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PART I

Acts, Ordinances, President's Orders and Regulations

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

Islamabad, the 30th June, 2026

F. No. 2(1)/2026-PUB.— The following Ordinance promulgated on 30th June, 2026 by the President is hereby published for general information:—

(ORDINANCE NO. V OF 2026)

ORDINANCE

further to amend the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002

WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002 (XVII of 2002), in the manner and for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

AND WHEREAS, the Senate and the National Assembly are not in session and the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 89 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance:—

(783)

Price : Rs. 5.00

[11152(2026)/Ex. Gaz.]

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) This Ordinance shall be called the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 2, Ordinance XVII of 2002.— In the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002 (XVII of 2002), hereinafter referred to as "the said Ordinance", in section 2, for clause (ii), the following shall be substituted, namely:—

"(ii) "Chairman" means the person appointed as Chairman of the Authority and includes the Vice-Chairman when acting as Chairman or the Civil Servant to whom the additional charge of the post of Chairman is assigned;"

3. Amendment of section 3, Ordinance XVII of 2002.— In the said Ordinance, in section 3, in sub-section (8), in clause (a), for the semi colon, at the end, a colon shall be substituted and thereafter the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

"Provided that in case the post of Chairman is vacant for the time being, the Federal Government may assign the additional charge of the post of Chairman to a civil servant of BS-21 or above, who is otherwise eligible for the post and is not posted in the Petroleum Division at the relevant time, for a period of three months or until the appointment of a regular Chairman, whichever is earlier."

ASIF ALI ZARDARI,
President

RAJA NAEEM AKBAR,
Secretary

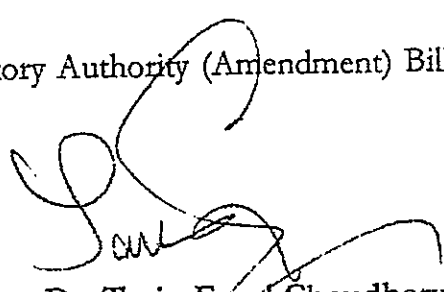
STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has been established under the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002. Section 3(8)(a) of the Ordinance *ibid* provides that the Chairman shall be appointed by the Federal Government for an initial term of four years and shall be eligible for reappointment for a similar term.

2. However, the process for the appointment of a regular Chairman, OGRA is very time-consuming. It entails inter alia: advertisement of the position with a minimum period of 15 days for submission of applications; detailed scrutiny of applicants' credentials to shortlist eligible candidates; comprehensive interviews of the shortlisted candidates; and finally, placement of a panel of candidates before the Cabinet for its consideration and appointment of one of them as the Chairman of the Authority. Furthermore, the time that is likely to be taken from advertisement of the position to the appointment of the Chairman cannot be predicted. For instance, if all the applicants are found ineligible or unsuitable, the whole process must be repeated. It may be noted that previously, the appointment process for the Chairman, OGRA was initiated in 2020 and concluded in 2021 since the position had to be re-advertised for the reason that the Selection Board could not identify a suitable candidate.

3. In consideration of the above noted factors and in order to prevent the Authority from becoming dysfunctional pending the appointment of a Chairman through the normal selection and appointment process- as has been experienced recently, when the arrangement made by designating one of the members as Vice Chairman to act as Chairman, under Section 3 (13) of the Ordinance *ibid*, left the Authority rudderless- the amendment in Section 2 (ii) and Section 3(8)(a) of the Ordinance *ibid* to provide for an effective interim institutional arrangement have been proposed.

4. The Bill titled "The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2026" has been designed to achieve the aforesaid objectives.



Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhary
Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs