**Statement of the Speaker at the Reception of the Embassy of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**September 26, 2017**

**Bismillah Irr Rehman Irr Raheem**

**Excellency Mr. Nawaf Bin Saeed Ahmad Al Malkiy!**

**Ambassador of the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**Ministers, Parliamentarians, Excellencies, Senior Military and Civil officers, Ladies and Gentlemen!**

**Asslam-o-Alikum**

**It is my pleasure to join you all in celebrating the 87th National Day of Pakistan’s most valued friend, a time-trusted partner and a brother-in-deed --- the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.**

**I am sure that I echo the heartfelt sentiments of every Pakistani when I convey our most sincere wishes and prayers to the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz, the Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman and the entire Saudi nation on their National Day.**

**The relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is no ordinary relationship, restricted to the formalities of our respective foreign offices. Instead, it is an association deeply etched into the hearts and minds of our people.**

**We are bound in irrevocable ties of common faith, culture, history and heritage.**

**Based on such strong emotional links, our respective governments have maintained a time-tested friendship, where we have supported each-other in every thick and thin and have stood by each other during every regional or international issue.**

**Here, I would especially like to refer to the numerous resolutions of the Parliament of Pakistan, in which the entire parliamentary leadership has declared that the security and integrity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the security and integrity of Pakistan.**

**The Parliament of Pakistan has also remained in the forefront to further cement the brotherly relations between our two countries.**

**I have had the honour of hosting my brother His Excellency the Chairman of the Majlis Ash Shura of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Abdullah Bin Muhammad last year and I look forward to my future meetings with him.**

**The Parliamentary Friendship Groups in the National Assembly of Pakistan and the Saudi Majlis Ash Shura have also played their due role in bringing us closer. This process will continue in future as well.**

**Excellency!**

**There is a long history of mutual cooperation between our two countries.**

**The generous Saudi investments in various projects in Pakistan and the services rendered by more than 2.6 million Overseas Pakistanis in Saudi Arabia reflect our common interests.**

**This relationship needs to be further strengthened to commensurate with the strong fraternal bonds existing between our two countries.**

**An enhanced access for Pakistani exports to Saudi markets, to address the trade imbalance and accelerated Saudi investments under Vision 2025 in Pakistan would be the right steps in right direction.**

**Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen!**

**There is famous saying: Friendship is a sweet responsibility; not opportunity.**

**Time and again, both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have proved to have adequately fulfilled this responsibility.**

**Long Live Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Friendship**

**Pakistan Zindabad**

**Saudi Arabia Zindabad**