

[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]

**A
Bill**

further to amend the National Database and Registration Authority Ordinance, 2000

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the National Database and Registration Authority Ordinance, 2000 (VIII of 2000) for the purpose hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. **Short title and commencement.** - (1) This Act may be called the National Database and Registration Authority (Amendment) Act, 2024.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment in preamble, Ordinance VIII of 2000.** - In the National Database and Registration Authority Ordinance, 2000 (VIII of 2000), hereinafter referred to as the said Ordinance, in preamble, for the words "to facilitate", the words "to ensure" shall be substituted.

3. **Amendment in section 2, Ordinance VIII of 2000.** - In the said Ordinance, in section 2, in clause (n), after the word "rules", the words "or regulations" shall be inserted.

4. **Amendment in section 5, Ordinance VIII of 2000.** - In the said Ordinance, in section 5:

(a) in sub-section (1), in clause (b), for the words "the broadening of the registration base to bring" the word "bringing" shall be substituted; and

(b) in sub-section (4):

(i) after clause (a), the following clause (aa) shall be inserted:

"(aa) shall issue or renew National Identity Card to a citizen for a prescribed period, form and manner;" and

(ii) in clause (b), the expression "citizen," shall be omitted.

5. **Insertion of sections 5A and 5B in Ordinance VIII of 2000.** - In the said Ordinance, after section 5, the following sections 5A and 5B shall be inserted:

"5A. **Registration of certain classes of citizens.** - (1) The Authority shall take special initiatives to facilitate and ensure easy and cost-effective issuance or renewal of the National Identity Cards to certain classes of citizens especially women, persons with disabilities, transgender persons, prisoners and religious minorities.

(2) The Authority shall conduct research and analysis identifying the causes of deficiencies in issuance or renewal of the National Identity Cards to certain classes of citizens like women, persons with disabilities, transgender persons and religious minorities in any area and take effective measures to address these causes for universal issuance or renewal of the National Identity Cards to these classes of citizens.

5B. **Periodic campaign for registration.** - (1) The Authority shall take proactive measures including periodic campaigns for achieving universal

registration of citizens and completion of family trees for swift issuance of the National Identity Cards to citizens who have attained eighteen years of age.

(2) The Federal Government shall, by rules, fix the timelines for provision of services to citizens by the Authority with clear roles and responsibilities of the Registration Officers.

(3) In case of failure of the Authority in provision of a service within the prescribed timeline, the Authority shall waive entire fee for provision of the service to the citizen and shall take disciplinary action against the responsible officer or officers."

6. Substitution of section 9 in Ordinance VIII of 2000.— In the said Ordinance, for section 9, the following shall be substituted:

9. Registration of citizens. — (1) The Authority shall, in the prescribed manner, register a citizen who has attained the age of eighteen years and after birth of a citizen in the form and manner as may be prescribed.

(2) A citizen who has attained the age of eighteen years shall, within six months from the date of attaining the age of eighteen years, apply for registration with the Authority.

(3) A parent or guardian shall, within six months from the date of the birth of a citizen, apply for registration of the child in the form, manner or to a person as may be prescribed.

(4) The Authority shall develop an integrated birth registration database management system in the form and manner as may be prescribed and shall take measures for universal child birth registration of the citizens.

(5) A local authority shall assist the Authority for universal child birth registration of citizens through the integrated birth registration database management system and the Authority may issue directions to local authorities which shall be binding on the local authorities.

(6) For a citizen born outside Pakistan, an embassy or a high commission of Pakistan or another office or a person as may be prescribed, shall be deemed as a local authority for the child birth registration.

(7) A citizen may make an application for birth registration in such form and to such person or forum as may be prescribed.

(8) The Authority shall issue to a citizen who has not attained the age of eighteen years but is registered under sub-section (1) such certificate of registration in such form and manner and containing such information relating to such registered citizen as may be prescribed.

(9) A court or any other forum shall admit in evidence the certificate issued under sub-section (8) or a National Identity Card issued under this Ordinance for the purpose of proving the identity of, and other information or particulars contained in it relating to the citizen.

7. Substitution of section 10 in Ordinance VIII of 2000.— In the said Ordinance, for section 10, the following shall be substituted:

"10. National Identity Cards. — (1) The Authority shall issue or renew National Identity Card to a citizen who has attained the age of eighteen years and is registered under section 9, having the period of validity, upon payment of a reasonable fee and in the form and manner, as may be prescribed.

(2) Before issuing or renewing a card under this section, the Authority may require a person to surrender the National Identity Card earlier issued to the person under this Ordinance.

(3) The Authority shall identify the unregistered citizens or class of citizens like women, transgender persons, persons with disabilities and religious minorities, and areas with low registration and shall take measures for ensuring registration of those citizens by facilitating them in issuance of the National Identity Cards.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Ordinance, the Authority shall issue a National Identity Card to a citizen under this Ordinance for the period as may be prescribed by the Federal Government with a view to promoting uniformity, authenticity and technological advancement in the registration of citizens and issuance of National Identity Cards."

8. Insertion of section 10A in Ordinance VIII of 2000.— In the said Ordinance, after section 10, the following section 10A shall be inserted:

"10A. National Identity Cards with disability logo. — (1) The Authority shall issue or renew National Identity Card with disability logo to a citizen who has attained the age of eighteen years, is registered under section 9 and is a person with prescribed disability with the period of validity, upon payment of fee and in the form and manner, as may be prescribed.

(2) The Authority may, in the prescribed manner, ascertain the disability and in case of visible disability may issue or renew National Identity Card with disability logo on the basis of on the spot examination by a designated Registration Officer."

9. Amendment in section 14, Ordinance VIII of 2000.— In the said Ordinance, in section 14, for the expression "10, 11, 12 and 13", the expression "10, 10A, 11, 12 and 13" shall be substituted.

10. Amendment in section 17, Ordinance VIII of 2000.— In the said Ordinance, in section 17, for sub-section (1), the following shall be substituted:

"(1) In case of the death of a holder of a card or certificate issued under this Ordinance, a next of kin or guardian of the deceased shall, within sixty days of death, surrender the card or certificate to the District Registrar or any other person or authority as may be prescribed."

11. Insertion of section 17A in Ordinance VIII of 2000.- In the said Ordinance, after section 17, the following section 17A shall be inserted:

"17A. Registration of deaths. - (1) The Authority shall, in the prescribed manner, register death of a citizen in coordination with the local authorities.

(2) The Authority shall develop an integrated death registration database management system in coordination with the local authorities and shall take measures for universal death registration of the citizens.

(3) A local authority shall assist the Authority for death registration of the citizens through the integrated death registration database management system and the Authority may issue directions to the local authorities which shall be binding on the local authorities.

(4) For a citizen who dies outside Pakistan, an embassy or a high commission of Pakistan or another office or a person as may be prescribed shall be deemed as a local authority for the death registration.

(5) A next of kin or guardian of a citizen who dies may make an application for death registration in such form and to such person or forum as may be prescribed.

(6) The Authority shall, in the prescribed manner, cancel the National Identity Card of the dead citizen."

12. Substitution of section 23 in Ordinance VIII of 2000. - In the said Ordinance, for section 23, the following shall be substituted:

23. Power to call for proof of information. - (1) Subject to sub-section (2), the Authority may require a person who has given any information to furnish documentary or other evidence of the truth of the information where it is within the power of the person to furnish the required evidence.

(2) The Authority may not require proof of any person's visible disability except for an undertaking as may be prescribed."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Dynamics of national identification have fast changed during the past decade. Now National Identity Card has become essential for exercise of civic and economic property rights by the citizens. It is important to bring changes in the NADRA Ordinance in order to conform it to the changed scenario and dynamics of the society. It should be NADRA's responsibility to register every citizen and obligation of citizen is derived through need and necessity. There exists huge gender gap in registration and issuance of the National Identity Cards. Special provisions are required to fill this gap. The law should require NADRA to take special initiatives to facilitate and ensure easy and cost-effective registration of disadvantaged groups like persons with disabilities, transgender persons, prisoners and religious minorities. Child birth registration and registration of deaths are the other key areas which require specific legal provisions for improving systems of NADRA. An amendment makes it obligatory on the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics to share population, individuals and households information with NADRA making it easier for NADRA to identify unregistered citizens especially women, transgenders, persons with disabilities and religious minorities. The Authority should not require proof of any person's visible disability except for an undertaking on the prescribed form. Hence this Bill.

(SENATOR FAWZIA ARSHAD)
Member In-charge