

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD ON 11TH JANUARY, 2016**

A meeting of the Business Advisory Committee was held on 11th January, 2016 in Committee Room No. 4, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Senator Mian Raza Rabbani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan.

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

- i. Confirmation of Minutes of meeting dated 14th December, 2015.
- ii. Compliance report regarding earlier decisions of the Business Advisory Committee.
- iii. Business to be transacted during the Session.
- iv. Approval of Rules of the Special Committee on Ethics and Code of Conduct and debate in House.
- v. Amendment in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012.
- vi. Programs to mark completion of Parliamentary year from 10-12 March, 2016.
- vii. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. Following Members attended the meeting:-

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| 1) | Senator Mian Raza Rabbani, Chairman Senate. | Chairman |
| 2) | Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq. | Member |
| 3) | Senator Saeed Ghani. | Member |
| 4) | Senator Col (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi. | Member |
| 5) | Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood. | Member |
| 6) | Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed. | Member |
| 7) | Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar. | Member |
| 8) | Senator Iqbal Zafar Jhagra. | Member |
| 9) | Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi (On behalf of Senator Hidayat Ullah) | |
| 10) | Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi (on behalf of Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo) | |
| 11) | Mr. Aftab Ahmed Sheikh.
Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs | Ex-officio Member |
| 12) | Mr. Amjed Pervez. | Secretary Senate |

4. Meeting started at 01:28 p.m. with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Senator Saeed Ghani. The Committee started consideration of the following agenda items.

AGENDA ITEM NO.I: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING DATED 14TH DECEMBER, 2015.

5. The Committee confirmed the minutes, as no objection was raised by any member.

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

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

i. **Amendments in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012.**

The Secretary Senate apprised the Committee that amendments relating to the E-Notices, former Members Business and Committee on subordinate Legislation have been approved whereas amendments regarding “consultation for holding committee meetings” and “relation between Senate and the Provinces” are on hold.

ii. **Issue pertaining to e-submission of notices in respect of legislative and non-legislative business has been raised time and again by the members in the meetings of the HBAC.**

The Secretary Senate apprised the Members that the proformas for collecting authenticated e-mail addresses from the Members have been circulated to all the Members but so far only 21 Members have returned the same back to the Secretariat. Secretary Senate further stated that presently the lists of admitted questions as well as the lists of admitted resolutions and motions under rule 218 along with the ballot results are being placed on the Senate website and e-mail to facilitate the Members as well as the Ministry/Divisions.

Committee directed the Secretariat to provide proformas for collecting authenticated e-mail addresses to the Parliamentary Party leaders so that they can get the same filled from their respective party members.

iii. **Withdrawal of the name of Senate from the Senate Employees Cooperative Housing Society.**

The Additional Secretary (Admin) informed the Committee about the latest development in the matter and stated that since the copies of the minutes of the meetings of the society were still being sent to the Senate, therefore, he has

categorically conveyed to the Circle Registrar Cooperative Societies that the Senate of Pakistan has got no concern whatsoever with the Society so there is no need to send the minutes of the meetings to the Senate.

iv. **The Chairman directed the Members to raise the issue of discrimination by banks in the House.**

Secretary Senate apprised the Committee that the Secretariat has written letter to the Minister for Finance requesting him to make statement in the House on the issue as the Members have reported some complaints in this respect.

v. **Communication Strategy: The HBAC as well as other Committees / Members have been increasingly asking for better and effective communication strategy including live telecast / broadcast, use of social media etc.**

The Secretary Senate apprised the Committee that the media and IT Directorates are working on it but there are capacity / HR limitations. Orders of the BAC are required to engage professional individuals / firms.

At this stage, the Chairman Senate observed that there is no need to hire the professionals rather the same should be dealt by the Media Directorate of the Secretariat itself. The Chairman stated that he will look into the matter personally to set out the modalities.

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

7. The Committee took the following decisions:-

- i. Duration of 123rd session will be from 11th January, 2016 to 22nd January, 2016.
- ii. Meeting of the Committee of the Whole constituted to consider the FATA reforms will be held during the Session.
- iii. Discussion on the following issues will be made during the session:-
 1. Report/answers to be presented by the Minister for Interior on the specific points raised by Members during the statement of the Minister on implementation of National Action Plane.
 2. Discussion on the statement made by Minister for Defence on recent visit of COAS to Kabul.
 3. Discussion on the report of the Council of Islamic Ideology.
 4. Briefing on the current status of the Economy of Pakistan by the Minister for Finance.

5. Discussion on the Rules of the Ethics Committee and Code of Conduct for the Members.
 6. Discussion on the discrimination by banks against the Politically Exposed Persons.
- iv. Introduction of private members' Bills

The draft Bills as proposed by the Committee of Whole on speedy and inexpensive justice will be introduced in the House for passage during the session.

AGENDA ITEM NO.IV: APPROVAL OF RULES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND CODE OF CONDUCT AND DEBATE IN HOUSE.

8. The Committee deliberated upon the agenda item with particular reference to the role and powers of the Chairman Senate in the Committee on Ethics and Code of conduct of the Members.

Following Members participated in the discussion:-

1. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq.
2. Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed.
3. Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi.
4. Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi.
5. Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood.

The Committee principally approved the Code of Conduct and Rules of the Ethics Committee, as drafted by the Special Committee on Ethics, however, Members had difference of opinion about the role of Chairman Senate before presenting a report of the Committee in the House or otherwise. To decide this proposed rule (titled "intimation to the Chairman" appearing at page 3 of the draft), but more importantly to give all Members of Senate an opportunity to discuss and debate the Rules and Code before adoption, the Committee decided to have an extensive debate in the House.

The Chairman directed the Secretariat to circulate the draft rules and Code of Conduct to all the Members of the House.

AGENDA ITEM NO.V: AMENDMENT IN THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN THE SENATE, 2012.

9. The proposed amendment in rule 173(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012 were approved by the Committee. The Chairman further sensitized the Committee about the proposed rules amendment in rule 257 concerning the publication of summary of the Business transacted by the House during each session as well as for publication of annual performance report of the Senate.

The Chairman directed the Secretariat to prepare the draft rules amendment in this respect.


AGENDA ITEM NO.VI: PROGRAMS TO MARK COMPLETION OF PARLIAMENTARY YEAR FROM 10-12 MARCH, 2016.

10. The Committee approved the proposed plan and schedule of events with addition of commemoration of International Women's Day on 8th March, 2016.

11. In juxta position, the Committee issued the following directions:-

- i. The Chairman decided to take up the matter of Communication Strategy himself.
- ii. The Committee decided to introduce the draft bills proposed by the Committee of the Whole for speedy and inexpensive justice during the current session for passage. The Chairman directed the Secretariat to obtain signatures of all the Parliamentary party leaders as well as of the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition on the notices for introduction of the draft Bills.
- iii. The Committee principally approved the draft rules of the Committee on Ethics and Code of Conduct for the Members yet due to prevailing of difference of opinion amongst the Committee Members, the Chairman directed the Secretariat to circulate the draft rules of the Committee on Ethics and the Code of Conduct of the Members to all the Members of the House for the purpose of having an extensive debate in the House.
- iv. The Committee directed the Secretariat to provide proformas for collecting authenticated e-mail addresses to the Parliamentary Party leaders so that they can get the same filled from their respective party members.
- v. The Committee approved the rules amendment in rule 173(1) and 257 of the Rules.
- vi. The Sessions timings will be in evening except Friday.
- vii. Meeting of the Committee of the Whole on FATA reforms will be held during the session.

12. The Meeting ended with vote of thanks to and from the Chair at 02:30 p.m.


(Amjed Pervez Malik)
Secretary Senate


(Mian Raza Rabbani)
Chairman Senate of Pakistan