

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

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BILL

To amend the Associated Press of Pakistan Corporation Ordinance, 2002

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Associated Press of Pakistan Corporation Ordinance, 2002 (LXXX of 2002) in the manner and for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. Short title and commencement. - (1) This Act shall be called the Associated Press of Pakistan Corporation (Amendment) Act, ~~2025~~ 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 2, Ordinance No. LXXX of 2002 -- In the Associated Press of Pakistan Corporation Ordinance, 2002 (LXXX of 2002), hereinafter referred to as the said Ordinance, in section 2,-

(a) After clause (d), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:-

“(da) “division concerned” means the ministry or, as the case may be, the division to which business of the corporation stands allocated;

(b) clause (e) shall be omitted;

(c) After clause (g), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:-

“(ga) “Minister” means Ministry-in-Charge of the division concerned;” ;

3. Amendment of section 5, Ordinance No. LXXX of 2002 -- In the said Ordinance, in section 5, in clause (h), for the words “Federal Government”, the word “division concerned” shall be substituted.

4. Amendment of section 7, Ordinance No. LXXX of 2002 -- In the said Ordinance, in section 7, in sub-section (1), in clause (j), for the words “Federal Government”, the word “Prime Minister” shall be substituted.

5. Amendment of section 8, Ordinance No. LXXX of 2002 -- In the said Ordinance, in section 8, in sub-section (4), for the words “Federal Government”, the words “as may be prescribed” shall be substituted.

6. Amendment of section 10, Ordinance No. LXXX of 2002 -- In the said Ordinance, in section 10, for the words “Federal Government” wherever occurring, the word “Prime Minister” shall be substituted.

Subject: STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Associated Press of Pakistan Corporation (APPC), working under the administrative control of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and is governed by the APP Ordinance, 2002, to function as the State News Agency.

2. In the light of Supreme Court's decision in Mustafa Impex Case, the Federal Cabinet, in Case No. 419/19/2017, dated 08-09-2017, directed that all Ministries/Divisions, in consultation with the Law and Justice Division, shall make amendments in respective Acts/Ordinances/Rules and replace the words "Federal Government" with appropriate authority(ies). The Federal Cabinet reiterated its earlier directions in Cases No. 241/15/2018, dated 12-04-2018 and No. 64/05/2022, dated 15-02-2022, so that Cabinet is not further burdened with routine cases.

3. In compliance with the directions of the Federal Cabinet, issued in Case No. 147/17/2025, dated 16.07.2025, the process to replace the words "Federal Government" with appropriate authorities in APP Ordinance, 2002, was re-initiated and subsequently the draft APP(Amendment) Act, 2025 was approved and ratified by CCLC and Federal Cabinet respectively.

(Atta Ullah Tarar)
Minister for Information & Broadcasting