

SENATE OF PAKISTAN

HOUSE OF THE FEDERATION



REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS ON THE POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED BY SENATOR MUSHTAQ AHMED:

“Excessive Use of Arable Land for the Construction of Swat Motorway”

PRESENTED BY

**SENATOR PRINCE AHMED UMER AHMEDZAI
CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

I, Senator Prince Ahmed Umer Ahmedzai, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Communications have the honour to present the report of the Committee on the Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed in the Senate sitting held on 3rd April, 2023 regarding "Excessive use of Arable Land for the Construction of Swat Motorway" which was referred to the Standing Committee on Communications for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Standing Committee is as follows:

1.	Senator Prince Ahmed Umer Ahmedzai	Chairman
2.	Senator Shamim Afridi	Member
3.	Senator Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani	Member
4.	Senator Danesh Kumar	Member
5.	Senator Muhammad Akram	Member
6.	Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar	Member
7.	Senator Hafiz Abdul Karim	Member
8.	Senator Umer Farooq	Member
9.	Senator Abida Muhammad Azeem	Member
10.	Senator Kamil Ali Agha	Member
11.	Senator Ahmed Khan	Member
12.	Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Member
13.	Minister for Communications	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Standing Committee on Communications considered the aforementioned matter in its meetings held on 2nd & 16th May, 2023, respectively.

4. The meeting dated 2nd May, 2023, was attended by the following:

i)	Senator Prince Ahmed Umer Ahmedzai	Chairman
ii)	Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	
iii)	Senator Shamim Afridi	
iv)	Senator Kamil Ali Agha	
iv)	Senator Muhammad Akram	
v)	Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar	
vi)	Senator Abida Muhammad Azeem	
vii)	Senator Umer Farooq	
viii)	Senator Mushtaq Ahmed (Mover)	


5. The Special Secretary, Ministry of Communications informed the Committee that Swat Motorway does not fall under the jurisdiction of NHA and the matter pertains to Provincial Department of Pakhtunkhwa Highways Authority (PKHA). Senator Mushtaq Ahmed, Mover, extensively briefed the Committee on the agenda item. The Hon'ble Senator highlighted the historical background of Swat and also gave detailed input on the excessive use of arable land for the construction of Swat Motorway.

6. Final consideration of the matter was held in the meeting dated 16th May, 2023, which was attended by the following:

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| i) | Senator Prince Ahmed Umer Ahmedzai | Chairman |
| ii) | Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri | |
| iii) | Senator Shamim Afridi | |
| iv) | Senator Kamil Ali Agha | |
| v) | Senator Muhammad Akram | |
| vi) | Senator Hafiz Abdul Karim | |
| vii) | Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar | |
| viii) | Senator Ahmed Khan | |
| ix) | Senator Umer Farooq | |
| x) | Senator Mushtaq Ahmed (Mover) | |

7. Senator Mushtaq Ahmad; Mover, gave a detailed discourse on the matter and expressed concerns of the local population over use of arable land for the construction of Swat Expressway phase-2. The Hon'ble Senator highlighted the advantages and disadvantages of both the alignments; the one alongside the river bank and the other proposed by the Pakhtunkhwa Highway Authority passing through agricultural land, orchards, residential and commercial areas. He further apprised the Committee that Swat Qaumi Jirga, Swat Bar Council, Previous Swat District Council, Provincial Assembly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Senate Functional Committee on Problems of Less Developed Areas have also recommended construction of the Expressway alongside the river bank. The construction of the project alongside the river bank will not only protect precious agriculture land, infrastructure and built-up property from the Swat River flooding impact but will also ensure sustained economic activities in the region thereby eliminating heavy losses to the national exchequer which happened after every flood event. After detailed deliberations, keeping in view the significance of matter and also taking note that the matter relates to the Provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Committee unanimously endorsed the recommendations submitted by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed and recommended to the Provincial Government that:

- i) Keeping in view the scarcity of agricultural land in the area and the dire need of its protection from the flood impact; the potential for tourism development; the foreseen economic prospects for the region; the technical, economic and socio environmental viability of the project and the devastation caused by the historical floods including the 2010 and 2022 flood events, execution of the project alongside the river bank is highly recommended.
- ii) Utilize the existing interchange phase-1 namely, Chakdara / Ahmad Baba Interchange to connect both the expressways i.e. Swat Expressway Phase-1 and Phase-2.
- iii) In the best interest of area the local community representative should be involved and their recommendations be incorporated in detail design of the expressway.


(TAYYAB BIN TAHIR KHAN)
J.S./ Secretary (Committee)


(SENATOR PRINCE AHMED UMER AHMEDZAI)
Chairman

Islamabad, the
31 May, 2023