

## SENATE SECRETARIAT

**Subject:** REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CABINET SECRETARIAT ON THE PROGRESS ON RELIEF WORK AND SUBSEQUENT STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE WAKE OF 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2015 EARTHQUAKE, 2015, THE MATTER REFERRED BY THE HOUSE IN ITS SITTING DATED 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015.

I, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat have the honor to present report on a matter referred by the House on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2015 in relation to the progress on relief work and subsequent steps taken by the Government in the wake of earthquake of 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Committee on Cabinet Secretariat is as under:-

1. Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood	Chairman
2. Senator Shahi Syed	Member
3. Senator Hidayat Ullah	Member
4. Senator Mir Muhammad Yousaf Badini	Member
5. Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Member
6. Senator Kamil Ali Agha	Member
7. Senator Ms. Najma Hameed	Member
8. Senator Kalsoom Perveen	Member
9. Senator Ms. Rahila Magsi	Member
10. Senator Haji Saif-ullah Khan Bangash	Member
11. Senator Osman Saifullah Khan	Member
12. Senator Nawabzada Saifullah Magsi	Member
13. I/C Minister for Cabinet Division	Ex-officio Member

3. The Committee considered the matter in view of the TOR's as set by the house in its meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Relevant and concerned ministries and other organizations dealing with the matter were invited for briefing which included

Cabinet Division, Ministry of Climate Change, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA), Provisional Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and Deputy Commissioners of various Districts of KPK. It is pertinent to mention that Chief Secretary, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was also requested to attend the meeting and apprise the Committee about the progress so far made by the Provincial Government however neither the Chief Secretary nor his representative attended the meeting.

4. The ToRs of the referred matter are as under:-

1. **Review the performance and capacities of disaster management authorities;**
2. **Laws regarding establishment of such authorities needs to be reviewed;**
3. **Evaluation of linkages between the Federal and Provincial disaster management authorities.**

5. The Chairman, NDMA Maj. Gen. (R) Asghar Nawaz during the briefing informed the Committee that on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 an earthquake of 8.1 intensity jolted Pakistan affecting mostly the areas in KPK, FATA, Gilgit Baltistan, AJK, Islamabad and Punjab. The most affected areas were Malakand, Dir, Bajour, Mohammad agencies and Ghizar and Diamir districts in Gilgit Baltistan. He further informed that total death toll as of today (4<sup>th</sup> November 2015) was recorded at 273 with 226 alone in KPK mostly in Malakand Division. Similarly 30 deaths have been reported in FATA, 10 in Gilgit Baltistan, 5 in Punjab and two in AJK. While giving the details of injuries and property damages, Chairman NDMA informed that so far 2115 major and minor injured persons have been reported and the total number of fully and partially damaged houses is assessed at 74639.

6. While replying the query by the Chairman of the Committee regarding the mechanism adopted for assessing the damages as well as the disbursement procedure for giving compensation amount to the affected people, the Chairman NDMA said that in a high level meeting chaired by Prime Minister of Pakistan on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015 in Governor House Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, beside formulating the assessment and the



disbursement of compensation process it was also decided that compensation amount would be borne by Federal Government and KPK Government at the ratio of 50% each in the cases related to areas located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, whereas with regard to the cases of FATA, AJK, Gilgit Baltistan and other areas, it shall be the responsibility of the Federal Government to pay the entire compensation amount.

The detail of the compensation rate as approved is as under:-

S.#	Nature of Loss	Rate of Compensation
1.	Dead	Rs.600,000/-
2.	Major / Grievous Injury	Rs.100, 000/-
3.	Loss of Limb / Permanent Disability	Rs.200, 000/-
4.	Fully Damaged House	Rs.200, 000/-
5.	Partially Damaged House	Rs.100, 000/-

7. He further said that assessment of all compensation cases in all the districts have almost been completed by the concerned Deputy Commissioners with the help of all relevant and concerned departments and verification of all such cases has also been done by a Committee as constituted in the said meeting which comprises of representatives of the district administration concerned, local elected representatives and representatives of Pak Army.

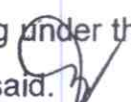
8. The Chairman NDMA further informed that the assessment process was completed with the help of more than 13000 joint teams of all concerned departments and so far 243 death compensation have been paid out of 273 and 302 injury compensation have been made out of 2115. As regard the compensation of damaged houses, the Chairman NDMA said that priority was given to fully damaged houses and so far 1675 compensations have been made in this respect after verification. The remaining will be paid in due course of time but not later than 14<sup>th</sup> November 2015, the deadline as set by the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He also apprised the Committee that in order to make the process more transparent, the disbursement of compensation amount to the affectees made at Tehsil/District headquarters level in the presence of local political leaderships, media beside other concerned departments. The entire

process was also visually recorded. Special centers of banks were opened for on-spot payment to facilitate the earthquake affectees.

9. The Committee was also apprised by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority and Provincial Administration officers which include various Deputy Commissioners, Additional Commissioners who gave details of the damages and human casualties in wake of the earthquake. The details were almost similar as already explained by the Chairman NDMA.

10. The Committee recognizes and appreciated the coordinated efforts of all the concerned departments of Federal Government organizations as well as Provincial Government departments in carrying out relief work in order to facilitate the affectees of earthquake. The Committee however advised all concerned to speed up and put extra efforts in relief activities keeping in view the cold winter season and expected rains and snow in these areas.

11. The Acting Deputy Chairman, Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Authority (ERRA) while taking part in the briefing, apprised the Committee that scope of ERRA was confined to rehabilitation and reconstruction of physical assets and infrastructure as well as revival of livelihood and not related to relief and rescue activities. He further informed that there are currently 600 employees working in the authority. The Committee however observed with concern that despite of having sufficient number of skillful employees full with expertise and having large number of well connected network, the services are not being utilized properly. On a query made by the Committee, the Acting Deputy Chairman ERRA informed that a summary has been sent to the Prime Minister of Pakistan requesting therein for allowing ERRA to take part in the reconstruction of damaged public buildings and Infrastructure as well as to supervise the reconstruction of housing under the guidance by ERRA. The decision on the summary is still awaited, he further said.





12. The Committee after exhaustive discussion, made the following recommendations:-

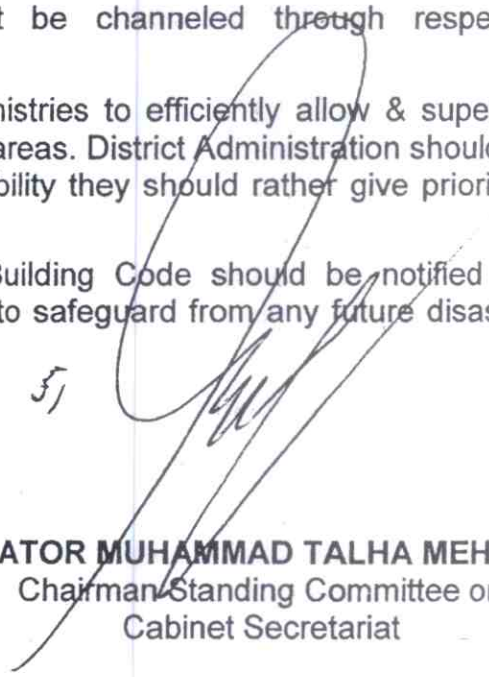
1. The Committee recommended that the NDMA be assisted by the government machinery in all respects in order to maintain their quantum of relief and rehabilitation and achieve the given deadline set by the Prime Minister
2. The Committee while expressing concern over the upcoming bad weather conditions in the calamity stricken areas and danger to spreading of epidemic in these areas, recommends the Federal and Provincial Governments to speed up the relief and rehabilitation activities and necessary measures may be taken in this regard.
3. The Committee recommended to utilize the expertise of ERRa in the eve of disaster management by linking it with the NDMA so as to substantiate the existing strength and capacity of NDMA.
4. The Committee also recommended that the scope of ERRa may be enhanced and re-named as Disaster Risk Reduction Authority (DRRA).
5. The Committee also recommended for immediate appointment of Chairman Deputy Chairman ERRa on permanent basis.
6. Houses damage compensation should be enhanced to 2 lacs for partially damaged and 4 lacs for fully damaged houses. Affectees are mostly very poor and should be helped. Similarly the Committee also recommends to enhance the compensation amount for the death be increased to a reasonable rate.
7. In order to avert any possible disaster in the Miancher, the area located within the path of the Pakistan Economic Corridor project and as reported massive land sliding, the Committee advised the NDMA and other concerned departments to include the Miancher area in the survey and necessary steps be taken to ensure safety of the area and its people.

13. In addition to the above recommendations and considering the gravity of the matter, the Committee also recommends as under:-

- i) All time availability of atleast Rs. 300 million under the relief account at the disposal of Deputy Commissioners.
- ii) Immediate availability of heli service by NDMA to Commissioner Office for mobility and carry out relief activity.

- iii) Minimum visits of VVIPs / high ups to disaster hit areas as most of the energy of admin is spent to host VVIP visits and look after their staff.
- iv) PDMA & NDMA to be seen more in holding media conferences and presentations to accurately represent Disaster hit area at Provincial and Federal level.
- v) Deputy Commissioners & Commissioners must not be deviated from the relief & rehabilitation activities and ensure their presence in their respective areas. PDMA is most suitable for the job having true picture being provided by local administration, as such the PDMA should attend all meetings at Federal and Provincial level when required.
- vi) Supply of tents, food and non food items should be done at fast track. Stocks should be available with PDMA's keeping in view the cool weather. More time should be given for verification and damage assessment as well.
- vii) Government relief package should be decided before hand so that availability of funds and disbursement is quicker. If government has to decide any increase in the relief package, same could be done when assessment is done fully. This will enable Provincial and Federal Government to announce appropriate packages keeping in view its financial health.
- viii) Provincial Government may depute one Minister in each effected district to work hand in hand with district administration. This will enable quicker relief and rehabilitation policy decisions at top executives level.
- ix) All aides to the districts must be channeled through respective Commissioners offices.
- x) Home Departments & Interior Ministries to efficiently allow & supervise operation of NGOs & INGOs in hit areas. District Administration should not be asked to assume this responsibility they should rather give priority to relief and rehabilitation activities.
- xi) Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Building Code should be notified and publicized by respective agencies to safeguard from any future disaster.

  
(HAFEEZULLAH SHEIKH)  
JS/Secretary Committee

51  
  
(SENATOR MUHAMMAD TALHA MEHMOOD)  
Chairman Standing Committee on  
Cabinet Secretariat