



RULING OF THE CHAIR

SUBJECT: PRESIDING OF A SITTING OF THE SENATE BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER WHILE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN IS AVAILABLE

This Ruling flows as a consequence of a letter written to me by the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, stating therein that during the sitting of the Senate held on 7th June, 2024, Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012 had been violated.

2. The current Session of the Senate was summoned on 7th June, 2024, whereupon in pursuance of Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, I nominated following Members, in order of precedence, to preside over the sitting in absence of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman:

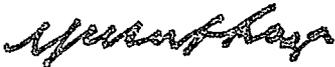
1. Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar
2. Senator Palwasha Muhammad Zai Khan
3. Senator Manzoor Ahmad

3. During sitting of the Senate held on 7th June, 2024, I was presiding over the Session, but in view of some pre-scheduled urgent commitment, I had to leave the House. At that time, the Deputy Chairman Senate was not present inside the House, therefore, Senator Palwasha Muhammad Zai Khan, the available member of the panel of Presiding Officer present at that time inside the House, presided over the sitting. In the meanwhile, when Senator Palwasha occupied the chair and started the proceedings, the Deputy Chairman Senate walked into the House so the Members raised objection that a member of the panel of presiding officers cannot preside over the sitting when Deputy Chairman is available in the House.

4. I have checked the record of the proceedings and it transpired that when Senator Palwasha Muhammad Zai Khan had already occupied the Chair, at that time the Deputy Chairman entered into the House for a short span of time under the impression that the

Chairman was presiding over the session but after realizing the situation, he promptly left the House. Video record of the proceedings can be consulted in this regard.

5. In view of the above, there is no procedural irregularity or violation of Rule 14 in this whole matter. However, the Secretariat is advised that, in future it must first be ascertained that the Deputy Chairman is not present in the House before asking anyone from the panel of Presiding Officers to preside over the sitting of the Senate.


(Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani)
Chairman Senate

Announced in the House on 10th June, 2024
339th Session