

[AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A

BILL

*to amend the Protection against Harassment of women
at the Workplace Act, 2010*

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Protection against Harassment of women at the Workplace Act, 2010 (IV of 2010) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Protection against Harassment of women at the Workplace (Amendment) Act, 2014.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 10, Act IV of 2010.- In the Protection against Harassment of women at the Workplace Act, 2010 (IV of 2010), in section 10, in sub-section (1),-

- (i) in paragraph (v), the word "and" occurring at the end shall be omitted;
- (ii) in paragraph (vi) for the "full stop" occurring at the end a semicolon and word "; and" shall be substituted; and
- (iii) after paragraph (vi) amended as aforesaid, the following new paragraph shall be inserted, namely: -

"(vii) The Mohtasib may, on a complaint by any aggrieved person or on a reference by the President, the Federal Council or the National Assembly, or on a motion of the Supreme Court or a High Court made during the course of any proceedings before it or of his own motion, as case may be, undertake any investigation into any allegation of mal-administration on the part of any Agency or any of its officers or employees."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Wafaqi Mohtasib and the Federal Tax Ombudsman have powers to undertake investigation on a complaint by any aggrieved person or on a reference by designated authorities any investigation into any allegation relating to their respective areas of jurisdiction. In addition they have powers to undertake such investigations on his own motion. However, the Woman Ombudsman has not been given such powers resulting in the curtailment of his powers to perform functions under the Act. The amendment is intended to vest the Woman Ombudsman with powers, like the Wafaqi Mohtasib and the Federal Tax Ombudsman, to undertake any investigation on his own motion in addition to a complaint made to him by any aggrieved person or on a reference by designated authorities.

SENATOR FARHATULLAH BABAR
Member-in-charge