



SENATE SECRETARIAT

Report No.2

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

ON

**[The National Institute of Folk and Traditional
Heritage (Lok Virsa) (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 Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) (Amendment) Bill, 2026]

I, Chairman, Standing Committee on National Heritage & Culture, have the honour to present report on the Government Bill [The National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) (Amendment) Bill, 2026], passed by the National Assembly and transmitted to the Senate which was then taken up in the Senate sitting held on 21st 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 11th June, 2026, under the Chairmanship of Senator Hidayatullah Khan, which was attended by the following honourable Members:-

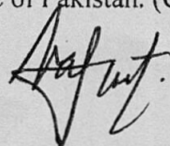
1. Senator Hidayatullah Khan	Chairman
2. Senator Bushra Anjum Butt	Member
3. Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
4. Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi	Member
5. Mr. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi Minister for National Heritage & Culture	Ex-Officio Member

4. The Executive Director, Lok Virsa, apprised the Committee regarding the proposed amendments in the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) Ordinance, 2002. He informed that in pursuance of the instructions of the Cabinet Division dated 13th May, 2025 regarding substitution of the term "Federal Government" with the appropriate authority in relevant laws and rules, necessary amendments are being proposed in specific provisions of the Lok Virsa Ordinance, 2002 in order to get the Institute's functioning smooth and expedient. He elaborated the amendments clause by clause.

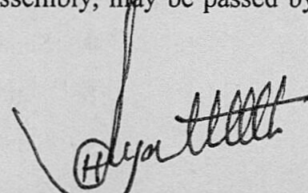
5. The Committee while discussing the Bill, inquired as to what hurdles were being faced by the Government by using the term "Federal Government". It was replied that in a famous Mustafa Impex case, definition of the "Federal Government" was determined by the Supreme Court as "the Prime Minister and the Cabinet". This definition caused inefficiency in the governance because Cabinet was required to be consulted in connection with every decision, major or minor. Therefore, to overcome this difficulty, amendments are being proposed for substitution of the term "Federal Government" with appropriate authority.

6. After detailed deliberations, the Committee unanimously supported the proposed amendments and voted in favour of the Bill.

7. Accordingly, the Committee recommended that "The National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) (Amendment) Bill, 2026" as passed by the National Assembly, may be passed by the Senate of Pakistan. (Copy of the Bill is annexed).



(Rafiqat Waheed)
Secretary Committee



(Senator Hidayatullah Khan)
Chairman

[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 INTENTIONS

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.

Aurangzeb Khan Khichi
Minister for
National Heritage and Culture Division