recommendations made during the meetings. Rule 187 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012 empowers the Committees to require the attendance of any person or the production of papers or records for the performance of its functions.

The Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony is presently headed by the Honorable Senator Hafiz Hamdullah. The Committee held several meetings during the period from July, 2012 to November 2014. In fulfillment of its oversight role, the Committee took up several important issues falling under its ambit as laid down in Rule 166(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business and put forth recommendations aimed at improving the efficiency of Ministry of Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony and its attached offices.

The Committee took active part in reviewing Hajj Policies formulated by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony each year. As per the directions of Supreme Court of Pakistan, a high powered Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony to formulate Hajj Policy 2014. The draft policy was also uploaded in the website of Ministry for seeking comments/suggestions from stakeholders / general public. In pursuance of the Committee recommendations, the Hajj applications under Government Hajj Scheme were received on the principle of "First come, First serve" basis. Any person who has performed Hajj during the last five years was not eligible to perform Hajj in 2014 except *Mehram*, or the one undertaking *Haj-e-Badal*.

The Committee appreciated the move of reducing the charges by PKR 23,000 under Government Hajj Scheme 2014 as compared to the charges of last year. In compliance Committee recommendations, category based system under Government Hajj Scheme for the accommodation of pilgrims was also abolished and only one category of accommodation was offered in Hajj 2014 as compared to three categories of previous years. The Committee also lauded the efforts of Ministry by enhancing the death compensation for pilgrims from PKR 300,000 to PKR 500,000 in Hajj Policy-2014 under Hujjaj Muhafiz Scheme based on the concept of "Takaful".

The Committee observed that 2033 new applications were received from tour operators and enrolled subject to scrutiny and verification of their

documents. However, the Ministry kept relying on old Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs) and only nineteen (19) new HGOs were allotted quota of 919 pilgrims during Hajj 2014. The Committee emphasized for increasing the competition in private sector by giving opportunity to the newly enlisted tour operators to put an end to the monopoly of existing Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs) in order to reduce the packages offered by them. The Committee was of the view that strict criterion laid down by the Ministry in scrutinizing the profiles of tour operators favors the existing HGOs and discourages the new entrants.

In one of the Committee meetings held during July, 2012 the Committee was informed that a comprehensive awareness campaign through print and electronic media was launched as per direction of the Cabinet. Two Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) were signed with Pakistan Television and Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation on 31-05-2012 for the promotion of Hajj Awareness Programmes through Radio and Television. The Committee further suggested that other private channels may be approached to launch comprehensive awareness campaign beside PTV. The M/o Religious Affairs should negotiate with them in this regard. The Committee also put forth a suggestion of incorporating the recommendations of journalists / media persons / authors / columnist who published articles in the leading newspapers and gave suggestions in electronic media for the improvement of Hajj operations.

The Committee observed that the Haji Camps, especially that of Quetta lacked basic facilities and there were no arrangements for ablution. The Committee stressed for taking concrete measures to improve situation and advised to ensure proper arrangements for the training of pilgrims so that they do not face problems in performance of Hajj rituals.

In July 2013 the Committee was informed that the Hajj Medical Mission comprised of 540 personnel with the female representation of 30 %. However, the Committee suggested that ratio of female staff should be enhanced to 40% instead of 30%. In this regard while selecting medical staff, civilian medical, paramedical staff of Federal and other Provincial Governments, FATA, AJK and Gilgit Baltistan should also be selected.

The Committee was informed that the government introduced an online system for submission of Hajj 2014 applications and a ten (10) days deadline was given; however, owing to the remarkable arrangements and services provided by the Government during the Hajj Operations of last year, 127,000 applications were received in a single day. The Committee criticized the role of designated banks in receiving the Hajj application and was of the view that intending pilgrims from remote parts of the country usually fails to submit applications and the bank officials pre-arranges the application forms of their friends and relatives beforehand.

The Committee emphasized on the need of rendering special arrangements to the intending pilgrims who belongs to far flung areas, especially FATA and Balochistan, due to limited number of Banks in those areas and the distance from major cities.

The Committee took serious notice of the incident of setting into fire the Hindu temple by a mob in Royal Chowk, Larkana. The Committee was informed that incident took place after alleged desecration of Holy Quran by a Hindu boy at Murad Wahan, Larkana. The Committee advised to fix charges on culprits involved in desecration of Hindu temple as prescribed in Criminal Laws dealing with the people involved in desecration of Holy/Worship places, as well as the need of evolving the existing laws.

COMPOSITION OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS
AFFAIRS & INTER-FAITH HARMONY

Sr. No.	Name	
1.	Senator Hafiz Hamdullah	Chairman
2.	Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq	Member
3.	Senator Mrs. Zahida Khan	Member
4.	Senator Baz Muhammad Khan	Member
5.	Senator Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain	Member
6.	Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah	Member
7.	Senator Hamza	Member
8.	Senator Zaheer-ud-Din Babar Awan	Member
9.	Senator Haji Khan	Member
10.	Senator Gulzar Ahmed Khan	Member
11.	Senator Muhammad Azam Khan Hoti	Member
12.	Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan	Member
13.	Senator Maulana Tanveer-ul-Haq Thanvi	Member

PROFILES OF THE MEMBERS

Hafiz Hamdullah

Name: Hafiz Hamdullah
Tenure: March 2012 to March 2018
Province: Balochistan
Party: Jamiatul-Ulema-e-Islam (F) (JUI-F)
Seat Description: General
Designation: Senator
Oath Taking Date: 12-03-2012



Achievements:

M.A. (Political Science)
Fazil Dars-e-Nazami from Dar-ul-uloom Karachi affiliated with Wafaq-ul-Madaris Arabia Pakistan
Member Parliament (Senator: 2012 to 2018)
Member Provincial Assembly, Balochistan (MPA October 2002 to 25TH May 2006)
Provincial Minister for Health from October 2002 to 25th May 2006.

Contact Detail

Mobile Number: 0300-8383830 0333-7878781
Email Address: senatorhamdullah83@gmail.com

POLITICAL CAREER COMMITTEE (S)

Committee (s)

[Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony \(Chairman Committee\)](#)
[Government Assurances](#)
[Ports & Shipping](#)
[Information Technology and Telecommunication](#)

Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq (Leader of the House)

Name: Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq
Tenure: March 2009 to March 2015
Province: Punjab
Party: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N)
Seat Description: General
Designation: Leader of the House



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Contact Detail

Home Number: 051-9252121 / 2891515 / 2891414
Mobile Number: 0333-5451515
Fax Number: 051-9223458
Email: raja.zafarul.haq@senate.gov.pk
Gender: Male
Local Address: H.No.36, St-39, G-7/4, Islamabad.
Permanent Address: H.No.36, St-39, G-7/4, Islamabad.

POLITICAL CAREER

COMMITTEE (S)

Committee (s)

Defence
Foreign Affairs
Law and Justice
Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony

ACADEMIC CAREER

Qualification:

M.A (Political Science) from Punjab University
L.L.B from Punjab Law College 1958
B.A from Government College, Lahore in 1956

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Visited Countries:

* Visited the following countries to attend International Conferences:
(1)United Kingdom, (2)United States of America, (3) Kuwait, (4)Japan,
(5)Indonesia, (6)Egypt, (7)Libya, (8)Morocco, (9)Tunisia, (10)Maldives,
(11)Nigeria, (12)Switzerland, (13)France, (14)Austria, (15)Malaysia,
(16)Bangladesh, (17) Thailand, (18)Korea, (19)Ivory Coast, (20)UAE,
(21)Oman, (22)Iran, (23)Azerbaijan, (24)Uzbekistan, (25)Kazakhstan,
(26)Turkmenistan, (27)Tajikistan, (28)China, (29)Turkey, (30)Jordan,
(31)Lebanon, (32)Guinea, (33)Chad, (34)Benin, (35)Sudan, (36)Canada,
(37)Sri Lanka and (38)India.

Other Information:

Born in November 1935.

* Graduated from, Government College, Lahore in 1956.

* Master Degree in Political Science from Punjab University.

* LL.B from Punjab Law College 1958.

* Practiced Law from 1958 to 1981 and from 1987 to-date as Advocate Supreme Court.

- * Elected President Rawalpindi Bar Association 1977-78. Elected Vice President High Court Bar 1981
- * Placed on the Panel of Experts for Pakistan Law Commission
- ** Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Religious Affairs 1981-85.
- ** Served Ambassador of Pakistan to Egypt 1985-86.
- * Political Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan with the status of a Federal Minister 1986-87.
- * Represented Pakistan in the United Nations General Assembly in the 45th Session in 1990-91.
- * Elected Member of Pakistan Senate in 1991 for a term of six years.
- * Elected Chairman, Standing Committee on Law and Religious Affairs of the Senate 1991-94.
- * Appointed Member Board of Trustees, Islamic International University, Islamabad in 1992-97.
- * Elected Secretary General, Motamar Al-Alam Al-Islam (World Muslim Congress) in 1992. The oldest International Organization of Muslims, established in 1926 which is a Class-I Consultative Status Observer with the UN and its allied bodies and Observer Status with the O.I.C.
- * Elected Leader of the Opposition, Senate of Pakistan from May 1994-1996.
- * Elected Leader of the House, Senate of Pakistan in 1997-99.
- ** Appointed Federal Minister for Religious Affairs in July 1997-October 99.
- * Re-elected Secretary General, Motamar Al-Alam Al-Islami in 1997-2002.
- * Elected Chairman, Pakistan Muslim League (N) 2000-todate.
- * Again elected Secretary General, Motamar Al-Alam Al-Islami in December 2002 for another five years.
- * Re-elected Secretary General of Motamar 2007-2012.
- * Elected Member of the Senate 2009-2015 term.
- * Elected Leader of the (Six Parties) Independent Opposition Group 2009.

Zahida Khan

Name: Zahida Khan
Tenure: March 2012 to March 2018
Province: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Party: Awami National Party (ANP)
Seat Description: Women
Designation: Senator
Oath Taking Date: 12-03-2012



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Contact Detail

Home Number: 091-5860879
Mobile Number: 0300-8588715
Gender: Female
Local Address: E-406, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad. ii. H #440, St-28, E-11/4, Islamabad.
Permanent Address H.No.296, St-26, Phase-6, Sector F-10, Hayatabad, Peshawar.

POLITICAL CAREER

COMMITTEE (S)

Committee (s)

[Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony](#)
[Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development](#)
[Functional Committee on Human Rights](#)
[Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan](#)

Baz Muhammad Khan

Name: Baz Muhammad Khan
Tenure: March 2012 to March 2018
Province: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Party: Awami National Party (ANP)
Seat Description: General
Designation: Senator
Oath Taking Date: 12-03-2012



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Father's Name: Amir Muhammad Khan

Contact Detail

Home Number: 0928-610701
Mobile Number: 0333-9124504
Local Address: 410-H, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.
Permanent Address: Village Shehzad Azmat Khel Bannu.

POLITICAL CAREER COMMITTEE (S)

Committee (s)

Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan (Chairman Committee)
Cabinet Secretariat
Functional Committee on Government Assurances
Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony

ACADEMIC CAREER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Other Information:

Mr. Baz Muhammad Khan is a renowned progressive politician in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. He spent his student life in struggle and remained in jail. He had leaded the political movement for the restoration of democracy during the period of military regime in Pakistan under the flag of Pakhtoon Student Federation (PSF).

- .In 1988 elected as MPA and became Provincial Minister for Health.
- .In 1990 again elected as MPA and became Provincial Minister for Forest and later on became Minister for Irrigation.
- .In 1997 again elected as MPA.
- .In 2012 became Senator.
- .Senior vice president (ANP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province since 2006.

Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain

Name: Chaudhry Shujat Hussain
Tenure: March 2009 to March 2015
Province: Punjab
Party: Pakistan Muslim League (PML)
Seat Description: General
Designation: Senator



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Contact Detail

Home Number: 051-2253335-6
Mobile Number: 0300-5264291, 0321-4471123
Fax Number: 051-2262221
Email: chaudhry.shujat.hussain@senate.gov.pk
Gender: Male
Local Address: H.No.9, St-72, F-8/3, Islamabad.
Permanent Address: H.No.9, St-72, F-8/3, Islamabad.

POLITICAL CAREER

COMMITTEE (S)

Committee (s)

Defence
Interior and Narcotics Control
Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony
Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization

ACADEMIC CAREER

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Other Information:

Chaudhry Shujat Hussain, President of Pakistan Muslim League and former Prime Minister of Pakistan, has been playing a leading role in the politics of Pakistan for nearly twenty-four years. Born on 27th January, 1946 in Gujarat, Pakistan, Chaudhry Shujat Hussain is a graduate of Forman Christian College, Lahore. He went to London for further studies in Industrial Management. Thereafter he returned to Pakistan and joined the family business comprising of industrial units in textiles, sugar, flour milling and agricultural farms. The eldest son of the late Chaudhry Zahoor Elahi, he is married, with three children, a daughter and two sons.

His late father was a highly respected parliamentarian who played a prominent role in the restoration of democracy and human rights in the country. A firm believer in democracy, he was imprisoned by various governments for nearly eight years for his stance on restoration of political institutions. He was declared "Prisoner of Conscience" by Amnesty International. Chaudhry Zahoor Elahi's life came to a tragic end when he became the first political victim of terrorism in Pakistan.

Upon his father's assassination in 1981, Chaudhry Shujat Hussain entered politics. He became a Member of the Federal Parliament (Majlis-e-Shoora) in 1982. Since then, he has had an illustrious political career, although he himself underwent political imprisonment for a second time in 1994 by the then government in power. During his political life, Chaudhry Shujat Hussain

has held several important positions: Throughout his political career, he has remained in the Pakistan Muslim League, a party which created Pakistan.

Member of National Assembly four times (1985, 1988, 1997, 2002)

Minister for Information and Broadcasting (1986)

Minister for Industries and Production (1987-1988)

Leader of the IJI Parliamentary Party, National Assembly (1988-1990)

Minister for Interior (1990-1993)

Member of Senate of Pakistan (1993)

Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Defence, Production and Civil Aviation (1993-1997)

Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control (1997-1999)

Parliamentary Leader of Pakistan Muslim League in the National Assembly (December 2002)

Chairman Standing Committee on Defence of National Assembly

President, Pakistan Muslim League (January, 2003)

Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan (June 2004-August 2004)

Chairman National Sufi Council (2006)

Muhammad Saleh Shah

Name: Muhammad Saleh Shah
Tenure: March 2012 to March 2018
Province: FATA
Party: Independent (IND)
Seat Description: General
Designation: Senator
Oath Taking Date: 12-03-2012



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Father's Name: Rasool Shah

Contact Detail

Office Number: 051-9223957 & 051-9022657
Mobile Number: 0300-5793993
Fax Number: 051-9223975
Email: safron.committee@gmail.com, munawarsenate@gmail.com
Gender: Male
Local Address: Room No.7, Senate Standing Committee Building, USAID Building, Sector G-5, Islamabad.
Permanent Address: Village Murtaza P.O Kot Nawaz, Tehsil & Distt. Tank,

POLITICAL CAREER COMMITTEE (S)

Committee (s)

States and Frontier Regions (Chairman Committee)
Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony
Housing and Works
Planning Development and Reform

ACADEMIC CAREER

Qualification:

Shahadat-ul-Alia Alamia, (Equal to Master Degree) from Jamaia Darul Uloom Haqqania, Akora Khattak, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Other Information:

- He was elected as Senator for Six years from March 2006 to March 2012 and was re-elected as Senator in March 2012 for further six years.
- At present being Chairman of the Standing Committee on SAFRON he is highlighting the problems of FATA peoples and trying to solve them through holding a series of meetings with Ministry of SAFRON, FATA Secretariat and Political Administration of the Agencies.

- He remained Chairman Standing Committee on Religious Affairs for three years. During this tenure he played very active role for reducing the problems of Hajjaj during hajj seasons.
- Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah hails from South Waziristan Agency the tribal area of Pakistan. He is a Representative of well reputed tribe “Mehsud” of South Waziristan Agency. He is Member of the local Aman Jirga (Council of Elders for Peace). He played his vital role in defusing the tension in tribal belt and participated in a series of dialogue from the government side in resolving many local disputes / rivalries.
- He is the Mohtamim (Principal) of two religious institutes namely Jamia Islamia Mahmodia, Gomal, District Tank and Jamia Ashab-e-Sufa, Wazirabad, District Tank. Being as Mohtamim (Principal) of two religious schools he always focused to provide religious education and also modern day's education so that the students can be fully equipped themselves with the day to day requirements in all spheres of life.

Hamza

Name: Hamza
Tenure: March 2012 to March 2018
Province: Punjab
Party: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N)
Seat Description: General
Designation: Senator
Oath Taking Date: 12-03-2012



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Father's Name: Maulvi Abdullah

Contact Detail

Home Number: 0463-515296
Mobile Number: 0345-7918296
Gender: Male
Local Address: H-001, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.
Permanent Address: P-95, Eid Gah Road, Gojra District Toba tek Singh .

POLITICAL CAREER

COMMITTEE (S)

Committee (s)

Railways
Petroleum and Natural Resources
Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony
Housing and Works

Zaheer-ud-Din Babar Awan

Name: Zaheer-ud-Din Babar Awan
Tenure: March 2012 to March 2018
Province: Punjab
Party: Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarian (PPP-P)
Seat Description: General
Designation: Senator



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Father's Name: Malik Ali Haider

Contact Detail

Home Number: 051-9262423
Mobile Number: 0300-5000051
Gender: Male
Local Address: H.No.3, Street No.56, F.8/4 Islamabad.
Permanent Address: H.No.24, Street No.25, F.8/2 Islamabad.

POLITICAL CAREER COMMITTEE (S)

Committee (s)

National Food Security and Research
Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony
Parliamentary Affairs
Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan

ACADEMIC CAREER

Qualification

Masters in Economics

Haji Khan

Name: Haji Khan
Tenure: March 2009 to March 2015
Province: FATA
Party: Independent (IND)
Seat Description: General
Designation: Senator



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Contact Detail

Home Number: 091-5829099
Mobile Number: 0300-9596666, 0333-9596666
Email: haji.khan.afriди@senate.gov.pk
Gender: Male
Local Address: A-301, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.
Permanent Address: H.No. 13, St-2, Sector E-3, Hayatabad, Peshawar.

POLITICAL CAREER

COMMITTEE (S)

Committee (s)

Ports and Shipping
Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony
Federal Education and Professional Training
Industries and Production

ACADEMIC CAREER

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Other Information

Business Owner:

1. Haji Khan Filling Station C/o Saeed Filling Station and Tatara Filling Station.
2. 5 Shops Khakh Ney Market, S.S. Plaza Peshawar.
3. Commercial Plot Main Saddar Road, Peshawar Cantt.
4. Saeed Filling Station Ring Road, Near Hayat Abad, Peshawar, (President).

Gulzar Ahmed Khan

Name: Gulzar Ahmed Khan
Tenure: March 2009 to March 2015
Province: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Party: Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarian (PPP-P)
Seat Description: General
Designation: Senator



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Contact Detail

Office Number: 042-35870230-5
Home Number: 051-2274210-042-35711094
Fax Number: 042-5710717
Email: gulzar.ahmed.khan@senate.gov.pk
Gender: Male
Local Address: H#10, Luqman Hakeem Road, G-6/3, Islamabad.
Permanent Address: 91-B-II, Gulberg-III, Lahore.

POLITICAL CAREER

COMMITTEE (S)

Committee (s)

National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination
Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony
Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development
Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan

ACADEMIC CAREER

Qualification: L.L.B

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Other Information:

Landlord and Advocate
Remained B.D. Member 1965
Remained Chairman, Naivela Union Council, D.I.Khan 1965
Remained Special Assistant to the Prime Minister with the Status of Federal Minister 1989 to 1990
Culture and Tourism Federal Minister
Member Senate of Pakistan 1988 to 1994
Four Charitable (Free) Dispensaries in D.I.Khan Chief Patron and owner
Member the High Court Bar Lahore

Muhammad Azam Khan Hoti

Name: Muhammad Azam Khan Hoti
Tenure: March 2012 to March 2018
Province: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Party: Awami National Party (ANP)
Seat Description: General
Designation: Senator
Oath Taking Date: 12-03-2012



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Father's Name: Ameer Muhammad Khan

Contact Detail

Mobile Number: 0300-8593734
Gender: Male
Local Address: Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa House, Islamabad.
Permanent Address: Nowshera Road, Near Khyber Tobacco Company, Mardan.

POLITICAL CAREER

COMMITTEE (S)

Committee (s)

[Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony](#)
[Parliamentary Affairs](#)
[Water and Power](#)
[Petroleum and Natural Resources](#)

Muhammad Zahid Khan

Name: Muhammad Zahid Khan
Tenure: March 2009 to March 2015
Province: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Party: Awami National Party (ANP)
Seat Description: General
Designation: Senator



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Contact Detail

Office Number: 051-5472730
Home Number: 0945-883866
Mobile Number: 0300-5223387
Email: muhammad.zahid.khan@senate.gov.pk
Gender: Male
Local Address: F-410, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.
Permanent Address: Village Wadigram Lower Dir, Distt. Lower Dir.

POLITICAL CAREER

COMMITTEE (S)

Committee (s)

Water and Power (Chairman Committee)
Communications
Information Technology and Telecommunication
Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony

Maulana Tanveer-ul-Haq Thanvi

Name: Maulana Tanveer-ul-Haq Thanvi
Tenure: March 2012 to March 2018
Province: Sindh
Party: Mutahidda Qaumi Movement (MQM)
Seat Description: General
Designation: Senator
In Vice Of: Syed Mustafa Kamal



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Contact Detail

Mobile Number: 0323-2006419
Gender: Male
Local Address: H.No 56-Central Jam-e-Masjid Thanvi Jacob Line Karachi

POLITICAL CAREER

Political Career: President Muttahida Bainul Muslimeen Forum Pakistan

COMMITTEE (S)

Committee (s)

Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony
Petroleum and Natural Resources
Science and Technology
Functional Committee on Problems of Less Developed Areas

ACADEMIC CAREER

Qualification

B.A
Shahadatul Aalmia(Wifaq Ul Madaris)

Muhammad Hassan Khan

Designation: Additional Secretary (Committees)

Gender: Male

Office Phone: 9103211

Address: H. No.26-E, St.No. 72, G-6/4, Islamabad.



COMMITTEE (S)

Secretary Committee (s)

[Standing Committee on Housing & Works.](#)

[Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony.](#)

[Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunications.](#)

JAVAID IQBAL

Designation: Director Staff
Gender: Male
Office Phone: 051-9223976
Fax: 051-9223975
Mobile: 0333-5534681
E-mail: dr.javaid73@gmail.com



ACADEMIC CAREER

Qualification

B.A
D.H.M.S (R.H.M.P)

COMMITTEE (S)

Director Staff to Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETINGS



SENATOR HAFIZ HAMDULLAH, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON OCTOBER 16, 2012.



SENATOR HAFIZ HAMDULLAH, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2013.



SENATOR HAFIZ HAMDULLAH, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON FEBRUARY 21, 2014.



SENATOR HAFIZ HAMDULLAH, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON MAY 09, 2014.



SENATOR HAFIZ HAMDULLAH, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON NOVEMBER 24, 2014.

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

SENATE SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, HELD ON 4TH JULY, 2012.

A meeting of the Senate Standing committee on Religious Affairs was held on 4th July, 2012 at 11.00 a.m. in the Committee Room No.1, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Senator Hafiz Hamdullah.

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-
 - i. Briefing on the functions of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.
 - ii. Detailed briefing by the Ministry of Religious Affairs on Hajj Policy, 2012.
 - iii. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-
 - (i) Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq.
 - (ii) Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan
 - (iii) Senator Haji Khan
 - (iv) Senator Zahida Khan
 - (v) Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah.
 - (vi) Senator Baz Muhammad Khan.
 - (vii) Senator Hamza.

The list of officers of the Ministry of Religious Affairs is annexed.

4. The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran by Senator Hafiz Hamdullah, Chairman of the Committee. He in his introductory address welcomed the Members, Officers of M/o Religious Affairs to the meeting and said that Committee itself is very important. The mandate of the Committee is to oversight the performance of the Ministry Religious Affairs with regard to Islamic rites.

5. Prior to commencement of meeting, Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan observed as to why Minister for Religious Affairs has not shown his presence to the meeting. He quoting Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate 2012, stated that the meeting of the Committee once scheduled should not be postponed without proper justification. Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs responded that due to meeting of the Federal Cabinet, the Minister for Religious Affairs has not shown his presence to the meeting. However, sentiments of the Members of the Committee will be conveyed to him. Thereafter, the Chairman invited Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs to brief the Committee on agenda item No.1.

AGENDA ITEM-I

6. Chaudhary Muhammad Azam Samma, Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs briefed the Committee and said that M/o Religious Affairs was created in October, 1974. Prior to 1974 various Ministries had been dealing with Hajj operations. In 1976 Minorities Affairs and Overseas Pakistanis were merged with this Ministry and the Ministry was renamed as “Ministry of Religious Affairs, Minorities Affairs and Overseas Pakistanis”. They were separated fro the Ministry in 1977 and in 1992, respectively. However, the Minorities Affairs and Zakat & Ushr were merged with this Ministry in 1996 and finally in March, 2002, Minorities Affairs Division was again separated fro this Ministry. The Zakat and Ushr Wing was separated from this Ministry in November, 2008. Since then the Ministry has been renamed as Ministry of Religious Affairs. Recently, Zakat Cell has again been created under the Ministry of Religious Affairs w.e.f. 07-12-2010. The Ministry has following Wings/cell:-

- Admn. Wing.
- Hajj Wing
- Dawah and Ziarat Wing.
- Research and Reference Wing.
- Zakat Cell.

Each Wing headed by BS-20 officer. Detailed function of each Wing is ad under:-

1	Pilgrimage Beyond Pakistan; Muslim pilgrims visits to India.
2	Ziarat and Umrah
3	Welfare and safety of pilgrims and Zaireen.
4	Administrative control of Hajj Directorate at Jeddah and dispensaries in Makkah Mukarramah and Madina Munawwarah.

5	Islamic studies and research including holding of seminars, conferences etc. on related subjects
6	Training and education of Ulema and Khatibs etc.
7	Error-free and exact printing and publishing of Holy Quran.
8	Exchange of visits of scholars of Islamic learning an Education, international conferences/seminars on Islamic subjects and liaison with foreign and international bodies and institutions.
9	Ruet-e-Hilal.
10	Tabligh
11	Council of Islamic Ideology
12	Observance of Islamic Moral Standard.
13	Donations for religious purposes and propagation of Islamic Ideology abroad.
14	Marriage and divorce, infants and minor's adoption. (Extent of provinces will devolve, however, legislation on these subjects for ICT will remain responsibility of this Ministry)
15	Collection of Zakat & Ushr, distribution of Zakat & Ushr to Provinces and other areas as per formula approved by CCI.

He gave an elaborate overview of the functions of the M/o Religious Affairs.

7. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq referring to the function of the Ministry at serial No.13 pointed that translation is incorrect. The Ministry donates Foreign Muslims Minorities for religious purposes and propagation of Islamic Ideology abroad instead of receiving donations. Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs admitted the error of the Ministry and assured to rectify.

8. The Chairman of the Committee observed that Council of Islamic Ideology does not function under the M/o Religious Affairs. That is an independent constitutional body. He suggested that the Ministry should evolve a strategy to decide the jurisdiction; there should be no doubt/confusion.

9. Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah asked Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs as to how many Model Madaris are working in the country at present. Director General, Research and Reference Wing, M/o Religious Affairs responded that presently three (03) Model Madaris are working in the country under M/o Religious Affairs teaching Islamic Studies in the light of Quran and Sunnah. The detail of which is as under:-

- Islamabad } For males
- Karachi } For males
- Sukkhar } For females

10. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq pointed out that some people who are involved in smuggling visit India for Ziarat every year with the cooperation of Ministry's official. D.G. Ziarat Wing, M/o Religious Affairs responded that the Ministry invites applications from the people, who intend to visit India for Ziarat on Pakistan level. The applicants who have already visited India for less than 18th month are rejected. However, the Ministry would examine and re-visit the issue as desired. As far as Pilgrims for Ziarah to Iran, Iraq and Syria are concerned they are sent through Tour Operators.

11. Senator Hamza pointed out that he applied to visit India for the purpose of Ziarat three (03) years ago but remained un-successful. He asked, Secretary M/o Religious Affairs to probe in as to why his name was not included in the list of Pilgrims visited to India for Ziarat.

12. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan observed that the companies (Hajj Tour Operators) who were enlisted in 2005 are being entertained by the Ministry every year. As to why Hajj quota to the companies who have filed applications in 2006 onward are not being entertained. He asked Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs to furnish the detail of Hajj Quota allocated to the Private Tour Operators in the years 2005 onward and suggested that quota should be allocated on merit in accordance with the criteria/policy. If any Tour Operator does not fulfill the required criteria should not be entertained. However, in case of missing of any document, the Ministry should inform the concerned agency for provision of complete documents.

13. Mr. Muhammad Arshad Bhatti , Additional Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs informed the Committee that Hajj quota is being allocated to the new Tour Operator in accordance with the High Court and Supreme Court's verdicts after scrutinizing the documents. In this regard, 2000 new Tour Operators have applied for Hajj quota.

14. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq stated that mandate of the Standing Committees is to over sight the business of the Ministries. Therefore, M/o Religious Affairs should review their policies.

AGENDA ITEM NO. II

15. The Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs briefed the Committee on Hajj Policy – 2012. He informed that Hajj Policy-2012 has been formulated by modifying the last year's policy on the basis of experience gained in Hajj-2011 and through consultative workshops held at Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and Quetta attended by HGOs, members of Travel Agents Associations of Pakistan (TAAP), representatives of airlines, designated banks, media-men and religious scholars, etc. The provisions of annual agreement signed between the Ministry of Hajj, KSA and Government of Pakistan on 22-02-2012 have been incorporated in the policy. Pakistan's Hajj quota for 2012 is 179210 allocated by the Ministry of Hajj, KAS in the ratio of 1000 per one million Muslim inhabitants in 2011 remains valid for 2012. 5 % of the total seats under Government Scheme have been reserved for hardship, nominees of charitable organizations like UAE Scheme, labour/low paid employees of public sector organizations and corporate entities i.e. KPT, PTCL etc. The applications under Government Scheme were invited through designated banks w.e.f. 02-05-2012. By 10th May, 2012, 102000 applications were received while 85125 applicants have been declared successful on the principle of "first come first serve". Three categories of accommodation based on distance from Haram Shareef under Government Hajj Scheme are:-

- i. Blue category @ SR.7500 upto 900 meters;
- ii. Green category @ SR.5000 from 900 to 2000 meters with transport; and
- iii. White category @ SR.3600 beyond 2000 meters with transport.

The total Hajj Package for the above categories is as under:-

Category	Karachi/Quetta/Sukkar	Other Stations
Blue	Rs.319,475/-	Rs.331,475/-
Green	Rs.256,975/-	Rs.268,975/-
White	Rs.221,975/-	Rs.233,975/-

Hujjaj will be airlifted by four air carriers i.e. PIA, Shaheen Air International, Saudi Airline and NAS'air as per revised Air Service Agreement (ASA) between Government of Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. PIA has agreed for the following airfare for Hajj-2012:-

- **South Region** Rs.73,000/-
(Karachi/Sukkar/Quetta)
- **North Region** Rs.85,000/-
(Lahore, Sialkot, Islamabad,
Peshawar, Faisalabad, Multan
And Rahim Yar Kan)

A meeting with four designated airlines as well as CAA to discuss arrangements of Hajj flights operation 2012 was convened on 12-06-2012 in the Ministry and the airlines were sensitized to make fool proof arrangements for the up coming Hajj in coordination with the stakeholders. In pursuance of Supreme Court's order dated 07-07-2011 in CPLA No.937/2011, the applications for enlistment/enrolment of Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs) have been invited through a public notice in the press on 30-04-2012. For parliamentary advice and oversight a broad based Hajj Advisory Committee was constituted in 2011 to advise on policy, planning and management of Hajj operation in Pakistan as well as in KSA. The said committee shall remain intact in 2012. The Hujjaj Muhibat Scheme launched in 2011, based on the concept of "Takaful" (risk management through contributions) to compensate the loss of Hujjaj on account of death, accidents etc. have been continued in Hajj Policy – 2012. For guidance, health coverage and facilitation of Hujjaj, the Ministry of Religious Affairs will depute various missions during Hajj 2012:-

- Welfare staff shall comprise:
 - Hajj Medical Mission. 540.
 - Khuddam ul Hujjaj (Muaveneen) 230.
 - Local Khuddam (Muaveneen) 900.
 - Seasonal staff 270.

- Volunteer Khuddam ul Hajjaj (Muaveneen) on cost sharing basis as per need.
- Welfare Staff will proceed to Saudi Arabia for establishing:
 - Main Control Office;
 - Sector/Sub-Sector offices for facilitation/guidance of the Pilgrims.
- Welfare staff shall give an undertaking/affidavit not to perform Manasik-i-Hajj during the period of their duty.
- A comprehensive awareness campaign through print and electronic media has been launched as per direction of the Cabinet. Two Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) have been signed with Pakistan Television and Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation in presence of Minister for Religious Affairs and Minister for Information and broadcasting on 31-05-2012 for the promotion of Hajj Awareness Programmes through Radio and Television. Encouraging press articles are being penned down and got printed in the National newspapers. Media Awareness workshops have also been planned and first workshop has already been held at Lahore for strengthening the electronic and print media regarding Hajj related information.
- The Chairman of the Committee stated that in far flung areas of the country some people do not have the facility of television, if they have they don't know the signs of trainers appeared on television programs. He suggested that some Ulema should be hired for the training of Hajjaj.

He gave an elaborate over view of Hajj Policy – 2012.

16. The Chairperson observed that some Hajj applicants, who had deposited their dues with the authorized branches of banks win cut dates could not be entertained, because of in-efficiencies of banking staff. He asked Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs about the figure of such applicants. Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs informed that figure of such applicants is 1000 to 1200.

17. The Chairman with the sense of other Members of the committee unanimously recommended that all such applicants should be given opportunity of performance of Hajj-2012.

18. Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah pointed out that last year about eighty (80) Hajj Pilgrims performed Hajj under UAE Sponsorship Scheme. They all were belonging to Kharan (Balochistan). He asked Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs as to why people from other parts of the country were neglected. Additional Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs informed the Committee that UAE Government selects the people through their own representative/coordinator. In this regard the Ministry does not play nay role.

19. The Committee recommended that M/o Religious Affairs through M/o Foreign Affairs should approach the Government of UAE for sending people for performance of Hajj from all parts of the country.

20. The Members of the Committee observe that the buildings hired to accommodate the Hujjaj under white category are beyond 2000 meters. The Committee asked Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs for furnishing the complete detail of buildings hired for Pakistani Hujjaj under green and white categories and recommended that the Ministry should ensure provision of transport facility to Hujjaj performing Hajj under green and white categories by involving Ambassador of Pakistan to Saudi Arabia and Director General Hajj at Makkah Mukarramah.

21. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar ul Haq observed that in the past aircrafts purchased on lease agreement to complete Hajj operation were poor in condition. He asked Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs as to what type of aircrafts will be used to airlift

the Hujjaj by four airlines of the country this year. Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs responded that a meeting with four (04) designated airlines as well as CAA to discuss the arrangements of Hajj flights operation 2012 was held on 12th June, 2012 in the M/o Religious Affairs and the airlines were sensitized to make fool proof arrangements for the upcoming Hajj in coordination with all stakeholders.

22. The Committee recommended to invite Chairman, PIA, D.G., CAA to the next meeting of the Committee alongwith representatives of other airlines. They should come up with makes and capacity of the aircrafts will be used to airlift the Hujjaj. The minutes of the meeting held on June 12, 2012 may also be furnished to the Committee.

23. The Committee also recommended that the Members of Hajj Advisory Committee should be nominated in consultation with the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs as already recommended by the said Committee in its previous meeting chaired by Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah, ex-Chairman, Standing Committee on Religious Affairs instead nominating by the Ministry.

24. Senator Mrs. Zahida Khan asked Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs about the ratio of male, female staff sent under Hajj medical Mission. Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs informed the Committee that the said staff is selected at the ratio of 70% male and 30 % female for Hajj Medical Mission. The Committee suggested that ratio of female staff should be enhanced to 40% instead of 30%. In this regard while selecting medical staff, civilians medical, para-medical staff of Federal and other Provincial Governments, FATA, AJK and Gilgit Baltistan should also be selected. The Committee further suggested that other private channels may be approached to launch comprehensive awareness campaign beside PTV. The M/o Religious Affairs should negotiate with them in this regard. Directorates of Hajj in the Provinces may be advised to associate with Local Religious Scholars for the awareness of the Hujjaj.

25. Concluding the meeting, the Chairman of the Committee desired to furnish the detail of volunteer Khuddam-ul-Hujjaj (Muaveneen) on cost sharing as per need. This issue may be included as agenda item to the next meeting of the Committee.

26. The Committee made following recommendations:-
- i. The Committee unanimously recommended that all such applicants who have deposited their Hajj applicants in the banks within cut date should be given opportunity of performance of Hajj-2012.
 - ii. M/o Religious Affairs through M/o Foreign Affairs should approach the Government of UAE for sending people for performance of Hajj from all parts of the Country.
 - iii. The M/o Religious Affairs should furnish the complete detail of buildings hired for Pakistani Hujjaj under green and white categories and the Ministry should ensure provision of transport facility to Hujjaj performing Hajj under green and white categories by involving Ambassador of Pakistan to Saudi Arabia and Director General Hajj at Makkah Mukaramah.
 - iv. To invite Chairman, PIA, D.G., CAA to the next meeting of the Committee alongwith representatives of other airlines. They should come up with makes and capacity of the aircrafts will be used to airlift the Hujjaj. The minutes of the meeting held on June 12, 2012 may also be furnished to the Committee.
 - v. The Members of Hajj Advisory Committee should be nominated in consultation with the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs as already recommended by the said Committee in its previous meeting chaired by Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah, ex-Chairman, Standing Committee on Religious Affairs instead nominating by the Ministry.
 - vi. The Committee desired that M/o Religious Affairs the furnish the detail of volunteer Khuddam-ul-Hujjaj (Muaveneen) on cost sharing as per need. This issue may be included as agenda item to the next meeting of the Committee.
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SENATE SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, HELD ON 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2012

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs was held on 19th September, 2012 at 04.00 p.m. in the Committee Room No.1, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Senator Hafiz Hamdullah.

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-
 - iv. Progress on the recommendations made by the Committee in its meeting held on 4th July, 2012.
 - v. To discuss the irregularities made in Hajj-2012.
 - vi. To discuss how many forms were issued to each member of Parliament and the procedure adopted thereof.
 - vii. Quota allotment procedure and enlisting of private companies, fresh companies.
 - viii. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-

- (viii) Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq.
- (ix) Senator Haji Khan
- (x) Senator Zahida Khan
- (xi) Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah.
- (xii) Senator Hamza.

The list of officers of the Ministry of Religious Affairs is annexed.

4. The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran by Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah.

5. The Chairman, Standing Committee on Religious Affairs welcomed the Members of the Committee and officers of M/o Religious Affairs to the meeting and said that the meeting was fixed on the requisition of 03 (three) Members of the Committee under Rule 184, Sub Rule 4 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, 2012 in the Senate. In its previous meeting of the Committee held on July 04, 2012, it was decided that Managing Director, PIA and Director General, Civil Aviation Authority would be invited by M/o Religious Affairs to attend the meeting but in vain. The honourable Chairman took a serious notice of non-attendance of the following officers to the meeting:-

- i. Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs
- ii. M.D. PIA.
- iii. DG. Civil Aviation Authority.

He expressed displeasure on the callousness and lack of concern exhibited by afore-listed officers by not showing up to the meeting wherein significant issues regarding arrangements of Hajj-2012 were required to be deliberated. Moreover, these officers showed scant respect to the Committee, which tantamount to breach of privilege of honourable Members of the Committee. The Chairman held the view that convening of the meeting in absence of the afore-listed officers would be an exercise in futility. He with the sense of other Members of the Committee decided to serve a show cause notice upon the following for not attending the meeting:-

- i. M.D. PIA.
- ii. D.G. Civil Aviation Authority.

It was also decided that next meeting of the Committee will be held on October 02, 2012 in which the offices listed above would be invited. They must ensure their presence on the said date as Parliament is supreme so are its Committees. Thereafter, the Chairman of the Committee invited Joint Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs to brief the Committee on agenda item-i.

6. Hafiz Sher Ali, J.S. (Hajj), M/o Religious Affairs briefed the Committee. He said that the Hajj quota allocated to Government of Pakistan by M/o Hajj, Saudi Arabia was 179210, out of which 89605 Hajjaj would proceed under Government Scheme. There was no cut off date for submitting Hajj applications. As per Hajj Policy – 2012, applications were received on first come first basis. Last year 15% seats of the total Hajj quota were kept reserved for hardship cases, which were curtailed to 5 % this year. In this regard, a serial of meetings were held with banking coordinators/authorities. They were given understanding that number of Hajj applications should not be acceded. But branches of the banks did not follow the instructions of the Ministry and continued receiving applications till June 10, 2012 despite the facts that the Ministry warned them by writing a letter on June 09, 2012 in which it was pointed out that required number of applications were near to completion. Resultantly figure of Hajj applications acceded. The banks received 21000 applications in one day. Keeping in view sensitivity of the issue, matter was taken up with the Presidents, Chief Executives of the Banks.

7. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar ul Haq asked Joint Secretary (Hajj), M/o Religious Affairs as to what action has been initiated against them. Joint Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs responded that Presidents, Chief Executives of the banks were asked for suspension of responsible banking staff. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar ul Haq asked to invite the Presidents/Chief Executives of the banks to the next meeting of the Committees, if data was available with the Ministry.

8. Joint Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs further informed the Committee that about 2200 Hajj applicants have been accommodated against dropout/hardship cases across the country.

9. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar ul Haq further asked that according to his information application forms at Rs.35000/- each were sold. Joint Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs negated and said that no form to any individual was given by hand. All forms were distributed through authorized branches of the banks. In the year 2010, Hajj application forms were distributed by the Ministry. This year, 710 persons,

Parliamentarians, their families or their recommended nominees would be airlifted in the last/VIP flight on depositing Rs.405000/-.

10. On a query made by Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar ul Haq about the Hujjaj sent under UAE, Government Scheme, Joint Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs informed the Committee that Government of UAE sends a list of their nominees through Ch. Munir who is focal person and representative of UAE Government of Pakistan.

11. Responding to another query about Khuddam-ul-Hujjaj, Joint Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs informed the Committee that nomenclature of Khuddam-ul-Hujjaj has been renamed as Mauveneen-i-Hujjaj this year, due to certain reasons. Under this scheme a team of 330 Mauveneen will proceed to Saudi Arabia for the welfare of pilgrims. The contingent belongs to all four provinces including Gilgit Baltistan and Islamabad Captial Territory (ICT). The said team (Muaveneen-i-Hujjaj) has been drawn from Civil Armed Forces & Public Sector Organizations. Director Muaveneen-i-Hujjaj, Dr. Mujeeb-ur-Rehman, who is DIG, Security to Islamabad Police will be responsible for overall supervision and management during Hajj. In addition to that 900 local Muaveneen-i-Hujjaj will be recruited by DG, Hajj for 40-60 days for welfare services of the Hujjaj.

12. **The Chairman of the Committee desired to furnish break-up of the contingent in the next meeting of the Committee.**

13. Joint Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs continued and informed the Committee that for establishing of facilitation desks in the main control rooms/sector/sub-sector offices for the guidance of Hujjaj, a contingent of 170 seasonal staff from M/o Religious Affairs has been selected. Training to group leaders and to all Hujjaj has been completed by the Hajj Directorates. Vaccination has been arranged in the Hajj Directorates for the Hujjaj. As per schedule first Hajj flight will leave on September 19, 2012. The officer gave a comprehensive briefing of Hajj arrangements.

14. The Chairman of the Committee held the view that M/o Religious Affairs did not furnish the progress report on the recommendations made by the Committee in its meeting held on July 04, 2012 for which Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs was responsible. In this regard the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs would not take any responsibility. Furthermore, buildings hired for Pakistani Hajj fall under white category are at the distance beyond 2000 meters. According to his information following irregularities have been committed in hiring of buildings and transport:-

- Buildings on Shahra-e-Madinah have been hired on a rent of Saudi Riyals 2900/- per Haji instead of 2100/- Saudi Riyals. While the owner of the buildings offered the agent that he will make arrangements at the rent of 2500/- Saudi Riyals. Then he will be paid 400/- Saudi Riyals, but Pakistani management hired these two buildings on 2900/- Saudi Riyals per Haji.
- Building in Azizyah have been hired on a rent of 3500/- Saudi Riyals instead of 1200 to 1500 Saudi Riyals per Haji through some middlemen/agents, while the private companies i.e. (Swabi Travels, Sajjad Travels, Al-Qasim Travels and Jamiat Travels) have hired buildings in this area on 1200 to 1500 Saudi Riyals.
- Buildings on Shahrah-ul-Hajj have been hired on a rent of Riyals 2500/- per Haji instead of Riyals 800/- to 1000/-.
- Transport for Pakistani Hajj accommodated in Azizyah to take them from there to Haram Sharif (Masjid-il-Haram) for offering prayers have been hired at Saudi Riyals 300/- per Haji. At the same time Indian M/o Hajj hired the same at Saudi Riyals 120/- Haji.

- The contract of local Muaveneen-e-Hujjaj has been warded to an agent whose name is Suleman Arayen. He possesses Canadian citizenship for the welfare service of the Hujjaj on daily wages of 120 Riyals per day per Muaven. The said agent has recruited the manpower on daily wages of Saudi Riyals 70-80 per Muaven.

15. **The Committee recommended as the matter is so grave thus needs to be probed/investigated. M/o Religious Affairs is responsible for the irregularities committed by the representatives of the Ministry as all arrangements were made by them. In this regard a detail report based on the facts should be submitted to the Committee in the next meeting.**

16. Joint Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs responded that a high powered committee comprising of the following officers was constitute for hiring of buildings and transport:-

- | | | |
|------|---|----------|
| i. | Director General Hajj at Jeddah. | Chairman |
| ii. | Director Hajj at Makkah Mukarmah | Member |
| iii. | Representative of Ambassador of
Pakistan to Saudi Arabia | Member |
| iv. | Accounts officer, M/o Religious Affairs | Member |

While making policies on the Hajj arrangements, 2012, key principles were drawn/initiated and conveyed to them. They were authorized to exercise full powers for taking decision on majority of votes. However, buildings purchased on rent for the Hujjaj fall under blue category were at a distance of 1000 to 1035 meters. The buildings were in a better condition. As far as question asked by the honourable Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar ul Haq about hiring of buildings on 100% advance was concerned, it is submitted that the owners asked for payment of 100% advance but M/o Religious Affairs did not agree and paid 50% advance. The change was on the directions of Saudi Arabian,

Ministry of Hajj. As far as question asked about hiring of transport was concerned, it is informed that last year coaches hired for Hujjaj were at the ratio of 1 x 300 hajis. To avoid any unpleasant situation and rush, the ratio was curtailed this year. Now the coaches would operate for 1 x 100 Hajis. That's why extra fare was paid for the facilitation of Pakistani Hujjaj.

17. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq suggested Joint Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs for investigating the matter and a facts finding report may be submitted to the Committee on the reservations of the Chairman of the Committee.

18. Joint Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs continued and stated that system for allocation of Hajj quota to Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs) was started in the year 2005. In the year 2006, un-successful applicants filed petition with the Honourable Supreme Court. The apex Court directed the Ministry for framing Hajj Policy-2012 as early as possible and comprehensive. All such applicants should be considered and quota be allocated in accordance with their eligibility and fulfillment of criterion. On April 28, 2012 a notice inviting applications for allocation of Hajj quota was published in the newspapers in which May 15, 2012 was cut off date. In this regard 2027 applications were received in the Ministry. The following criteria was laid down:-

- i. Executive document
- ii. Performance
- iii. Quality Management
- iv. Financial soundness.

Cut off date of scrutiny of applications was June 30, 2012. After scrutiny, all 2027 HGOs were enrolled as directed by the Honourable High Court, Lahore. However, no quota was allocated to any new HGO. Only quota to the old 722 enlisted HGOs was allocated this year. New enrolled HGOs will be considered on completion of criteria and merit.

However, matter is subjudice in the Lahore High Court, Lahore. The officer gave an elaborate overview of the issue.

19. Concluding the meeting, the Chairman of the Committee emphasized on presentation of progress report on the recommendations made by the Committee in its meeting held on July 04, 2012 in the next meeting which as been scheduled for October 02, 2012.

20. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, HELD ON 16TH OCTOBER, 2012

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs was held on 16th October, 2012 at 02.00 p.m. in the Committee Room No.1, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Senator Hafiz Hamdullah.

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-
 - i. Progress on the recommendations made by the Committee in its meeting held on 4th July, 2012.
 - ii. Distance and rent of hired buildings for Hajjaj from Haram Sharif (MASJID-IL-HARAM) for each category.
 - iii. Any other item with permission of the Chair.
3. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-
 - (xiii) Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq.
 - (xiv) Senator Baz Muhammad Khan
 - (xv) Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan
 - (xvi) Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah.
 - (xvii) Senator Hamza.
 - (xviii) Senator Khursheed Ahmed Shah
Minister for Religious Affairs (Ex-officio Member)

The list of officers of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and Civil Aviation is annexed.

4. The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran by Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq.

5. In his introductory address, the Chairman Standing Committee on Religious Affairs welcomed the Members of the Committee, officers of M/o Religious Affairs to the meeting and said that in its previous meeting held on September 09, 2012, it was decided to convene a meeting of the Committee on October 02, 2012. But Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs requested for convening the meeting after October 10, 2012. As desired by him, the meeting for today was fixed. He apprehended that the attitude of M/o Religious Affairs was always evasive in convening the meetings of the Committee. The entire onus of this conduct falls on the shoulders of the Minister/Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs. The Standing Committees are reflection of the Parliament and Constituted under Senate Rules, which deal with the business of the government relating to the Ministries concerned or any other matter referred to it by the senate. Thus the Standing Committees have constitutional backing and have essentially a vital role in Government decision making. Referring to the recommendations by the Committee in its meeting held on July 04, 2012, he stated that Hajj operation is going to be completed on October 19, 2012 but replies have not been placed before the Committee so far which was prime responsibility of the Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs. He ruled out the replies of the ministry given on the reservations of the Committee in its meeting held on September 19, 2012. The replies are derogatory and have breached the Privilege of the Chairman as well as Members of the Committee. He has reservations on Hajj arrangements. Reportedly, irregularities/corruption have been committed by the Hiring Committee constituted by the Ministry on hiring of buildings and transport. He desired to constitute a Sub-Committee to probe in the matter.

6. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq asked Additional Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs in order to avoid an unpleasant situation the Minister for Religious Affairs must attend the meeting of the Committee as the Parliament is Supreme so are its Committees.

7. Eventually the Minister for Religious Affairs arrived to attend the meeting and tendered his apology for coming late due to National Assembly session. He informed that last year 75000 Hujjaj performed Hajj under government scheme and 85000 through

Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs). The quota was allocated by M/o Hajj, Saudi Arabia. On the request of M/o Religious Affairs they further allowed 30,000 Hajj Pilgrims in addition to reserve quota which was distributed on Government Scheme and HGOs at the ratio of 15000 and 5000 to equalize the figure religiously. This year 179210 Pakistanis would perform Hajj under Government Scheme and HGOs on equal basis. This year due to non-allocation of additional quota by M/o Hajj, Saudi Arabia, no further allocation was made to HGOs. Resultantly, Hajj Group Organizers moved to Supreme Court and High Courts of Islamabad, Lahore and Sindh. In short Single Bench of Lahore High Court suspending orders of Division Bench issued orders for allocation quota to 04 companies from Balochistan out of 2027 new HGOs. However, the matter is subjudice. He further informed the Committee that in pursuance of orders of Apex Court issued in the year 2010, M/o Religious Affairs allocated Hajj quota to 97 HGOs in the year 2011.

8. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan asked to furnish detail of such HGOs.

9. The Minister for Religious Affairs further informed the Committee that a high powered committee head by Director General, Hajj, M/o Religious Affairs was constituted for hiring of the buildings well before Hajj. When buildings were hired, Hajj season was on its peak. Presently, the rent of the buildings situated in the same vicinity were available on a cheaper rent of Saudi Riyal 1900 to 2500 per person. However, if the committee so direct, the Ministry would enter into investigation.

10. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq referring to the alleged corruption committed by the Hiring Committee stated that the this Committee in its previous meeting held on September 19, 2012 advised the Joint Secretary (Hajj), M/o Religious Affairs who was representing the Ministry to probe in the matter. After probing in the matter a facts finding report may be submitted to the Committee. But the Ministry instead of investigating the matter, asked the Chairman of the Committee to provide documentary proof to substantiate the allegations leveled by the Chairman. The replies given by the Ministry on the observations did cause hurtful to the Chairman.

11. The Minister for Religious Affairs responded that he was totally unaware of all the proceedings/observations of the Members of the Committee. However, he would probe in the matter. Furthermore, this year a tracking system has been to facilitate the Hajj Pilgrims. They will also be transported by train between Makkah Mukarmah, Mina and Arafat. He gave an elaborate overview of Hajj operation and arrangements done by the Ministry.

12. The Chairman of the Committee expressing his views stated that Hajj operation is near to its completion, but M/o Religious Affairs did not convene even a single meeting of Hajj Advisory Committee. In its meeting held on July 04, 2012 it was recommended by the Committee that the Members of the Advisory Committee shall be chosen from Standing Committee concerned, but in vain. The recommendations have been bulldozed and irrelevant members have been nominated by the Ministry. The said Committee has no mandate and is a burden on national exchequer. It is a source of pleasure trip to visit Saudi Arabia in the name of Hajj on government expenses. Hence there is no use of it; therefore, he as a Member will not accompany them on the proposed visit.

13. After detailed deliberation, the Chairman of the Committee constituted a Sub-Committee comprised of the following Members on following Terms of Reference (TOR):-

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1. | Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah | Convener |
| 2. | Senator Baz Muhammad Khan | Member |
| 3. | Senator Haji Khan | Member |

TOR

To enquire the complaints of Hajj operation/arrangements.

The Sub-Committee would start work after completion of Hajj operation.

14. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, HELD ON 7TH JANUARY, 2013

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs was held on 7th January, 2013 at 11.00 a.m. in the Committee Room No.4, Parliament House, Islamabad.

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-
 - i. Detailed briefing on Hajj Operation, 2012 after its completion.
 - ii. Any other item with permission of the Chair.
3. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-
 - iii. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq.
 - iv. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan
 - v. Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah.
 - vi. Senator Hamza.
4. The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran by Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah.
5. Thereafter, the Committee offered “FATEHA” for late Qazi Hussain Ahmed on his sad demise. At the outset the acting Chairman of the Committee (Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah) informed the members that due to inclement weather, the Chairman of the Committee could not reach Islamabad by scheduled flight. He invited Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs to brief the Committee.

6. Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs thanked the members of the Committee for taking cognizance of the issue and asked Joint Secretary (Hajj), M/o Religious Affairs to brief the Committee.

7. Mr. Shehzad Ahmed, J.S. (Hajj), M/o Religious Affairs briefed the Committee and said that the policy and plan for Hajj-2012 was approved by the Federal Cabinet on April 25, 2012 which was implemented in letter and spirit. In this regard, Hajj applications were invited through press on May 02, 2012. The Ministry of Hajj, Saudi Arabia allocated a quota of 179,210 seats for Hajj, 2012 which was equally distributed between Government Scheme and Hajj Group Organizers Scheme on 50:50 basis as detailed below:-

(i)	Government Hajj Scheme	89,605
(ii)	Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs) Scheme	89,805
	<u>Total</u>	<u>179, 210</u>

The Hajj applications under the Government Hajj Scheme were considered on the principle of "first come first serve" basis. No special quota was kept reserved/allocated for any agency, office or individual. Hajj operation-2012 in Pakistan was carried out at Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, Multan, Faisalabad, Sukker, Sialkot and Rahim Yar Khan. To ensure optimum facilitation through instant assistance and effective service delivery to the intending Hajj pilgrims, various operational facilitation counters were established at all the Hajj Directorates in Pakistan, which kept operational round the clock during Hajj seasons. The Hujjaj were divided into following categories:-

- i. Blue category.
- ii. Green category.
- iii. White category.

The Hujjaj were airlifted from Pakistan to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and back through four (04) airlines i.e. PIA, Shaheen Air, Saudi Airline and NAS Air. The operation started on 19-09-2012 and concluded on 30-11-2012.

Accommodation arrangements.

The accommodation arrangements for Hujjaj 2012 were made by the following committee approved for the purpose in Hajj Policy 2012:-

S. No.	Designation	Position
1	Director General Hajj, Jeddah.	Convener
2	A representative of the Pakistan Ambassador in Saudi Arabia not below the rank of BS-20.	Member
3	Director Hajj, Jeddah	Member
4	Deputy Director Hajj, Madina Munawwarah (for Madina only)	Member
5	Assistant Accounts Officer, Jeddah.	Member

Pakistan Hajj Mission hired 171 buildings in Makkah for the accommodation of Hujjaj. The detail of buildings in each category is as under:-

Category	No of Buildings	Distance (Meter)		Rent (SR)	
		Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
Blue	15	100	900	6600	7500
Green	18	925	2088	3500	5000
White	138	2550	9230	1900	3600
Total	171	100	9230	1900	7500

8. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan asked J.S. (Hajj), M/o Religious Affairs about the airlines which took part in Hajj operation. Break up of Hajj Pilgrims airlifted by the airlines may be provided. He further asked, if any complaint was received by the Ministry about mishandling of Hujjaj and what type of action the Ministry initiated in this regard. Joint Secretary (Hajj), M/o Religious

Affairs responded that four (04) airlines i.e. (PIA, Saudi Airlines, Shaheen Air, NAS Air) took part for completing Hajj operation. Most of the Hajj Pilgrims were airlifted by PIA, Saudi Airline about 30,000 to 32,000 and Shaheen Air about 15000. NAS Air airlifted those Hajj Pilgrims who traveled through Private Tour Operators (HGOs). As far as observation regarding complaints against the airlines for mishandling of Hujjaj is concerned, it is submitted that some complaints against Shaheen Air were received.

9. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan asked about the action initiated against Shaheen Air, which caused problems to the Hujjaj due to delay of flights, was any penalty imposed on the airline. Joint Secretary (Hajj) responded that show cause notices were served upon the airline but no penalty was imposed as the management of Shaheen Air in response to the show cause notices informed the Ministry that the delay was occurred because of technical reasons. However, hotel facilities were provided to the suffering passengers (Hujjaj). Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan emphasized that the Ministry has purposely ignored the problems of the Hujjaj by not imposing the penalty.

10. The Acting Chairman, Standing Committee on Religious Affairs stated that the officials of the Ministry have connived at the issues intentionally.

11. Senators Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq and Zahid Khan asked Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs, as to whether any action was initiated against those banks who did not forward Hajj applications to the Ministry received by the branches before cut off date or not? Joint Secretary (Hajj), M/o Religious Affairs responded that the matter was taken up with the Presidents[^] Chief Executives of the banks for initiating action against the responsible[^] who served show cause notices as well warnings to those officers who found guilty.

12. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan stated that calling explanations were not enough. He proposed for imposition of penalty on the banks.

13. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq asked Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs if any post Hajj Review meeting was held by the Ministry to examine the problems faced by the Hujjaj-2012 on their complaints or not and what kind of measures were initiated by the Ministry to avoid/ counter the problems being faced every year. For example there were complaints about the purchase of un-effective?/ outdated medicines for the Hujjaj. In this regard was any inventory of surplus, un-used medicines maintained? He emphasizing on his observation stated that if any penalty on Shaheen Air for mishandling the Hujjaj and delaying the flights for twenty (20) hours was imposed in the past, this year they would not faced the problems of delaying the flights for several hours. He recommended that while making new Hajj policies, necessary clauses in the agreements with the airlines, banks and hiring of buildings, transport for the Hujjaj should be included to bound them. The clauses of the agreement shall also empowered the Ministry and strengthen the system.

14. Joint Secretary (Hajj), M/o Religious Affairs responded that post Hajj review meeting on the arrangements of Hajj was held on December 06, 2012 in the Ministry in which all concerned Directors including Director, Medical Mission participated. During the presentation, there was no complaint regarding medicines received by the Ministry. He further stated that performance of Hajj Medical Mission was monitored by the Ministry. However, the observation of honourable members has been noted for improvement of Hajj arrangements in future. As far as maintenance of inventory of surplus, un-used stock of medicines is concerned, the same was maintained.

15. Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs clarified that this year over all Hajj arrangements were better as compared to the previous years. However, some complaints regarding Hajj arrangements were received in his office which has been noted and will be improved during forthcoming Hajj season in the light of guidance/suggestions of the honourable members of the Committee.

16. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq suggested that action against the welfare staff as well officials of the Ministry should be initiated who did not perform and caused for embarrassing the Minister, Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs. In this regard report should be submitted to the Committee in the next meeting.

17. The Committee asked for furnishing the minutes of Post Hajj Review meeting held in the Ministry on December 06, 2012 alongwith copies of show cause notices served upon the airlines and banks. It was recommended by the Committee that the negligent/ responsible welfare staff, medical mission staff and officials of M/o Religious Affairs should be taken to the task. In this regard report on the action taken/ initiated by the Ministry should be submitted to the Committee in the next meeting.

18. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan asked Joint Secretary (Hajj) about the complaints received by M/o Religious Affairs against Hajj Group Organizers this year. Joint Secretary (Hajj) responded that there are certain complaints which have been received by the Ministry. In this regard the Ministry has published advertisement in the newspaper for feedback of nature of complaints. The feedback is being monitored on daily basis.

19. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq asked Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs about the number of complaints which have been received by the Ministry so far. Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs responded that seventy (70) complaints have been received by the Ministry till date which are under process and likely to be completed by January 15, 2013. Thereafter, the Ministry will impose penalty on defaulting companies/ organizers.

20. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan stated that it was recommended by the Committee for furnishing the report on the actions initiated by the Ministry against such HGOs, who were black listed on the complaints of mishandling the

Hujjaj last year but the Ministry did not share with the Committee and concealed the facts. He asked about the penalty imposed on said HGOs and where that penalized amount goes. Joint Secretary (Hajj), M/o Religious Affairs responded that no HGO was black listed. However, 85 defaulted HGOs were punished with the penalty of Rs. 100000/- to Rs.200000/- each which was deposited in the account of M/o Religious Affairs and spent on the welfare of Hujjaj as and when required. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan asked Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs for furnishing the detail of HGOs penalized. He also asked him for furnishing the complete detail of HGOs to whom Hajj quota was allocated during the years 2006 to 2012 including the names of HGOs which were blessed by Mr. Ejaz-ul- Haque, ex-Minister for Religious Affairs. Joint Secretary (Hajj), M/o Religious Affairs responded that the requisite information has been submitted to the Committee on January 02, 2013.

21. Senator Hamza expressing his views stated that majority of Pakistani pilgrims go for Hajj and Umrah for pleasure purpose which is required to be discouraged to safe foreign reserves. He further stated that Government of India facilitates their Hajj pilgrims and gives subsidy as compared to Government of Pakistan.

22. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan asked Joint Secretary (Hajj) about the complaints of Hujjaj faced by them with regard to the transport and buildings hired for them in Makkah Mukaramah and Madina Munawarah. Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs responded that although buildings hired for Hujjaj were at a distance of 08 Kilometer to 10 Kilometers but due to good arrangements of transport, no problem was faced by the Hujjaj that's why no major complaint was lodged by any Haji except minor in nature. However, a few complaints from the Hujjaj who traveled by rail were received which will be rectified and avoided during forthcoming Hajj-2013.

23. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan asked Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs that all complaints regarding Hajj arrangements should be forwarded to

the Committee for the guidance of the Ministry prior to initiating any action.

24. After detailed deliberation the Committee made the following recommendations:-

- i. Provide detail of policy adopted or to be adopted regarding allocation of Hajj quota to the newly enrolled HGOs.
- ii. Provide detail of Hajj allocated to the HGOs for the years 2006 to 2012.
- iii. Provide copies of show cause notices served upon the airlines and banks.
- iv. Imposition of penalty on the airlines and banks.
- v. Provide detailed report of action initiated against the Welfare Staff, Medical Mission Staff and officials of M/o Religious Affairs.
- vi. Provide minutes of Post Hajj Review meeting held by the M/o Religious Affairs on 06-12-2012.

25. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject:- **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND INTERFAITH HARMONY AND INTERFAITH HARMONY HELD ON 24-07-2013 AT 01:30 P.M. IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO.1, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD.**

A meeting of the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was held on 24-07-2013 at 01:30 p.m in Committee Room No.01, Parliament House, Islamabad, under the chairmanship of Honorable Senator Hafiz Hamdullah.

2. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-

- | | | |
|------|---|-------------------|
| i. | Senator Salem H. Mandviwalla | Member |
| iii. | Senator Baz Muhammad Khan | Member |
| iii. | Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah | Member |
| iv. | Senator Hamza | Member |
| v. | Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq | Member |
| vi. | State Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony | Ex-Officio Member |

3. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i) Detailed briefing on the arrangements for Hajj operation 2013.
- (ii) Progress report on the recommendations made by the Committee in its last meeting held on 7th January, 2013.
- (iii) Detailed briefing on tour operators.
- (iv) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

4. The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran. At the outset, Chairman Committee welcomed the members of the Committee, Pir Muhammad Amin UI Hasnat Shah, State Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony and representatives from Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.

5. Chairman Committee congratulated Pir Muhammad Amin UI Hasnat on his election as Minister of State for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony and

wished him all the best in his future endeavors. The State Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony reciprocated the same.

6. Pir Muhammad Amin Ul Hasnat, Minister for State reciprocated the same and assured the Committee that Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony will give due consideration on all recommendations made by the Committee.

7. Chairman Committee asked the Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony to brief the Committee on agenda items.

8. Mr. Shahid Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony thanked the members of the Committee for taking cognizance of the issue and informed the Committee that there is no change in Hajj Policy. Government has been following last year Hajj Policy. Thereafter he asked the Joint Secretary (Hajj), Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony to brief the Committee.

9. Mr. Shehzad Ahmed, J.S. (Hajj), briefed the Committee regarding arrangements for Hajj Operation 2013. He informed the Committee that Hajj Policy 2013 was approved by the Cabinet on 20-02-2013 and 14 banks were authorized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony to receive the Hajj Applications for Government Hajj Scheme w.e.f 05-03-2013 on "First Come First Serve" basis. He informed the Committee that Ministry of Hajj, Saudi Arabia allocated a quota of 179,210 seats for Hajj, 2013 which was equally distributed between Government Scheme and Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs) in the ratio of 50:50. He informed the Committee that under the Government Hajj Scheme, Hujjaj are divided in to following categories:-

Category	Package (Rs.)	Minimum (Rs.)	Average (Rs.)	Maximum (Rs.)
Blue (upto 900 m)	411,070 – 421,070	405,070	410,070	415,070

Green (1 to 2 Km)	351,070 – 361,070	292,570	318,820	340,070
White (Beyond 2 Km)	285,070 – 295,070	228,070	261,641	292,070

10. Joint Secretary (Hajj) further informed the Committee that rent in Makkah Mukarrama will be charged on actual basis while in case of Madinah Munawwarah, it will be charged at a flat rate of SR.500 per pilgrim.

11. He informed the Committee that as per agreement with Moassassah South Asia, hujjaj of Government scheme will use train facility in Mashair. He further informed that as per agreement with the Saudi Govt, Saudi Riyal 450 will be paid by the intending pilgrims under compulsory hajj dues for qurbani to be arranged through Islamic Development Bank.

12. He further informed the Committee that for the welfare services during Hajj-2013, Hajj Medical Mission comprising 540 personnel, 230 Mouvineen e Huffaj, 270 seasonal duty staff and 900 Local Mouvineen e Huffaj, 270 seasonal duty staff an 900 Local Mouineen e Huffaj in KSA will be deputed subject to availability of resources and as per requirement of Pakistan Hajj Mission / Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.

13. Chairman Committee, Senator Hafiz Hamdullah was of the view that no merit has been considered in this regard. He was of the view that on the quota of Hajj Medical Mission, non technical persons were sent for Hajj last year which earned bad name for the country. He directed the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony to make sure that genuine Doctors / Paramedical Staff recommended by Federal Health Departments and Provincial Health Departments may be sent under Hajj Medical Mission quota.

14. Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony replied that a few complaints were received under Razakar Scheme last year and we have banned the same this year.

15. Chairman Committee asked about the airlines which will take part in Hajj operation and inquired about break up of Hajj Pilgrims airlifted by the airlines / allocation of business to airlines.

16. Secretary Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony informed the Committee that first flight will be commenced on 8-9 September 2013 and last flight from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan is expected on 24-25 November 2013. He further informed the Committee that for Hajj 2013, allocation of business to airlines has been finalized in coordination with aviation division which are as follows:-

PIA	46,500
Shaheen Air	14,021
Saudi Air	25,000
Total:	86,021

17. On this occasion, Chairman Committee underlined the complaints against the airlines for mishandling of Hujjaj / delay of flights and suggested that there should be penalty imposed on the airline in case of delay of flights.

18. Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony informed the Committee that they have already met Executives of Airlines and after further negotiations they will reach on consensus to impose some penalty if the flights are delayed.

19. Discussion on agenda Item No. (iii), Mr. Mr. Shehzad Ahmed, J.S. (Hajj), apprised the Committee that as per policy 50% of Hajj quota was allocated to HGOs under private Hajj Scheme. However, in June, 2013 Saudi Government unilaterally reduced Hajj Quota of all countries of world including Pakistan by 20% due to construction for extension in Haram Pak. He said as such Hajj Quota

of Pakistan was reduced from 179,210 to 143,368. He informed the Committee that the issue was taken up at various levels with the Saudi Government for reversal of the decision but all in vain.

20. Joint Secretary (Hajj) further informed the Committee that Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony held consultation with the Association of Private Tour Operators under the leadership of Parliamentary Committee headed by Senator Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Finance. He informed that in that meeting it was mutually agreed that share of Government and Private Scheme will be readjusted in the ratio of 60:40 (86,021 and 57,347) of the reduced quota and accordingly recognition letter were issued to 712 HGOs for their submission by 30th of Ramzan.

21. He apprised the Committee that HGOs were assured to provide an additional quota of 15000 in Hajj 2014 in addition to equal distribution of the Hajj Quota allocated to Pakistan next year.

22. He further informed the Committee that Lahore High Court has also allocated quota of 910 to 19 freshly enrolled HGOs @ 45 seats per HGO by auction through bidding.

23. On this occasion Senator Saleem H. Mandviwalla inquired about the reason of 20% decrease in Hajj quota of Pakistan and also inquired about the expensive accommodation in Makkah rather than Madina.

24. Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony replied that Saudi Government reduced Hajj 2013 quota across the world by 20% on 14-06-13, reducing it from 179,210 to 143,368 due to expansion work at Makkah's Grand Mosque. As far as the accommodation charges are concerned, Secretary replied that as in Madina accommodations are homogeneous and old constructed but in Makkah there are new buildings having all latest facilities and Makkah is also adjacent to Haram Pak that is why accommodation in Makkah is costly than Madina.

25. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq suggested that Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony may coordinate with National Assembly / Senate Standing Committee before finalization of Hajj Policy in future.

26. Chairman Committee inquired about 90,000 mobiles purchased for pilgrims during last year. He was of the view that PEPRA rules were not followed while purchasing these mobiles and asked the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony to provide its details in the next Committee meeting.

27. On agenda Item No.(iii), Chairman Committee asked about the action initiated against the Welfare Staff, Medical Mission Staff and officials of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony and imposition of penalty on the airlines and banks.

28. Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony informed the Committee that action was initiated against the said staff and they were served show cause notices and staff of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony were transferred from their positions. As far the imposition of penalty on the airlines and banks, Joint Secretary (Hajj) informed the Committee that they have prescribed the rules for airlines and banks and now in future penalties will be imposed on delay of flight and late payments from banks to pilgrims.

29. Chairman Committee also inquired about special flight of PIA scheduled for VIPs. He was of the view that last time six hundred seats were booked but only four hundred pilgrims availed the opportunity. He inquired about payment of rest of two hundred passengers.

30. Secretary, Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony replied that PIA refunded the two hundred passengers payment to Government exchequer last year.

31. The following recommendations were made by the Committee unanimously:-

- i. An inquiry may be initiated against three persons who were identified in the last meeting and Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony may initiate disciplinary action against them if they are found guilty and inform the Committee accordingly.
- ii. The Secretary Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony may provide details of 90,000 mobiles purchased for pilgrims in the next Committee meeting.
- iii. Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony may formulate a comprehensive plan for transparency in selection of Welfare Staff, Hajj Medical Mission Staff and Khuddam ul Hujjaj.
- iv. Representatives of PIA and Banks may also be invited in next Committee meeting to brief the Committee about their arrangements of flights for Hajj, 2013.
- v. Advisory Board meetings may be held regularly in future with regard to facilitate the Pilgrims.
- vi. No Person(s) should be sent on free Hajj, Khuddam welfare staff belonging from the constituency of Federal and Minister of State to avoid favoritisms in Hajj.

32. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to, and from the chair.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject:- **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND INTERFAITH HARMONY HELD ON 18-09-2013 AT 11:00 A.M. IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO.04, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD.**

A meeting of the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was held on 18-09-2013 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No.04, Parliament House, Islamabad, under the chairmanship of Honorable Senator Hafiz Hamdullah.

2. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-

- | | | |
|------|--|-------------------|
| i. | Senator Saleem H. Mandviwalla | Member |
| ii. | Senator Mrs. Zahida Khan | Member |
| iii. | Senator Hamza | Member |
| iv. | Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan | Member |
| v. | Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq | Member |
| vi. | Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony | Ex-Officio Member |
| vii. | Minister of State for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony | Ex-Officio Member |

3. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i) Progress report on the recommendations made by the Committee in its last meeting.
- (ii) Detailed briefing on criteria of allotment of quota to the HGOs.
- (iii) Briefing by all concerned agencies involved in Hajj operation 2013.
- (iv) Briefing on “Qurbani” in Mina.
- (v) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

4. The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran. At the outset, Chairman Committee and other members Committee expressed their grave

concern over late arrival of officers / officials of Ministry of Religious Affairs. Senator Zahid Khan and other members were of the view that representatives of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony must be present before the arrival of members Committee and suggested that a show cause may be served to Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on his late arrival in the Committee meeting and non-compliance of recommendations of the Committee.

5. On this occasion, Senator Saleem H. Mandviwalla and other members pointed out that they did not receive working papers / brief on agenda items in time, so they are not prepared for agenda items.

6. Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony informed the Committee that they did not receive Minutes of the last Committee meeting. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan and Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul- Haq said that Ministry should take minutes of the meeting itself instead of waiting for minutes to be issued by the Senate Secretariat. They were of the view that the meetings of the standing committees are itself minutes and ministries should comply the recommendations and give reasonable reply to the Committee. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan underlined that it is the prior responsibility of the Secretary of the relevant Ministry to give proper reply to the Committee and also assist the Minister / State Minister. Chairman Committee hoped that Secretary will be careful in future and will submit the working papers / compliance of Committee meetings recommendations well in time to the Committee.

7. Chairman Committee deferred item No.1 for next Committee meeting.

8. Discussion on agenda item No.ii, Senator Saleem H. Mandviwalla inquired about the criteria of selection / allotment of quota to the HGOs.

9. Representative of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony informed the Committee that there is no change in HGOs this year, Government has been following old HGOs. He further informed the Committee that Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony invited applications from the interested

tour operators through press in April 2012 and enrolled 2027 HGOs. Out of these newly enrolled HGOs, 19 HGOs have been allocated hajj quota of 910 Hajjaj for the year 2013 on merit determined by the six Chartered Accountant Firms. He further informed that in the Hajj Policy 2013, there is no provision for enrolment of fresh HGOs.

10. Chairman Committee and members Committee had reservations on allotment of Hajj quota allocated to 19 HGOs and were of the view that they were selected on pick and chose basis. They were also not satisfied over enrollment of 2027 HGOs. Chairman Committee revealed that authorities have allowed only a single tour operator from Balochistan to carry out hajj operations, while 2027 private tour operators have been allowed in rest of the country to carry out the holy operation.

11. Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony informed the Committee that Ministry of Religious Affairs allocated the Hajj Quota to HGOs according to criteria prescribed by the Ministry irrespective of province. He further informed the Committee that MORA has introduced an electronic complaint management system and HGOs monitoring. Under this system the Hajjaj of both government and private hajj scheme can register their complaints against HGOs. He also informed that complaints against HGOs can also be registered on website of the Ministry.

12. Chairman Committee directed Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony to provide province-wise enrolled 2027 HGOs list alongwith list of 19 freshly enrolled HGOs to the Committee. He also directed MORA to supply documentations / data of HGOs alongwith application forms in next Committee meeting.

13. Discussion on agenda item No.iii, Secretary Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony informed the Committee that MORA has charged @SR 450 as Qurbani Charges under Government Hajj scheme. He further informed the Committee that 50% Qurbani will undertake on first day and 50% will be on 2nd day. He further informed the Committee that on the instruction of Saudi Government qurbani charges have been deposited with Islamic Development Bank which will facilitate the pilgrims on account of Qurbani in Mina. He further informed the Committee that Govt. of Pakistan purchased qurbani coupon @SR 490 from Islamic Development Bank and difference of SR 40 will not be charged from the pilgrims. He further informed the Committee that on representation from pilgrims, option was allowed to those pilgrims who want to undertake qurbani themselves.

14. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan inquired about interest on Qurbani amount deposited with Islamic Development Bank and directed MORA to provide details of benefit / interest charged by Islamic Development Bank and also detail of interest / profit charged therein on qurbani account and its utilization on various welfare services of pilgrims in the next Committee meeting.

15. Discussion on agenda item No.iv, Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs informed the Committee that Hajj operation 2013 (for Government Hajj Scheme) has been undertaken by PIA, Shaheen Air International and Saudi Airline on the following distribution:-

Airline	Flights	Departed	Hujjaj
PIA	132	32	11521
Shaheen Air Int'l	63	13	2212
Saudi Airline	97	18	4796
Total	292	63	18529

16. Senator Saleem H. Mandviwalla inquired about Airline distribution.

17. Secretary Ministry of Religious Affairs informed the Committee that Airline distributions were made by previous government with willingness / capacity and mutual consent of Aviation Department, Airlines and Ministry of Religious Affairs.

18. Chairman Committee inquired about action taken against 65 tour operators and fine imposed on them. He directed the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony to provide the details of the same in the next Committee meeting.

19. Chairman Committee apprised the Committee that Quetta Haji Camp lacked facilities and pilgrims were facing a lot of difficulties. There were no arrangements for making ablution and stressed for taking concrete measures to improve situation. On this occasion Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq and Senator Hamza emphasized that Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony may ensure proper arrangements for training of pilgrims so that they don't face problems during Hajj manasik. Chairman Committee also suggested that next meeting if feasible be held in Quetta Haji Camp.

20. The following recommendations were made by the Committee unanimously:-

- i. The Committee shows its grave concern over late-arrival of Secretary and his supporting staff and non-compliance of recommendations of the Committee and Secretary Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony may not repeat the same in future.
- ii. Committee meetings are itself Minutes of the meeting so in future Ministry should not wait for issuance of Minutes of the meeting from Senate Secretariat and should supply a compliance report of the recommendations made in meeting to the Committee at an early date.
- iii. Chairman Committee deferred Agenda Item No. i for the next Committee meeting.
- iv. Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony may provide province-wise list of enrolled 2027 HGOs alongwith list of 19 freshly

enrolled HGOs to the Committee and also supply the relevant documentations / data of HGOs alongwith application forms in next Committee meeting.

- v. Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony may provide details of benefit / interest charged by Islamic Development Bank and also detail of interest / profit charged therein on qurbani account and its utilization on various welfare services of pilgrims in the next Committee meeting.
- vi. Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony may inform the Committee regarding action taken against 65 tour operators and fine imposed on them in the next Committee meeting.
- vii. If feasible, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony may held the next meeting in Quetta Haji Camp.

21. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to, and from the Chair.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject:- **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND INTERFAITH HARMONY HELD ON 21-02-2014 AT 10:30 A.M. IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO.01, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD.**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was held on 21-02-2014 at 10:30 a.m. in Committee Room No.01, Parliament House, Islamabad, under the chairmanship of Honorable Senator Hafiz Hamdullah.

2. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-

- | | | |
|------|---|-------------------|
| i. | Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq | Member |
| ii. | Senator Mrs. Zahida Khan | Member |
| iii. | Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan | Member |
| iv. | Senator Suriya Amiruddin | Member |
| v. | Senator Mir Muhammad Ali Rind | Member |
| vi. | Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony | Ex-Officio Member |

3. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i) Progress report on the recommendations made by the Committee in its last meeting.
- (ii) Discussion on Hajj Policy 2013-14.
- (iii) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

4. The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran. The honorable Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony, Senator Hafiz Hamdullah welcomed all the participants of the meeting. Chairman Committee congratulated Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, Minister for Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony for successful Hajj operations last year. The Committee unanimously passed a resolution acknowledging the tremendous efforts made by Minister for Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony and his

Ministry for timely resolution of problems faced by the pilgrims and hoped that under the guidance of Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, Ministry of Religious Affairs will make more efficient arrangements for pilgrims.

5. On this occasion, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, Minister for Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony thanked the Committee and said that during Hajj-2013, Ministry of Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony received ten thousand complaints from pilgrims through Monitoring System and they tried their best to solve those problems on the spot. He also assured the Committee that he and his team will continue same efforts in future.

6. The Chairman Committee invited representative of Ministry of Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony to brief the Committee about agenda item No.1 regarding progress report on the recommendations made by the Committee in its last meeting held on 18th September, 2013.

7. Mr. Shehzad Ahmed, Joint Secretary (Hajj) informed the Committee that province-wise list of newly enrolled HGOs, alongwith 19 HGOs enrolled in 2012 have been prepared and provided to the Committee. On this occasion Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan expressed his annoyance over non-implementation of commitments made by the M/O Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony in the last Committee meeting held on 18th September, 2013 regarding supply of information. He was of the view that the insufficient information has been provided after a lapse of six months time. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan had reservations on Hajj quota allocated to 19 HGOs and was of the view that they were enrolled on pick and chose basis. On this occasion Chairman Committee revealed that the authorities have allowed only a single tour operator from Balochistan to carry out hajj operations. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan also expressed apprehension that an HGO of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been allotted Hajj quota on the basis of favoritism. Chairman Standing Committee directed the Religious Ministry to submit province-wise details of Hajj quota allotted to 19 Hajj

Group Organizers (HGOs) alongwith the relevant documents / applications etc. to the Committee within next four working days. The Chairman Committee also advised the Ministry to apprise the Committee with the criteria of allotting Hajj quota to the 19 HGOs, decision of the Supreme Court in this regard and also the details of rejected HGOs alongwith the relevant documents / application forms and reason of rejecting the rest of HGOs within four days.

8. On this occasion Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousuf informed the Committee that a total of 2,033 HGOs have been enrolled in the Ministry and quota has been allotted to various companies through a transparent system. He further informed the Committee that the registration date for fresh HGOs has been extended upto 28-02-2014.

9. Mr. Shehzad Ahmed, Joint Secretary (Hajj) informed the Committee that in light of Supreme Court's Decision, 19 HGOs were allocated Hajj quota after merit determined by the Chartered Accountant Firms. He ensured the Committee that Ministry of Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony will provide the province-wise details / documents / application forms of 19 HGOs alongwith criteria prescribed for quota allotments to the HGOs and Supreme Court decision in this regard, within four days to the Committee. He also ensured the Committee that details on which grounds Hajj quota has been denied / rejected to HGOs will also be provided to the Committee within four days.

10. In reply to a question by Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan, Joint Secretary (Hajj), apprised the Committee that since the qurbani through Islamic Development Bank was optional, therefore, on demand of 7831 pilgrims, the qurbani amount deposited was refunded to them and 2687 cases of refund are under process.

11. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan was not satisfied with the reply of Ministry of Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony. Chairman Committee directed Ministry of Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony to forthwith provide details of benefit / interest charged by Islamic Development Bank and also detail

of interest / profit charged therein on qurbani account and its utilization on various welfare services of pilgrims to the Committee.

12. Giving briefing on agenda Item No.ii regarding Hajj Policy 2013-14, Mr. Shehzad Ahmed, Joint Secretary (Hajj) informed the Committee that on the directions of Honorable Supreme Court vide judgment dated 27-08-2013, following committee was constituted to formulate Hajj policy 2014:

- Secretary MORA & IH (Chairman)
- Representative of Attorney General of Pakistan
(Mr. Shah Khawar, Additional Attorney General, Pakistan)
- Representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(Dr. Syed Rizwan Ahmad, Director General, Middle East)
- Representative of M/O Law, Justice & Human Rights
(Mr. Farrukh Ali Mughal, Solicitor)
- Representative of Competition Commission of Pakistan
(Mr. Ikram Ul Haq, Director General Legal)

13. The Joint Secretary (Hajj) further informed the Committee that the above said committee reviewed Hajj policy 2014 draft on 03-02-2014 and uploaded the same on website of the Ministry for seeking comments/suggestions from stakeholders / general public.

14. Giving details of Hajj policy 2014, Mr. Shehzad Ahmed, Joint Secretary (Hajj) informed the Committee that 20 percent quota cut imposed last year would continue this year as well. He said that a total of 143,368 Pakistanis would perform Hajj this year through Government Scheme and Private Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs) in the ratio of 50-50. He apprised the Committee that a quota of 15000 will be transferred to HGOs on pro rata basis in line with MOU signed between Government and HOAP in June 2013. Consequently 86,684 pilgrims will perform Hajj under private scheme and 56,684 under government scheme.

15. On this occasion, Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony informed the Committee that applications for Hajj-2014 under Government Hajj

Scheme shall be received on the principle of “First come, First serve” basis. He apprised the Committee that applications under Government scheme will be invited through designated banks after the approval of Hajj Policy-2014, in March 2014. He further informed the Committee that any person who has performed Hajj during the last five years will not be eligible to perform Hajj in 2014 except Mehram, or the one undertaking Haj-e-badal. The Committee was also informed by the Minister that only one category of accommodation offered in Hajj 2014 as against three categories in Hajj 2013.

16. While discussion on Hajj Policy 2014, Joint Secretary (Hajj) informed the Committee that Hujjaj Muhafiz Scheme based on the concept of “Takaful” will be continued in Hajj Policy-2014 under which death compensation would be enhanced from Rs. 300,000 to Rs. 500,000 in Hajj 2014. According to Draft Hajj Policy 2014, Tentative Hajj Package 2014 (Pak Rs.) is as under:-

ITEM	KHI/QTA/ SKR	Others
Air Fare (as quoted by PIA)	105,000	120,000
Terminal Tax	1,900	1,900
Accommodation (Makkah) (SR 3500)	101,500	101,500
Rent of accommodation at Madina (SR 500)	14,500	14,500
Compulsory Hajj Dues (including Maktab, Fee, Bus Transport, Tent Charges, Rail fare (SR 2089)	60,581	60,581
Hujjaj Muhafiz Fund	400	400
Service Charges including cost of welfare staff, training and vaccination	3,500	3,500
Total Category (Rs.)	287,381	302,381

17. He informed the Committee that in case pilgrim opts to perform qurbani through government arrangements i.e. through Islamic Development Bank,

qurbani charges @ SR 500/- (Rs. 14,500/-) non-refundable will be charged from pilgrims. He also informed the Committee that in Hajj 2014, option is also allowed to those pilgrims who want to undertake qurbani themselves.

18. Joint Secretary (Hajj) apprised the Committee that if Hajj Operation carried out by Shaheen Airline the fare will be Rs. 100,00 for the Sector KHI/QTA/ SKR and rest of the areas will be Rs.112,000/- which are cheapest fare than PIA. He further informed the Committee that Ministry of Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony asked the Saudi Airline to submit their fare which is still awaited from their side.

19. On this occasion Senator Raja Zafar-ul-Haq suggested that representative of PIA/Saudi Airlines / other Airlines may be invited in next Committee meeting to brief the Committee about their arrangements of flights / package for Hajj, 2014. The Committee also recommended that the Ministry may avoid depending only on PIA and consider other options for operational flights as well in order to provide timely boarding and lodging to pilgrims.

20. Joint Secretary (Hajj) also briefed the Committee about Hajj Advisory Committee. He informed the Committee that Hajj Advisory Committee will advise on policy, planning and management of Hajj operation 2014 in Pakistan as well as in KSA and suggest measures for improvement of the welfare services for Hujjaj. The Composition of the Committee is as under:-

1.	Minister for Religious Affairs (Sardar Muhammad Yousuf)	Chairman
2.	Minister for Law Justice and Human Rights or His representative not below the level of BS-20	Member
3.	Minister for Aviation or His representative not below the level of BS-20	Member
4.	One member of the Senate to be nominated by Chairman Senate	Member

5.	One member of the National Assembly to be nominated by Speaker National Assembly	Member
6.	Ambassador of Pakistan in KSA	Member
7.	Director General (Hajj), Jeddah	Member
8.	Chairman/Secretary of Hajj Organizers Association of Pakistan (HOAP)	Member

21. On this occasion Senator Raja Zafar-ul-Haq put forth a suggestion of incorporating the recommendations of journalists / media persons / authors / columnist who published articles in the leading newspapers and gave suggestions in electronic media for the improvement of Hajj operations.

22. After a lengthy discussion on agenda items, the Chairman Committee on the recommendations of the other members decided that a Committee meeting will be convened shortly after consultation with all the Committee members.

23. Committee unanimously made the following recommendations:-

- i. Ministry of Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony may forthwith submit province wise details of Hajj quota allotted to 19 Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs) alongwith relevant documents / application forms etc. to the Committee within working four days.
- ii. Ministry of Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony may forthwith submit to the Committee within working four days, the details of criteria under which quota allotted to the 19 HGOs alongwith copy of Supreme Court decision in this regard and details of rejected HGOs alongwith relevant documents / application forms and reasons on what grounds those applications have been rejected.
- iii. Ministry of Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony may forthwith provide details of benefit / interest charged therein on qurbani

account by Islamic Development Bank and its utilization on various welfare services of pilgrims to the Committee.

- iv. Representative of PIA/Saudi Airlines / other Airlines may be invited in next Committee meeting to brief the Committee about their arrangements of flights / package for Hajj, 2014.
 - v. Ministry of Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony may avoid depending only on PIA and consider other options for operational flights as well in order to provide timely boarding and lodging to pilgrims.
 - vi. Ministry of Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony may incorporate the recommendations of journalists / media persons / authors / columnist who published articles in the leading newspapers and gave suggestions in electronic media for the improvement of Hajj operations.
 - vii. In future, Ministry of Religious Affairs may forthwith supply compliance report on the recommendations / commitments made during Standing Committee meetings instead of waiting for issuance of minutes from Senate Secretariat.
24. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to, and from the Chair.
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SENATE SECRETARIATE

Subject: - **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND INTERFAITH HARMONY HELD ON 9th MAY, 2014 AT 10:00 A.M IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM NO.04, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD.**

A meeting of the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was held on 9th May, 2014 at 10:00 am in Committee Room No.04, Parliament House, Islamabad, under the chairmanship of Honorable Senator Hafiz Hamdullah.

2. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-

i.	Senator Baz Muhammad Khan	Member
ii.	Senator Hamza	Member
iii.	Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan	Member
iv.	Senator Mrs. Zahida Khan	Member
v.	Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq	Member
vi.	Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel	Mover
vii.	Minister for Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony	Ex-officio Member
viii.	Minister of State for Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony	Ex-officio Member

3. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- i. Progress Report on the recommendation made by the Committee in its last meeting.
- ii. Detailed report on Dharamshala incidents recently held at Larkana.
- iii. Detailed briefing on the function of Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB).
- iv. Detailed briefing by the representative of PIA/ Saudi Airline/ other Airlines about their arrangements of flights/ package for Hajj 2014.

- v. Point of order asked by Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel in the Senate on 27th July 2010 regarding the issue of charging of Rs. 1800/- from every Haji by the Government on account of royalty and referred to the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony for consideration and report.
- vi. Starred Question No. 156 asked by Senator Col. (R) Tahir Hussain Mashhadi in the Senate on 3rd August 2010 regarding release of Zakat fund to the provinces during the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10 with the province-wise breakup and referred to the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony for consideration and report.
- vii. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

4. A list of participants from Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Evacuee Trust Property Board and the representatives of Airline Companies is annexed.

5. The Chairman Committee started the proceedings of the meeting by taking up Agenda Item (i) and advised the Secretary Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony to brief the Committee on the implementation status of recommendations put-forth by the Committee in its last meeting.

6. The Secretary Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony apprised the Committee that all the recommendations made by the Committee have been complied and the requisite information was submitted vide this Ministry's **U.O No. 3(2) 2013/ HGOs**, dated. 7th March, 2014. The Committee was informed that the Hajj quota was allotted to top ranking nineteen (19) Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs) on merit, determined by chartered accountancy firms in accordance with Supreme Court judgment dated 30th July, 2013. The zonal/ province-wise distribution of new HGOs awarded Hajj quota is as under;

Zone/ Province	HGOs
Sindh	08
Punjab	07
Islamabad/ ICT	02
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	01
Balochistan	01
Total	19

7. The Secretary Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony further apprised the Committee that PKR. 140 million has been refunded out of the total amount of PKR. 1153.96 received under the head of Qurbani and 1681 cases of refund are under process. He further added that in compliance to the Committee recommendations, the services of other airlines are also acquired for improving the Hajj flight operations. The Committee was informed that the recommendations of all segments of the society, as well as the observations of journalists and columnists have been addressed in the Hajj Policy 2014.

8. The Committee was briefed that Hajj quota for this year is 143,368 and 86,684 pilgrims will perform Hajj through HGOs, whereas the rest of 56,684 pilgrims through Government Hajj Services on "*First Come, First Serve*" basis.

9. The Secretary Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony apprised the Committee that the Hajj scheme is implemented through Government Scheme and Private Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs) in the ratio of 50:50. However, a quota of 15000 will be transferred to HGOs on pro rata basis in line with MOU signed between Government and Hajj Organizers Association of Pakistan (HOAP) in June 2013. It was also shared that 5%

of the total seats under Government scheme will be reserved for hardship cases and the pilgrims recommended/ funded by charitable institutions, labor/low-paid employees of different public sector organizations/ corporate entities under the concept of corporate social responsibility. He further added that the government introduced an online system for the submission of Hajj applications and a ten (10) days deadline was given; however, owing to the remarkable arrangements and services provided by the Government during the Hajj Operations of last year, 127,000 applications were received in a single day.

10. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan emphasized on the need of rendering special arrangements to the intending pilgrims who belongs to far flung areas, especially FATA and Balochistan, due to limited number of Banks in those areas and the distance from major cities. He added that the intending pilgrims from remote parts of the country usually fails to submit applications and the bank officials pre-arranges the application forms of their friends and relatives beforehand.

11. Senator Raja Zafar-ul-Haq remarked that the existing monitoring system needs further improvement to keep a check on the HGOs and those failing to deliver standard services should not only be blacklisted but also their licenses should be cancelled. He added that banks are earning interest on Hajj application forms and they should be bound not to receive the application fees beyond the quota limits.

12. Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel expressed concerns over allocating a major quota to the HGOs and remarked that the Government should take the responsibility instead of diverting a major quota to HGOs, keeping in view the substandard services and high rates charged by them. He also put forth a suggestion of reserving a specific quota for the low-income segments of the society.

13. The Secretary Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony apprised the Committee that condition of allocating a quota of 50% to HGOs has been set by the Saudi Government. With regards to the monitoring of Hajj operations, the Committee was informed that in addition to a toll-free number, e-monitoring system has also been introduced and the monitoring staff equipped with the smart phones vigilantly checks the performance of HGOs.

14. Senator Baz Muhammad Khan appreciated the move of imposing a bar on those intending pilgrims who have already performed Hajj during last five (05) years.

15. The Chairman Committee noted that an additional SR 1500 imposed by the Saudi Government in the form of food expenses is an extra burden on the pilgrims and advised the Secretary Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony to apprise the Committee in this regard.

16. The Committee was informed that the Saudi Government has imposed this extra amount to cater the food needs of pilgrims at Mina with the purpose of establishing canteens and also to create employment opportunity for the Saudi citizens. He added that Director General (Hajj Operations) is currently in Saudi Arabia and the Ministry has conveyed its concerns to the Saudi Minister of Hajj and the Ambassador to review this decision and there are reports that the Saudi Government acceding to the request would reduce the food expense to SR 700.

17. The Chairman Committee remarked that even if the Saudi Government didn't take back its decision, the Government of Pakistan should bear this extra burden instead of pushing the pilgrims to pay.

18. Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel by seconding the Chairman Committee remarked that the Government of Pakistan should give subsidy on Hajj by replicating the India.

19. Taking up the Agenda Item. ii, the Chairman Committee sought details of an incident that took place at Larkana where a mob set into fire a Hindu Dharamshala.

20. The Secretary Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony apprised the Committee that maintaining law and order situation is the responsibility of provinces; however he informed that the incident took place after the rumors of desecration of Holy Quran by a Hindu boy at Murad Wahan, Larkana. Consequently, people gathered at Royal Chowk, Larkana and started to demolish the Mandirs and finally set them on fire. Police party headed by ASP and Rangers dispersed the mob and an FIR under ***Crime No. 34/2014, u/s 436, 427, 380, 461, 353, 147 and 148 PPC*** on behalf of Government against unknown persons was lodged. It was shared that four (04) alleged criminals were arrested and the investigation is underway. On the recommendation of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Government of Sindh has been requested to conduct the judicial inquiry of the incident, whereas the reconstruction of affected Mandirs has already been started.

21. The Chairman Committee conveyed directions that the Commissioner and Deputy Commission should attend the next meeting to brief the Committee on the status and findings of judicial inquiry. He also advised to invite Secretary Law to apprise the Committee on the charges and punishments prescribed in Criminal Laws dealing with the people involved in desecration of Holy/ Worship places, as well as the

need of evolving the existing laws. He further desired that the Minority Minister should also attend the next meeting to witness the proceedings.

22. The Committee also reviewed the functions, organizational structure and the composition of Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB). However, responding to a query of Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan regarding the total number of properties under the control of ETPB, estimated cost and the properties leased/ rent out during last ten (10), the Acting Chairman ETP Board remarked that the desired details would be provided in the next meeting. He added that a single agenda meeting may be convened preferably in the ETBP Head Quarters keeping in view the substantial details and the requirement of extensive deliberations to look into the matters. Acceding to the request of Acting Chairman ETPB, the Committee pledged to visit and convene a Committee meeting in the ETBP Head Office. The Chairman Committee advised to take necessary measure for appointing a permanent Chairman of the ETP Board and conveyed directions for initiating the cost estimation of all properties under the control of ETPB.

23. Taking up the Agenda Item iv, the Chairman Committee sought a briefing on arrangements of Hajj Flights.

24. The Secretary Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony informed that in compliance to the Committee recommendation, the services of Shaheen Airline and Saudi Airline would be acquired alongside the national carrier. It was shared that a meeting has been scheduled in the next week with the airliners executing the Hajj operations and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to finalize the number of flights and the quota to different airlines.

25. The PIA representative apprised the Committee that Pakistan International Airline (PIA) would execute its Hajj Flights through seven

(07) Point of Departures on the basis of data available with Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). It was shared that PIA fleet size would be further increased after the addition of six (06) new planes in July, 2014 and ten (10) planes in August, 2014.

26. Thereafter, the Chairman Committee, by taking up Agenda Item v. sought a briefing on the Point of Order asked by Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel in the Senate on 27th July, 2010 regarding the issue of charging of PKR. 1800 from every Haji by the Government on account of Royalty and referred to the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony for consideration and report.

27. The representative Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) apprised the Committee that Pakistan International Airline (PIA) has stopped to pay the said amount immediately after the reversal of the decision of charging an additional amount of PKR. 1800; however, factual position would be shared with the Committee in next meeting whether the pilgrims still have to pay, or otherwise.

28. During discussion on Agenda Item (vi), relating to the Starred Question No. 156 asked by Senator Col. (R) Tahir Hussain Mashhadi in the Senate on 3rd August, 2010, regarding the release of Zakat Fund in the Financial Years 2008 – 09 and 2009 – 10, the Secretary Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony gave a tabular presentation of the province-wise breakup of Zakat Funds released during the said period. Since, the mover was not present in the meeting; the Committee unanimously disposed-off the matter after the details shared by the Ministry.

29. After detailed discussion the committee unanimously made following recommendations:-

- i. Intending pilgrims of far flung areas and low-income segments of the society should be provided opportunity to perform Hajj by reserving a special quota.
- ii. Additional charges of SR 1500 should be brought to a bare minimum level or made optional by negotiating with the Saudi Government to provide relief and removing the extra burden on pilgrims. If the Saudi Government did not accede to the same, the Government of Pakistan should bear this additional cost.
- iii. Performance and the services provided by private Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs) should be vigilantly monitored and the HGOs with substandard services should not be blacklisted but also their licenses be cancelled.
- iv. Judicial Inquiry may forthwith be completed to ascertain the reasons of Larkana incident and steps should be taken to curb the incidents of desecration of holy/ worship places, also the culprits should be brought to justice.
- v. Permanent Chairman of the ETP Board should be appointed.
- vi. Details of the properties leased/ rent out by the ETPB and the revenue earned during last 10 years may forthwith be shared with the Committee.
- vii. ETPB may forthwith initiate the cost estimation of properties under its control.

30. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to and from the chair.

SENATE SECRETARIATE

Subject: - **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND INTERFAITH HARMONY HELD ON 16th JULY, 2014 AT 10:00 A.M IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM NO.01, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD.**

A meeting of the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was held on 16th July, 2014 at 10:00 am in Committee Room No.01, Parliament House, Islamabad, under the chairmanship of Honorable Senator Hafiz Hamdullah.

1. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-

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|------|---|-------------------|
| i. | Senator Zaheer-ud-Din Babar Awan | Member |
| ii. | Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan | Member |
| iii. | Senator Mrs. Zahida Khan | Member |
| iv. | Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq | Member |
| v. | Minister for Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony | Ex-officio Member |
| vi. | Minister of State for Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony | |

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- i. "to discuss the complete criteria adopted by the Ministry for latest re-evaluation for all the existing companies enlisted with the Ministry."
- ii. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. A list of participants from Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony is annexed.

4. At the outset of the meeting, Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq expressed concerns over a recent case filed against the Ministry of

Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony in Lahore High Court (LHC), in which the complainants challenged the allocation of Hajj quota to various Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs), Hajj fares and the transfer of a quota of 15000 from Government Hajj Scheme to Private Hajj Operators. He remarked that the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony's role was disputed during the Hajj operations of 2011 and that the Ministry should have clarified its position immediately after the case hearing by presenting its point of view in the form of press release. He further added that the Ministry should contest the case by presenting factual position before honorable court.

5. The Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony apprised the Committee that Deputy Attorney General of Pakistan was contesting the case on behalf of Government of Pakistan and Ministry has not yet received the copy of court order. He added that since the matter was before court, it is due to this reason the Ministry did not issued any press release in haste due to sensitivity of the case. However, the Committee was assured that a press release would be circulated to present the opinion of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.

6. Taking up the Agenda Item, the Chairman Committee advised to inform the Committee on re-evaluation of the all existing and newly enrolled Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs), which applied for the quota of Hajj Services of current year.

7. It was shared with the Committee that Ministry of Religious Affairs invited applications for fresh enrollment of HGOs in April, 2012, through print media, as per criteria provided in Hajj Policy 2012. In response, 2033 applications were received from tour operators and were enrolled

subject to scrutiny and verification of their documents. The task of scrutiny of the profiles of tour operators was assigned to six chartered accountancy firms as per provisions of Hajj Policy 2013 and a marking system was adopted to draw a merit list based on the evaluation reports. The Committee was informed that the profiles and detail marks of the companies were uploaded in the website of Ministry on 7th October, 2013, to ensure transparency and fair play. Moreover, the companies were also given an option to prefer reassessment of their cases in accordance with the notified criteria and subsequently the Ministry received 1498 applications from the companies for re-assessment. Accordingly, the task was assigned to Chartered Accountant Firms and the applications were re-evaluated as per specified criteria. It was shared that the reassessment reports have been received from all Chartered Accountant Firms which is in process of compilation.

8. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan emphasized for increasing the competition in private sector by giving opportunity to the newly enlisted tour operators to put an end to the monopoly of existing Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs). He added that the strict criterion laid down by the Ministry discourages the new entrants.

9. Senator Zaheer-ud-Din Babar Awan also endorsed the views of Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan and remarked that strict criteria set by the Ministry in allocation of Hajj quota also violated the Constitution of Pakistan, which demands competition, merit and opportunity for the new investors. He added that the Ministry should invite competitive bids from HGOs for Hajj Services, instead of employing the score-based evaluation that favors the existing companies only. He was of the opinion that this existing Hajj Policies needs to be reviewed and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony using its executive authority should

assess the applications of tour operators on its own rather than relying on the evaluations of Chartered Accountant Firms. He demanded that the Ministry should not challenge the recent order of Lahore High Court (LHC) in which the honorable court has set aside the transfer of a quota of 15000 pilgrims to HGOs. Moreover, he stressed for reducing the Hajj fees charged by the HGOs to eliminate class system in Hajj Services and shared that Supreme Court of Pakistan has ordered in August, 2013 that, "***Hajj being a sacred duty in Islam, the State should have arranged for Hajj at a more inexpensive rate and the impugned order has addressed the plight of millions who could not afford to perform Hajj on account of the expenses involved.***" He further remarked that the then Chief Justice of Lahore High Court (LHC), Justice Umar Ata Bandial while hearing the case of Hajj Quota during 2012 ordered the Ministry to devise a mechanism to provide economical Hajj Services. He demanded that a comparative analysis of Hajj fees charged by different countries, including India, Iran, Indonesia and Malaysia may also be provided to the Committee.

10. The Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony informed the Committee that Hajj fees under the Government Hajj Scheme have been reduced by PKR 23,000 as compared to the charges of last year and the category based system has also been abolished this year. He added that the HGOs took to the courts despite the fact that Hajj Policy 2014 has been framed in consultation with the HGOs. It was shared that the Hajj scheme is implemented through Government Scheme and Private Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs) in the ratio of 50:50. However, the original Hajj quota allocated to Pakistan for year 2012 was reduced by 20% last year due to expansion plan of Haram Sharif and was accordingly fixed as 143,368 and 86,684 pilgrims will perform Hajj through HGOs, whereas the rest of 56,684 pilgrims through Government Hajj Services on "First

Come, First Serve" basis. A quota of 15000 has been transferred to HGOs on pro rata basis in line with MOU signed between Government and Hajj Organizers Association of Pakistan (HOAP) in June 2013. He further added that the government introduced an online system for the submission of Hajj applications and a ten (10) days deadline was given; however, owing to the remarkable arrangements and services provided by the Government during the Hajj Operations of last year, 127,000 applications were received in a single day. It was shared that no subsidy is being provided to the Hajj pilgrims.

11. Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan remarked that the intending pilgrims from remote parts of the country usually fails to submit applications and the bank officials pre-arranges the application forms of their friends and relatives beforehand.

12. Senator Zaheer-ud-Din Babar Awan also expressed concerns over the online system for the submission of Hajj applications and remarked that it is impossible to ascertain the eligibility in "First Come, First Serve", if all the applications forms were distributed within one (01) hour. He also took up the issue of selection of residences for the pilgrims and advised the Ministry to share the record of last two (02) years, containing the information of accommodations acquired on rent for the pilgrims. Moreover, he also advised the Ministry to share the details of companies which have been awarded Hajj quota during last five (05) years and the copies of agreements signed with the HGOs for Hajj Services.

13. After detailed discussion the committee unanimously made following recommendations:-

- i. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony may forthwith issue a press release to clear its position pertaining to a recent order of the Lahore High Court (LHC), wherein

the honorable court set aside the decision of transferring a quota of 15000 pilgrims to Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs) by the Ministry.

- ii. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony should take necessary steps to increase competition in private sector by giving opportunity to newly enlisted tour operators to put an end to the monopoly of existing Hajj Group Organizers (HGOs) and the Ministry should invite competitive bids from HGOs for Hajj Services, instead of employing the score-based evaluation that favors the existing companies only.
 - iii. A comparative analysis of Hajj fees charged by different countries, including India, Iran, Indonesia and Malaysia may be provided to the Committee and efforts should be made to reduce the Hajj fee by extending subsidy.
 - iv. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony may forthwith present a report containing the details of HGOs which have been allocated a quota under Hajj Policy 2014 and also the copies of agreements signed by the Ministry with the HGOs during last five (05) years for Hajj Services.
 - v. The Ministry of Religious Affairs may forthwith provide the details of residences/ accommodations acquired on rent during last two (02) years for Hajj pilgrims.
14. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to and from the chair.
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SENATE SECRETARIATE

Subject: - **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND INTERFAITH HARMONY HELD ON 24th NOVEMBER, 2014 AT 11:00 A.M IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM NO.4, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD.**

A meeting of the Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was held on 24th November, 2014 at 11:00 am in Committee Room No.4, Parliament House, Islamabad, under the Chairmanship of honorable Senator Hafiz Hamdullah.

31. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-

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|------|---|---------------|
| i. | Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar ul Haq | Member |
| ii. | Senator Haji Khan | Member |
| iii. | Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah | Member |
| iv. | Senator Baz Muhammad Khan | Member |
| v. | Senator Hamza | Member |
| vi. | Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony Ex-officio Member | |
| vii. | Muhammad Hassan Khan
Committee | A.S/Secretary |

32. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- i. Detailed Briefing on the arrangements for Hajj Operations 2014.
- ii. Detailed briefing on the report of Christian couple fired up due to a blasphemy in Kot Radha Kishan District Kasur.
- iii. Implementation status of the recommendations made by the Committee in its meeting held on 18th July, 2014 at Parliament House, Islamabad.
- iv. Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

33. The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Director General (Hajj) Syed Abu Ahmed Akif .The Committee appreciated the working paper provided by the Ministry on time.
34. Mr. Amanat Rasool Joint Secretary M/o Religious Affairs briefed the Committee on 2014 Hajj operation, he informed that Hajj Policy 2014 was formulated by a committee constituted by the Supreme Court of Pakistan and was approved by the Prime Minister on 8th April, 2014 while the Ministry of Religious Affairs signed annual agreement with Saudi counterparts regarding Hajj operation 2014 on 22-01-2014. For North, Hajj package was fixed as Rs. 272,231/- and while for South as Rs. 262,231. Under Government Hajj Scheme 56,684 pilgrims preformed Hajj and 86,684 under private Hajj scheme.All the Pilgrims of Government Scheme were accommodated in Azizia and for this purpose Ministry had hired 108 newly constructed buildings with attached baths, washing machines, Electric stoves/kettles, filtered drinking water/zamzam etc. Maximum pilgrims per room were not more than six. The average rent of accommodation of pilgrims in Azizia was SR. 2100, including 24/7 transport facility. Differential of building rent (average Rs.27, 000/haji) was refunded to pilgrims before their departure to KSA. Resultantly, per Haji average cost comes to Rs. 242,000/-.In Madinah, 80% of the pilgrims were accommodated in Markazia at a flat rate of SR.500/- per Haji for 8 days. New model buses were provided for inter-city travel of Pilgrims from Makkah to Madinah and back. 350+ buses were engaged in Makkah to facilitate Pilgrims for going to Haram for offering their prayers. Bus stops were established near to Pilgrim's residences. Government Scheme Pilgrims used train facility for travel from Mina to Arafat and back. Hajj Medical Mission established 2 hospitals and 11 dispensaries in Madinah, Makkah and at

Jeddah Airport. During Hajj more than 186,865 visits of Pilgrims were attended and provided medication. Hajj helpline was launched in Pakistan (042-111-725-425) and in KSA (0800-1166622) to facilitate Pilgrims. Hajj training and awareness programmes were launched through print and electronic media. All Pilgrims were vaccinated for prevention of meningitis, flu and polio. HGO Monitoring System was improved and around 550 HGOs were monitored. Hajj Operation 2014 was reviewed, supervised and monitored by the highest level regularly. Hajj Advisory Committee headed by Haji Akram Ansari, MNA and comprising Senator Maula Buksh Chandio, Hafiz Abdul Kareem, MNA and Ms. Shagufta Jumani, MNA, also monitored the operation in KSA.

35. During the meeting a documentary was shown by the Ministry in which Pilgrims expressed their views on Government Hajj Scheme. Most of them were satisfied with the facilities provided and appreciated the efforts of the Ministry.
36. On the inquiry of Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar ul Haq, Ministry apprised the Committee that meals were served three times a day to Pilgrims during their stay in Makkah and Madinah without any additional charges.
37. The Committee congratulated the Ministry for successful Government Hajj operation 2014 and expressed its satisfaction over the Hajj facilities provided by the Ministry as no serious complaints were received from the pilgrims. Minister Sardar Muhammad Yousaf apprised the Committee that Indian scholars also appreciated Pakistan Hajj Scheme.
38. The Chairman Committee pointed out that although Government Hajj Scheme was successful beyond the expectation but complaints were received against private HGOs. Furthermore, Private HGOs are charging high from the pilgrims and the facilities they were providing were not up to

the mark. Serious action must be taken against such HGOs. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar ul Haq remarked that Hajj gives the lesson of equality so the categorization in Hajj packages must be vanished. Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah was of the view that a limit must be established for the private HGOs to charge cost of Hajj from pilgrims.

39. Minister apprised the Committee that observing the violation of agreement between Pilgrims and Private HGOs, around Rs. 23 million were got refunded by monitoring teams from 20 HGOs to 1034 Pilgrims.
40. The Minister further informed the Committee in response to the query of Senator Baz Muhammad Khan that 90 Pilgrims died during Hajj 2014. Financial assistance of 5 lacs was given to the legal heirs of deceased Pilgrims while 3 lacs in case of emergency cancellation of Hajj, one lac to permanently disabled and 50 thousands in case of loss of limb is granted to the Pilgrims.
41. Senator Raja Zafar ul Haq emphasized on streamlining the role of banks in Hajj operation because a lot of complaints were received in this regard as bank officers gave priority to their near ones. Moreover, the Government of Saudi Arabia must be encouraged for their efforts to provide excellent facilities to the Pilgrims. Minister informed the Committee within one hour and nine minutes all the applications were received but Ministry did its best in scrutinizing the forms within 20 days to avoid injustice.
42. Senator Baz Muhammad Khan remarked that selection of applications can be done either through balloting or first come first serve basis but as FATA is in state of war and there is no bank in North and South Waziristan some other method

must be adopted by the Ministry to avoid injustice with FATA citizens.

43. The Committee was briefed on the report received from Home Department, Government of the Punjab on the incident of killing of Christian couple at Chak No.59, Tehsil Kot Radha Kishan, Kasur that Mrs. Saima Bibi / Alias Shama and her husband Shahzad Masih / Alias Sajjad Masih had been working as labourers at a brick Kiln owned by Haji Muhammad Yousaf Gujjar at Chak No. 59, Kot Radha Kishan, Kasur. Reportedly, Nadir Masih (Late) father of Shahzad Masih was a spiritual healer in the locality and for this purpose, he had copies of both the Holy Quran and the Bible. Reportedly, father of deceased Shahzad / Alias Sajjad Masih died on 29.10.2014. His daughter-in-law deceased Mrs. Saima Bibi / Alias Shama saw his belongings inside his box. She found a copy of the Holy Quran and the Bible inside the box. She also found some clothes and loose papers with some writings on them. Reportedly, she burnt the clothes and loose papers on 2nd November 2014 and dumped the ashes outside her quarter in garbage. In the evening of 03.11.2014, some villagers came to know that the couple had burnt a copy of the Holy Quran. On 04.11.2014, villagers were informed through mosque announcements that the couple at the brick-kiln had burnt a copy of Holy Quran. This infuriated the residents belonging to four villages in vicinity namely Chak 59, Chak 60, Bhail and Roso and a mob of about seven hundred people gathered at the bricks-kiln in the morning at about 06:00 a.m. It has also been reported that the Manager (Munshi) of the brick Kiln namely Safdar Ali saw the couple burning pages of Holy Quran. He initially kept this thing hiding from the people but on 04.11.2014 he informed the villagers about the incident. The management locked the couple in a room. Meanwhile, the police was called on Rescue 15. On receipt of information Sub

Inspector Malik Muhammad Ali of Police Station Kot Radha Kishan along with 5/8 police officials arrived at the spot. Meanwhile, the mob had reached there, broke the locked door of the room and inflicted torture on the couple. Later, people threw the couple in burning kiln in a semi-conscious state. Resultantly, they received serious burns and died on the spot. After the incident, the mob dispersed. A police vehicle with 5 police officials reached the place. DCO along with RPO Sheikhupura Range and DPO Kasur reached the place in order to control the situation. Mr. Kamran Michael, Federal Minister, Mr. Khalil Tahir Sindhu, Provincial Minister, Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan MPA also reached there on special instructions of the Chief Minister, Punjab to help diffuse the situation. They assured the Christian Community that the accused would be dealt with strictly according to law. FIR No. 475/2014 Under section 302/436/201/148/149/353/186 PPC & 7 ATA dated 04.11.2014 has been registered in Police Station Kot Radha Kishan against 60 nominated accused & others. Police is investigating the matter.

44. Senator Raja Zafar ul Haq expressed his concern over the growing cases of blasphemy in the country and he stressed on long term solution of the problem. He proposed the formation of interfaith committees at the district level including representation from all religious groups and to launch a campaign to highlight the true teachings of Islam. Secondly, such incident could be prevented if the police had taken the couple in its safe custody. Furthermore, Ministry or Islamic Ideology Council must update blasphemy laws and other laws related to worship places made during the British rule.
45. The Chairman Committee condemned the incident of Kot Radha Kishan and remarked that all those who were involved in the incident, including the cleric who made announcement from a mosque loudspeaker, should be dealt with in

accordance with law. No individual had the right to issue decrees. He further added that it was the responsibility of the State to protect lives, property and religious freedom of minorities. Such actions are against the teaching of Islam which brings disgrace for both Islam and Pakistan.

46. Minister Sardar Yousaf briefed the Committee that 50 people among the 60 accused personnel involved in the incident were arrested. The Chief Minister Punjab visited the house of aggrieved family on 07.11.2014 and announced the financial assistance of Rupees 05 Million, land for constructing house, free education for three (03) children of the deceased couple and free medical treatment for the family. Ministry for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony also visited Kot Radha Kishan, District Kasur on 14.11.2014, met the bereaved family for condolence and approved financial assistance of Rs. 5 lac for the legal heirs of deceased couple.
47. The Chairman Committee remarked that the issue is in Supreme Court and it is expected that court will give such punishment to the involved people so that no one could disgrace the name of Islam and Pakistan in future. Furthermore, the mob has no right to take law in its hand and give punishments.
48. Due to the absence of Senator Zaheer -ud-Din Babar Awan agenda item No 3 was deferred.

After detailed discussion the Committee unanimously made following recommendations:-

- i. The people may be made aware about the Haj facilities provided by the Government and the Ministry may broadcast the documentary on television.
- ii. Inter-Faith committees may be formed at district level comprising members from all religions and these committees

may take immediate action to address any incident at initial level.

- iii. In view of the excellent facilities provided to Pilgrims a letter of appreciation may be sent to Government of Saudi Arabia by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.
- iv. Private HGOs may be made reduce their Hajj charges and the Ministry may take action against those Private HGOs who are violating the agreement.
- v. The Ministry may improve the role of banks in the Hajj operation and letters may be issued to presidents of the banks in this regard.
- vi. The Committee condemned the killing of Christian couple in Kot Radha Kishan and declared it as inhuman and cruel act as such acts have nothing to do with the teachings of Islam. Furthermore, the Committee stressed on the punishment of accused involved in the incident.

49. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to and from the Chair.
