

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

Bill

to amend the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) Ordinance, 2002

WHEREAS, it is expedient to amend the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) Ordinance, 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 National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 3, Ordinance LIV of 2002.**— In the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) Ordinance, 2002 (LIV of 2002), hereinafter referred to as the said Ordinance, in section 3, in sub-section (3), for the expression “Federal Government”, the expression “Prime Minister”, shall be substituted.

3. **Amendment of section 6, Ordinance LIV of 2002.**— In the said Ordinance, in section 6, in sub-section (2), for the expression “Federal Government”, wherever occurring, the expression “Prime Minister”, shall be substituted.

4. **Amendment of section 7, Ordinance LIV of 2002.**— In the said Ordinance, in section 7,—

(a) in sub-section (2), for the expression “Federal Government”, the expression “Prime Minister”, shall be substituted; and

(b) in sub-section (3), for the expression “Federal Government”, the expression “Prime Minister”, shall be substituted.

5. **Amendment of section 10, Ordinance LIV of 2002.**— In the said Ordinance, in section 10, in sub-section (1), for the expression “Federal Government”, the expression “Prime Minister”, shall be substituted.

6. **Amendment of section 13, Ordinance LIV of 2002.**— In the said Ordinance, in section 13, for the expression “rules”, the expression “regulations”, shall be substituted.

7. **Amendment of section 15, Ordinance LIV of 2002.**— In the said Ordinance, in section 15, in clause (c), for the expression “Federal Government”, the expression “Board of Governors”, shall be substituted.

8. **Amendment of section 16, Ordinance LIV of 2002.**— In the said Ordinance, in section 16, for the expression “Federal Government”, the expression “Minister-in-charge of the Division Concerned to which the subject of this Ordinance stands allocated”, shall be substituted.

9. **Amendment of section 18, Ordinance LIV of 2002.**— In the said Ordinance, in section 18, for the expression "Federal Government", the expression "Board of Governors", shall be substituted.

10. **Insertion of new section 21, Ordinance LIV of 2002.**— In the said Ordinance, after section 20, the following new section 21, shall be inserted, namely:—

"21. **Power to make rules and regulations.**— The Federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act in respect of external matters of the Institute.

(2) The Institute may, with approval of the Board and by notification in the official Gazette, make regulations for its internal matters not inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance and the rules made thereunder."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage, popularly known as "Lok Virsa" was established through a resolution in 1974. The resolution was amended in 1981 and 1983. The Institute obtained an autonomous statutory legal status through an Ordinance promulgated by Federal Government in 2002. The Institute is working under the administrative control of the National Heritage and Culture Division.

2. In pursuance of the instructions of the Cabinet Division dated 13th May, 2025 regarding the substitution of the term "Federal Government" with the appropriate authority in relevant laws and rules, Lok Virsa Ordinance proposed necessary amendments to specific provisions of the Lok Virsa Ordinance, 2002. Accordingly, the draft amendments were submitted to the Ministry Law and Justice for vetting. Ministry of Law & Justice vetted the draft amendments. Subsequently, Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC) has recommended to amendments vide Case No. CCLC-132/22/2025 dated 08.10.2025 which has been ratified by Cabinet under case No.192/22/2025/dated 16.10.2025.

3. The Bill seeks to achieve the aforesaid object and is therefore submitted for enactment by the Parliament.

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Minister for
National Heritage and Culture Division