MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 14TH DECEMBER, 2015

****

A meeting of the Business Advisory Committee was held on 14th December, 2015 in Committee Room No. 4, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Senator MianRazaRabbani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan.

2. The agenda of the meeting was as under:-

i. Confirmation of Minutes of meeting dated 2nd November, 2015.
ii. Compliance report regarding earlier decisions of the Business Advisory Committee.
iii. Duration and Business to be transacted during 122nd Session.
iv. Amendments in the Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, regarding:-

   a. Relations between Senate and Provinces.
   b. Mechanism for convening meetings of the Standing Committee.
   c. Committee on delegated legislation.
   d. Submission of Notices via E-mail.

v. Absence of Members during question hour.
vi. Disassociation of Senate with the Senate Employees Cooperative Housing Society.
vii. Any other item with permission of the chair.

3. Following Members attended the meeting:-

1)	Senator Mian Raza Rabbani, Chairman Senate	Chairman
2)	Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Dy. Chairman Senate	Member
3)	Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq,	Member
4)	Senator Aitzaz Ahsan	Member
5)	Senator Saleem Zia, Chief Whip	Member
6)	Senator Saeed Ghani	Member
7)	Senator Col (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi	Member
8)	Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak	Member
9)	Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood	Member
10)	Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed	Member
11)	Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo	Member
12)	Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar	Member
13)	Senator Dr. JehanzebJamaldini	Member
14)	Mr. Aftab Ahmed Sheikh, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs	Ex-officio Member
15)	Mr. Amjed Pervez	Secretary Senate

4. Meeting started at 01:15 p.m. with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Deputy Chairman Senate. The Committee started consideration of the following agenda items.

AGENDA ITEM NO.I: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING DATED 2ND NOVEMBER, 2015.

5. The Committee confirmed the minutes, as no objection was raised by any member.

AGENDA ITEM NO.II: COMPLIANCE REPORT REGARDING EARLIER DECISIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

6. Secretary Senate briefed the Committee about the compliance report on the following earlier decisions of the Committee.

i. **The HBAC directed the Secretary Senate to depute one official from Senate Secretariat to work in the Parliament dispensary to keep record of the medical facility availed by the Members from the dispensary.**

The Secretary Senate apprised the Committee that a Data Entry Operator has been deputed to work in the Dispensary to keep the **record of the medical facility availed by the Members from the dispensary**

ii. **The HBAC directed the Secretariat to communicate to all the Members that whenever, any Member will go on a foreign official visit he/she will submit a report regarding his participation/activities during the visit on his/her return to the Secretariat and the Members of the delegations should travel on one flight while proceeding on official visit, however, they can take separate flight on their way back, without causing financial repercussion on the Senate Secretariat.**

The Secretary Senate apprised the Members that a notification in this respect has been issued for information of Members and all concerned.

iii. **The HBAC directed to circulate the report of the Committee which was previously made to probe into the issues of the Senate Employees Cooperative Housing Society.**

The Secretary Senate informed the Committee that the report has been circulated to all the Members on 10th November, 2015.

iv. **The HBAC directed the Director (Media) of Senate Secretariat to make arrangements for occasional interviews of Chairman Standing Committees of the Senate to highlight the working and achievements of the Committees. The Chairman further directed that a quarterly report on important issues taken up by the Standing Committees shall also be prepared for the use of print and electronic Media.**

Secretary Senate apprised the Committee that the work is under progress and the Secretariat is also working on the inclusion of social media in the mass media.

v. **Issue pertaining to e-submission of notices in respect of legislative and non-legislative business has been raised time and again by the members in the meetings of the HBAC.**

The Secretary Senate apprised the Committee that draft amendments in the Rules have been prepared for perusal and approval of the Committee. However, the Committee unanimously agreed that initially the facility of e-notices shall be given only in respect of notices for Questions, Calling Attention Notice and Adjournment Motions.

AGENDA ITEM NO.III: DURATION AND BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED DURING 122ND SESSION.

7. The Committee took the following decisions:-

i. Duration of 122nd session will be from 14th December to 23rd December, however, if required, the same can be stretched to next week starting from 28th December as well.

ii. Meeting of the Committee of the Whole constituted regarding "provision of inexpensive and speedy justice in the country" will be held on 15th December, 2015 for laying the report and again after one week for finalization of said report.

iii. Meeting of the Committee on ethics will also be held during the session.

iv. Sittings will be held at 3:00 p.m. except Friday.

AGENDA ITEM NO.IV: AMENDMENTS IN THE RULES OF PROCEDURES AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN THE SENATE, 2012,.

8. The proposal for the following amendments was approved by the Committee:-

1. Amendment in rule 43 concerning furnishing of notice of a question by the Members through e-mail,
2. Amendment in rule 65 concerning furnishing of notice of a Calling Attention Notice by the Members through e-mail,
3. Amendment in rule 86 concerning furnishing of notice of an adjournment motion by the Members through e-mail,
4. Insertion of new rules 172C, 172D and 172E concerning the Committee on delegated legislation,
5. Amendment in rule 184,
6. Amendment in rule 198,
7. Insertion of new rules 205A, 205B, 205C and 205D concerning relationship between the Federation and the Provinces; and

AGENDA ITEM NO.V: ABSENCE OF MEMBERS DURING QUESTION HOUR.

9. The Chairman urged all the Parliamentary Party leaders to sensitize the Members of their parties to remain present during the question hour as it conveys very bad message to the outside world.

Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood suggested to include the provision of authorizing any other Member on behalf of the absentee Member to ask questions.

Senator Aitzaz Ahsan, agreed the suggestion of nomination of some other Member on behalf of the absentee member.

Further consideration of the agenda item was deferred by the Chair with the direction to the Members to firm up their suggestions.

AGENDA ITEM NO.VI: DISASSOCIATION OF SENATE WITH THE SENATE EMPLOYEES COOPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETY.

10. Additional Secretary (Admin) apprised the Members about the meetings conducted by him in this respect with the Cooperative Societies Department. He also produced copy of letter No. 2844/CR/ICT/B dated 9-12-2015 of the Circle Registrar, cooperative Societies Department, ICT, Islamabad, the contents of which are reproduced as under:-

> "Please refer to your letter No. 1(7)/2012-COM-I dated 11-11-2015 on the subject noted above.

2. This requisite inform.ation/ report is as under:-

i. This office has not objection to the withdrawal of NOC by the Senate Secretariat granted for registration of Senate (Sectt.) Employees Cooperative Housing Society, Islamabad.

ii. Under Section 14 of the Cooperative Societies Act, 1925 change of name of a Society can be made with the approval of Annual General Body Meeting with majority of votes but this shall create legal repercussions and liabilities because the Senate (Sectt.) Employees Cooperative Housing Society, Islamabad has purchased a lot of land under its title, issued allotment letters and executed heavy financial transactions. Therefore, change of its name at this stage shall incure a lot of liabilities i.e. all revenue record pertaining to the Society shall have to be changed, allotment letters shall also be revised and all court cases under its title shall also be affected.

3. This issues with the approval of the Director (Dev & Fin) / Registrar Cooperative Societies, ICT, Islamabad."

AGENDA ITEM NO.VII: ANY OTHER ITEM.

11. Senator Hasil Bizenjo drew attention of the Committee towards the discrimination by the Commercial Banks while opening Bank Accounts of the family Members of the Senators. He shared his personal experience in this respect when a Bank refused to open bank account of his daughter on the pretext that he being her father fell in the category of Politically Exposed Persons.

The Chairman apprised the Members that the Senate Standing Committee on Finance has already taken up this issue and the Governor SBP has also issued a notice to all the Banks in this respect. The Chairman directed the Members to raise the issue in the House.

12. In juxta position, the Committee issued the following directions:-

i. The Committee approved the proposed amendment in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012 as mentioned in agenda item No.iv.

ii. The Committee directed to withdraw the name of Senate from the Senate Employees Cooperative Housing Society.

iii. The Chairman directed the Members to raise the issue of discrimination by banks in the House.

iv. Facility of e-notices shall be given in respect of questions, calling attention notices and adjournment motions after obtaining authenticated e-mails from the Members and the Rules amendment.

v. Duration of 122nd session will be from 14th December to 23rd December, however, if required, the same can be stretched to next week starting from 28th December as well.

vi. Meeting of the Committee of the Whole constituted regarding "provision of inexpensive and speedy justice in the country" will be held on 15th December, 2015 for laying the report and again after one week for finalization of said report.

vii. Meeting of the Committee on ethics will also be held during the session.

viii. Sittings will be held at 3:00 p.m. except Friday.

13. The Meeting ended with vote of thanks to and from the Chair at 02:05 p.m.

(Amjed Pervez Malik)
Secretary Senate

(Mian Raza Rabbani)
Chairman Senate of Pakistan