

Senate of Pakistan



**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PROCEDURE AND
PRIVILEGES**

ON

Privilege Motion moved by Senator Sadia Abbasi Regarding an Article "The Stealth Cost of
Legislature" Published in Daily Dawn Written by Mr. Sadam Hussain, Assistant Chief (Policy),
PIDE, Islamabad

PRESENTED BY

SENATOR TAJ HAIDER
Chairman Committee

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES ON PRIVILEGE MOTION MOVED BY SENATOR SADIA ABBASI REGARDING AN ARTICLE "THE STEALTH COST OF LEGISLATURE" PUBLISHED IN DAILY DAWN WRITTEN BY MR. SADAM HUSSAIN, ASSISTANT CHIEF (POLICY), PIDE, ISLAMABAD

I, Senator Taj Haider, Chairman Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges have the honor to submit, on behalf of this Committee, this report on matter submitted by Senator Sadia Abbasi in the Senate on 09-09-2024 regarding an article "The Stealth Cost of Legislature" published in Daily Dawn written by Mr. Sadam Hussain, Assistant Chief (Policy), PIDE, Islamabad, for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Standing Committee is given as under: -

(1) Senator Taj Haider	Chairman
(2) Senator Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan	Member
(3) Senator Atta Ur Rehman	Member
(4) Senator Prof. Sajid Mir	Member
(5) Senator Dost Ali Jeesar	Member
(6) Senator Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari	Member
(7) Senator Faisal Saleem Rahman	Member
(8) Senator Saadia Abbasi	Member
(9) Senator Raja Nasir Abbas	Member

3. The Committee considered the said matter in its meetings held on 8th November 2024, 23rd January, 2025, and 20th February 2024, following Committee Members attended the meeting: -

1. Senator Taj Haider	Chairman
2. Senator Dost Ali Jeesar	Member
3. Senator Saadia Abbasi	Member/Mover
4. Senator Irfan-ul-Haq Siddqui	Mover
5. Senator Saifullah Abro	Mover
6. Senator Mir Dostain Khan Domki	Mover

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4. In the meeting held on 8th November 2024 Committee had discussed article 'The Stealth Cost of Legislature' published in Daily Dawn, authored by the Assistant Chief (Policy) of PIDE, Islamabad, with the presence of both the former and current Vice-Chancellors of PIDE. Senator Saadia Abbasi stated that this article was written maliciously, derogatory, intended to malign the legislators, and was republished as if it were backed by public opinion and research, was adverse to the facts. It lacked the aspect of research. The reference of the research has been quoted as "PILDAT" which is an NGO while PIDE is a government organization. Senator Taj Haider also remarked that labeling this as an "academic exercise" is objectionable, as true academic exercises are grounded in objectivity, where conclusions are drawn from facts—not the other way around; such research is analogically known as "yellow journalism". He further noted that phrases used to describe the role of parliamentarians are offensive, adding that anyone could pursue defamation over this. He also pointed out that terms like "easier to swallow", "walking away" "jackpot", power hungry games, privilege driven circus "eye-watering" are quite inappropriate and objectionable. An academic approach, he stressed, should be rooted in respect and accuracy, acknowledging that the state is not a corporation to be managed with profit motives. Objections to expenses, he concluded, should focus on legitimate concerns.
5. Furthermore, the Chairman recommended to correct the document and redistributed by PIDE to the newspapers where it was earlier published, ensuring that accurate facts have been included. The ex V.C Mr. Nadeem-ul-Haq could not bear the reformatory remarks made by the Committee on the "research modus operandi". He started blame game by expressing that parliament once gave false press release, if the research on parliamentarian has been made the similar research on civil servant reforms was also made. I have been invited here to be "insulted and ridiculed", such other derogatory and offending remarks he made on which the committee showed displeasure. Accordingly, the committee decided to invite the administrative ministry of PIDE to appear before the committee in next meeting with a detailed report comprising the last year performance of PIDE, the procedure of appointment of the officers, researchers including VC, and the governing rules regulations of the employees of the PIDE with a requirement to hold an inquiry against the ex VC Dr. Nadeem-ul-Haq for his unbecoming misconduct and non-professional behavior before the Committee as his threatening, bragging, disparaging and defaming words clamor to take punitive action by the administrative head of the said body. Resultantly the committee also directed to that the administrative head in the ministry controlling PIDE to take the punitive action after full inquiry and a report of that action and inquiry may be shared with committee within 60 days.
6. In the meeting held on 23rd January 2025, Senator Saadia Abbasi, mover of the privilege Motion, remarked that the former Vice Chancellor has portrayed distorted facts in the article

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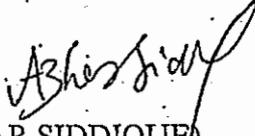
in order to create hatred among the public against the Parliamentarians. Despite providing evidence for claims, Mr. Nadeem-ul-Haque misbehaved with the committee members in the previous meeting and made derogatory remarks against the Government policies. Senator Saadia Abbasi stated that the individual used abusive language against the Parliamentarians had been convicted himself of "Harassment at Workplace" by the Federal Ombudsman. "Criticism of individuals drawing hefty salary from the Government account is not justifiable under any circumstances", she asserted.

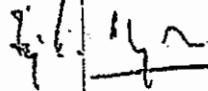
7. While arguing on the article, Senator Tallal Chaudhary claimed that the Parliamentarians of Pakistan are among the lowest paid Parliamentarians in the Asia. Acting Vice Chancellor PIDE apprised the committee that the PIDE has taken action against the Former Vice Chancellor and has issued show cause notice following the procedure. After a detailed deliberation, the Committee directed the PIDE to provide details of procedure followed for the selection of former Vice Chancellor PIDE along with details of work done in his tenure.
8. In the meeting held on 20th February 2025, The PIDE representatives under the leadership of their V.C submitted that Sadam Hussain Assistant Chief (policy) PIDE has published an article in the daily Dawn on 30/12/2024 with directives of the Honorable Committee conveyed vide Senate Secretariat U.O number 23(1)/2021-24/C-1 dated 22/11/2024 and the minutes of the meeting of Honorable Senate Committee on Rules and Procedure and Privileges held on 08/11/2024. The copy of the article published in the daily dawn under the title "Finance: the cost of governance" was presented before the Committee. Further the representative of the PIDE submitted an unconditional apology to the honourable Senate committee and prayed for sympathetic and lenient view to exonerate the charges levelled in the subject privileged motion.
9. While disposing of the agenda regarding stealth article senator Saadia Abbasi explained that there is neither ownership of PIDE nor its oversight. At the time of its establishment its aim was to become center of excellence in the field of economy which he bitterly failed to provide the leadership. Its aim was to use the things gainfully instead of academic pursue. The regulators of PIDE started to teach the "blame game". Does the PIDE not know that every country in the world has parliament and every parliamentarian has perks and privileges, then why the hatred against the Pakistani parliamentarians was being spread by PIDE. The Board of PIDE was not performing its duty in a right way. PIDE should look and pursue towards the real cause of the ministry concerned i.e. Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives is assigned the duty to look in to the issue of PIDE, to look into the structure of the Board, its procedure and functions and revamp where necessary and enable it as potential as it was intended at the time of its establishment. The newly incumbent vice chancellor of PIDE was resolute and committed enough to make the PIDE

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high grading once again as they are going to start PhD in 5 new disciplines including public policy and governance, for which the mechanism has been devised. The senate of PIDE is going to start its meetings which shall continue to periodically look into the affairs of the PIDE regularly including the deployment of the graduates and masters of the PIDE in public organizations for the enrichment of the government affairs. The administration of PIDE also pledged to share progress and growing report of the PIDE to the senate of Pakistan periodically.

10. **Direction/Decision**: -The committee disposed of the matter of PIDE and directed that the Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives is assigned the duty to look in to the issue of PIDE, to look into the structure of the Board, its procedure and functions and revamp where necessary and enable it to realize its potential as it was intended at the time of its establishment and also to share the progress and growth report of the PIDE to the Senate of Pakistan periodically. The committee also directed the administrative head in the ministry relatable to PIDE to take the punitive action after full inquiry and a report of that action and inquiry may be shared with committee within 60 days.


(AZHAR SIDDIQUE)
Deputy Director / Secretary Committee


(SENATOR TAJ HAIDER)
Chairman
Standing Committee Rules of Procedure and Privileges

Islamabad, the
20th February, 2025