



SENATE SECRETARIAT

Report No.1

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HERITAGE
AND CULTURE ON**

**“THE NATIONAL FUND FOR CULTURAL
HERITAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026”**

PRESENTED BY:

Senator Hidayatullah Khan
Chairman
Standing Committee on National Heritage & Culture

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: **Report of the Standing Committee on National Heritage & Culture on "The National Fund for Cultural Heritage (Amendment) Bill, 2026"**

I, Chairman, Standing Committee on National Heritage & Culture, have the honour to present report on the Government Bill "The National Fund for Cultural Heritage (Amendment) Bill, 2026", passed by the National Assembly and transmitted to the Senate which was then taken up in the Senate sitting held on 12th May, 2026 and referred to this Committee for consideration and report:

2. The composition of the Standing Committee on National Heritage & Culture is as under:

1. Senator Hidayatullah Khan	Chairman
2. Senator Abdul Wasay	Member
3. Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar	Member
4. Senator Bushra Anjum Butt	Member
5. Senator Faisal Javed	Member
6. Senator Falak Naz	Member
7. Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb	Member
8. Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
9. Senator Rubina Naaz	Member
10. Senator Sarmad Ali	Member
11. Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi	Member
12. Minister for National Heritage & Culture	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Committee considered the Bill in its meeting held on 18th May, 2026, under the Chairmanship of Senator Hidayatullah Khan, which was attended by the following honourable Members:-

1. Senator Hidayatullah Khan	Chairman
2. Senator Sarmad Ali	Member
3. Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi	Member
4. Minister for National Heritage & Culture	Ex-Officio Member

4. The Secretary, National Heritage and Culture Division apprised the Committee that the National Fund for Cultural Heritage Act, 1994 was enacted in 1994. The objective of the Fund is to promote the conservation and preservation of national heritage of Pakistan through various means, including financial and technical assistance.



5. The Committee was informed that in a famous Mustafa Impex case, definition of the term "Federal Government" was determined by the Supreme Court of Pakistan. It was defined that "Federal Government" means the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. Before this, the term "Federal Government" was used in a vague and unclear way. After Mustafa Impex case, although the definition was made clear but it appeared that for every decision, the term "Federal Government" was being used which created inefficiency in the governance because the Cabinet was required to be consulted in connection with every decision. To overcome this hurdle, the Federal Cabinet decided that all laws and rules may be evaluated and appropriate settings may be determined wherever the term "Federal Government" was used. In view of this backdrop and 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, the Division proposed necessary amendments to specific provisions of the National Fund for Cultural Heritage Act, 1994. Accordingly, draft amendments were vetted by the Ministry of Law and Justice and subsequently, the Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC) approved the proposed amendments and then decision of the CCLC was ratified by the Federal Cabinet. The Secretary, National Heritage and Culture Division requested the Committee that the Bill may be passed.

6. The Committee thoroughly discussed the Bill. During discussion, it was found that in Clause 3 of the Bill, in sub-clause (ii), in the proposed sub-section (1A), the words "Division concerned" occurring for the second time are needed to be replaced with the word "Fund". Furthermore, some necessary drafting modifications are also required in order to bring clarity in the Bill. So, the Committee recommended the following amendments in the Bill.

In the *National Fund for Cultural Heritage (Amendment) Bill, 2026*;

- (a) in Clause 1, in sub-clause (1), for the word "Bill", the word "Act" shall be substituted.
- (b) in Clause 2, in the proposed clause (aa), for the words "the Act", the words "this Act" shall be substituted, and thereafter, for the full stop "." occurring at the end of the proposed clause (aa), a semi-colon ";" shall be substituted.
- (c) In Clause 3, in sub-clause (ii), in the proposed sub-section (1A), for the words "Division concerned" occurring for the second time, the word "Fund" shall be substituted.
- (d) for the word "Culture" occurring in the long title, preamble, Clause 1, and Clause 2, the word "Cultural" shall be substituted.



7. Accordingly, the Committee recommended that "The National Fund for Cultural Heritage (Amendment) Bill, 2026", as reported by the Committee may be passed by the Senate. (Copy of Bill as reported by the Committee is annexed as "A" and the Bill as passed by the National Assembly and transmitted to the Senate is annexed as "B")



(Rafiqat Waheed)
Secretary Committee



(Senator Hidayatullah Khan)
Chairman

[AS REPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE]

A

BILL

Further to amend the National Fund for Cultural Heritage Act, 1994

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the National Fund for Cultural Heritage Act, 1994 (VIII of 1994), 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 Fund for Cultural Heritage (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 2, Act No. VIII of 1994.-** In the National Fund for Cultural Heritage Act, 1994 (VIII of 1994), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 2, after clause (a), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(aa) "Division concerned" means the Division to which business of this Act stands allocated;"

3. **Amendment of section 6, Act No. VIII of 1994.-** In the said Act in section 6,-

(i) in sub-section (1), for clauses (a) to (f), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

(a)	Minister-in-charge of the Division concerned	Patron
(b)	Secretary, Ministry/Division concerned	Member
(c)	Joint Secretary, Ministry/Division concerned	Member
(d)	Financial Advisor of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue	Member
(e)	Director General, Federal Department of Archaeology and Museums	Member
(f)	Ten eminent persons in the field of Archaeology and National Heritage from private sector nominated by Ministry/Division concerned	Members

(ii) after sub-section (1), as amended above, the following new sub-section (1A) shall be inserted, namely:-

"(1A) The Secretary and the Joint Secretary of the Division concerned shall also act as the Treasurer and Secretary of the Fund, respectively."; and

(iii) in sub-section (2), for the words "Federal Government", the words "Minister-in-charge of the Division concerned" shall be substituted.

4. **Amendment of section 8, Act No. VIII of 1994.-** In the said Act, in section 8, in sub-section (2), for the words "Federal Government" the words "Division concerned" shall be substituted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The National Fund for Cultural Heritage Act, 1994 was enacted in 1994 by the then Ministry of Culture and re-enacted through the National Fund for Cultural Heritage (Amendment) Ordinance, 2002. The objective of the fund is to promote the conservation and preservation of national heritage of Pakistan through various means, including financial and technical assistance, and to create awareness amongst the people for appreciating the preservation of archaeological, architectural, historical and cultural heritage of Pakistan as per NFCH Act, 1994.

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, this Division proposed necessary amendments to specific provisions of the National Fund for Cultural Heritage Act, 1994. Accordingly, the draft amendments were submitted to the Ministry of Law and Justice for vetting. Ministry of Law & Justice vetted the draft amendments. Subsequently, the Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC) approved the proposed amendments in its meeting held on 08.10.2025 under case No.CCLC-133/22/2025 and the decision of the CCLC was ratified by the Federal 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.

(Aurangzeb Khan Khichi)
Federal Minister
National Heritage and Culture Division

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

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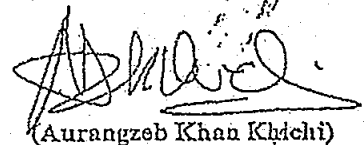
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(Aurangzeb Khan Khichi)
Federal Minister
National Heritage and Culture Division