



National Assembly of Pakistan
Progress Report of the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE



PROGRESS REPORT

NOVEMBER 2013 - OCTOBER 2014



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FROM THE CHAIRPERSON'S DESK

As Chairperson of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, it is my proud privilege to present the first Progress Report of the Committee for the period Nov 2013 – Oct 2014. The purpose of this report is to bring forth the activities, achievements and legislative oversight role of the Committee over Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage.



I sincerely hope that through this progress report, our committee is able to accomplish the concept of *information sharing*; delivered to us, deliberated by us and analyzed by us, in order to provide policy guidelines of recommendatory nature to the Government.

This report is a much needed step in the direction of strengthening democratic traditions of transparency and will go down in history as an effort to ensure the same. In many ways this report is a unique historical document and I am confident that it will prove as a trend setter for other prestigious Standing Committees of National Assembly to follow.

Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage is amongst the most vibrant and actively working committees of the National Assembly. It enjoys the hallmark of being the only Standing Committee of the National Assembly which has given budgetary recommendations, has laid four (4) Special Reports namely, Special Report on National Language Commission, Special Report on Media Security, Special Report on Right to Information Bill & Special Report on Media Commission, conducting fourteen (14) meetings (in the said period) over diversified agenda, with ground breaking recommendations on each and working with seven (7) sub-committees dedicated on focusing individual departments of Ministry. The Honorable Speaker of National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has encouraged the Committee to establish its independent website <http://nacomm-infobh.pk/> through which the Committee is able to provide an up-to-date portal on committee's proceedings and to fulfill its responsibility towards enhancing information systems.

This report is a comprehensive documentation of the work of the Committee for the said period with minutes faithfully recorded on all the issues. I am pleased to report that some of the recommendations of the Standing Committee have already been implemented by the Government while others are in the process of implementation.

The Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage subject matter is most prone to technological advancements in this fast paced global village. Pakistan's media community has grown very fast in the last decade. As such we hope that the Ministry will keep itself relevant in the years to come. Its raison d'être will certainly be the subject of much debate. The agenda of the Committee for months and years to come will keep on expanding and I hope that the deliberations of the Committee would help the Information Ministry and its attached departments in improving their work and prompt the executive branch to take appropriate reforms wherever needed.

MNA Marvi Memon
Chairperson



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the first Progress Report of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage since its constitution and election of MNA Marvi Memon as the Chairperson of the Committee on November, 08, 2013. The Report pertains to a period of 1 year, Nov 2013 – Oct 2014, yet it has sufficient and extremely useful contents due to the colossal amount of work done.

During the period being reported upon, the Committee had held fourteen (14) meetings and as is evident from the Minutes compiled in the Report, meaningful discussion took place on a number of diverse and important issues especially those related to Media. Almost all the meetings concluded on Unanimous Resolutions entailing the Recommendations of the Committee for the Ministry & Executive Branch.

The most significant elements included in the Report are the proceedings of the meetings as stated in the minutes, the recommendations of the committee thoroughly discussed and deliberated upon by Members, the reports of the seven sub-committees and brief on four Special Reports laid by the Committee on National Language Commission, Media Security, Right to Information Bill and Media Commission, under Rule 234 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in The National Assembly, 2007. It also outlines the broad contours of the activities and hallmarks of the committee. This Report being the first one of its nature since constitution of the Committee, gives in detail the profiles and messages of the Chairperson and Committee Members as well.

The highlights from the proceedings as recorded in the minutes include analyses of the austerity measures taken by the Ministry to cut its budget by 30%, Budgetary Proposals of the Ministry for PSDP 2014-15, Terrorists attacks on Media & Government's compensatory efforts in this regard, Importance of Mother Tongues in creating Inter-Provincial Harmony and Working Paper on National Language Commission, Security action plan for protection of Media persons, taking up of Raza Rumi Case by the Committee, Action Plan on the Report and Recommendations of the Media Commission as appointed by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, 2013, deliberations on Pakistan Culture and Arts Foundation Relief Fund, Constitution & Commencement of work of *Media Laws Review Taskforce*, the working of Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) and the policy of Government on promoting Arts & Culture.

Resolutions imbue the unanimous deliberations and recommendations of the Standing Committee. These include action plan for Media Security in Pakistan, proposed actions under deliberations on Media Commission appointed by the Supreme Court, 2013, recommendations on Pakistan Culture and Arts Foundation Relief Fund, Committee's Final Recommendations on Right to Information (RTI) Bill, Finalization of Members & ToRs of the Media Laws Review Taskforce and deliberations on PNCA.

Important discussion such as those on removal of ambiguities in Code of Conduct of both print and electronic media, devising an effective implementation mechanism with revised composition of Complaint Commission and deliberations on the proposals / recommendations for Code of Conduct also took place during committee proceedings. The committee also discussed the recent attacks in the wake of PTI-PAT sit ins especially that on PTV Building and PEMRA actions on airing of inciting material during the sit ins resulting in violation of PEMRA rules.



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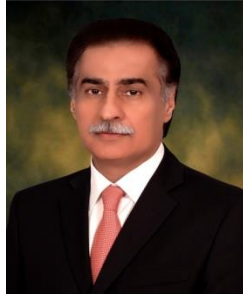
Last but not the least, this Report contains press statements as released officially by the Committee at meetings' conclusion and promptly uploaded on Committee's Website.

To sum up, the scope and purpose of this Report is:

- i. Documentation and Dissemination of the Committee's Work for Nov 2013 – Oct 2014*
- ii. To provide an update on the activities of the Committee & it's Sub-Committees with detailed Minutes*
- iii. To present a document containing Brief on Special Reports of the Committee and its Website*
- iv. To highlight the impact the Committee Work is creating in the Media*
- v. To introduce the Chairperson and Members of Committee*



PROFILE OF HONORABLE SARDAR AYAZ SADIQ, SPEAKER, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has been elected as Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan with more than two third majority of votes (258 votes).

He was honored to be elected as Member National Assembly in last three consecutive General elections held in 2002, 2008 and 2013. Now the Almighty Allah has blessed him to become the Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan on June 3rd, 2013.

He remained Member of the Central Executive Committee Pakistan Muslim League (N) and served as Finance Secretary of PML(N).

He played vital role in Assembly Business as an active Member of the National Assembly in past. Public Accounts Committee, Finance, Railways and Defence Production Committees still remember his commendable role and he has also performed exclusively as Chairman Standing Committee on Railways. The Railways Committee of National Assembly then made practicable recommendations to the Govt. for improvement of Pakistan Railway under his leadership.

He served as Member Board of Governors, the renowned Aitchison College Lahore from 2010 to 2012.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq played his active role for improvement of the facilities in the Services Hospital Lahore as Member Board of Management, from 2008 to 2012 to serve the suffering humanity.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and his family is currently running one of the best Trust Hospital in Lahore by the name of Sardar Trust Eye Hospital and treating the poor people of the vicinity free of cost. The Sardar Trust Eye Hospital has the distinction of implanting the corneas of complete blind deserving patients.



PROFILE OF HONORABLE MURTAZA JAVED ABBASI, DEPUTY SPEAKER, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Member National Assembly of Pakistan has been elected as Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan on 03 June, 2013 by securing more than two-third majority vote (258 votes).

Prior to this Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi was elected as MNA on the ticket of PML(N) in 2008 election and was also elected as Chairman Standing Committee on Narcotic Control of the National Assembly and successfully discharged his responsibilities and parliamentary functions in accordance with the Rules of procedures and conduct of business in the National Assembly.

Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi is son of late Haji Javed Iqbal Abbasi who remained Chairman District Council Abbottabad for 12 years and twice elected as Member National Assembly and Senator.

Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi was born on 15th March 1970 and did his graduation from Peshawar University.



PROFILE OF HONORABLE MARVI MEMON, CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE



Marvi Memon was born in Karachi in July 1972. After schooling in Karachi, Paris and Kuwait, she graduated from the London School of Economics with a B.Sc (Econ) Honors in International Relations. With internships at Dawn, Newline, Pakistan Institute of International Affairs, US Commercial Consulate, and International Union for Conservation of Nature during her education years, she started her career as a banker at Citibank Pakistan where she specialized in Marketing and Quality Management for the consumer bank. After which she launched Pakistan's first satellite tracking fleet management concern Trakker, which established her as an entrepreneur and the youngest woman CEO of a multinational firm at the time. Her next assignment led her to advising the President of Pakistan on Media Management. After which she advised on Investments. She served as Member of Parliament for the first time from March 2008 to June 2011 as a PMLQ MNA. She was a member of the parliamentary committees on Environment, Information Technology, Kashmir Gilgit-Baltistan. Her groundbreaking legislation on acid crime and setting up Pakistan's first research institute for parliamentarians led her to be part of Pakistan's first Oscar winning documentary. She was one of the first to resign from parliament setting new political standards when her party changed stated policies. After that she launched a movement for rights in Pakistan and galvanized rural Sindh's villages for change. She joined PMLN in March 2012 and toured all of Pakistan spreading the PMLN message for a year during which she set up a new constituency for PMLN in feudal rural Thatta Sindh. She was chairperson of the Interprovincial subcommittee of the PMLN Manifesto committee prior to the May 2013 elections. Having attempted to get elected from a general seat from Thatta NA 237 she joined parliament as PMLN MNA on reserved seat from Sindh. She is one of the first parliamentarians to have pursued public interest litigation in the superior judiciary and being petitioner for many record making verdicts related to flood management, air crashes and worker rights. She has written many research papers and articles on foreign affairs. She is the first parliamentarian of Pakistan to author parliamentary diaries 'My Diaries' published in 2012. Her strength is her close contact with grassroots, youth and discriminated populations of society in all provinces and territories of Pakistan as Pakistan's most widely campaigning parliamentarian. She is currently the Chairperson for the National Assembly Committee for Information Broadcasting and Heritage, Chief Coordinator for the PM Youth Loan Program, and Member of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs.



PROFILES OF THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ¹

Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon , MNA
NA-17, Abbottabad-I, KP, PTI

He is an MBBS Doctor from Khyber Medical College, Peshawar. Health & Medical Sciences are his area of expertise. He is a Social Worker & Philanthropist who has worked all life for the welfare of people in the province of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa especially in Hazara Division. Social Work and establishing institutions in his constituent division has been the hallmark of his career. He holds the position of Central President of Pakistan Medical Association since 2011. He is also serving as Managing Director of Women Medical & Dental College Abbottabad, President of SAWERA Welfare Organization, President of Professional Education Promotion Society (PEPS) and President of Abasin Arts Council Hazara. He had contested the General Elections of 2001 & 2008 as well. He has made several foreign visits including those to England, Srilanka, Afghanistan, Egypt & UAE. He is currently serving as member of two of National Assembly's Standing Committees, namely Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and National Health Services Regulation & Coordination.



Mr. Murad Saeed, MNA
NA-29, Swat-I, KP, PTI

Mr Murad Saeed holds a B.Sc Hons degree in Environmental Sciences from University of Peshawar. It is his first tenure as Member National Assembly.



Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry, MNA
NA-76, Faisalabad-II, Punjab, PLM(N)

Mr Chaudry is a businessman by profession and holds an MBA & an LLB degree. His areas of interest are Security, Energy and Telecommunication. His foreign travels include those to Singapore, USA, UK, Saudia Arabia, Dubai, Thailand & Australia.



¹ Based on Direct Input received from Members



Mian Muhammad Farooq, MNA

NA-80, Faisalabad-VI, Punjab, PML(N)

He is a seasoned politician who has been Member of Provincial Assembly four times from 1985 to 1996. He has been twice elected as Member National Assembly in 1997 & in 2013 elections. He is a businessman by profession. He has also been a former member of PAC. His foreign travels include those to India, America, Saudi Arabia, Canada and the U.K.



Ms. Ghulam Bibi Bharwana, MNA

NA-88, JHANG-Cum-Chiniot (Old NA-87 Jhang-II), Punjab, PML(N)

Hailing from Jhang, Ms . Ghulam Bibi Bharwana has been elected thrice as Member of National Assembly since 2002 General Elections. She graduated from the Lahore College for Women University with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She is the granddaughter of famous politician of Jhang, (Late)Mehr Ghulam Haider Bharwana. She has previously served as State Minister for Youth Affairs & Education and has been member in the committees on Culture, Sports, Tourism and Youth Affairs, Education, and the committee on Petroleum and Natural Resources. Currently she is member of National Assembly's Standing Committees on Science & Technology, Textile and Information.



Mr. Waseem Akhtar Shaikh, MNA

NA-139, Kasur-II, Punjab, PML(N)

Mr Waseem Shaikh holds a Bachelor degree and has previously served as member National Assembly from 2008 to 2013. He is the General Secretary of PMLN for District Kasur. He served as member of Information Committee in his last tenure and is again serving as a contributing member of the committee in this tenure.



Mr. Tahir Iqbal Ch, MNA

NA-169, Vehari-III, Punjab, PML(N)

Mr. Tahir Iqbal Chaudhry was born in 1969 in district Vehari, Punjab. He got his education up to College level at Vehari and obtained his Bachelor's degree from University of Karachi. Mr. Tahir remained active in student's politics throughout his student life as member of Islami Jamiat-e-Talba.

After completing his studies at University of Karachi, Mr. Tahir moved to his native town and in the heart of Vehari city, he established his Public Secretariat with the name of "Awami Markaz". In the year 2001 Mr. Tahir started his political career from grass root level by contesting the election of "Nazim" Union Council No. 6, Vehari and won the election with vast majority. As "Nazim" Union Council, he was member of the District Assembly where he was Opposition Leader. In the year 2001, Mr. Tahir also contested the election of "Tehsil Nazim", Vehari,

Mr. Tahir was twice elected as MPA from PP-236 Vehari, in the elections held in the years 2002 & 2008. As MPA, Mr. Tahir was appointed Member of Standing





Committees on “Excise and Taxation” and “Culture and Youth Affairs”.

In the year 2013, Mr. Tahir Iqbal Ch. Contested the election of MNA from NA-169, Vehari as an independent candidate and won the election by defeating Tehmina Daultana of PML (N) and Aftab Khichi of PTI. Tahir has now joined PML (N) and is a trusted comrade of Prime Minister, Mian Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister (Punjab), Mian Shahbaz Sharif.

Tahir Iqbal Ch. Who comes from a middle class family, is a social worker and has a great passion to work for the service of humanity. His family runs a free Medical Center in his native village and a number of not-for-profit schools in collaboration with “Ghazali Education Trust” (Regd), in the remote villages of Vehari. During the earth quake of 2005 and floods in 2010 & 2011, he dispatched loads of truck of food items, clothes and tents to the affected areas.

Mr. Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote, MNA

NA-221, Hyderabad-IV, Sindh, PPPP

Mr Jamote is a BA, LLB from Sindh University. He has a veteran politician and has served as Member Provincial Assembly, Sindh from 1970 – 1977. He has twice served as Member National Assembly in 2002 and 2008 and this is his third time to be elected as MNA in 2013. He is an agriculturist by profession. His foreign trips include those to Saudia Arabia, the U.K. & the U.S.A. Currently he is serving as member of Standing Committee on Information and SC on Religious Affairs and Inter Provincial Harmony.



Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari, MNA

NA-233, DADU-II (OLD DADU-III), Sindh, PPPP

Mr Leghari holds a Bachelor degree from University of Sindh and enrolled in BA (Hons) in Marketing & Human Resource in University of Hertfordshire. He has served as Member of Sindh Assembly from 2008 – 2013. His areas of interest are Foreign Affairs, Security, Finance & Interior. He has worked for flood affected areas of his constituency. He has been working for social welfare in particular for his electorate. His has travelled abroad to U.S, U.K., Middle East, EU, China & Central Asian Countries.



Ms. Zeb Jaffar , MNA

RS (Women), Punjab, PML(N)

Ms Zeb Jaffar holds a Master degree in International Relations from abroad. She was the first female from South Punjab to contest General Election since 1998 and was member of Provincial Assembly from 2008 - 2013. She has been Vice Chairperson, District Council Rahim Yar Khan and Advisor to Chief Minister Punjab 2008 – 2013. She has worke actively to uplift status of women in her constituency. She has particularly worked to provide clean drinking water for Cholistan.





Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti , MNA

RS (Women), Punjab, PML(N)

Ms Bhatti holds Bachelor degree along with Diploma in Physical Education. She has served as Member Provincial Assembly from 2002 – 2008. She then made her way to the National Assembly and has served as a Member in 2008 for five years & in 2013 till now. She has been member of Standing Committees of Cabinet & IT. Currently she is member of Standing Committees of Cabinet and Information. She is also Chairperson of Anjuman Bait ul Falah e Niswan and Chairperson Auqaf Committee Punjab. She has travelled to several countries including Syria, U.K. & Saudia Arabia.



Ms. Naeema Kishwar Khan, MNA

RS-Women, KP, JUI(F)

Mrs Kishwar is a B.Sc degree holder from Peshawar University & Islamic Law Sharia Academy, Islamabad. She has previously served as Member Provincial Assembly from 2002-2007. She was member of Zakat Committee, Sports & Culture and Literacy & Education Committees. She had also contested in 2008 Senate elections. Her areas of ineterst are Education & Security. She is currently serving as member of Standing Committees of National Assembly on Information, Foreign Affairs & Committee on Electoral Reforms. She has travelled abroad to Turkimanistan, U.A.E & Sudia Arabia.



Ms. Saman Sultana Jafri, MNA

RS-Women, Sindh, MQM

Ms Saman Sultana Jafri is a graduate from University of Karachi. She has professional experience of working as a Senior Producer & Radio Journalist FROM 2003 - 2012. She has produced reports and programs on Women Issues, Current Affairs, Politics, Health, and Education and was also attached with Deutsche Welle (Bonn, Germany) for 3 months. She has also worked as a Social Media Expert and a Blogger. Her areas of interest are Media & Broadcasting, Social Media, Foreign Affairs, Education and Health. This is her first time serving as Member of National Assembly. She has travelled to UAE, Syria, Iraq, Germany & the U.K.



Ms. Leila Khan, MNA

RS-Women, Punjab, PML(N)

Ms Khan has graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada. Her expertise is in Banking and has served as Corporate Communication Manager at MCB Bank Ltd. Her areas of interests are Public Relations and Marketing. She has travelled to the U.S.A., Canada, India, Srilanka and the UAE. This is her first time serving as Member of National Assembly.





Ms. Arifa Khalid Parvez, MNA
RS-Women, Punjab, PML(N)

She holds a Masters in International Public Policy (MIPP), The George Washington University, Elliott School of International Affairs, Washington, DC, Master of Science in Child Development, College of Home Economics, University of Punjab, Lahore and Bachelors of Science in Nutrition, College of Home Economics, University of Punjab, Lahore.

Her professional career includes being Lecturer, University of Punjab, Department of Political Science, Lahore, Vice President, Alumni Association for Home Economics, Lahore and Director, Enkay Rice Mills, Lahore. She has also authored multiple Research Papers and has special interest in International Relations.

She has served as Member of Provincial Assembly of Punjab 2008, and was part of several committees like Member/Commissioner of National Commission on Status of Women (NCSW), Member of Health Committee of Punjab Assembly, Political Head of Social Media Team, Chief Minister of Punjab Shahbaz Sharif, Member of Chief Minister of Punjab's Special Response Cabinet Committee on Dengue Epidemic, Member of Board of Management, TEVTA-Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority, Member, Board of Directors of PIEDMC-Punjab Industrial Estates Development & Management Company and Member, Board of Directors of Punjab Trust for Special Children

She has travelled a lot including the likes of U.S.A., U.K., Saudia Arabia, UAE, Africa, Switzerland, France, Italy, Nepal, Bangladesh etc.



Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, MNA
RS-Women, Punjab, PML(N)

Marriyum Aurangzeb holds M.Sc degree in Environment and Development from King's College London, London University and Masters degree in Economics from Quid-e-Azam University, Pakistan and excels in Strategic thinking and planning and Development for Environmental Conservation, Development and International Agreements and Millennium Development Goals implementation.

Marriyum has dedicated her professional career in pursuing, with great success, conservation and environmental causes in Pakistan with a tenure spanning a decade with the renowned World Wildlife Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-Pakistan). Whilst with WWF-Pakistan she had held a diverse portfolio of responsibilities, including spearheading Global Campaigns and has been instrumental in formulating key environmental and social developmental policy at Global, Regional and National Level.

Marriyum, through the environment platform, has driven innovative and unique initiatives that has gained her notoriety across wide landscape within the global and National infrastructure ranging from the education sector, private sector and public sector. Her success is attributed to being able to provide direction and focus to complex concepts and initiatives, whilst utilising her refined relationship and negotiation skills to drive consensus amongst diametrically opposing groups.

From 2004 to 2013, her responsibilities at WWF-Pakistan included work planning, Global and National net-working and lobbying, advocacy, environmental education, media liaison for environment, fundraising for financial sustainability, cross- sectoral programme development, and liaison and coordination with donor agencies,





stakeholders and partner organisations ranging from Policy to all the stages of Programme Development and Project Management.

Marriyum's Passion, Commitment, robust experience and keen intellect will add great substance to Pakistan's political discourse and enable positive momentum to the National policies that will drive the change necessary to serve the best interest of the People of Pakistan.

At present she is an Honourable Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Interior & Narcotics Control, Convener of Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs and also working as a special aide to Hon' Speaker on Parliamentary Strengthening.

Mrs. Belum Hasnain, MNA
RS-Women, Punjab, PPPP

Mrs Belum holds a B.Sc degree from College of Home Economics, Lahore. She has previously served as Member of National Assembly in 2002 and 2008 and this is her third time as a serving MNA. She actively takes part in the business of the House. She has chaired the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage from 2009 – 2013. Her area of interest is Health & general well being and actively takes part in Women & Child issues. She is also affiliated with the Aurat Foundation. She is also the president of Women Wing of People's Party in Punjab. She has travelled to many countries around the world like the U.K., the U.S.A., Thailand, China, UAE, Saudi Arabia & Europe and has attended many conferences.





PROFILE OF ADVISOR TO THE CHAIRPERSON

MAHIRA RAFIQUE:

The advisor, Mahira Rafique, has provided more than a year of Parliamentary Research Services for the National Assembly Secretariat as Young Parliamentary Associate under the European Union's flagship project; Improving Parliamentary Performance in Pakistan (IP3). This included Research Support initially to the Research Center and then to the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage. She has compiled several important Special Reports for the Committee. These included:

- Special Report on National Language Commission
- Special Report on Media Persons Security
- Special Report on Right to Information Bill
- Special Report on Media Commission & Media Laws Review Taskforce



She also has a thriving experience as Visiting Faculty in leading National Universities of Pakistan. Her research work has been published in various reputed international journals. She has 6 international publications to her name so far with 7th undergoing review process. One of her Research Papers was published as a book by LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing GmbH & Co. KG, Germany. Mahira also has the experience of internships at Corporations like Pepsi Naubahar and Climax Engineering.

She has recently completed her MS degree in Management Sciences from International Islamic University, Islamabad with distinction. Previously she had completed her MBA from Punjab University and achieved a Full Bright Scholarship for MS Studies under International Cultural Exchange Scholarship Program. She is also a Diploma Holder in Interpersonal Skills from Punjab University. Her professional aims are making an impact and achieving excellence in the field of RESEARCH, which is best suited to demonstrate her strengths.

COMMITTEE STAFF:

SECRETARY COMMITTEE:

Syed Hasan Murtaza Bukhari

SENIOR PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE CHAIRPERSON:

Mr Abdul Hadi Sohu

STENOTYPIST:

Mr Allah Bux Parhyar

DRIVER:

Mr M. Khalid Bhayo

NAIB QASID:

Mr M. Hanif Thebo



EXECUTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMITTEE



PROFILE OF HONORABLE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE SENATOR PERVAIZ RASHID, EX OFFICIO MEMBER

Senator Pervez Rasheed (born 15 January 1937) is a Pakistani Politician and a Member of upper house of Pakistan Parliament currently serving as Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting in Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's cabinet.

He got his early education from Rawalpindi and studied at Gordon College. He remained Chairman of Pakistan Television Corporation from 1997 to 1999.



He was elected to the Senate of Pakistan in 2009 on PML-N party ticket. He was a member of Senate Standing Committees on Information and Broadcasting, Petroleum and Natural Resources, Information Technology and Telecommunications, Railways and Functional Committee on Human Rights.

He was sworn in as Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting on 3 June 2013. He is currently Chairperson of Select Committee and member of Senate Standing Committees on:

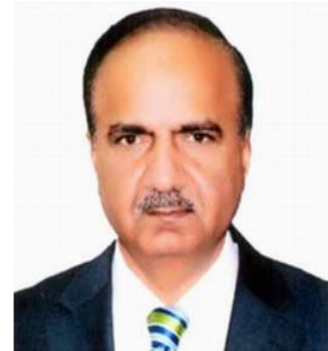
Science and Technology,
Interior and Narcotics Control,
Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development and
Functional Committee on Human Rights



PROFILE OF SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE

Mr. MOHAMMAD AZAM

Mr. Mohammad Azam joined Information Services of Pakistan after passing Competitive Examination CSS in 1981. Mr. Mohammad Azam assumed the charge of Secretary, Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage on July 8, 2014. He has worked in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in various capacities including Additional Secretary, Principal Information Officer, Joint Secretary, Director General (External Publicity Wing), Director General (Cyber Wing) and Director General (Internal Publicity Wing).



He has also served as Press Counselor in the Embassy of Pakistan in Berlin, Germany and as Press Attache in the Embassy of Pakistan Washington D.C., USA for four years, respectively. He has served as Staff Officer/Director to Federal Minister for Education and Information & Broadcasting. He has also worked as Public Relation Officer (PRO) in President's Secretariat and Prime Minister's Secretariat. During his 33 years of service he has the honor to work as a Congressional fellow for one year as a staff member of the US Congressman Mr. Charles Wilson. He has studied at School of International Service, American University in Washington D.C. and got Post Graduate Diploma in International Communication Program.

He has excellent Information Technology skills and has several prestigious IT Certificates including Micro Certificate System Engineer (MCSE), and CISCO Certified Network Associate (CCNA) and Network+ Certification and has completed several other IT courses from USA.

He has a good knowledge of French and has completed four certificates from French Center and working knowledge of German language with diploma from Goethe Institute.



PROFILE OF EX-SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE

DR. NAZIR SAEED

Born in Gujranwala, Dr. Nazir Saeed received his early education at St. Joseph's High School, Gujranwala and acquired further education from Govt. College, Lahore obtaining Master Degree in Economics in 1977. He had the distinction of doing his Ph.D in Economics from Islamia University, Bahawalpur in 2002.



Dr. Nazir Saeed joined the Civil Service of Pakistan (DMG) in 1980. He has held a number of important positions including Personal Staff Officer to Prime Minister, Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Education Punjab, Additional Secretary Health, Punjab, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad, Special Secretary, Higher Education, and Islamabad. Secretary Information Technology, Punjab. Besides, he also served as Chief Settlement Commissioner / Member Board of Revenue, Punjab and Secretary Federal Tax Ombudsman Secretariat, Islamabad.

Dr. Nazir Saeed thus has to his credit a vast administrative and professional experience of varied nature in provincial as well as federal government which places him in a unique position to take up the challenging task of Secretary Information & Broadcasting and National Heritage.

Dr. Nazir Saeed would endeavour to foster professionalism and work for the welfare of the working journalists. Both within the Ministry and the media, efforts would also be made to create an environment where the Ministry can play a role of facilitator for free flow of information in order to create an informed opinion. The Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage shall be open to suggestions for improvement and better working relationship between the government and the media.



STANDING COMMITTEES & THEIR GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER XX

COMMITTEES

PART-I

STANDING COMMITTEES AND GENERAL PROVISIONS REGARDING STANDING COMMITTEES

198. **Committees of the Assembly.-** (1) In addition to the Standing Committees on Public Accounts, Rules of procedure and privileges, House and Library, Government Assurances and Business Advisory, there shall be a Standing Committee of the Assembly for each Ministry of the Government.

Explanation.- For the purposes of this Chapter, the Cabinet Secretariat and the Prime Minister's Secretariat shall be deemed to be a Ministry.

(2) Each Committee shall deal with the subjects assigned, under the rules for the allocation and transaction of business of the Government to the Division or the Ministry with which it is concerned or any other matter referred to it by the Assembly:

Provided that any subject not so assigned or the subjects assigned to any Ministry for which a Standing Committee has not been constituted shall be dealt with by the Standing Committee dealing with ¹[Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs].

(3) Whenever there is any change in the composition of Ministries or their nomenclature, the Speaker shall, in consultation with Minister for [Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs]¹ and the Minister concerned, issue suitable directions in regard to the re-allocation of the existing Standing Committees or, as the case may be, the modification in their nomenclature and election of the new Standing Committees.

199. **Reference to Standing Committee.-** Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the Assembly or the Speaker may remit to the Standing Committee any subject or matter with which it is concerned and the Standing Committee shall study such subject or matter with a view to suggest legislation or making recommendations to the Assembly.



200. **Composition.**- (1) Except as otherwise provided in these rules, each Committee shall consist of not more than ¹[twenty] members to be elected by the Assembly within thirty days after the ascertainment of the Leader of the House:

(2) The Minister concerned shall be an *ex-officio* member of the Committee:

Provided that the Minister shall not be entitled to vote as an *ex-officio* member unless he is a member of the Assembly:

Provided further that, in the case of Ministry which is in the charge of the Prime Minister or for which no Minister has been appointed, the concerned Minister of State, if any, shall be its *ex-officio* member and, where there is no Minister of State also, the Minister or Minister of State to whom the subject or matter referred to the Committee is assigned shall act as its *ex-officio* member and in the absence of such assignment the Minister for ²[Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs] shall act as *ex-officio* member of the Committee.

(3) The member-in-charge other than a Minister, or a member on whose motion any subject or matter was referred to the Standing Committee may attend the meetings of the Committee but shall not vote unless he is a member of the Committee.

(4) The Secretary of the Ministry or Division concerned or an officer not less than the rank of a Joint Secretary, designated in this behalf and the Secretary, [Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs]² Ministry, or his nominee not lower in rank of a Joint Secretary may attend the meeting of the Committee.

201. **Functions.**- (1) A Committee shall examine a Bill, subject or matter referred to it by the Assembly or the Speaker and shall submit its report to the Assembly or to the Speaker, as the case may be, with such recommendations including suggestions for legislation, if any, as it may deem necessary. In the case of a Bill, the Committee shall also examine whether the Bill violates, disregards or is otherwise not in accordance with the Constitution.



(2) The Committee may propose amendments which shall be shown in its report along with original provisions of the Bill:

Provided that the Committee shall have no power of preventing the Bill from being considered by the Assembly.

(3) If a Committee does not present its report within the prescribed period, or the time allowed, the Assembly may consider the Bill, subject or matter referred to it, without waiting for the report upon a motion by any member or by the Minister concerned and such Bill, subject or matter shall be treated as withdrawn from the Committee.

(4) A Committee may examine the expenditures, administration, delegated legislation, public petitions and policies of the Ministry concerned and its associated public bodies and may forward its report of findings and recommendations to the Ministry and the Ministry shall submit its reply to the Committee.

(5) Public petitions may be presented on a Bill which has been introduced, or any matter connected with the business pending before the House, or any matter of general public interest which is primarily the concern of the Government, provided that it is not one which falls within the cognizance of a court, nor shall it relate to a matter pending before any court or other authority performing judicial or quasi-judicial functions.



LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT OF COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee of National Assembly on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage performs legislative oversight over the following departments of Information Ministry:

The Ministry

1. Cyber Wing
2. External Publicity Wing
3. Internal Publicity Wing
4. Audit Bureau of Circulation
5. Press Registrar

Autonomous/Semi-Autonomous Bodies

1. National Council of Arts (PNCA), Islamabad
2. National Institute of Folk & Traditional Heritage, Islamabad
3. Pakistan Academy of Letters, Islamabad
4. Quaid-i-Azam Mazar Management Board, Karachi
5. Iqbal Academy Pakistan, Lahore
6. Press Council of Pakistan (PCP), Islamabad
7. Institute of Regional Studies (IRS)
8. Shalimar Recording & Broadcasting Company

Statutory Bodies

1. Federal Land Commission, Islamabad.

Organizations

1. Aiwan-e-Iqbal Complex, Lahore
2. Quaid-i-Azam Academy, Karachi

Corporations

1. Associated Press of Pakistan
2. Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation
3. Pakistan Television Corporation



Attached Departments

1. Directorate of Electronic Media & Publication (DEMP), Islamabad
2. Press Information Department (PID) , Islamabad
3. Department of Archaeology & Museums (DOAM), Islamabad
4. National Language Promotion Department, Islamabad
5. Implementation Tribunal for Newspaper Employees (ITNE).

Sub-Ordinate Offices

1. Information Service Academy (ISA), Islamabad
2. Urdu Science Board, Lahore
3. Urdu Dictionary Board, Karachi

Authorities

1. Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority

Other Offices

1. Quaid-i-Azam Paper Wing (Project), Islamabad
2. Nazriya Pakistan Council Trust (NPCT), Islamabad
3. National Press Trust (NPT)



BACKGROUND

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage was constituted under Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly 2007. The following members under Rule 200 were elected by the National Assembly, as Standing Committee Members:

1. Ms Marvi Memon
2. Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon
3. Mr Murad Saeed
4. Mr Muhammad Tallal Chaudhry
5. Mian Muhammad Farooq
6. Ms Ghulam Bibi Bharwana
7. Mr Waseem Akhtar Shaikh
8. Mr Tahir Iqbal Ch
9. Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote
10. Mr Imran Zafar Leghari
11. Ms Zeb Jaffar
12. Ms Parveen Masood Bhatti
13. Ms Naeema Kishwar Khan
14. Ms Saman Sultana Jafri
15. Ms Leila Khan
16. Ms Arifa Khalid Parvez
17. Ms Marriyum Aurangzeb
18. Ms Belum Hasnain

First Meeting / Election of the Chair:

The Committee held its first meeting on 5th November, 2013 to elect its Chairperson as contemplated by Rule 216 (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly 2007, and elected MNA Marvi Memon as Chairperson of the Standing Committee.



MINUTES OF THE (MAIN) STANDING COMMITTEE:



Meeting of December 24, 2013



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE HELD ON 24TH DECEMBER, 2013 AT 2:00 P.M. IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 2, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD

Second meeting of the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage (I,B&NH) was held on 24th December, 2013, at 2:00 p.m., in Committee Room No.2, Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting presided over by Ms. Marvi Memon, MNA/Chairperson of the Standing Committee with reference to the Agenda circulated vide Notice No. F. 4(1)/2013-Com-I dated 13th December, 2013.

2. The meeting was attended by the following Members of the Committee.

1.	Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry	Member
2.	Ms. Zeb Jaffar	Member
3.	Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti	Member
4.	Ms. Arifa Khalid Pervez	Member
5.	Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb	Member
6.	Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote	Member
7.	Ms. Belum Hasnain	Member
8.	Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon	Member
9.	Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan	Member

3. The List of Participants from the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and its attached Departments is at **Annex-A**.

4. The meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran. Honourable Chairperson welcomed the participants and asked the Members of the Committee and Officers of the Ministry and its attached Departments to introduce themselves. After the introduction, she invited the Secretary to give a detailed briefing/presentation as per following agenda:-

Agenda

“Comprehensive briefing on the Ministry and all Departments under its administrative control encompassing their functions, objectives and future plans”



5. While briefing, the Secretary M/o I,B&NH said that the Ministry has been envisioned to create informed society, attain national cohesion and develop free and fair media with the mission to inform, educate and entertain masses and advance progressive and democratic values of Pakistan and to project soft image through promotion of cultural heritage of Pakistan. He gave a detailed briefing on Ministry and its attached Departments.

6. Honourable Chairperson invited Members of the Committee to put queries. Ms. Arifa Khalid Pervez, MNA inquired about the rules and regulations set for Evening Newspapers. She emphasized to control the yellow journalism. The Press Information Officer (PIO) replied that Evening Newspapers are not on the central media list thus Ministry does not release any advertisement to these Newspapers and Ministry has no control over these Newspapers. Their declaration can only be cancelled by the District Administration.

7. She also wanted to know about the Training Courses conducted by the Ministry on the Capacity Building of Journalists and criteria adopted for the selection of journalists for their Capacity Building. The Director General, Information Service Academy (ISA) replied that these Courses are meant for journalists from rural and far flung areas like Baluchistan and Tribal Areas. They are selected from by the concerned Press Information Department (PID).

8. Ms. Arifa Khalid Pervez, and Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry, MNAs inquired for whom the Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications (DEMP) prepared the speeches, reports, talking points and briefs. The Director General, (DEMP) replied that initially the Department prepared these briefs/talking points for the Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and for those Parliamentarians who so ever approached them specially the Parliamentarians who are going to attend the talk shows. The Committee decided that these briefs and information must be provided to all the Parliamentarians and the Ministry may appoint a Focal Person, who will be responsible for providing this material to the Parliamentarians.

9. On the query of Ms. Belum Hasnain, MNA regarding the Pakistan Television's (PTV) rating, the Secretary replied that PTV's rating on terrestrial network is higher than the other Channels but on the cable network the PTV is on 5th position. The Committee suggested that the department should make some efforts to improve the rating of PTV. Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, and Ms. Belum Hasnain, MNAs inquired about the functions / performance of Ministry's Information Sections abroad and the parameters set by the Ministry to evaluate their performance. The Secretary replied that in this regard a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Finance Revenue, Economic Affairs and Statistics to evaluate the performance of the Foreign Press Sections, which decided to close down three Information Sections abroad i.e. Jakarta, Kula Lumpur and Kuwait. He further explained the Committee that the performance of the rest of the Press Sections abroad is being monitored on weekly basis by the Ministry and our Ambassadors. The Ministry has developed parameters for evaluating the performance of these Sections.

10. Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry and Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti, MNAs wanted to have a fresh Central Media List (CML) of all the newspapers and also wanted to cancel the declaration of fake newspapers. Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry further inquired about the progress made so far regarding the restoration work of Quaid's Residency in Ziarat, Quetta. The Secretary replied that the district wise CML will be provided to all the Members of the Committee soon. The Ministry has started reviewing all



newspapers declaration / circulation, thereafter, the declaration of fake newspapers will be cancelled. The progress regarding the restoration of Quaid's Residency will be informed in the next meeting.

11. Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote, MNA suggested the Committee that we must work together over and above our party's affiliation. We must work as team for the betterment of the Country. He inquired about the present status / position of Awan-e-Iqbal Complex and Iqbal Academy Pakistan. The Secretary replied that the Awan-e-Iqbal Complex and Iqbal Academy Pakistan are two different Organizations. On the direction of Honourable Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage, new legislation has been framed for the working of these Departments / Organizations which will be forwarded to the Cabinet for its final decision / approval. Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote, MNA further wanted to have a complete cadre wise list of staff strength and sanctioned posts of all the Departments under the administrative control of the Ministry. The Secretary replied that the required list will be provided to all Members of the Committee.

12. Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, MNA inquired about the regulatory role of Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA). The Hon. Member and Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan, MNA also wanted to know under which Rules, Regulations and Code of Conduct the foreign contents especially Turkish Dramas are being showed in our country through different private Channels. It has been decided in the Committee that a separate meeting will be conducted on PEMRA; on all the issues raised by the Members and copy of the Code of Conduct for Electronic Media framed by the Ministry and Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) will be provided to Members of the Committee.

13. Ms. Zeb Jaffar, MNA inquired whether the Cyber Wing of the Ministry is dealing with the cyber crimes and also wanted to know the year of its establishment. She also showed her concern over the role of PEMRA. The Director General, Cyber Wing replied that the subject matter of cyber crime is not being dealt by this Wing as the said subject related to the Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication and told that Cyber Wing was established in the Ministry in 2002.

14. Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan, MNA inquired the reasons for not telecasting the Questions Hour of the National Assembly Session live on PTV. The Managing Director (PTV) replied that the Questions Hour is being telecasted by PTV but not live.

15. Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti, MNA, appreciated PTV for showing good Programs especially on cooking and Health. She also emphasized to show Programs for children especially cartoons which may be dubbed in Urdu language. She further added that Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) must improve *medium wave* transmissions like FM radio. She inquired why the Punjabi Programs stopped by the PBC which was broadcasted from *Bahawalpur* Radio Station. The Director General, PBC replied that this Government has taken special steps to improve the medium waves transmissions. The PBC installed a 400 KWs medium waves transmitter in Peshawar which is on test transmission and another transmitter has been installed in Dera Ismail Khan which will start functioning after 15th of January, 2014. The PBC has also installed 500 KWs Transmitter in Faqeerabad, near Islamabad Highway with the help of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The new *Punjabi* program will be introduced from 1st January, 2014 from *Bahawalpur*.



16. Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry, MNA moved a Resolution to pay tribute to the founder of the Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

“Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a great leader of 20th century and was a symbol of integrity and honesty”.

The Committee unanimously adopted the Resolution.

Agenda 2:

“Any other item with permission of the Chair”.

17. The Committee after the detailed discussion, decided to have a separate briefing from all the Departments under the administrative control of Ministry. The Committee also decided to appoint five (5) Sub-Committees under the rule 224 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007. The Sub-Committees constituted are as follows:

i) Sub-Committee on Pakistan Television (PTV)

Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Sub-Committee:

- (a) To look into the workings of the PTV.
- (b) To examine and monitor its improvement, modernization, evaluation, future expansion / plans and staffing / hiring.

The Sub-Committee comprising the following Members;

- | | | |
|------|--------------------------------|----------|
| i. | Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry, | Convener |
| ii. | Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon | Member |
| iii. | Ms. Zeb Jaffar | Member |
| iv. | Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb | Member |

ii) Sub-Committee on Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC)

Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Sub-Committee:

- (a) To look into the workings of the PBC.
- (b) To examine and monitor its improvement, modernization, evaluation, future expansion / plans and staffing / hiring.



The Sub-Committee comprising the following Members;

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Ms. Saman Sultana Jaffri, | Convener |
| 2. Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon | Member |
| 3. Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan | Member |
| 4. Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti | Member |
| 5. Ms. Ghulam Bibi Bharwana | Member |

iii) **Sub-Committee on Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA)**

Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Sub-Committee:

- To look into the workings of the PEMRA,
- To examine and monitor its improvement, modernization, evaluation, future expansion / plans and staffing / hiring.
- To examine Code of Conduct for Electronic Media of M/o Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA).

The Sub-Committee comprising the following Members;

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1. Ms. Arifa Khaild Pervez | Convener |
| 2. Ms. Zeb Jaffar | Member |
| 3. Ms. Belum Hasnain | Member |
| 4. Mr. Tahir Iqbal Ch. | Member |
| 5. Mr. Waseem Akhtar Shaikh | Member |

iv) **Sub-Committee on National Heritage Wing**

Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Sub-Committee:

- To look into the workings of the National Heritage Wing,
- To examine and monitor its improvement, modernization, evolution, future expansion / plans and staffing / hiring.
- To monitor and safeguard the National Heritage sites.

The Sub-Committee comprising the following Members;

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote | Convener |
| 2. Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari | Member |



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- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| 3. Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry | Member |
| 4. Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan | Member |
| 5. Mr. Murad Saeed | Member |

v) **Sub-Committee on Right to Information Bill, 2013**

Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Sub-Committee:

- (a) To examine the Right to Information Bill, 2013.

The Sub-Committee comprising the following Members;

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| 1. Ms. Belum Hasnain | Convener |
| 2. Main Muhammad Farooq | Member |
| 3. Ms. Leila Khan | Member |
| 4. Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan | Member |
| 5. Mr. Murad Saeed | Member |

18. The above Sub-Committees required to submit their final reports / findings to the main Committee within six months.

19. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

(MARVI MEMON)

Chairperson

Standing Committee on Information,

Broadcasting & National Heritage

(SYED HASAN MURTAZA BUKHARI)

DS/ Secretary Committee



ANNEXURE "A"

LIST OF THE OFFICIALS OF M/O INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE AND ITS ATTACHED DEPARTMENTS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Dr. Nazir Saeed | Secretary, M/o I,B&NH |
| 2. Mr. Taimur Azmat Osman | Senior Member, Federal Land Commission |
| 3. S.M. Imran Gardezi | Director General, PID |
| 4. Dr. Abdul Hameed | Chairman, Pakistan Academy of Letters |
| 5. Dr. Abdul Jabbar | Director General, (Opr), PEMRA |
| 6. Qazi Mustafa Kamal | Managing Director, PTV |
| 7. Mrs. Samina Parvez | Director General, PBC |
| 8. Mr. Muhammad Khalid Sarwar | DG (ISA) / MD (APP) |
| 9. Mr. Shahzaman Khan | Managing Director, SRBC |
| 10. Mr. Muhammad Naeem | Director General, IP Wing |
| 11. Mr. Mashood Ahmad Mirza | Joint Secretary, National Heritage Wing |
| 12. Mr. Sheraz Latif | Director General, DEMP |
| 13. Dr. Fazal Dad Kakar | Director General, Archeology & Museums |
| 14. Mr. Naveed Iqbal | Director, Cyber Wing |
| 15. Ms. Shahera Shahid | Acting Executive Director, Lok Virsa |
| 16. Mr. Zahid Hussain Abro | Editor, QAP Wing |
| 17. Syed Ahsan Mazher Ali | Secretary, Federal Land Commission |
| 18. Mr. Sohail Asif Ali Khan | Secretary to the Authority, PEMRA |
| 19. Syed Zulfiqar Hameed | General Manager, APPC |



Meeting of January 13, 2014



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE HELD ON 13TH JANUARY, 2014, AT 2:00 P.M. IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 7, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD

Third meeting of the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage (I,B&NH) was held on 13th January, 2014, at 2:00 p.m., in Committee Room No.7, Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was presided over by Ms. Marvi Memon, MNA/Chairperson of the Standing Committee with reference to the Agenda circulated vide Notice No. F. 4(1)/2013-Com-I, dated 7th January, 2014.

2. The meeting was attended by the following Members of the Committee.

1.	Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry	Member
2.	Mr. Tahir Iqbal Ch.	Member
3.	Mian Muhammad Farooq	Member
4.	Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti	Member
5.	Ms. Arifa Khalid Parvez	Member
6.	Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb	Member
7.	Ms. Leila Khan	Member
8.	Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote	Member
9.	Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari	Member
10.	Ms. Belum Hasnain	Member
11.	Ms. Saman Sultana Jaffri	Member
12.	Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan	Member
13.	Senator Pervaiz Rashid	Ex-officio Member
	Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage	

3. List of the Participants from the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and its attached Departments is at **Annex-A**.



4. The meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran. Honourable Chairperson welcomed the participants and invited the Secretary to give a briefing/presentation as per following agenda:-

Agenda

“To discuss the detailed accounts of the austerity measures taken by the M/o Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and its all attached Departments to cut its budget by 30% during the Financial Year 2013-14 in light of the Finance Division’s O.M No. 1(1)Exp-IV/2013, dated 1st July, 2013”

5. The Secretary M/o Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage informed the Committee in detail about the steps taken by the Ministry to reduce its budget by 30% on administrative and operational matters of the Ministry and its attached Departments under the direction of the Finance Division. He told the Committee that the Ministry has not imposed any cut on budget related to employee’s expenses. He added that the Ministry has abolished its secret fund and three Press Sections abroad. The Ministry has stopped all unnecessary expenditures and also imposed ban on purchases of new vehicles.

6. After the presentation the Chairperson invited the Members to put queries related to agenda item No.1. Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote, MNA inquired about the cut imposed in the budget of employee’s retirement benefits head. The Honourable Minister informed that only minor cut has been made on the expenditure, the allocated budget is enough to meet the requirements for welfare of the employees. Ms. Marriym Aurangzeb, and Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudhry, MNAs wanted to know about the specific reasons for 30% cut across the board on all heads of expenditures without considering its utilization/necessity. They suggested that cut may be imposed according to the utility /necessity of all heads of expenditures. The Honourable Minister informed that the directions/ suggestions of the Committee will be incorporated by the Ministry while preparing the budget proposals for the next year.

7. Ms. Naeema Kishwer, MNA inquired about the amount allocated in the budget for reconstruction of Quaid’s residency at Ziarat, Quetta. The Honourable Minister informed that the Quaid’s residency is the subject matter of the Provincial Government and the Government of the Baluchistan is the executing agency for reconstruction of Quaid’s residency. The Federal Government has announced to bear all expenditure to be incurred on the reconstruction of Quaid’s residency. The actual expenditure incurred on the reconstruction will be paid to the Provincial Government after its completion. He added that 80% work has been done on the reconstruction of Quaid’s residency.



Agenda 2:

“Any other item with permission of the Chair”.

8. Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari, MNA showed his concerned on the violations of PEMRA laws by various TV Channels. The Hon. Chairperson informed that on the issue a Sub-Committee has been appointed during the last meeting and the Sub-Committee is looking into such types of matters. Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari, MNA requested to include his name in the said Sub-Committee. The Committee agreed for his inclusion.

9. The Committee decided to appoint one (1) Sub-Committee under the rule 224 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007. The Sub-Committee constituted is as follow:

Sub-Committee on Press Information Department (PID)

Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Sub-Committee:

- (a) To look into the workings of the Press Information Department (PID);
- (b) To examine and monitor its improvement, modernization, evaluation, future expansion / plans and staffing / hiring.

The Sub-Committee comprising the following Members;

- | | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|----------|
| v. | Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon, | Convener |
| vi. | Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti | Member |
| vii. | Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari | Member |
| viii. | Ms. Saman Sultana Jaffri | Member |

10. The above Sub-Committee required submitting its final Report / findings to the main Committee within six months.

11. The Committee also decided to include the following Honourable MNAs in the composition of the Sub-Committees on Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) and Pakistan Television (PTVC) as its members;

Sub-Committee (on PEMRA);

- i). Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan Member
- ii). Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari Member



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iii). Ms. Leila Khan Member

iv). Ms. Saman Sultana Jaffri Member

Sub-Committee (on PTV);

i) Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote Member

12. The Standing Committee decided to convene its next meeting on the budgetary proposals of M/o Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage for the year 2014-15.

13. Recommendations:

- i. The Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage along with its attached Departments to give briefs three days prior to the meeting of the Standing Committee.
- ii. The Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage to brief the Standing Committee on Budget Proposals of the Ministry for the year 2014-15.

14. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

(MARVI MEMON)

Chairperson
Standing Committee on Information,
Broadcasting & National Heritage

(SYED HASAN MURTAZA BUKHARI)

Deputy Secretary / Secretary Committee



ANNEX-A

**LIST OF THE OFFICIALS OF M/O INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE AND
ITS ATTACHED DEPARTMENTS**

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|---|
| 20. | Dr. Nazir Saeed | Secretary, M/o I,B&NH |
| 21. | Mr. Muhammad Azam | Additional Secretary, M/o I,B&NH |
| 22. | Mr. Muhammad Naeem | Director General, IP, M/o I,B&NH |
| 23. | Mr. S.M. Imran Gardezi | PIO, M/o I,B&NH |
| 24. | Mr. Sheraz Latif | Director General, DEMP |
| 25. | Mr. Mashood A. Mirza | Joint Secretary, National Heritage Wing |



Meeting of February 14, 2014



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE HELD ON 14TH FEBRUARY, 2014, AT 2:00 P.M. IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 2, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD

Fourth meeting of the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage (I,B&NH) was held on 14th February, 2014, at 2:00 p.m., in Committee Room No.2, Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was presided over by Ms. Marvi Memon, MNA/Chairperson of the Standing Committee with reference to the Agenda circulated vide Notice No. F. 4(1)/2013-Com-I (Vol-I) dated 7th February, 2014.

2. The meeting was attended by the following Members of the Committee.

1.	Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry	Member
2.	Mr. Tahir Iqbal Ch.	Member
3.	Mian Muhammad Farooq	Member
4.	Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti	Member
5.	Mr. Waseem Akhtar Shaikh	Member
6.	Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb	Member
7.	Ms. Leila Khan	Member
8.	Ms. Ghulam Bibi Bharwana	Member
9.	Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari	Member
10.	Mr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon	Member
11.	Mr. Murad Saeed	Member
12.	Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan	Member
13.	Senator Pervaiz Rashid	Ex-officio Member
	Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage	

3. List of the Participants from the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and its attached Departments is at **Annex-A**.



4. The meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran. Honorable Chairperson welcomed the participants and invited the Secretary to give a briefing/presentation as per following agenda:-

Agenda item (i)

“Details of M/o Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage (I,B&NH) and its all attached Departments’ Budgetary Proposals relating to Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) for the year 2014-15”

5. The Secretary M/o Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage (IB&NH) informed the Standing Committee in detailed reviewed of the Budgetary Proposals relating to Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) for the year 2013-14 and the details of the ongoing projects to be included in PSDP for the year 2014-15 Organizations wise. He stated that an amount of Rs. 619.826 million is required to complete 36 ongoing PSDP projects during the financial year 2014-15. The details of these projects are at **Annex-B**.

6. Ms. Naeema Kishwar Khan, MNA, suggested that these proposals may be forwarded to the existing Sub-Committee for further detail discussion and the proposals/suggestions of the Sub-Committees will be forwarded to the Standing Committee for final decision/approval. Dr. Azhar Khan Jadoon, MNA, registered his serious reservation on the late submission of briefs by the Ministry. Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti, MNA, inquired about the proposals for new projects of Pakistan Televisions, Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation, etc. as the Committee members did not give any recommendation for the said projects and suggested that province-wise recommendations of the Members of the Committee may also be included in the formulation of these proposals of PSDP. The Secretary replied that the proposals are now open for debate and the suggestions / recommendations will be incorporated before the final approval. The Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage informed the Committee that these proposals formulated according to the requirement of the Departments and the Public / Elected representative demands. The record of suggestion / requirements is available with the Ministry which can be presented to the Committee.

7. Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry, MNA, wanted to know the about the outcome of the projects of PTV & PBC, the introduction of digital TV and any proposal for the formulation of Media University in the current financial year. The Secretary replied that the 95% of the populations will enjoyed the coverage of the PTV & PBC after the completion of these projects. The digitalization and the formulation of Media University plans are under consideration of the Ministry. Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari, MNA, wanted to know about the medium term budget frame work of the Ministry. The Additional Secretary replied that it will be provided to the Committee in the next meeting.

8. Ms. Ghulam Bibi Bharwana, MNA, informed the Committee the viewership of the PTV is very low in the cosmopolitan cities and it is viewed only in remote and rural areas and she suggested that the programs of PTV may be improved. The Minister replied that he did not agree with the remarks of the Hon. Member as the PTV is being viewed in all over the country and charging high commercial rates than the other private TV channels. Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon, MNA and Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti, MNA, were of the same point of the view and told that the PTV programs has been improved and it is only source of obtaining balance and true news. Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, MNA appreciated the



efforts of the Ministry on formulation of these proposals and suggested that the proposals may be forwarded to the Sub-Committee for further progressive review.

9. The Chairperson asked that the proposals of PSDP are being forwarded to the existing Sub-Committee and the Sub-Committee will submit its recommendations within fifteen days to the Standing Committee. She also inquired about the Museums which are under the control of the Department of the Archaeology and the Museums (DOAM) Islamabad after the 18th amendment. The Joint Secretary replied that Museums sites lies in the list of Federal Constitutional list No. 1 which cannot be devolved but according to 18th amendment number of Museums sites have been devolved to the provinces. She also inquired about the projects on which an amount of 79.425 million allocated in the DOAM for the financial year 2014-15. The Joint Secretary replied that budget allocated for the preservation and restoration of Shaikhupura Fort under US ambassador's fund for culture preservation program.

10. The Standing Committee authorized the Chairperson that she can invite any persons as a special invitee to attend the future meetings. The Chairperson thanked the Committee Members for imposing confidence on her. All the meetings of this Standing Committee are open to media. The Chairperson appreciated the Ministry for presenting the budgetary proposals of PSDP well in time to the Committee. The Committee recommended that the Members of the Committee may give their proposals/feedback on PSDP Proposals including Province-wise ideas for Museum and Heritage related Budget to enhance inter-Provincial harmony rather than just having whole Heritage related PSDP Budget spent in one Province.

Agenda 2:

“To examine year-wise Terrorist Attacks on Media in the last three years (February, 2011 to February, 2014) and what Government of Pakistan has done for media as result including those Media Personnel killed in attacks during the said period”.

11. The Chairperson told the Committee about the agenda item No.ii. She told that unfortunately, the Pakistan's ranking is 158th as per Global Press Freedom index and other related international reports on the attacks on Media. She said that we all are well aware of the attacks on Media through our local TV channels and Newspapers. She said that she has been disappointed on the reply of our Sindh police, as they did not provide the true information in the National Assembly during the Questions hours, which is a very serious issue, now this issue is being taken by the Standing Committee. The Chairperson invited the representative of APNS to give his suggestion to resolve this problem. She said that her concern is on two things, one the Compensations and the second is investigations. Mr. Parveez Shaukat, elected Advisor of the International Federation of Journalist (IFJ) asked for the permission to speak before the general Secretary of APNS and allowed to speak. He thanked the Committee for inventing him and other media related persons, he told that about one hundred journalists/reporters have been killed in the bomb blast and target killings. He said has IFJ has declared Pakistan a very dangerous country for the journalists which is very shameful for us as Pakistanis. He informed that they have presented recommendations to the Committee which was headed by Mr. Ahsan Iqbal during the last regime but nothing has been done on those recommendations. He said that the previous Government has pledged an amount of Rs2.5 million as compensation to deceased the families but not a single penny has been given as compensation. He also raised the issue of salaries of journalist/reporters which are not being



paid by the owners of Print and Electronic media. The Chairperson asked him to submit recommendations for the protection, compensation and other related issues to the Standing Committee.

12. Mr. Masood Hamid, Secretary General (CPNE) informed the Committee according to two different reports about 58 journalists have been killed in the line of duty in Pakistan during the last twelve years, 28 of them killed in the last three years. Out of 58 journalists who have been killed 14 were from KPK, 12 were from Balochistan 16 from Sindh, 8 from Fata and 3 from Punjab and 2 from Federal Capital Islamabad. He said that various journalists have been targeted and killed due to their work. Pakistani journalists are being killed without any justified reasons; they are being detained, abducted, beaten and threaten by law enforcement and intelligence agencies, militants, tribal and feudal lords. He informed that the FIRs of the journalists who have been killed in the last 12 years have not been properly investigated or prosecuted. Only the murders of Daniel Pearl journalist were arrested and convicted during the last ten years. He said these are the facts that Pakistan is included in the list of most dangerous area in the world for the journalists. He informed that many journalists are being migrated from these dangerous zones or left their profession. The reporters have strict themselves on press releases not giving any observations on the issues as an independent journalist in these conflicted areas. The Government may take serious steps for the safety of Media persons to promote free and fair journalism in the Country. He presented a detail report on the killings of media persons to the Committee. The Committee will look in to this report thoroughly and forwarded its recommendations to the concern Departments for taking action on it. For this purpose, recommended to constitute a Sub-Committee for the detailed deliberations on the subject and to gain effective/ necessary results.

13. Mr. Tahir, General Secretary, PBA, informed that the Media is being threaten from various militants and banned organization. We are unable to protect ourselves due to not having proper protections expertise. Furthermore, as everybody knows that 16 prominent media persons included media houses owners, prominent anchors and editors have been issued threats by certain militants and banned organizations. These are very serious threats which have been issued on not promoting their (militants, banned organizations) point of views in media. He requested the Committee to take serious and practical measures to protect the persons who are associated with news agencies and specifically 16 persons who have been threaten by the militants and banned organizations. All the media houses shall be guided and protected by the enforcement agencies to save the lives of media persons/journalists. The Chairperson asked Mr. Tahir, Secretary General, PBA to provide the list of 16 persons who have been issued threats so that the Committee forwarded this list to the Government and she inquired from the Minister that this list must be with the Government. The Minister replied in positive. Mr. Tahir, Secretary General, PBA, replied that the list will be provided to the Committee as well.

14. Dr. Jabbar Khattak, Secretary General for Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors (CPNE) told the Committee that he endorsed the recommendations of APNSE and suggested that the media persons who are working in the remote and rural areas are facing many problems than the media persons who are working in the big cities. He informed the Committee about the murder of Mr. Shan Dehar in Larkana, Sindh who was reporting/investigating fake medicines and alleged that it's the failure of Government and law enforcement agencies. He also told about the problems of media persons who are working in the Balochistan and Fata. No concrete measures have been taken by the Government in these sensitive areas for the protection of media persons. He emphasized on the right to information bill to be finalized to lessons these problems.



15. Mr. Furkah Nawaz Bhahtti, President Young Journalists Association, Pakistan appreciated the efforts of the Standing Committee for showing concern on the killings and for providing security to the journalists. He recommended that the Ministry may appoint a focal person for media to whom information will be passed on of any threat or problems of the journalists.

16. Mr. Tahir Khalil, informed the Committee that to deal with this type of situation in the country a focal person may be appointed in the Police Department on Federal and Provincial level, where information regarding attacks or threats on media persons will be forwarded to the focal person for proper handling the situation. He further suggested that a permanent Sub-Committee may be constituted for dealing these type problems of media. The Media representatives also informed the Committee about the salaries issues which are not being paid to the journalist/reporters by the owners of Print and Electronic Media House and requested the Committee to resolve this issue.

17. Mr. Ameen Yousf, Secretary General of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) informed the Committee that PFUJ has submitted a plan for the safety of journalists to the Committees of National Assembly and Senate of Pakistan in the previous Government tenure and the same will be submitted to this Committee as well. He further informed about the details of killings of Media persons and nor the investigations neither the compensations have been made. Mr. Akabar Abid, Journalist, suggested that Government may open a Cell which may coordinate with all the press clubs of in the Country for the safety of the Media Persons.

18. The Minister told that a Committee has been appointed on the directions of Honorable, Prime Minister of Pakistan in which he and the Minister of interior are the Members. The Committee has conducted a meeting with the representatives of Media Houses owners and working journalists and decided that they may submit their recommendations on this issue to the Committee which will be than forwarded to the Hon. Prime Minister for final approval. The State is very serious about the safety of an ordinary citizen and the Media Persons and also playing its role. He stressed that it's our collective responsibility to solve this issue and everybody must release his responsibility as well.

19. The Chairperson asked the additional Inspector General Police, Sindh, Why Department of Police, Sindh provided false data to the National Assembly. He told that it's not in his knowledge, if so happened, he is sorry for that. He explained that it might be forwarded to the National Assembly in haste. The Chairperson told the Committee that Ms. Saman Sultana Jafri, MNA, who is also a Member of this Committee has put question in the House for providing year wise total number of terrorist attacks made on journalists during the last five years along with the total number of journalists killed in the said attacks. The Department of Sindh, Police replied that there were no attacks made on the journalists and no one has been killed in the last five years. The Chairperson asked Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, MNA who is also the Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Interior & Narcotics Control that she may brief/explain the Committee about the procedure of the Ministry for obtaining information from the concerned Departments, as and when required by the House.

20. Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, MNA asked the Director General, National Crisis Management Centre (NCCMC) of Ministry of Interior to brief the Committee about the process of obtaining data from the relevant Departments whenever required to present before the National Assembly. The D.G (NCCMC) replied that whenever the Ministry received any question from the National Assembly, the Ministry forwarded these questions to the concerned Provinces by requesting them to reply on the matter. The Committee



suggested that Ms. Saman Sultana Jafri, MNA, may move a Privilege Motion in the House for providing false data to the House. The Committee showed its grave concern on not providing the complete information as required from Department of Sindh, Police by Committee and directed the Additional IGP, Sindh to provide the investigation report regarding the murder of Mr. Shan Daher, District, Larkana.

21. The Additional IGP, Sindh provide the detailed list of attacks, killings of Media Persons and investigations conducted on these cases is at **ANNEX-C**. He also provided the detailed list to the Committee about the security provided to the Media Persons. The Chairperson inquired about the Compensation given to the families of journalists who have been killed. The additional IGP, Sindh told that it is the subject of Provincial Government. Deputy Inspector General, Police, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa gave the presentation regarding the security plan for the safety of in the journalists/ Media Persons by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police and told that six journalists have been killed in this Province during the last three years and only one accused arrested and others are under investigation. Inspector General, Police (IGP), Balochistan, told the Committee that about 13 incidents of target killings had been occurred in Balochistan and provided District wise list of these incidents including investigation and Compensations. Details are at **ANNEX-D**.

22. Additional Inspector General Police,(record), Punjab told the Committee that in Punjab no terrorist attack on journalists reported during the period from February 2011 to February 2014 except two incidents in District Rahim Yaar Khan, in 2012 of Mr. Noor Muhammad and Mr. Mumtaz Hussain journalists who were injured in the attack and the case was cancelled. Senior Superintendent of Police, Islamabad told that no terrorist attack on Media Persons reported in Islamabad. The Chairperson informed the Committee that there is no killing of Media Persons reported in Gilgit-Baltistan according to letter received from Additional Inspector General (Operations), Gilgit-Baltistan to the Secretary Committee and no representative from that Province attended the meeting. The Chairperson invited the Members of the Committee to put questions.

23. Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan, MNA, informed the Committee that the false reply from Department of Police, Sindh to the National Assembly and also by other Provincial Departments of Police were not satisfactory. She showed her concern about the amount paid as compensation to the families of Media Persons who have been killed in the attacks is very meager. She suggested that the Committee may move a Privilege Motion against all concerned who are involved in providing the false information to the House. The Chairperson recommended that Ms. Saman Sultana Jafri, MNA may move a Privilege Motion.

Dr. Azhar Khan Jadoon, MNA, emphasized that all Provincial Governments may formulate a proper a mechanism of paying compensation to the families of Media persons who have been killed while performing the duties. He suggested that owners of Media House who are earning a lot may also formulate a proper pay structure and life insurance for their employees. Mian Muhammed Farooq, MNA, was of the same point of views. Ms. Leila Khan, MNA, wanted to know about the criteria for compensation and showed her concern for not providing the proper information by the all Provincial Police Departments as required by the Committee and suggested that Committee may formulate mechanism/action against them so that it will not happen again. Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, MNA told that she is very disappointed on the performance of Police Department as she is Parliamentary Secretary of Ministry of Interior. She said that the matter will be interrogated seriously/ properly by the Ministry and strict action will be taken against those who were involved in providing this false information to the House. She said that the



Questions hour of the National Assembly is most important/serious business of the House. The chairperson asked Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, MNA to draft a Privilege Motion on behalf of the Committee.

24. Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry, MNA told the Committee that it's not the sole responsibility of the security force and police for the protection of Media Persons lives, the owners Media Houses may also take necessary measure for the protection of their employees. Much of times it happened when the media persons rush for obtaining breaking news from the News/spot where they were stopped by the security forces/police but they cross the barrier. He said that the Committee may also discuss the issues of wages and Code of Conduct of Electronic and Print Media as many of journalist are working without salaries. The Committee may take up the issue of compensation and it will be provided by set rules without any discrimination and all Provinces may follow these set rules. He said that the presentation given by Punjab Police was very poor. He said its collective responsibility and we must realize our responsibility. Ms. Ghulam BiBi Bharwana, MNA was also of the same point of view.

25. Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari, MNA told the Committee that owners of Media Houses may be called in the meeting to discuss the salaries, compensations and securities issues of Media Persons/journalists as the Government alone is not responsible for security of Media Persons/journalists. He inquired about the case which was cancelled which was reported by Punjab Police. Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry, MNA, suggested the Privilege Motion may also be moved against Punjab Police.

26. Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari, MNA put a resolution to the Committee about the current situation of Country. The dialogues for peace in the Country are being made between the Government and with organizations of terrorist/militants are being highlighted in media without any authenticity. So many programs are being aired which is promoting sectarian hatred creating disharmony in the Country which is a National Security threat. No News/talkshows may be aired regarding the peace process talks between Government and militants/terrorists unless officially announced by Ministry of interior. The Ministry and PEMRA are not working on this. He pointed out that it's a violation of PEMRA Regulation 2012. He read the section 4 of PEMRA (Content) Regulations 2012, which reproduce as;

- “4. Religious and ethnic harmony.---- No content shall be aired that contains derogatory remarks about any religion or sect or community or uses visuals or words contemptuous of religious sects and ethnic groups or which promotes communal or sectarian hatred or disharmony”.

The Committee decided that the Ministry may direct PEMRA to take action on this violation.

27. The Committee recommended that a Hotline be establish for Media Persons in the Ministry and in each Province and for that purpose Secretary Committee may forwarded these recommendations to the Ministry.

28. The Chairperson told the Committee about the independent website developed for the Standing Committee which is under construction. She thanked The Honorable Speaker for granting permission to develop an independent website for the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage. Where all the relevant information likes briefs, press releases and minutes of the meetings etc. will be available for everyone. The classified material or the meetings held in camera will not be available on that website. She thanked PILDAT, for helping her in the developing of this website. The website is



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under construction any feedback from the Members for its improvements will be welcomed and incorporated.

29. The Committee after discussion decided to appoint one (1) Sub-Committee under the rule 224 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007. The Sub-Committee constituted is as follows:

Sub-Committee:

Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Sub-Committee:

- (a) To collect data of all attacks / Martyred / killing on Media Persons since 2011 to date from each province / territory;
- (b) To look into the investigations of all attacks / Martyred / killing on Media Persons since 2011 to date from each province / territory;
- (b) To formulate compensation structure and ensure the compensation provided to the deceased families of Journalist / Media Persons killed in terrorist attacks;
- (c) To formulate code of conduct for the safety and protections of the Media Persons and to provide safer environment for media in Pakistan.

The Sub-Committee comprising the following Members:

- | | | |
|------|--------------------------------|----------|
| i) | Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan | Convener |
| ii) | Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari | Member |
| iii) | Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon | Member |
| iv) | Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry | Member |

30. The Committee also decided to include Mian Muhammad Farooq, MNA in the composition of the Sub-Committee (on PTV), as its Member.

31. The Committee gave following recommendations: -

- i) The development projects enhancing Archeological location on the following six locations shall be included in the Budgetary Proposals relating to PSDP for the Financial Year 2014-15 as recommended by the Standing Committee: -
 - a) *Sharda Temple Neelum Valley, Azad Jamu & Kashmir (AJK)*
 - b) *Buddhist Site, Bihari Colony, Hasan Abdal Town, (District, Attock, Punjab)*
 - c) *Ranigat Totalai, (Buner, KPK)*
 - d) *Pirak Mound, (Kachi, Balochistan)*
 - e) *Danyore Rocks Inscription Gilgit, (Gilgit-Baltistan)*
 - f) *Bhitshah Repairs, (Sindh)*



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- ii) The Standing Committee raised no objection on the Budgetary Proposals relating to the Public Sector Development Programs (PSDP) for the Financial Year 2014-15.
- iii) Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage may establish a Hotline in Islamabad and its other offices in all Provinces to facilitate the Media Persons in case of any threat or attack on them.
- iv) The Ministry may also forward the recommendation of the Standing Committee for the establishment of Hotline to facilitate the Media Persons in case of any threat or attack on them to the Chief Secretaries of all Provinces.

32. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

(MARVI MEMON)

Chairperson
Standing Committee on Information,
Broadcasting & National Heritage

(SYED HASAN MURTAZA BUKHARI)

D.S/ Secretary Committee



ANNEXURE "A"

**LIST OF THE OFFICIALS OF M/O INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE AND
ITS ATTACHED DEPARTMENTS**

1.	Dr. Nazir Saeed	Secretary, M/o I,B&NH
2.	Mr. Mohammad Azam	Additional Secretary, M/o I,B&NH
3.	Mr. Muhammad Naeem	Director General, IP Wing
4.	Rao Tahsin Ali Khan	Director General, PID
5.	Mr. Mashood Ahmad Mirza	Joint Secretary, National Heritage Wing
6.	Dr. Abdul Hameed	Chairman, Pakistan Academy of Letters
7.	Mr. Khalid, Sarwar	Managing Director, APPC
8.	Dr. Fazal Dad Kakar	Managing Director, Archaeology
9.	Wing Cdr. (R) Tariq A. Lodhi	Director General, NCMC, M/o Interior
10.	Dr. Sain Rakhio Mirani	Addl. IG, Crime Branch, Sindh Police
11.	Mr. Mohammad Ali Balakel	DIG, KPK Police
12.	Mr. Nasir Khan Durrani	IGP, KPK Police
13.	Mr. Mushtaq S	IGP, Balochistan
14.	Mr. Altaf Hussain	Addl. IGP, (Record), Punjab Police
15.	Mr. Sultan Azam Temuri	AIG (Oper.), Islamabad
16.	Mr. Muhammad Rizwan	SSP (Oper.), Islamabad
17.	Mr. Pervez Shaukat	Advisor, IFJ
18.	Mr. Amin Yousuf	Secretary General, PFUJ
19.	Mr. Arif Ayub	President, IRS
20.	Dr. Jabhar Khattak	Secretary General, CPNE
21.	Mr. Taher A. Khan	Chief Patron, PBA
22.	Mr. Sheraz Latif	Director General, DEMP
23.	Mrs. Samina Parvez	Director General, PBC
24.	Ms. Aasiya Riaz	PILDAT



Meeting of March 13, 2014



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE HELD ON 13TH MARCH, 2014, AT 2:00 P.M. IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 7, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD

Fifth meeting of the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage (I,B&NH) was held on 13th March, 2014, at 2:00 p.m., in Committee Room No.7, Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was presided over by Ms. Marvi Memon, MNA/Chairperson of the Standing Committee with reference to the Agenda circulated **vide** Notice No. F. 4(1)/2013-Com-I (Vol-I) dated 3rd March, 2014.

Agenda

- i) "History of Pakistan's mother tongues and their importance in creating inter-provincial harmony".***
- ii) "Working paper on the concept of National Language Commission as envisioned by Pakistan Muslim League (N) President, Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Main Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, in PML (N) manifesto".***

2. The meeting was attended by the following Members of the Committee.

1.	Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry	Member
2.	Mr. Tahir Iqbal Ch.	Member
3.	Mian Muhammad Farooq	Member
4.	Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti	Member
5.	Mr. Waseem Akhtar Shaikh	Member
6.	Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb	Member
7.	Ms. Arifa Khalid Pervez	Member
8.	Ms. Ghulam Bibi Bharwana	Member
9.	Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari	Member
10.	Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote	Member
11.	Mr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon	Member
12.	Ms. Belum Hasnain	Member



13. Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan

Member

List of the Participants from the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and its attached Departments is at **Annex-A**.

3. The meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran.

4. At the outset the Honourable Chairperson welcomed the Members and all other participants of the meeting. She informed the Committee that purpose of the meeting was to discuss the history and importance of Pakistan's Mother Tongues, their National Language status, and their role in creating inter-provincial harmony along with reviewing a Concept Paper on the National Language Commission. She further told that almost 63 Universities from all over the Country has been consulted for the purpose of preparing concept papers for establishment of National Language Commission. Over 35 speakers, Linguists, Experts and Academia had been invited from all over Pakistan for their valuable input on the subject. Balochi, Balti, Brushaski, Brahui, Hindko, Khowar, Kashmiri, Pahari, Pashto, Punjabi, Saraiki, Shina, Sindhi and other Mother Tongues were amply highlighted from participants representing the diverse areas of Pakistan.

5. The linguists' experts appraised the Committee about the Common Confusions between 'National Language & Official Language' and 'Language & Dialect' were eloquently addressed. This has been a major contributor in nation building. It was established that a National Language is a language which is the Mother Tongue of people; and enjoys use in the political, social, and cultural realms. National Languages are mostly multiple for one country, whereas, an official language is one which is used for the operations of the Government. Official Languages are mostly one or maximum two. Consequently, National Languages are symbolic and Official Languages are pragmatic. Similarly, there is a distinction between Language and Dialect on the basis of 'mutual intelligibility.' The Committee was also informed that National Languages were generally multiple in numbers as can be observed globally. A few amongst the many Countries having multiple National Languages were, China (9), India (22), Belgium (3), Namibia (11), Singapore (4), South Africa (13), Spain (5) and Switzerland (4).

6. It was reiterated during the meeting that the importance of National Language was imperative in National Harmony. Member of the Standing Committee agreed that Language is the main source of communication, so it is also the best means to bring divergent people together. Developed countries have declared their major Mother Tongues as National Languages. This has helped reduce differences between different types of people living in one Country. It was agreed in the meeting that it was high time that habitants of the same society should use their languages for unity and better understanding between



each other. Pakistani society is a hub of ancient languages. Unfortunately, Pakistan since its inception, instead of recognizing & celebrating linguistic diversity, started its journey by denying the distinct historical status of these languages. Diversity and recognition of these languages will be the path for nation building, which is acutely required.

7. The Committee further discussed a working paper on the concept of the National Language Commission as envisioned by Pakistan Muslim League (N) President, Honourable, Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, in PML (N) manifesto. The PML (N) manifesto states, "Pakistan currently has many mother tongues but only one national language which is Urdu and one official language which is English. In most nation states, all major mother tongues are national languages. A National Language Commission will be set up by the PML (N) Government to develop criteria for giving the status of national languages to all major languages." The Concept Paper incorporated the Vision of National Language Commission as, "to establish a National Language Commission which protects and promotes Mother Tongues of Pakistan, giving them National Language Status & as a result enhances nation building, education and productivity of Pakistan."

8. The objectives of the National Language Commission outlined as under:-

- to develop criteria to give status of National Language to all major Mother Tongues of Pakistan
- to strengthen the Mother Tongues & ensure their longevity in the National narrative
- through these, Mother Tongues/proposed National Languages, enhance inter-provincial harmony
- through these, Mother tongues/proposed National Languages, enhance learning capabilities of Pakistanis & their productivity
- promote national languages and their teachings
- to scientifically conduct language planning, policy, survey through research.

9. The Chairperson put the following Resolution which was unanimously passed by the Committee:

- i). The Committee appreciated the importance in according Pakistan's major mother tongues like Balochi, Balti, Brushaski, Brahui, Hindko, Khowar, Kashmiri, Pahari, Pashto, Punjabi, Saraiki, Shina, Sindhi the National language status.
- ii). The Committee will not allow the linguicide in Pakistan of its rich Mother Tongues.
- iii). The Committee understand that all Mother Tongues of Pakistan belong to all of Pakistan rather than just one particular area.



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- iv). The Committee agreed that all Mother Tongues were rooted to Pakistan's soil in entirety and thereby derive their National status. Their promotion and this National status will root out sense of deprivation, prejudices and will create inter provincial harmony.
 - v). The Committee agreed that cultural and linguistic diversity is an asset for Pakistan, which will promote education, learning and productivity.
 - vi). The Committee understand that this will improve inter-provincial harmony and create a national narrative much required for nation building in Pakistan.
 - vii). The Committee supported the establishment of a National Language Commission which will ultimately decide which major Mother Tongues of Pakistan should be declared as national based on internationally accepted criteria. It will develop a language policy, fully researched, conduct language scientific survey and conduct language planning.
 - viii). The Committee appreciated the efforts of all those Pakistanis who have made contributions for this noble and nation building cause of National Language status, since inception of Pakistan.
 - ix). The Committee commit to seeing the legislation of the National Language Bill through the proper legislative routes in the tenure of this National Assembly at the earliest.
 - x). The Committee also decided to protect the endangered Mother Tongues of Pakistan through the National Language Commission.
10. The Committee decided that the Resolution will be sent to the Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Human Rights so that at time of review of "The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014", it should assist the Standing Committee. The Committee Members thanked the Experts for their valuable and enlightening input.
11. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

(MARVI MEMON)

Chairperson
Standing Committee on Information,
Broadcasting & National Heritage

(SYED HASAN MURTAZA BUKHARI)

D.S/ Secretary Committee



ANNEXURE "A"

**LIST OF THE OFFICIALS OF M/O INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE AND
ITS ATTACHED DEPARTMENTS**

1. Mr. Mohammad Azam Additional Secretary, M/o I,B&NH
2. Mr. Muhammad Naeem Director General, IP Wing
3. Mr. Abaseen yousafzai Chairman, Pashto, Islamia College University, Peshawar
4. Mr. Shafi-ul-Haq Lecturer, University of Malakand
5. Dr. Rajwali Shah Khattak Ex-Chairman Pashto Academy
6. Dr. Imdadullah Asst. Professor, University of Swat
7. Dr. Muhammad Zubair Director, PSC/ Bkuc Hasrat
8. Mr. Abdul Rouf Lecturer, NUML, Islamabad
9. Dr. Attash Durrani Prof. Department of Pakistani Languages AIOU, Islamabad
10. Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir VC, university of Turbat
11. Dr. Chiragh Wadar Lecturer, Balochi Languages, National University of Modern Sciences
12. Dr. Gul Hassan Prof. VC, Dean, Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water & Marine Sciences
13. Dr. M. Tariq Khan Asst. Prof. University of Haripur
14. Dr. Saiqa Imtiaz Asif Prof. Bahauddin Zikriya University, Multan
15. Dr. Sughra Sadaf Director, Punjab Institute of Language Art & Culture
16. Mr. Fakhruddin Chairman, Forum for Language Initiatives, Islamabad
17. Mr. Fida Hussain Asst. Prof. University of Swat



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| 18. Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah | Prof. Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur |
| 19. Mr. Ghulam Qadir Baig | Director News, Radio Pakistan, Hunza |
| 20. Dr. Imdad Ullah | Asst. Prof. University of Swat |
| 21. Dr. Khawaja Abdul Rehman | Asst. Prof. Postgraduate College Muzaffarabad |
| 22. Mr. M. Zafar | Lecturer, karakoram International University, Gilgit |
| 23. Mr. Hassan Hasrat | Regional Director, Open University, Regional office, Skardu |
| 24. Mohammad Nizamuddin | VC, University of Gujrat |
| 25. Muhammad Javaid Iqbal | Gold Medalist, Author/Researcher, Editor, Roznama Ilhaq, |
| 26. Muhammad Zubair Hasrat | Bacha Khan University, Charsadda |
| 27. Dr. Mushtaq Phul | Secretary General, Sindhi Adabi sangat |
| 28. Nabi bux Jumani | Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, International Islamic University, Islamabad |
| 29. Naveed Sarwar | Lecturer, University of Azad Jamu & Kashmir |
| 30. Mr. Nazar Muhamamd Gaho | Chairman, Sindhi Adabi Board |
| 31. Mr. Nisar ahmed Gorsl | Mirpur University of Science & Tech. Mirpur, Azad Jamu & Kashmir |
| 32. Prof. Saeed Ahmed Farani | Masood Khadarposh Trust, Lahore |
| 33. Mr. Sajjad Hussain | Lecture, Karakoram International University Gilgit. |
| 34. Prof. Sarmad Hussain | UET, Lahore |
| 35. Sheikh Abdul Rasheed | Director, Media & Publications, University of Gujrat |
| 36. Zia-ul Haq Anwar | Asst. Professor, karakoram International University, Gilgit |



Meeting of March 21, 2014



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE HELD ON 21ST MARCH, 2014, AT 3:30 P.M. IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 2, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD

Sixth meeting of the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage (I,B&NH) was held on 21st March, 2014, at 3:30 p.m., in Committee Room No.2, Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was presided over by Ms. Marvi Memon, MNA/Chairperson of the Standing Committee with reference to the Agenda circulated **vide** Notice No. F. 4(1)/2013-Com-I (Vol-I) dated 17th March, 2014.

2. The meeting was attended by the following Members of the Committee.

1.	Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry	Member
2.	Mian Muhammad Farooq	Member
3.	Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti	Member
4.	Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb	Member
5.	Ms. Zeb Jaffar	Member
6.	Ms. Ghulam Bibi Bharwana	Member
7.	Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari	Member
8.	Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon	Member
9.	Mr. Murad Saeed	Member
10.	Mr. Iftikhar-ud-Din	Special invitee

List of the Participants from the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and its attached Departments/Organizations/Autonomous Bodies under the Administrative control of the Ministry is at **Annex-A**.

3. The meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran.

- i) *To discuss the progress of the Sub-Committee constituted by the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage as per its Terms of Reference,*
- ii) *Any other item with the permission of the Chair.*



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4. At the outset the Honorable Chairperson welcomed the Members and all other participants of the meeting. She informed the Committee that purpose of the meeting was to discuss the progress of the seven Sub-Committees constituted by the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage as per its Terms of References (ToRs).

5. The Committee showed its displeasure on the absence of Secretary, M/o IB&NH, Principle Information Officer (PIO), from Press Information Department (PID) and three Authority Members of Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) who are looking after the work of Chairman, PEMRA, from the Standing Committee's Meeting.

6. Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry, Convener of Sub-Committee on PTV, presented the progress report made so far by the Sub-Committee after conducting two meetings. He told that the Sub-Committee has observed following points for the improvement of the Corporation:-

- i. The Sub-Committee recommended that the vacant post of Managing Director (MD) PTV shall be filled at earliest and it should be filled on merit.
- ii. The Sub-Committee also recommended the concerned to take necessary steps for the accreditation / affiliation of PTV Academy with any local or international institution / University.
- iii. The Direct to Home (DTH) services may also be started.
- iv. The PTV shall provide digital cameras to the production department and upgrade the studios for the improvement of production.
- v. The standards of PTV dramas, programs, news bulletin, and talk shows shall be improved.
- vi. The performance of the employees shall also be evaluated for the smooth functioning of the PTV and the parameters for evaluating the performance of the employees may also be formulated.
- vii. The steps should be taken for improving the rating of PTV's viewer ship.
- viii. The Sub-Committee invited suggestions from each Department of PTV for its improvement / betterment, which will be appreciated by the Committee.



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7. He further told that the Sub-Committee has decided in its last meeting to have a detail reply from PTV on the following points:-

- i) Complete presentation on the future for one and three years plans.
- ii) The steps taken by PTV to enhance the performance of its employees.
- iii) The steps taken for accreditation/affiliation of PTV Academy with any Local and International Institution/University.
- iv) The steps taken to telecast Public Messages on the Health and Environmental Awareness Issues.

8. Mr. Mohammad Malick, Managing Director (MD) PTV, apprised the Committee the steps taken by him after assumption of charge as MD, PTV. He told that the current situation of PTV is very grim. He ordered for conducting an audit of the Corporation which is going to be done soon by renowned International firm. The Human Resource Policy will be revisited since the Corporation lacked technical staff, means are being put in to ensure the employee performance evaluation. The steps are also being taken for the modernization of Studios / Workplaces, etc. The PTV Academy will be soon affiliated with some foreign or local institute / university. He also ensured that the quality and output of different programs and PTVs' channels will be revamped. He thanked the cooperation and support extended by the sub-committee in reviving PTV as the supreme state channel.

9. The Committee expressed its expectations from PTV on uniting the Nation in this suffering state of Terrorism. The Committee congratulated Mr. Mohammad Malick, on assuming the responsibility as MD, PTV and extended its good wishes to him.

10. Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon, MNA presented the progress report of the Sub-Committee on Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) on behalf of Ms. Saman Sultana Jafari, Convener of the Sub-Committee. He told the Committee that the Sub-Committee after conducting two meetings concluded the following suggestions / points for the betterment of the PBC:-

- i) Since more capital is required to set up an AM station, it is advisable to have more FM stations at near intervals instead of AM stations for better coverage and quality of reception. FM stations will also give us a benefit of RDS programming and bring us at par with the International Radio industry.



- ii) There should be international training programs for our staff so that they can get acquainted with the most dated facilities and styles of programming and production. The training with DW, NEC or USAID doesn't seem to bear the expected results.
- iii) We not just need to modernize our equipment but modernize our content too. We should asses why our FMs are doing a better job than AMs and then design shows with respect to our target audience.
- iv) The Stations that are working on less efficiency and have bigger manpower should be brought to smaller manpower. Just like it was mentioned in the first meeting that our staff is being trained for multi-purposes, we don't need a lot of people working for a station that does not transmit effectively.
- v) We have 19 Regional language programs and 10 foreign programs as informed by PBC but none how much is the reach and listener-ship and the feedback of these programs. We either have to cut down on such programming or improve the quality of content to work it favorably for the whole country. We think the latter should be applied and content should be improved as to cater to the whole audiences.
- vi) The airtime cannot be sold without a marketing department as there will be no check and balance of the flow of the funds and promotion of content aired.

11. The Director General, PBC informed the Committee that the PBC is also having similar issues as PTV. She also stated that the Corporation's marketing Department is underway and the restructuring plan would be submitted to the Committee as well. Proposals for modernization of the equipment are also in the pipeline. The Committee recommended that PBC Regional Stations should start Meteorological advisory programs in Mother Tongues so that people can understand during untoward weather conditions while traveling. The Committee further suggested that PBC needed to come up with quality content that spreads the ideology of Pakistan in these times of Sectarianism.

12. It was decided that the rest of the progress reports of the Sub-Committees will be discussed in the next meeting.

13. Mr. Iftikhar-ud-Din, MNA, who was invited as a special Invitee, congratulated Chairperson on the efforts made by her for the promotion of the Mother tongues in its previous meeting held on 13th March, 2014.

14. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.



(MARVI MEMON)

Chairperson
Standing Committee on Information,
Broadcasting & National Heritage

(SYED HASAN MURTAZA BUKHARI)

D.S/ Secretary Committee

ANNEXURE "A"

**LIST OF THE OFFICIALS OF M/O INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE AND
ITS ATTACHED DEPARTMENTS**

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| 1. | Mr. Muhammad Naeem | Director General, IP Wing, M/o IB&NH |
| 2. | Mr. Mashood Ahmad Mirza | Joint Secretary (NH Wing), M/o IB&NH |
| 3. | Ms. Suriya Jamal | Deputy Director General, PID |
| 4. | Ms. Samina Farzin | Director (HP), PID |
| 5. | Mrs. Samina Parvez | Director General, PBC |
| 6. | Mohammad Malick | Managing Director, PTV |
| 7. | Mr. Ghufuran Ahmed | Director (Fin.) PTV |
| 8. | Agha Masood Shorish | Director Current Affairs, PTV |
| 9. | Syed Muhammad Ilyas | Deputy Director, M/o IB&NH |
| 10. | Mr. Qamar Iqbal | Controller (Admin & Personal), PTV |
| 11. | Mr. Hameed Qazi | Director Engineering, PTV |
| 12. | Mr. Nasir Ayyaz | PEMRA |
| 13. | Mr. Khalil Asif | Director Engineering, PTV |
| 14. | Mr. Saif –ullah Shahid | Executive Manger (Parliament Affairs), PTV |



Meeting of April 03, 2014



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE HELD ON 3RD APRIL, 2014, AT 10:30 A.M. IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 2, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD.

Seventh meeting of the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage (I,B&NH) was held on 3rd April, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. in Committee Room No.2, Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was presided over by Ms. Marvi Memon, MNA/Chairperson of the Standing Committee with reference to the Agenda circulated vide Notice No. F. 4(1)/2013-Com-I (Vol-I) dated 31st March, 2014.

2. The meeting was attended by the following Members of the Committee.

1.	Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry	Member
2.	Mian Muhammad Farooq	Member
3.	Ms. Arifa Khalid Pervez	Member
4.	Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti	Member
5.	Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb	Member
6.	Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon	Member
7.	Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan	Member
8.	Senator Pervaiz Rashid	Ex-officio Member
	Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage	

List of the Participants from the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and its attached Departments is at **Annex-A**.

3. The meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran.

4. The Honorable Chairperson welcomed the Members and all other participants of the meeting. She informed that she has invited Mr. Raza Rumi and Moez Pirzada as special invitees, Mr. Raza Rumi requested that he did not attend the meeting physically due to security threat; therefore he joined the Committee on Skype. Before giving the floor to the Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting &



National Heritage the Chair along with all Committee Members showed their displeasure on the absence of Inspector General Police,(IGP) Punjab Government. The Committee decided to take series action on this matter and directed the Ministry of Interior & Narcotics Control that the investigation status/report regarding on the attack on Mr. Raza Rumi from IGP, Punjab shall be provided to the Committee within 24 hours and this type of attitude from Punjab Police will not be acceptable in future. The Chairperson informed that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the following agenda:-

- i) *Security action plan and policy for the protection of Media Person,*
- ii) *Examination of the Special Report,*
- iii) *Update on all Sub-Committee constituted by the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage,*
- iv) *Any other item with the permission of the Chair.*

5. While taking the floor, Federal Minister for Information Broadcasting & National Heritage, Senator, Pervaiz Rashid thanked the Chairperson for conducting a meeting on a very important issue. He told the Standing Committee about the current security status / position of the Country. He said that the life of every citizens of the Pakistan is in danger for the last 13 years. He said that it is the responsibility of the State to protect the life of its citizens and the present Government is taking this issue very seriously. He informed the Standing Committee about the steps taken by the Government for Security action plan and policy for the protection of the Media person. He told that the Hon. Prime of Pakistan has constituted a two Members Committee for the protection of media persons which comprised Minister for Interior & Narcotics Control and Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage. This Committee has conducted several meetings with stakeholder and discussed this issue. At the first step the Committee decided to provide the facility of life insurance for all the journalists/ media persons by the Government, the Government will provide special prosecutors to the journalists/ media persons to peruse their cases and standardized compensation will also be provided to the families of the journalists/media persons who killed/martyred during terrorist attacks or killed in the line of duty. He said that his Ministry is working for the establishment of Hotline to facilitate the journalists/media persons in case of any threats or attacks on them and it will be started functioning soon, for this purpose his Ministry is consulting with all the Provincial Governments. He further emphasized that Media Houses may also took responsibility for the protection of their employees as well.

6. Mr. Raza Rumi, Journalist, special invitee who participated in the proceedings of the Standing Committee's meeting through Skype appreciated the efforts and vision of the Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage for the protection of media persons. He suggested that the



list of the Media Persons who have been given threats may be investigated and this type of information shall be shared with all Intelligence Agencies/ Security agencies on emergency basis. He further said that the Media Houses are also responsible for the protection of its employees. Pakistan Electric Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) may amend and insert such type of regulations in its Law for Electronic Media. He emphasized for the establishment of Hotline for Media Persons and for the investigation of the attack on him which is underway but no outcome yet from the Punjab Police. He requested for prompted investigation may be conducted of his matter. He further requested for the provision of more security to him for performing his duty.

7. The Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage said that there are several these types of lists have been circulated in the market; it's difficult to mark any list credible. He informed that the names of every eminent person of this country including him are under threat and included in these types of lists. The protection of the life of every citizen is basic responsibility of the State and the Government is trying its level best to provide security to its citizens but it's a difficult job as well. There are several militant groups operating in the country but no electronic or print media has ever condemned them. He told that we are in situation of war and we have to fight against these militant groups like a soldier. We have to eliminate the bases of terrorism and the Government is opting every possible option for the revival of peace in the country.

The standing Committee decided that the investigation may be conducted on those lists which have been issued by some militants groups to the Media Persons and Media houses as its very serious issue. The Committee also discussed in detail for the establishment of Hotline facility to the journalists/ media persons in case of any threat or attack on them in all over the country. Some Members of the Committee were of the point of view that the existing helpline like 15 and 1122 in the country may be used for the journalist/media persons instead of establishing a separate Hotline for them as it will be required separate infrastructure for its administration/ operation. The Committee decided that it must be established as it was the demand of the Media Persons and the Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage has already made a commitment with the Media Persons for its establishment and it is necessary to provide a separate Hotline only for the Media persons. The Secretary, Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage informed the Committee that the ministry is working on the establishment of Hotline and also in coordination with all other Provincial Governments for its establishment and he will inform the Committee about its status by 8th of April, 2014.

8. Mr. Moeed Pirzada, special invitee told that it is not possible for the state to provide security on individual basis, there should be a proper mechanism to handle these types of situations. The Law Enforcement Agencies may increase their surveillance and create safer zones which will be helpful for



providing security to every person and to trace the culprits/terrorists.

9. The Standing Committee decided to submit its midterm status Special Report on the issue of Security for media to the Hon. Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan under Rule, 234 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007. For the purpose the Committee has also formed a Sub-Committee on this critical issue of Security for media which will be ongoing till all its terms of references have been duly addressed.

10. The Standing Committee condemned the attack on Mr. Raza Rumi, Journalist and those present with him at that time, and on all the hundreds of media personnel before him by terrorists and enemies of Pakistan. The Committee stands united against all such terrorists' activities.

11. The Committee after discussing the issue of Security for media persons as Pakistan's international standing and the current law and order situation in Pakistan demanded that the following recommendations shall be implemented at top priority by the Executive side:

- i. The security of media in Pakistan is the responsibility of the State, the Executive and Parliament. The security of media must be handled on top priority basis, so that they could function without fear and deliver on their mission of delivering highest levels of media freedom and quality to the people of Pakistan.
- ii. The Committee accepted that media as well as the rest of Pakistan is functioning in a law and order situation which has Target Killings, abductions, Sectarian Killings, Crossfire, bomb attacks, Terrorist suicide bombings, Abduction for ransom or political gain.
- iii. The Ministry may establish a Hotline to facilitate the Media Persons in case of any threat or attack on them in all over the Country.
- iv. The standardized compensation as committed by the Government must be provided to all the families of media persons who injured or killed in the line of duty in all Provinces.
- v. All lists of targeted media personnel needs to be taken seriously by the Government because now we have seen action by terrorists on these lists as well as the fact that we have recorded threats to some of those on this list by the terrorist's outfits.
- vi. Ministry of Interior and narcotics Control may also share information on the threats of



- media persons with all intelligence agencies so that media may be better protected.
- vii. Bullet proof vests must be provided to all journalists in the line of duty by the Media Houses.
 - viii. Special arrangements at all Media Houses must be undertaken by Government as well as by the Media Houses to ensure top level security.
 - ix. Scanners must be installed by Government at all Press Clubs and Media Houses.
 - x. All open investigations must be closed within three months period and full compensations shall be paid in each Province. Every Single attack on media must be fully investigated and details tabled in the Parliament on monthly basis, which should also be made public with the permission of the concerned media persons and organizations. The names of the groups involved in such attacks must be made public and their masterminds and foot soldiers are taken to task, with full public identification, no cover up for any group.
 - xi. A 24/7 cell must be established in the Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control to process such intelligence intercepts and share with the concerned persons to ensure security.
 - xii. Cabinet Committee on Media Freedom & Security, with mandatory twice monthly meetings or even more if such attacks continue to discuss the matter threadbare in the presence of senior journalists.
 - xiii. The Government may appoint a focal person of the level of Minister of State, which could be immediate, approached for helping the media persons in case of any emergency.
 - xiv. Provision of light arms for personal protection may also be considered.
 - xv. Criteria maybe determined to have A, B or C level of security for different media persons, organizations based on the threat level as per intelligence intercepts.
 - xvi. Media Houses and organizations may provide a complete comprehensive security plan for all media personnel working for them including requirement of any security equipment



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and infrastructure to the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage.

- xvii. The protocol of communication on the subject of sensitive national security for Media Houses should be developed by the Cabinet Media Security Committee and should be part of national narrative of NISP and cyber crime bill.
- xviii. The Government and the Media Houses/ Organizations may develop a mechanism for the providing compensations in case of any media persons injured/ killed while performing his duty on the following pattern:-
- a) To cover the costs of his treatment.
 - b) In case of his death, some cash benefits for the family.
 - c) Education of his children.

7. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

(MARVI MEMON)

Chairperson
Standing Committee on Information,
Broadcasting & National Heritage

(SYED HASAN MURTAZA BUKHARI)

D.S/ Secretary Committee



ANNEXURE "A"

LIST OF THE OFFICIALS OF M/O INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE AND ITS ATTACHED DEPARTMENTS

1. Dr. Nazir Saeed Secretary, M/o I,B&NH
2. Mr. Taimoor Azmat Osman Sr. Member, Federal Land Commission
3. Mr. Muhammad Imtaiz Additional Secretary, M/o Interior
4. Mr. Mohammad Azam Additional Secretary, M/o I,B&NH
5. Mr. Ihsan Ghani Director General, NPB, M/o Interior
6. Mr. Nadeem Iqbal Abbasi Director General, Pakistan Academy of Letter
7. Mr. Mashood A Mirza Joint Secretary(Heritage) M/o I,B&NH/DG, PNCA
8. Mr. Sheraz Latif Director General, Electronic Media Directorate
9. Mr. Muhammad Khalid Khattak DIG/ HQtrs, ICT (Police)
10. Mr. Muhammad Saleem Bhatti IGP, Gilgit Balochistan
11. Mr. Mohammad Imtiaz Shah DIG / CID Balochistan
12. Mr. Nasir Khan Durrani IGP, KPK
13. Mr. Mohammad Ali Babakhel DIG, KPK
14. Dr. Ghulam Sarwar Jamali DIG, P / CB, Sindh Police
15. Dr. Fazal Dad Kakor Director General, Archaeology
16. Mr. Zahid Hussain Abro Sr. Editor, Quaid-e-Azam Paper Wing
17. Mr. Anjum Waheed Administrator, Aiwan-e-Iqbal, Lahore
18. Mr. Ashfak Jumani Director General, PEMRA
19. Mr. Muhammad Parvez Rathore Member, PEMRA Committee
20. Mr. Samina Farzin Director, PID
21. Mr. Asim Ayub Director, Lok Virsa
22. Syed Intikhab Alam Deputy Secretary, M/o I,B&NH
23. Mr. Nazir Ahmad Deputy Secretary (NH Wing), M/o I,B&NH
24. Dr. Rashid Hameed Deputy Secretary, M/o I,B&NH



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| 25. Mr. Nasir Ayyaz | General Manager, PEMRA |
| 26. Syed Muhammad Ilyas | Deputy Director, M/o I,B&NH |
| 27. Syed Ahsan Mazher Ali | Secretary, Federal Land Commission |
| 28. Mr. Mehboob Khan | Deputy Director, NLPD |
| 29. Mr. Saood Bajwa | Deputy Director, NPB |
| 30. Mr. Saif ullah Shahid | Executive Manger (Parliament Affairs), PTV |



Meeting of April 16, 2014



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE 8th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE HELD ON 16TH APRIL, 2014, AT 10:30 A.M. IN CONSTITUTIONAL ROOM (OLD COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 5), PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD

8th meeting of the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage (I,B&NH) was held on 16th April, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. in Constitutional Room (Old Committee Room No.5), Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was presided over by Ms. Marvi Memon, MNA/Chairperson of the Standing Committee with reference to the Agenda circulated **vide** Notice No. F. 4(1)/2014-Com-I dated 4th April, 2014.

2. The meeting was attended by the following Members of the Committee.

1.	Ms. Arifa Khalid Pervez	Member
2.	Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti	Member
3.	Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb	Member
4.	Ms. Belum Hussain	Member
5.	Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari	Member
6.	Mr. Murad Saeed	Member
7.	Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon	Member
8.	Ms. Saman Sultana Jafri	Member
9.	Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan	Member
10.	Senator Pervaiz Rashid	Ex-officio Member
	Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage	

List of the Participants from the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and its attached Departments is at **Annex-A**.

3. The meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran.



4. The Honorable Chairperson welcomed the Members and all other participants of the meeting.

The Chairperson informed that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the following agenda:-

- i) *Report and Recommendations of the Media Commission appointed by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, 2013 and the Government action plan on the same,*
- ii) *Any other item with the permission of the Chair.*

5. The Chairperson invited Mr. Javed Jabbar to brief the Committee about the Recommendation of the Media Commission appointed by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, 2013. Mr. Javed Jabbar thanked the Hon. Chairperson for inviting him and appreciated her efforts for inviting the attention of the Committee on a very important issue. He informed the Committee about the establishment of the Media Commission. The Commission comprised of Chairman, Mr. Justice ® Nasir Aslam Zahid and Member, Senator ® Javed Jabbar. The Chairman and Member decided, at the outset, to render their work for the Commission on an honorary basis (without any remuneration). Only expenses incurred by the Commission required to be reimbursed were on air travel, hotel accommodation outside Karachi and transport when required. The Commission met with individuals associated with organizations in the public and private sectors and civil society to elicit their views on the TORs of the Commission. The published version of Report and Recommendations of the Media Commission encompasses complete details of its Recommendations, Tabulated responses from 8 roundtables conferences and view of the Government of Pakistan about recommendations. He told that the report has been completed and submitted to the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

6. Mr. Hamid Mir, Anchor Person, Geo TV, told the Committee that he along with Mr. Absar Alam filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court of Pakistan for the audit of Media Persons and to regulate the Media. In which they also pray for the formulation of Code of Conduct by the Media commission, abolishing of the secret fund, checking of assets of all journalists by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and also the examination of advertisements and sources of revenue. Mr. Absar Alam, Anchor Person of AAJ TV added that as we claimed the fourth pillar of the State, we must play our role with responsibility. He appreciated the present Government for abolishing the secret funds. He said that the recommendations of the Media Commission are only for the restructuring and improvement of the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and its attached Departments/organization but not according to our writ petition. He demanded for the publication of the list of beneficiaries from the secret fund. The Hon. Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage told that it will be published soon.



7. The Committee Members emphasized on the implementation of Code of Conduct and Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) Laws. The Committee suggested for constitution of Task Force Commission for reviewing the PEMRA laws. The Committee also decided to constitute Media Laws Review Task Force and for the purpose the Chairperson asked the Members of the Committee to give the names of legal/media expert for constitution of Task Force.

8. The Committee discussed the issues raised during the meeting and with reference to the Recommendations given by the Media Commission appointed by the Supreme Court 2013, the Standing Committee unanimously agreed to the following actions, proposals and adopted the resolution as follows:-

- i. In the age of independence of media, globalization, Information Technology (IT) and Information, it is important to have a specific role of the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage (IB&NH) for policy setting, to facilitate media development with freedom and accountability.
- ii. Review of the existing 64 Laws on Media is critical. New laws are equally required, specifically for advertising regulation, convergence, cross media ownership negative impacts, and self regulation. The Standing Committee will be having special meetings with Legal Experts on this critical subject soon and will be appointing a Media Laws Review Taskforce with a six months mandate to examine 64 laws and to propose amendments as well as new laws where required.
- iii. The existence of a Ministry of IB&NH is important. However, its restructuring is critical. The Ministry and bodies under the purview of the Ministry have assured the Standing Committee that its restructuring plans will be presented within one month to the Committee.
- iv. Ministry of IB&NH and IT can be merged due to new areas of convergence. A new name for the Ministry to be Ministry for Public Information, Media and National Heritage.
- v. Make Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) shall be truly autonomous and accountable to Parliament and not to the Executive. Thus a change in mode of appointment of Chairperson and its Members along the lines of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is recommended.
- vi. Create a single new integrated regulatory body by merging PEMRA, PTA including cinema on the lines of OFCOM (Independent Regulator & Competition Authority for the UK Communications Industries) in the UK. In the cinema sector there is a need to ensure inter provincial harmony in the implementation of censorship rules in the provinces. All imported films to be censored by the Federal Government. Provincial Censor Boards should include Federal representation.
- vii. Policy to ensure minimal time for Pakistani content on TV and Radio to be strengthened.
- viii. Public, regular, structured dialogue of Government and Regulatory bodies with all stakeholders relevant to Electronic Media is necessary. Similar Regular structured dialogue with non-media stakeholders' i.e civil society is extremely important.
- ix. Judiciary should conduct expeditious and conclusive disposal of the large number of stay orders obtained by TV and Radio against PEMRA as at present even non licensed TV channels are operating freely.
- x. Actual compliance should be ensured by Media of their own Codes and transparency by appointing Internal Ombudsman and Compliance Coordinators to respond to complaints and concerns of citizens.
- xi. Temporarily Freeze (except community licenses) issuance of licenses for new TV channels as cable TV distribution capacity is already saturated and until transition to digital technology.
- xii. Ensure effective actions by Government Authorities to prevent smuggling and sale of Direct to



- Home (DTH) sets/boxes.
- xiii. Ensure licenses are issued for valid, eligible community Radio Stations and Community TV channels with safeguards.
- xiv. Pakistan Television Corporation(PTVc), Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation(PBC) Associate Press of Pakistan(APP) should be transformed into genuine public Service Entities which are even handed and fair for them to be consistent with Article 19 of the Constitution of Pakistan. New system should be introduced for appointment of Chairman, CEO and Board of Directors. Government should look into options for restructuring the ownership of PTV, PBC and APP to make its ownership more broad based and public service oriented.
- xv. A new Law is required within which Self Regulation by Media can be conducted in a transparent and accountable manner, so that self interest doesn't substitute self regulation in Media.
- xvi. The funding for Press Council of Pakistan to be equitably shared by Media proprietors (such as APNS) and other segments in order for it to be independent.
- xvii. Alleged corrupt practices indulged into by Media and Government should be investigated and discouraged.
- xviii. There is a need for more effective practice of existing Codes by Media themselves.
- xix. Strict effective action is needed by PEMRA and Press Council of Pakistan to prevent excesses by Media against Public figures, thereby preventing unfair defamation or ridicule of Public figures. Strict action needs to be taken by the Councils of Complaints appointed by PEMRA which could include parliamentarians to prevent unfair defamation.
- xx. Forensic audits should be conducted to determine whether corruptions occurred in award of advertising contracts by NAB, FIA etc.
- xxi. There is a need to rationalize the principles on the basis of which advertising rates are determined for placement of Government advertising in Print and Electronic Media so as to end the discrepancies. Government should propose single transparent policy for awarding advertisement.
- xxii. There is a need to reform the system by which advertisements of Federal and Provincial Governments are placed by restructuring the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) and inducting reputed firms from private sector to make ABC credible; and by other methods such as possible decentralization.
- xxiii. ECP is urged to implement recommendation of Media Commission to ensure transparency in use of funds for advertising in the forthcoming local Governments.
- xxiv. PEMRA should facilitate preparation of options for new revenue model for TV Channels to reduce existing 100% dependence on advertising.
- xxv. More Effective regulatory actions are required to reduce imbalanced interruptions, disruptions intrusions of advertising on TV and Radio.
- xxvi. Secret funds have been abolished. Second list will be presented to the Committee and to the public after audit or as per Supreme Court's instructions.
- xxvii. It is considered opinion of the Committee that PEMRA has not satisfactorily addressed the concerns raised by the Media Commission Report regarding: the restructuring of PEMRA, Autonomy of PEMRA from Executive, Direct Parliamentary Purview & Oversight of PEMRA, Review of the PEMRA Act 2002 (Amended 2007) and Private Monopolies in Media created as a result of the Amended PEMRA Act 2007. Unfortunately without addressing these core issues it is difficult to conceive that PEMRA will be able to respond to the challenges it faces as an independent Media Regulator. It is, therefore, recommended that the Ministry of IB&NH should undertake an immediate examination of these concerns, with a clear deadline in mind, to suggest the best ways and means to implement the recommendations of the Media Commission.
- xxviii. Ministry of IB&NH has committed itself to help improve security for Journalists and Media. However, it has not presented any coherent plan so far. It needs to present an over-view of its Security Plan which has designed after its consultations with the various media organizations. Ministry also needs to give action plan on the Committee's recommendations on



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- the same.
- xxix. The existing reliance on a predominantly big cities audience measurement system to determine TV ratings should be replaced with new alternative options which accurately reflect the countries demographic realities.
- xxx. As per commitment made by Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) to the Media Commission the actual rates charged by PBA Members, (election advertising) should be placed on the internet and transparency ensured on the assets, income, expenses of media proprietors and senior journalists including TV anchors.
9. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

(MARVI MEMON)

Chairperson
Standing Committee on Information,
Broadcasting & National Heritage

(SYED HASAN MURTAZA BUKHARI)

D.S/ Secretary Committee



ANNEXURE "A"

**LIST OF THE OFFICIALS OF M/O INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE AND
ITS ATTACHED DEPARTMENTS**

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Nazir Saeed | Secretary, M/o I,B&NH |
| 2. | Mr. Mohammad Azam | Additional Secretary, M/o I,B&NH |
| 3. | Mr. Muhammad Naeem | Director General, IP Wing |
| 4. | Mr. Mashood Ahmad Mirza | Joint Secretary, NH Wing, M/o I,B&NH |
| 5. | Ch. Rashid Ahmed | Chairman, PEMRA |
| 6. | Rao Tehsin Ali Khan | PIO, PIA |
| 7. | Mr. Mohammad Malick | MD, PTV |
| 8. | Mr. M. Khalid Sarwar | MD, APP |
| 9. | Ms. Samina Parvez | DG, PBC |
| 10. | Syed Muhammad Ilyas | Deputy Director, M/o I,B&NH |

SPECIAL INVITEE

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|--|
| 11. | Senator (Retd) Javed Jabbar | Member, Media Commission, appointed by the Supreme Court of Pakistan |
| 12. | Mr. Khushnood Ali Khan | Ex-President CPNE |
| 13. | Mr. Hamid Mir | Anchor Person, Geo News |
| 14. | Mr. Absar Alam | Anchor Person, Aaj News |
| 15. | Mr. Moeed Pirzada | Anchor Person, Express News |



Meeting of April 30, 2014



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE 9TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE HELD ON 30TH APRIL, 2014, AT 2:00 P.M. IN PARLIAMENTARIAN RESOURCE CENTRE (MAIN HALL), PARLIAMENT LODGES, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD

9th meeting of the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage (I,B&NH) was held on 30th April, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the parliamentarian Resource Centre (Main Hall), Parliament Lodges, Islamabad. The meeting was presided over by **Ms. Marvi Memon**, MNA/Chairperson of the Standing Committee with reference to the Agenda circulated vide Notice No. F. 4(1)/2014-Com-I dated 22nd April, 2014.

2. The meeting was attended by the following Members of the Committee.

1.	Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry	Member
2.	Mr. Waseem Akhtar Shaikh	Member
3.	Ms. Arifa Khalid Pervez	Member
4.	Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti	Member
5.	Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb	Member
6.	Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote	Member
7.	Ms. Belum Husain	Member
8.	Mr. Murad Saeed	Member
9.	Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan	Member

List of the Participants from the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and its attached Departments is at **Annex-A**.

3. The meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran. The Honorable Chairperson welcomed the Members and all other participants of the meeting. She informed the Committee about the agenda of the meeting as follows:-

- i) *Presentation by the Ministry on "Pakistan Culture and Arts Foundation Relief Fund".*
- ii) *Finalization of the Committee's Report on Right to Information (RTI) Bill, 2013.*



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- iii) *Finalization of Members Names and Terms of Reference (ToRs) for Media Laws Review Task Force.*
- iv) *Finalization of Sub-Committee's Recommendations on Code of Conduct of Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA).*
- v) *Any other item with permission of the Chair.*

4. The Secretary, M/o IB&NH informed the Committee that Pakistan Culture and Arts Foundation Relief Fund was established in June, 2007 in pursuance of Sub-Section (2) of 5 of the Charitable Endowment Act, 1980. The fund was previously being dealt by the M/o Culture. After devolution of M/o Culture in pursuance of 18th Amendment Act, 2010, the subject fund was transferred to this Ministry in April, 2011. The aims and objectives of the funds are to provide financial aid and assistance to the following beneficiaries:-

- i. Artists
- ii. Artisans
- iii. Musicians
- iv. Dancers
- v. Drama Artists of film industry, television and radio including those involved in plastic and graphic arts of recognized professional level of excellence.

5. He appraised the Committee about the kinds of financial grants to the Artists / Artisans:-

- grant for medical facilities to the beneficiaries and their dependant. Grant of in lump sum or on periodical basis, or both to the beneficiaries in case of their serious illness or injury to their dependants (Rs. 10,000/- to 20, 000/-) or in case of death of beneficiaries (Rs. 25,00/- to 50,000/).
- Grant in lump sum or on periodical basis, or both, to the dependants in case of death or permanent disability of the beneficiaries (Rs. 25,000/- to 50,000/-).
- Grant of annual scholarships to the eligible dependants of the beneficiaries for their educational requirements (Rs. 1,200/- to 5,000/-) per child for two children only.

6. He informed that the Fund is being administered by a Committee headed by the Federal Minister for Information Broadcasting & National Heritage. The last meeting of the Administrative Committee of Pakistan Culture and Arts Foundation Relief Fund was held on 24th February, 2014. The Committee



approved monthly financial assistance to 178 Artists / Artisans at the rate of Rs. 5,000/- which is to be released on quarterly basis. The grant will be released on receipt of revised application forms of the approved beneficiaries from Provincial Government and respective Organizations.

7. The Committee finalized 10 members legal taskforce after deliberation. All members of the Standing committee gave names for taskforce which were included and thus political consensus and balance was maintained in the formation of the legal taskforce. Committee reserved the right to add more members to the legal taskforce for its strengthening. Within six months the legal taskforce will conclude its recommendations. Periodic input / progress would be taken from legal taskforce on monthly basis will be submitted to the Standing Committee.

8. Legal taskforce was advised by Standing Committee members to keep Constitution, National integrity, National interest and freedom of expression as important elements whilst recommending Laws. Information, Broadcasting and Heritage laws were given for review to legal taskforce. These included heritage, electronic, print, broadcasting, copyright, classical media, below the line advertising, journalists laws and any other media related laws.

9. The following terms of reference were given to the Legal Task Force:

- i). To conduct a comprehensive review of all existing laws, rules, regulations at the Federal, Provincial and Local levels which are either directly named as media-related laws, or have a bearing on the operation and output of media.
- ii). To identify the needs, if any, for amendments, changes, etc in sections of such laws, rules, regulations including " Definitions " and substantive provisions so as to accurately reflect contemporary realities and factors such as new technologies, and to propose specific amendments to existing laws, rules, regulations for consideration by the respective Legislatures.
- iii). To draft the texts for new laws, rules, regulations in the light of contemporary conditions and emerging trends, and with reference to the Recommendations of the Media Commission as unanimously endorsed by the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage in its meeting on 16th April 2014.
- iv). Develop a monitoring Framework for committee reference to have an oversight on the implementation of the existing and the amended laws rules regulations.



- v). Any other TORs that the Task force experts may wish to add as a result of their deliberations with the approval of the committee.

10. Ms. Arifa Khalid Pervez, Convener of the Sub-Committee submitted the report of the Sub-Committee to the ToRs give by the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee appreciated the efforts made by the Sub-Committee for giving its recommendations and decided to discuss these recommendations in the next meeting.

11. The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee submitted by Ms. Belum Hussain, Convener. The Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee was to consider “The Right to Information Bill, 2013”. The report is at **Annex-B**. The Standing Committee adopted the recommendation given by the Sub-Committee with proposed amendments and additional recommendation.

12. Proposed amendments in the RTI bill 2013 and recommendations given by the Committee as follows:

- i). Final Recommendations on Right to Information Bill, as being proposed to executive branch which includes those recommendations of sub-committee not taken by government bill

a) Amendment in Section 12: The RTI draft of the Federal Government has asked for both the fee to apply for information and a prescribed form to furnish request. The Chair suggests that if printed forms and copies are required, only then there should be charge of fees. However, if the application process is made online, it should be free of cost for the general public so as to reinforce the spirit of Article 19-A of the Constitution that declares access to information as basic right of every citizen.

b) Formation of Independent Information Commission:

Countries of the region like Bangladesh, Nepal and India have entrusted the task of protecting this right to ***independent and autonomous information commissions***. Punjab & KPK RTI Bills also include the formation of independent and powerful information commission to take action against the departments denying public access to information.

The ombudsman does not have any judicial authority and can only recommend that is not mandatory for the offending departments to comply with. It does not promise an independent and powerful information authority to take action against the departments.



c) Legal Protection to Whistle Blowers:

The draft RTI Bill has no provision that provides legal protection for Whistleblowers. The purpose of including such a provision is to encourage individuals to report serious misconduct and wrongdoing of public officials, while carrying out their official duties.

In order to discourage individuals from whistle blowing in bad faith, the law must be clear to not protect information, which is a mere allegation, is false and is made in bad faith.

Inclusion of this clause is in compliance with the principles of FOI, which have been published by Article 19 - Global Campaign for Free Expression, in 'The Public's Right to Know: Principles on Freedom of Information Legislation' (1999). They were also endorsed by the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression in 2000 and the Organization of American States (OAS) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression in 1999.

d) Amendment in Section 8 2(d):

Section 8 pertains to exclusion of record that includes 2(d); *"record declared as classified by the Federal Government."*

This provision provides a wide discretion to declare any matter of public interest as not disclose-able to the public. This provision must be amended to give specific guidelines outlining the type of information that the Federal Government may declare as classified.

There is a dire need of establishing some criteria to define the terms 'classified, secret, confidential and restricted information'. But any information pertaining to National Integrity should stand exempt.

e) Rule 78 of "Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business in National Assembly 2007"

Articles 8, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 deal with the nature of information that is exempted under this law. The matter of what should be open to public scrutiny and what should be confidential is of utmost importance. Heavy criticism has been placed on RTI Bill, 2013's draft for being overlapping, confusing and restrictive when it comes to the permissibility of State Records for the public. The chair suggests using the **Rule 78 of "Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business in National Assembly 2007"** as yardstick. This Rule specifies the "Admissibility of Questions" by setting criteria for the nature of questions to be asked on the floor of the House. It explains both the admissibility and non-admissibility principles for the MNAs. If the Elected MPs serving in the most prestigious and apex State Institute, the National Assembly, are bound by Rule 78 and they cannot question anything over and above it, then it should serve well for the general public as well. And the debate of the liberty of access to information can be reassured by this Rule. **A copy of the Rules has been Annexed as Annex VI.**



f) Broadening the scope of 'Grievances of Complainant':

Section 2, pertaining to definitions describes "complaint" in a limited manner only.

Section 2(ii)(b) limits the scope of "complaint" to denial & delay of information only. Whereas, grievance by applicant might also occur in the case of false, partial or misleading information provided. Following grievances may also be included here as these could also constitute a possible cause of complaint:

- *A public body has excessively charged a requester for the information provided.*
- *A public body has provided false or misleading information to a requester.*
- *Only partial information has been provided to a requester.*
- *The requester feels that irrelevant information has been provided.*

g) Broadening the scope of 'Public Body':

Section 2(ix) defines the types of divisions, organizations and departments that fall under 'public body' and hence come under purview of this Bill.

Following establishments/bodies have not been included in the definition of public body, which may also be considered to be added in the list:

- *National Assembly, Senate and respective Secretariats.*

h) Exemptions under Sections 14 to 18:

Section 8 deals with exclusion of record. Whenever in the Bill, exclusions are referred to (for example in Section 7, Section 13(2)(c)), only section 8 is being mentioned. Whereas, **Sections 14 to 18** deal with Exemptions as well and need to be mentioned as well to avoid possible confusion.

i) Procedure for disposal of applications and review:

Section 13 (2) states that "*In case the designated official, on authority of the principal officer, is of the opinion that...*"

If the Designated Official seeks authority / blessing from the Principal Officer at this stage, the relevant point in making a review application to Principal Officer under Section 13 (4). Therefore, **this part of the statement may be deleted** to read only as:

"In case the designated official is of the opinion that..."

j) Time Frame for Disposal of Complaints by Wafaqi Mohtasib and Federal Tax Ombudsman:

Section 19 lacks deadline for the Wafaqi Mohtasib and Federal Tax Ombudsman to comply with, in disposal of any such complaints. For the clearance of such complaints by the Ombudsman, it's imperative that a time frame be put in place. The deadline is suggested to be of **three months extendable to further three**



months, with reasons of such delay **till the time Information Commission is fully established & functional.**

k) Offences by the Designated Official:

Section 21(2) declares fine for the designated official in case he fails or refuses to provide inspection or disclose records. Apart from these offences, the designated official may be found guilty of furnishing **delayed, false, misleading, irrelevant or partial information.** Hence, these offences too should be added in this section and made punishable.

l) Power to Make Rules:

Section 26(1) empowers the Federal Government to make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act and reads as: *“The Federal Government **may**, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.”*

A deadline needs to be put in place bounding the Government to make the subordinate rules, to ensure swift compliance with the draft Bill. It is recommended that a time frame of **60 days** be given to the Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act and the word ‘may’ be changed to read ‘will’.

m) Fine for Designated Official:

The fine on offences under section **21 (1) and (2)** may be increased.

n) Adding Time Lines & Accountability in the Rules made by the Ministry:

The committee recommended that Time Lines be added to the different sections of the law to ensure swift implementation.

- i. It was suggested that this Act should give a deadline of say **‘6’ months** to all public bodies to implement Section 4 for **‘Maintenance & Indexing of Records’.**
 - ii. It would also be worth while giving a similar deadline for Computerization of public records as well, that is mentioned in **Section 6.**
 - iii. It was also recommended that a maximum of **15 days’ time limit** be given to the principal officer to respond to the review application of the complainant in **Section 13(4).**
 - iv. Accountability clauses for not implementing the RTI Act by public bodies are missing and should be incorporated in **Section 5.**
- ii). Definition of the scope of beneficiaries to be increased to include not just artisans, artists, musicians, performing artists, drama artists of film radio TV, but also writers, poets, actors, and others.
 - iii). Amount to be increased from Rs 5000, to minimum 10,000 per month.
 - iv). Special medical emergency fund to be given by federal and provincial governments and rules to be laid down by both.



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- v). District wise equal representation to be given via district quotas for all provinces and 2 territories.
 - vi). Gender balance to be ensured for women representation at 50% .
 - vii). Advertisement to be given by Ministry on PTV, Radio, Print newspapers, internet, social media to ensure all districts citizens aware of this opportunity. Ministry to ensure that the Registration of these applications for fund are transparently displayed on website.
 - viii). All members of Parliament to have recommendary facility through sending their suggestions for applications to the Sub Committee of Information on Heritage so that needy in their constituencies can be given an opportunity to be heard. Similarly Arts councils and other relevant bodies to also present their lists to the sub committee.
13. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

(MARVI MEMON)

Chairperson
Standing Committee on Information,
Broadcasting & National Heritage

(SYED HASAN MURTAZA BUKHARI)

D.S/ Secretary Committee

ANNEX "A"

**LIST OF THE OFFICIALS OF M/O INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE AND
ITS ATTACHED DEPARTMENTS**

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Nazir Saeed | Secretary, M/o I,B&NH |
| 2. Mr. Muhammad Naeem | Director General, IP Wing, M/o I,B&NH |
| 3. Syed Muhammad Ilyas | Deputy Director, M/o I,B&NH |



Meeting of May 13, 2014



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE 10TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE HELD ON 13TH MAY, 2014, AT 11:00 A.M. IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD

10th meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage was held on 13th May, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. in Parliament House, Islamabad under the chair of MNA Marvi Memon. The meeting was presided over by **Ms. Marvi Memon**, MNA/Chairperson of the Standing Committee with reference to the Agenda circulated **vide** Notice No. F. 4(1)/2014-Com-I dated 08th May, 2014.

2. The meeting was attended by the following Members of the Committee.

10.	Mr Murad Saeed	Member
11.	Mr Waseem Akhtar Shaikh	Member
12.	Mr Muhammad Tallal Ch	Member
13.	Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti	Member
14.	Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb	Member
15.	Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote	Member
16.	Ms. Belum Husain	Member
17.	Ms Arifa Khalid Parvez	Member
18.	Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan	Member

Secretary Information and Representatives from both the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and Law Division were there. List of the Media Laws Review Taskforce Members who attended the meeting is at **Annex-A**.



3. The schema of the meeting was to discuss the following:

To commence the work of the Media Laws Review Task Force.

4. The members of the Standing committee resolved that:

- The 10 member list of the legal taskforce was finalized and their work should commence.
- All members of the Standing committee gave names for taskforce which were included and thus political consensus and balance was maintained in the formation of the legal taskforce.
- Committee reserved the right to add more members to the legal taskforce for its strengthening.
- 4-6 months was the time frame given to the legal taskforce to conclude its recommendations.
- Periodic input would be taken from legal taskforce on monthly basis to show progress.
- Stakeholders inputs were taken in sub-committee meetings chaired by MNA Beelum Husnain and MNA Arifa Khalid. However, further public opinion and continued stakeholders input would continue to be sought through the Standing Committee's website: <http://nacomm-infobh.pk>
- Legal taskforce was advised by Standing Committee members to keep Constitution, National integrity, National interest and freedom of expression as important elements whilst recommending laws.
- Information, Broadcasting and Heritage laws were given for review to legal taskforce. These included heritage, electronic, print, broadcasting, copyright, classical media, below the line advertising, journalists laws and any other media related laws.

5. The following terms of reference were given to the Legal taskforce:

1. To conduct a comprehensive review of all existing laws, rules, regulations at the Federal, Provincial and Local levels which are either directly named as media-related laws, or have a bearing on the operation and output of media.
2. To identify the needs, if any, for amendments, changes, etc in sections of such laws, rules, regulations including " Definitions " and substantive provisions so as to accurately reflect contemporary realities and factors such as new technologies, and to propose specific amendments to existing laws, rules, regulations for consideration by the respective Legislatures.
3. To draft the texts for new laws, rules, regulations in the light of contemporary conditions and emerging trends, and with reference to the Recommendations of the Media Commission as unanimously endorsed by the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage in its meeting on 16th April 2014.



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4. Develop a monitoring Framework for committee reference to have an oversight on the implementation of the existing and the amended laws rules regulations.
5. Any other TORs that the Task force experts may wish to add as a result of their deliberations with the approval of the committee.

(MARVI MEMON)
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Information,
Broadcasting & National Heritage

ANNEX "A"

LIST OF THE SPECIAL INVITEE

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Salman Afridi | Member, Media Laws Review Taskforce |
| 2. Rizwan Ejaz | Member, Media Laws Review Taskforce |
| 3. Nawazish Peerzada | Member, Media Laws Review Taskforce |
| 4. Faisal Siddiqi | Member, Media Laws Review Taskforce |
| 5. Yasmeen Aftab Ali | Member, Media Laws Review Taskforce |
| 6. Afia Salam | Member, Media Laws Review Taskforce |
| 7. Abdul Jabbar | Member, Media Laws Review Taskforce |
| 8. Khurram Mumtaz Hashmi | Member, Media Laws Review Taskforce |
| 9. Rabel Zeeshan Akhund | Member, Media Laws Review Taskforce |



Meeting of June 30, 2014



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE 11TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE HELD ON 30TH JUNE, 2014, AT 2:00 P.M. IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 02, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD

11th meeting of the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage (I,B&NH) was held on 30th June, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was presided over by **Ms. Marvi Memon**, MNA/Chairperson of the Standing Committee with reference to the Agenda circulated **vide** Notice No. F. 4(1)/2014-Com-I (Vol-I) dated 24th June, 2014.

2. The meeting was attended by the following Members of the Committee:-

1.	Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry	Member
2.	Mr. Tahir Iqbal Ch.	Member
3.	Ms. Leila Khan	Member
4.	Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti	Member
5.	Ms. Ghulam Bibi Bharwana	Member
6.	Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb	Member
7.	Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari	Member
8.	Ms. Zeb Jaffar	Member
9.	Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon	Member
10.	Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan	Member
11.	Senator Pervaiz Rashid	Ex-officio Member
	Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage	

List of the Participants from the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and its attached Departments is at **Annex-A**.

3. The meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran. The Honorable Chairperson welcomed the Members and all other participants of the meeting. She invited the Director General, Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) to brief the Committee about the working of PNCA as per agenda of meeting which is as follows:-



i) *Briefing on the working of Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) and policy of Government on promoting the Arts and Heritage.*

4. The Director General (DG), PNCA apprised the Committee that the PNCA is autonomous Organization and its mission is to collect, research, preserve, interpret, teach and promote knowledge of the rich and living Arts and Cultures of Pakistan through programs, collections, exhibitions and other initiatives; and using it as the resource for national integration and unity. He also told the Committee about the structure / composition of the Council and Board of Governors.

5. The functions of the PNCA are as under:

- Plan and co-ordinate cultural activities towards fostering the development of Visual and Performing Arts.
- Advise on matters of policy on artistic activity
- Improve knowledge, understanding and practice of the Arts' organizations and individuals
- Plan, establish and run art academies, exhibition halls / auditoria, art galleries etc.
- Organize national and regional ensembles for performance within and outside Pakistan.
- Organize and promote cultural fairs and festivals.

6. The DG, PNCA, told the Committee about the total staff positions working under this Organization. He also told the details of the total funds and grants received by PNCA from Federal and Provincial Governments contribution and donation.

7. The DG, PNCA, also apprised the Committee about the future plans for the improvement of the Organization which are as under:-

- Establishment of National Center of Performing Arts at Shakar Parian, Islamabad.
- Establishment of National Film Academy at H-9, Islamabad.
- Restructuring of the Organizational setup in view of future requirements.
- Recruitment of 18 officers against sanctioned posts to improve and strengthen the organizational set up.
- Engagement of renowned artists / singers / dancers for short-term workshops meant for performing and visual arts.

8. The DG, PNCA, informed the Committee about the achievements of the Organization which include, publishing of 85 classic books on performing and visual Arts, 300 audio videos on music and dance, produce 35 MM documentaries and 45 DVDs on the lives of legendary musicians, dancers and painters of Pakistan, implementations of cultural agreements / pacts with foreign countries, conducting 300 programmes per year including concerts, festivals, exhibitions and art workshops, rare recordings of 2500 hours music, 1000 hours stage plays on different discipline of visual arts and conducted short-term courses every year in performing and visual arts. He further informed the Committee about the Pak-China Friendship building which belongs to PNCA and that building still has not been handed over to PNCA by



Capital Development Authority (CDA). He requested the Committee to make efforts for the possession of the said building to PNCA from CDA.

9. Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, MNA, wanted to know about the actual working of PNCA, functions / job description of the staff, cost / expenditure incurred on Human Resource (HR) and on operational activities of PNCA during the last five years. She asked that the timeline for the future plans and achievements of targets of PNCA is also missing. Ms. Leila Khan, MNA, asked about the progress of PNCA for the last one year, the procedure adopted by PNCA for promoting the potential Arts, the mechanism for hunting new talent and the data of Artists with disability. The Secretary, Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage (I,B&NH), replied that the detailed information required by Honourable Members of the Committee will be given in the next meeting.

10. Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti, MNA, inquired about the spending of funds earned from exhibition of PNCA and the numbers and the locations of Puppet Shows arranged by PNCA in the remote areas across the country. The DG replied that the PNCA generates funds from exhibition by renting the halls. The details of expenditure and Puppet Shows will be given in the next meeting. Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon, MNA, inquired about the time frame for appointment of proper / permanent DG of PNCA and the procedure for distribution of funds regionally. The Secretary, I,B&NH replied that the appointment of DG, PNCA will be done within one month.

11. Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry, MNA, asked that DG, PNCA furnished the performance comparison report of the achievements of Organization before and after the appointment of Acting DG and suggested that all cultural activities must be restarted by PNCA. He directed the DG to provide the detail of composition of the members of Council of PNCA. Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari, MNA, wanted to know about the total numbers of Acting DGs or Heads of Department under the administrative control of M/o I,B&NH along with number of permanent Heads / DGs. He also inquired about the date of last meeting of Council of PNCA. The Secretary replied that there are seven acting DGs and no permanent DG or Head of the Department is working at the moment. No meeting of Board of Governors (BOG) was held during the last fiscal year; and the information and minutes of the last meeting of Board of Governors of PNCA will be provided soon. Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari, MNA, also inquired about the numbers of performing Artists groups throughout the country hired by the PNCA along with its selection criteria. The DG replied that there are three performing Arts groups which are based in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad. The Artists were hired on contract basis and their contracts are renewed after every six months on performance basis.



12. Ms. Zeb Jaffar, MNA, inquired about the details of performance of PNCA across the country and the total numbers of cultural exchange programs conducted by PNCA. The Secretary replied that the details will be provided in the next meeting.

13. Mr. Naeem Pasha, Architect of PNCA, (Special Invitee) drew the attention of the Committee towards pending outstanding payments of Contractors of PNCA. The Secretary replied that due payments will be made within one month. Mr Arieab Azhar, Musician and Director of Music Maila Conference, informed the Committee that according to Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) rules, only 10% of foreign content allowed to be broadcast by the Private Channels and Radio Stations. But the Private Channels are violating this rule. He requested the Committee to direct the PEMRA for enforcement of this law. According to the protection policy of Artists, the Broadcasters shall pay the royalty to the Artists. But no Broadcasters are paying any royalty to the Artists at the moment.

14. The Standing Committee after detail discussion gave following recommendations for the better working of PNCA and promoting of Arts & Cultural to faster national integration and unity in the country:-

- i)** PNCA's mission of integrating and unifying all of Pakistan needs to be adhered to in all its plans. In 2014's Pakistan it can play a vital role in unifying all cultures.
- ii)** In order to make the working of the PNCA more efficient and more effective, a structural change in the working apparatus of the PNCA is required. There is a need to create a stronger private / public linkage that will help address grievances of the artist community.
- iii)** The job of the Director General, PNCA, is a specialist job & hence the Director General of PNCA needs to be selected on a competitive basis with short-listing of names from a pool of artists; that have considerable contribution and background in Arts & Culture. By getting the right person in place, who has had experience in creating international linkages / arts education / social, educational outreach will give PNCA the benefit of this wide range of expertise and the hands on knowledge of getting things done.
- iv)** The governing body of the PNCA needs to have significant representation from people comprised mid-late career arts professionals from the arts and culture sector; and their term needs to rotate every 3 years. Their task is to:
 - a. Develop ideas through a consensus of the Governing Body of PNCA comprising mid-late career art professionals from the arts and culture sector.
 - b. Budgeting implementation / annual funds / plans.
 - c. Follow up / feedback / reports.
- v)** The current BOG & its Executive Committee should be made functional at once as per the legal provisions to advise on issues on regular basis.



- vi)** There should also be a larger oversight body/committee that oversees the working of PNCA, so that initiatives and problems are voiced, scrutinized and solutions found.
- vii)** PNCA's policy should clearly outline its outreach for artists with disabilities and cater to their needs.
- viii)** The contract should be immediately concluded with the civil works & HOVEC, so that proper maintenance of National Art Gallery is carried out.
- ix)** PNCA ought to provide before the committee its performance in all of its divisions in last one year; to compare actual performance from plans in paper work along with their defined timelines.
- x)** A policy needs to be defined by PNCA for talent acquisition; and Social Media can also be used to achieve this objective.
- xi)** Efforts need to be made by PNCA to engage artists and strengthen its linkages with the artist community across Pakistan for a centralized assimilation including all divisions.
- xii)** "Art Acquisition Committee" needs to meet yearly and should be made functional immediately.
- xiii)** PNCA should design an agenda on priority basis so as to create employment opportunities and job creation for the Artists, certified from PNCA.
- xiv)** PNCA should complete the structure of its Council and its 27 members with immediate effect & on merit.
- xv)** PNCA should integrate divisions in its three regional groups to promote national integrity.
- xvi)** PNCA should conduct art & cultural activities in local schools and far flung areas free of cost; and give the Committee a yearly plan to explain the areas, specifically for Puppets.
- xvii)** PNCA should immediately revive "National Art Exhibition" and "National Music Festival" which are mandatory to be conducted every year.
- xviii)** There should be an international curator hired for national art gallery, so it can perform its role more effectively.
- xix)** PNCA to assist artist community in achieving international awards and to give us an action plan as to how they will assist.
- xx)** Publications by National Art Gallery should be commissioned by a Committee which selects renowned art historian or critic, respected scholars on art whose writings will contribute to the importance of the national collections; and disseminate them internationally.



- xxi)** New works must be acquired for its collection, especially contemporary art through the recommendation of a well respected Committee and this process must be fair, transparent and merit basis.
- xxii)** Visa and institutional (PNCA) support could prove quite valuable for Pakistani Artists working internationally. Governmental support could make the process faster and increase the credibility of the artist and his work.
- xxiii)** Pakistani embassies around the world should show extra interest in promoting art activities internationally and promote the artists, share opportunities and attend events which showcase Pakistan.
- xxiv)** Government (federal and provincial) should provide special permission to artists to temporarily use the abandoned spaces/ buildings in the country as pop spaces or may be form temporary museums/ studios/ exhibition space in such areas.
- xxv)** Small art galleries should be established in smaller cities so the art activity is not concentrated in Islamabad but reaches to a wider public across the country. Coordination with provincial governments would be required.
- xxvi)** PNCA should allow and invite different artists and curators on a rotation to organize month/ two month long exhibitions, activities, workshops in the National Art Gallery. This could include dance, theatre and music as well.
- xxvii)** PNCA should facilitate inviting international artists, exhibitions and researchers to Pakistan and vice versa. Giving importance and support to art and culture will promote a positive and progressive image of Pakistan towards a brighter future.
- xxviii)** The ministry should define a transparent manner of inviting and recruiting local budding talent from all divisions of Pakistan.
- xxix)** Government should plan international exhibitions of Pakistani art and participation of Pakistan in important international art events, such as Venice Biennale and others, so the country's image as a civilized, cultural and peace loving nation spreads/improves globally. List of all such international events need to be part of the calendar for targets of PNCA.
- xxx)** Govt. must promote a protectionist policy and form some barrier to entry against foreign imports of entertainment products, so local art is nurtured.
- xxxi)** Govt./PEMRA needs to ensure broadcasters follow the 10 % Rule of airing non-Pakistani Products/Content on TV/Radio networks to provide local artists equitable playing field.
- xxxii)** There is dire need for Govt. to ensure strict adherence by broadcasters to copyrights laws and royalty collection for both local and foreign content aired.



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- xxxiii)** Above mentioned Royalty should be poured into a centralized agency which should be supervised by Intellectual Property Organization (IPO).
- xxxiv)** The revenue from Public Broadcast should reach the entire team connected with the piece of art aired.

15. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

(MARVI MEMON)

Chairperson
Standing Committee on Information,
Broadcasting & National Heritage

(SYED HASAN MURTAZA BUKHARI)

D.S/ Secretary Committee



**LIST OF THE OFFICIALS OF M/O INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE AND
ITS ATTACHED DEPARTMENTS**

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Nazir Saeed | Secretary, M/o I,B&NH |
| 2. | Mr. Muhammad Azam | Addl. Secretary, M/o I,B&NH |
| 3. | Mr. Muhammad Naeem | Director General, IP Wing, M/o I,B&NH |
| 4. | Mr. Mashhood A. Mirza | Director General, PNCA |
| 5. | Syed Intikhab Alam | Deputy Secretary, PNCA |
| 6. | Syed Muhammad Ilyas | Deputy Director, M/o I,B&NH |

SPECIAL INVITEE

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|---|
| 7. | Mr. Naeem Pasha | Architect, PNCA |
| 8. | Dr. Nadeem Omar Tarar | Director NCA Rawalpindi Campus |
| 9. | Mr. Arieab Azhar | Musician and Director of Music Mela Conference |
| 10. | Mr. Umer Ashraf Sheikh | Broadcast and Media consultant and Chief Executive COMP |
| 11. | Mr. Muhammad Majid Bashir | Advocate Specialist on Intellectual Property Rights |



Meeting of July 22, 2014



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE 12^H MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE HELD ON 22ND JULY, 2014, AT 2:00 P.M. IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 02, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD

12th meeting of the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage (I,B&NH) was held on 22nd July, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was presided over by **Ms. Marvi Memon**, MNA/Chairperson of the Standing Committee with reference to the Agenda circulated **vide** revised Notice No. F. 4(1)/2014-Com-I (Vol-I) dated 21st July, 2014.

2. The meeting was attended by the following Members of the Committee.

14.	Mr. Waseem Akhtar Shaikh	Member
15.	Mian Muhammad Farooq	Member
16.	Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti	Member
17.	Ms. Ghulam Bibi Bharwana	Member
18.	Ms. Belum Hasnain	Member
19.	Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon	Member
20.	Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan	Member

List of the Participants from the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage, its attached Departments & Special Invitees is at **Annex-A**.

3. The meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran. The Honorable Chairperson welcomed the Members and all other participants of the meeting. She informed the Committee that the meeting has been declared in camera. She invited the Professor, Irfan Siddiqui, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Affairs to brief the Committee about the Code of Conduct for Print and Electronic Media prepared by the Committee constituted by the Prime Minister under his chairmanship.



4. Professor, Irfan Siddiqui (SAPM) briefed the Committee about the Code of Conduct for Print and Electronic Media. He apprised the Committee that The Hon. Prime Minister of Pakistan has constituted six members Committee for framing Code of Conduct for both Print and Electronic Media. Terms of References (ToRs) of the Committee are as follow:

- i). Removal of ambiguities in Code of Conduct of both print and electronic media.
- ii). Devising an effective implementation mechanism with revised composition of Complaint Commission.
- iii). To suggest if any further legislation is required.

5. He further told that after the 18th amendment the subject of print media devolved to the provinces due to which the Code of Conduct has been framed for only Electronic Media at **Annex- B**. The guidelines were available in the existing Code of Conduct framed in 2002.

6. He informed that there was strong criticism for irresponsible reporting of certain incidents by Media; demand was raised to review the existing Code of Conduct. So, in 2010 the Government Constituted a Committee headed by Justice (R) Fakhruddin G. Ibrahim. The Committee framed Code of Conduct (**Annex-C**) after holding seven meetings but PBA did not attend any meeting despite of invitations. The Code of Conduct framed by the Committee headed by Justice® Fakhruddin G. Ibrahim could not be implemented due to various reasons including disagreement of PBA. In the meanwhile PBA framed its own Code of Conduct (Self Regulatory Code of Conduct- **Annex- C**) and demanded for the acceptance of the same. After that Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) has drafted PEMRA Content Regulations in February 2012. That draft Regulation were uploaded on PEMRA website as well as advertised through print media for feedback/ comments from general public/stake holders. It was also forwarded to PBA/ Islamic Ideology Council, Academia, Prominent Journalists, Bar Council etc. Those PEMRA Content Regulations, 2012 were notified in Official Gazette in October 2012. Those Content Regulations made by (PEMRA) were set aside by Hon. Supreme Court on technical grounds as PEMRA has not permanent Chairman. He informed the Standing Committee on the basis of facts mentioned the Hon. Prime has constituted six members Committee to frame Code of Conduct for Print and Electronic Media with the ToRs mentioned above.

7. He told the Standing Committee that the Committee held meetings with PBA, All Pakistan Newspapers Society, (APNS), Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors (CPNE), conducted consultative conference with stakeholders and held various meetings with officials of PEMRA, Media Owners and other Stakeholders. While preparing a comprehensive Code of Conduct for Electronic Media, following documents were considered;

- Existing PEMRA Code of Conduct (PEMRA Rules 2009);
- PBA Voluntary Code;



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- Recommendations of Committee headed by Justice (R) Fakhruddin G. Ibrahim;
- PEMRA (Content) Regulations 2012;
- Guidelines provided by Media Commission;

After detailed deliberations the proposals / recommendations for Code of Conduct have been formulated.

8. On the query from the Standing Committee's Members, Professor Irfan Siddique showed his reservations with inputs provided by PBA representatives and their participation in the Committee meetings. Similar reservation showed by PBA toward the Committee constituted by the Prime Minister in terms of letter sent to the Standing Committee. The Members of the Standing Committee showed their dissatisfaction at PBA's non participation in the Standing Committee meeting. The Standing Committee resolved to examine the inputs given by PBA and by the Committee constituted by the Hon. Prime Minister. The Standing Committee decided that after obtaining the inputs / suggestion by PBA and other stakeholders will forward its recommendations to the Ministry and to the Hon. Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan. The Members of Standing Committee showed their seriousness in the implementation of a formal Code of Conduct without any further delay. The Standing Committee directed to the Ministry to provide the comparative Code of Conduct framed by Committee headed by Justice (R) Fakhruddin G. Ibrahim, PBA and Committee constituted by the Hon. Prime Minister as soon as possible.

9. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

(MARVI MEMON)

Chairperson

Standing Committee on Information,

Broadcasting & National Heritage

(SYED HASAN MURTAZA BUKHARI)

D.S/ Secretary Committee



ANNEX "A"

LIST OF THE OFFICIALS OF M/O INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE AND ITS ATTACHED DEPARTMENTS

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 26. Dr. Nazir Saeed | Secretary, M/o I,B&NH |
| 27. Mr. Muhammad Azam | Addl. Secretary, M/o I,B&NH |
| 28. Mr. Muhammad Naeem | Director General, IP Wing, M/o I,B&NH |
| 29. Mr. Mashhood A. Mirza | Director General, PNCA |
| 30. Syed Intikhab Alam | Deputy Secretary, PNCA |
| 31. Syed Muhammad Ilyas | Deputy Director, M/o I,B&NH |

SPECIAL INVITEE

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 32. Mr. Naeem Pasha | Architect, PNCA |
| 33. Dr. Nadeem Omar Tarar | Director NCA Rawalpindi Campus |
| 34. Mr. Arieab Azhar | Musician and Director of Music Mela Conference |
| 35. Mr. Umer Ashraf Sheikh | Broadcast and Media consultant and Chief Executive COMP |
| 36. Mr. Muhammad Majid Bashir | Advocate Specialist on Intellectual Property Rights |



Meeting of Oct 16, 2014



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE 13TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE HELD ON 16TH OCTOBER, 2014, AT 12:00 NOON IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD

13th meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage was held on 16th October, 2014 at 12:00 noon in Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was presided over by Ms. Marvi Memon, MNA/Chairperson of the Standing Committee with reference to the Agenda circulated vide Notice No. F. 4(1)/2014-Com-I dated 13th October, 2014.

2. The meeting was attended by the following Members of the Committee.

1.	Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote	Member
2.	Mr Muhammad Tallal Ch	Member
3.	Ms Naeema Kishwar Khan	Member
4.	Ms Marriyum Aurangzeb	Member
5.	Mian Muhammad Farooq	Member
6.	Mrs Ghulam Bibi Bharwana	Member
7.	Senator Pervaiz Rashid	Ex-officio Member
	Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage	

3. Secretary M/O Information, Additional Secretary M/O Interior, IG Police Islamabad, Representatives PEMRA, Chairman PTV, Representatives from the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and Representatives from Private Media Houses were also there.

4. The Agenda of the meeting was to discuss the following:

- Recent Attacks on Media
- PEMRA Action against violations of its rules

5. The meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran. Honourable Chairperson welcomed the participants and started the meeting by strongly condemning the recent attacks on



Media since the sit in had started. She invited MD, PTV to give a briefing/presentation as per following agenda:-

a. Recent Attacks on Media

6. MD, PTV Mr Maalik apprised the Committee that PTV incurred a loss averaging 15-20 million Rs due to attack by PTI & PAT Protestors on its building on 1st Sept, 2014. He also gave details of the Loss of Equipment & Machinery. PTV had lodged an FIR against the Protestors already. He also indicated that prior correspondence had also been made with the Interior Ministry for Security of PTV Headquarter Building.
7. IG Islamabad Police, Mr Tahir Alam Khan explained to the Committee Members that utilizing the footage of PTV Attacks and by input from NADRA on same, some 12 culprits involved in the attack had already been captured who have been sent for Judicial Remand. Out of these 12, 3 attackers were from PTI, 7 from PAT, 1 from Majlis Wahdat e Muslimeen and 1 from Sunni Ittehad Council. He further apprised the Committee that currently all the Mobile GPS Data for 20-31 August of Red Zone is being analysed and will be sent to NADRA for further verification.
8. The Chairperson Marvi Memon, Minister Senator Pervaiz Rashid, MNA Naeema Kishwer, MNA Syed Amir Ali Jamote all showed their serious concern on lack of Security provided by Interior Ministry to the PTV Building.
9. Additional Secretary Interior, Mr Imtiaz Tajwar told the Standing Committee members that there wasn't any intentional security lapse. Interior Ministry provided the security to all buildings as per the Security Plan. Security Agencies were intimated to improve the Security as a result of the correspondence by PTV building for better security measures. Honorable Chairperson, directed the Interior Ministry to provide security plan for the sit in to the committee along with reasons of non-deployment of security forces at PTV building.
10. Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage endorsed the Chair in condemning the attacks. He appreciated the efforts and hard work that had been put in by the Police. He requested the Chairperson to invite Law Ministry as well to address the legal ambiguity relating to the issues pertaining to the cases & bails of the protestors.
11. MNA Marriyum Aurangzeb, pointed out that timelines need to be put in for the ongoing investigations. She also said that there is a need to learn from this experience and a revised security plan for future should be devised by streamlining the SOPs.
12. Representatives from Private Media Houses like GEO News, AAJ TV, SAMAA TV & DUNYA TV also attended the meeting. They quoted the different harassment cases, attacks on channel buildings and threats from the sit-in protestors they had received since August 15, 2014 till date.
13. MNA Tallal Ch, added that FIRs from Owners of Private Media Channels should be lodged. Media Personnel should use self-defense mechanisms as Committee had recommended earlier in its meetings.



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14. Chairperson Marvi Memon also strongly condemned the manhandling and beating of Media by Police in Red Zone on 30th August, 2014 in which several media men were injured. IG Islamabad personally apologized to the Media on behalf of entire Punjab Police. He apprised the committee members that an FIR had already been lodged against the Police and investigations were underway with the assistance of NADRA in identifying the policemen involved.
15. Regarding the Second Agenda Item: **PEMRA Action against violations of its rules**, Ministry of Information presented before the Committee footage of inciting material by PAT Chief, Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri. Honorable Chairperson, took strict notice of the same and inquired PEMRA regarding their action in reply to the letter she had written to them on 13th August, 2014 on airing of programs inciting violence being clear violation of PEMRA Rule 1(e). PEMRA Representative apprised the Committee Members that show-cause notices had been sent to the Media Channels. The Chairperson stressed that Rules of PEMRA be strictly enforced that relate to Responsible Media Reporting and Rules & Regulation should be put in place on use of Drone Cameras.
16. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

(MARVI MEMON)

Chairperson
Standing Committee on Information,
Broadcasting & National Heritage



Meeting of Oct 28, 2014



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE 14TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE HELD ON 28TH OCTOBER, 2014, AT 3:00 P.M. IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD

Internal meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage was held on 28th October, 2014 at 03:00 PM in Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was presided over by Ms. Marvi Memon, MNA/Chairperson of the Standing Committee with reference to the Agenda circulated vide Notice No. F. 4(1)/2014-Com-I dated 27th October, 2014.

2. The meeting was attended by the following Members of the Committee.

1.	Ms Leila Khan	Member
2.	Mr Muhammad Tallal Ch	Member
3.	Ms Naeema Kishwar Khan	Member
4.	Mian Muhammad Farooq	Member
5.	Mrs Belum Hasnain	Member

3. The Agenda of the meeting was to discuss the following:
a. Year End Performance Report of Committee

4. The members reviewed the year end performance report of the committee and approved it unanimously.

5. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

(MARVI MEMON)

Chairperson
Standing Committee on Information,
Broadcasting & National Heritage



REPORTS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES

In pursuance of Rule 224(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007, the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage constituted seven (7) Sub-Committees, namely:

1. Sub-Committee on Pakistan Television Corporation
2. Sub-Committee on Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation
3. Sub-Committee on Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA)
4. Sub-Committee on National Heritage Wing
5. Sub-Committee on Press Information Department
6. Sub-Committee on Right to Information Bill
7. Sub-Committee on Media Persons Killings

Final Reports by Sub-Committee on Right to Information Bill and Sub-Committee on PEMRA have been submitted to the main committee. All the remaining sub-committees have presented their progress reports. These reports have been included as part of this report.



Final Report of the Sub-Committee on Right to Information Bill

FINAL REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE

In pursuance of Rule 224(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007, the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage in its meeting held on 24th December, 2013 has constituted a Sub-Committee with the following Terms of Reference and Composition: -

TERMS OF REFERENCE: -

To consider "the Right to Information Bill, 2013".

COMPOSITION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE:-

i)	Mrs. Belum Hasnain	Convener
ii)	Mian Muhammad Farooq	Member
iii)	Ms. Leila Khan	Member
iv)	Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan	Member
v)	Mr. Murad Saeed	Member

I, the Convener of the Sub-Committee have the honor to submit Final report made by the Sub-Committee. It is informed that the Sub-Committee convened one meeting dated 18th March, 2014.

2. The Sub-Committee examined / discussed the Bill in detailed. The Sub-Committee's discussion and suggestion are as under:-

- The proposed Bill is intended to promote a two way flow of information i.e. from the government to the people and *vice versa* for strengthening and safeguarding the public 'Right to Know' especially in the back drop of Article 19-A of the Constitution, which explicitly recognizes this right as a fundamental human right.
- Whereas, Right to know is an inalienable birth right of an individual and is universally recognized, in a democratic dispensation. In a constitutional governance public officials are the custodians of the public record and documents, the people, the real sovereigns, have the right of access to all public records, subject to law and except the material disclosure of which may be harmful to the national security, relations with the friendly countries and privacy of life, home, family and honour of the citizens of Pakistan.
- The Sub-Committee discussed on the establishment of Information Commission. The Sub-Committee was told that Information Commission has been established by the Provincial Governments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Copy of the establishment of Information Commission will be provided to the Member of the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee suggested for establishing a section in Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman) to deal with complaints regarding non availability of information from any Federal Government



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offices (Ministries, Division, Attached Department or sub-ordinates Departments) by any person. It is the best option at present and same is being practiced in various countries.

- The Ministry shall make Rules for carrying out the purposes of this Bill.
- It has also suggested that the note portion of the file and minutes of the meeting may be declared as confidential which may not be given to any one, only the decisions will be provided as per demand.
- There should be a prescribed fee for obtaining information from any Federal Government offices.
- The privacy of any citizens of this country may be protected.
- The fine on offences under section 21 (1) and (2) may be increased.
- The suggestion given by the PBA and APNS on the said Bill will be provided to the Sub-Committee.
- The Sub-Committee will properly examine the Bill when referred to it by the House.

(**BELUM HASNAIN**)
Convener



Progress Report of the Sub-Committee on Media Persons Killings

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE

In pursuance of Rule 224(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007, the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage in its meeting held on 14th February, 2014 has constituted a Sub-Committee with the following Terms of Reference and Composition: -

TERMS OF REFERENCE: -

- (a) To collect data of all attacks / Martyred / killing on Media Persons since 2011 to date from each province / territory;
- (b) To look into the investigations of all attacks / Martyred / killing on Media Persons since 2011 to date from each province / territory;
- (c) To formulate compensation structure and ensure the compensation provided to the deceased families of Journalist / Media Persons killed in terrorist attacks;
- (d) To formulate code of conduct for the safety and protections of the Media Persons and to provide safer environment for media in Pakistan.

COMPOSITION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE:-

i)	Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan	Convener
ii)	Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry	Member
iii).	Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari	Member
iv).	Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon	Member

I, the Convener of the Sub-Committee have the honor to submit the progress report made by the Sub-Committee. It is informed that the Sub-Committee convened one meeting dated 21st March, 2014 on the following agenda:-

- i) *Detailed briefing on the investigations of all attacks / martyred / killing on Media persons since 2011 to till date from each province / Territory.*
- ii) *The criteria adopted to provide compensation to the deceased families of Media persons.*

2. The Sub-Committee invited the Chief Secretaries along with Inspector General Police from Balochistan, Kyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan to brief the Committee on the above points. The Sub-Committee discussed on the investigations status and compensation given to the deceased families of Media Persons.



3. The Sub-Committee observed that the following points may be addressed for the protection of Media Persons:-

- Media Houses shall provide proper security to the Journalist working in their organizations. The proper training shall be given to the journalists who are working in the dangerous zone by the Media Houses.
- All the Journalists / Media Persons must be insured by the Media Houses.
- Nominated persons in the killing of Journalists / Media Persons shall be arrested and the report in this regard will be submitted in the next meeting.
- Scanners / walk through gates installed at different places must be checked periodically.
- Scanners / walk through gates along with police security shall be provided to the Press Club Islamabad.

(NAEEMA KISHWER KHAN)
Convener



Progress Report of the Sub-Committee on National Heritage Wing

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE

In pursuance of Rule 224(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007, the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage in its meeting held on 24th December, 2013 has constituted a Sub-Committee with the following Terms of Reference and Composition: -

TERMS OF REFERENCE: -

- a) *To look after into the affairs of National Heritage Wing;*
- b) *To examine and monitor its improvement, modernization, evaluation, future expansion/plans and staffing/hiring;*
- c) *To monitor and safeguard the National Heritage Sites.*

COMPOSITION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE:-

i)	Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote	Convener
ii)	Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari	Member
iii)	Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry	Member
iv)	Mr. Murad Saeed	Member
v)	Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan	Member

I, the Convener of the Sub-Committee have the honor to submit the progress report made by the Sub-Committee. It is informed that the Sub-Committee convened three meetings dated 11th February, 2014, 20th March, 2014 and 1st April, 2014.

2. The Sub-Committee discussed examined the working, improvement, modernization, evaluation, future expansion / plans and staffing / hiring of the National Heritage Wing and decided to conduct a separate meeting on each department of National Heritage Wing one by one. So the Sub-Committee decided to conduct meeting on the working and performance of the Departments / Organization of National Heritage Wing of the Ministry.

Agenda of the Second meeting is as follows:-

- i) Briefing on the working and performance of Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).
- ii) Briefing on the improvement, modernization, evaluation, future expansion/plans and staffing/hiring of PNCA.
- iii) Domicile-wise data of Staff of PNCA including date of appointment and date of promotion etc.

Agenda of the Third meeting is as follows:



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Briefing on the working, improvement, modernization, evaluation, future expansion / plans and staffing / hiring of the following Departments/organizations:-

- i) Federal Land Commission
- ii) Quaid-e-Azam Paper Wing
- iii) Aiwan-e-Iqbal
- iv) Iqbal Academy

The Sub-Committee after detailed discussion on the presentation/ briefing given by these Departments / Organization on the above point's concluded following observations:

- The efforts should be made for handing over the building of Pak-China Friendship centre to PNCA and referred this matter to the Standing Committee on the Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage.
- The Standing Committee is requested to convene its next meeting of the building of PNCA.
- All the Museums which are included in Federal Consolidated List, which have been transferred to the Provinces after the devolution may be placed under the administrative control of Archeology.
- All the vacant posts shall be filled as soon as possible.
- The hiring of staff of all the attached Department / Organizations of National Heritage Wing of the Ministry shall be made on approved Provincial wise quota basis.
- The PNCA should market its events to generate revenues.
- The Board of Governors of the PNCA should be completed / established as soon as possible.
- The PNCA should take concrete steps for revival of classical music.
- The Standing Committee is requested to convene its meeting in the building of Aiwan-e-Iqbal, Lahore.
- The Sub-Committee recommended that the vacant post of Chairman, Federal Land Commission (FLC) shall be filled at earliest and it should be filled on merit.
- The Budget may be allocated according to the requirement of the FLC.
- The required vehicles may also be provided to the FLC.
- The Aiwan-e-Iqbal may take special steps for promoting the philosophy of Allama Iqbal on ideology of Pakistan.

(SYED AMIR ALI SHAH JAMOTE)
Convener



Progress Report of the Sub-Committee on Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC)

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE

In pursuance of Rule 224(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007, the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage in its meeting held on 24th December, 2013 has constituted a Sub-Committee with the following Terms of Reference and Composition: -

TERMS OF REFERENCE: -

- a) To look after into the affairs of the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC);
- b) To examine and monitor its improvement, modernization, evaluation, future expansion/plans and staffing/hiring.

COMPOSITION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE:-

i)	Ms. Saman Sultana Jafri	Convener
ii)	Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon	Member
iii)	Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan	Member
iv)	Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti	Member
v)	Ms. Ghulam Bibi Bharwana	Member

I, the Convener of the Sub-Committee have the honor to submit the progress report made by the Sub-Committee. It is informed that the Sub-Committee convened two meetings dated 23rd January, 2014 and 13th February, 2014.

2. The Sub-Committee discussed and examined the working, improvement, modernization, evaluation, future expansion / plans and staffing / hiring of the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC). After conducting these meetings with PBC the Sub-Committee observed the following points to be discussed in the upcoming meeting:-

- Head-wise expenditure details of PBC Budget 2013-14.
- Details of marketing/advertisement awarded during the PBC's anniversary celebration at Lahore.
- Steps taken by PBC to improve and modernize the software installed in PBC along with its future plans.



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- Province-wise complete details of PBC Staff along with qualifications and salaries.
- Steps taken by PBC to restart the functioning of Swat Radio Station.
- Since more capital is required to set up an AM station, it is advisable to have more FM stations at near intervals instead of AM stations for better coverage and quality of reception. FM stations will also give us a benefit of RDS programming and bring us at par with the International Radio industry.
- There should be international training programs for our staff so that they can get acquainted with the most dated facilities and styles of programming and production. The training with DW, NEC or USAID doesn't seem to bear the expected results.
- We not just need to modernize our equipment but modernize our content too. We should asses why our FMs are doing a better job than AMs and then design shows with respect to our target audience.
- The Stations that are working on less efficiency and have bigger manpower should be brought to smaller manpower. Just like it was mentioned in the first meeting that our staff is being trained for multi-purposes, we don't need a lot of people working for a station that does not transmit effectively.
- We have 19 Regional language programs and 10 foreign programs as informed by PBC but none how much is the reach and listener-ship and the feedback of these programs. We either have to cut down on such programming or improve the quality of content to work it favorably for the whole country. We think the latter should be applied and content should be improved as to cater to the whole audiences.
- The airtime cannot be sold without a marketing department as there will be no check and balance of the flow of the funds and promotion of content aired.

The PBC did not reply on the head wise expenditure details for the budget 2013-14 and details of marketing / advertisement awarded during the PBC anniversary celebration at Lahore due to cancellation of meeting.

(SAMAN SULTANA JAFRI)
Convener



Final Report of the Sub-Committee on Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA)

FINAL REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE

In pursuance of Rule 224(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007, the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage in its meeting held on 24th December, 2013 has constituted a Sub-Committee with the following Terms of Reference and Composition:

TERMS OF REFERENCE: -

- a) *To look after into the affairs of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA);*
- b) *To examine and monitor its improvement, modernization, evaluation, future expansion/plans and staffing/hiring;*
- c) *To examine Code of Conduct of the M/o Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA).*

COMPOSITION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE:-

i)	Ms. Arifa Khalid Parvez	Convener
ii)	Ms. Zeb Jaffar	Member
iii)	Ms. Belum Hasnain	Member
iv)	Mr. Tahir Iqbal Ch.	Member
v)	Mr. Waseem Akhtar Shaikh	Member
vi)	Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari	Member
vii)	Ms. Leila Khan	Member
viii)	Ms. Saman Sultana Jaffri	Member
ix)	Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan	Member

1. The Convener of the Sub-Committee have the honor to submit the final report made by the Sub-Committee. It is informed that the Sub-Committee convened four meetings dated 7 January, 2014 and 22nd January, 2014, 28th January, 2014 and 10th March, 2014.

2. The Sub-Committee examined the working, improvement, modernization, evaluation, future expansion / plans and staffing / hiring of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA). After conducting these meetings with PEMRA the Sub-Committee observed the following points:-

- PEMRA may pursue its court cases effectively and approach at appropriate level for vacation of stay orders issued by various courts for smooth functioning of PEMRA and may also pursue the PEMRA Content Regulations 2012, (which was set aside by Apex-Court).



- PEMRA may establish its Censor Board to monitor the private channels in order to control the obscenity and vulgarity of private channels.
- PEMRA may strengthen its monitoring/inspection system to control the illegal activities of Cable operators, TV channels and FM radio stations and take stern action against the violators by canceling their licenses.
- PEMRA may advertise the toll free number of (24/7) call center for complaints through print and electronic media.
- PEMRA should ensure strict compliance of code of conduct by all channels and licensees.
- PEMRA may monitor advertisements and contents shown by TV channels; Cable TV operators and FM radio Stations.
- The Sub-Committee shall review the Code of Conduct formulated by the PEMRA, Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) and Committee headed by Fakharuddin G. Ibrahim (constituted by the Federal Government) in its meeting held on 4th April 2014.

(ARIFA KHALID PARVEZ)
Convener



Progress Report of the Sub-Committee on Press Information Department (PID)

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE

In pursuance of rule 224 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007, the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage in its meeting held on 13th January, 2014 has constituted a Sub-Committee with the following Term of References and Composition: -

TERM OF REFERENCES: -

- a) *To look into the workings of the Press Information Department (PID);*
- b) *To examine and monitor its improvement, modernization, evaluation, future expansion/plans and staffing/hiring.*

COMPOSITION: -

- | | | |
|------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| i) | Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon | Convener |
| ii) | Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti | Member |
| iii) | Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari | Member |
| iv) | Ms. Saman Sultana Jaffri | Member |

I, the Convener of the Sub-Committee have the honor to submit the progress report made by the Sub-Committee. It is informed that the Sub-Committee convened two meetings dated 4th February, 2014 and 20th March, 2014.

2. The Sub-Committee examined the working, improvement, modernization, evaluation, future expansion / plans and staffing / hiring of the Press Information Department (PID) and the Sub-Committee decided to conduct a meeting on the following points.

- i) Complete presentation on the future plans for one and three years plans.
- ii) Criteria of PID for releasing of advertisement in Newspapers.
- iii) Criteria of PID to enhance the circulation of the Newspapers.
- iv) Complete financial structure of PID including salaries of staff, hiring of buildings etc.

The Sub-Committee after getting presentation on the above points gave following observations for the next meeting to be held in the next month.

- To provide practical working plan for the achievements of its future plans / goals, which includes establishment of networks infrastructure, computerization of advertisement, budget and finance section.
- Digitization of photos archives and press clippings & Newspapers.



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- To provide detailed criteria and methods in which the advertisements were distributed to the various categories of Newspapers.
- Criteria for issuance of accreditation cards for the Journalists.
- To provide the copy of the Ordinance and executive orders for the formation of the PID.
- The Ordinance of the PID shall be reviewed.
- The criteria for determining the category of Newspapers and its methodology.

(DR. MUHAMMAD AZHAR KHAN JADOON)
Convener



Progress Report of the Sub-Committee on Pakistan Television Corporation (PTVC)

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE

In pursuance of Rule 224(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007, the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage in its meeting held on 24th December, 2013 has constituted a Sub-Committee with the following Terms of Reference and Composition: -

TERMS OF REFERENCE: -

- a) To look after into the affairs of the Pakistan Television Corporation (PTVC);
- b) To examine and monitor its improvement, modernization, evaluation, future expansion/plans and staffing/hiring.

COMPOSITION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE:-

i)	Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry	Convener
ii)	Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon	Member
iii)	Ms. Zeb Jaffar	Member
iv)	Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb	Member
v)	Syed Amir Ali Jamote	Member
vi)	Mian Muhammad Farooq	Member

I, the Convener of the Sub-Committee have the honor to submit the progress report made by the Sub-Committee. It is informed that the Sub-Committee convened two meetings dated 10th January, 2014 and 19th February, 2014.

2. The Sub-Committee examined the working, improvement, modernization, evaluation, future expansion / plans and staffing / hiring of the Pakistan Television Corporation (PTVC). The Sub-Committee after going through the presentation given by the PTV on the performance and future expansion decided to have next meeting on the following points.

- i) Complete presentation on the future for one and three years plans.
- ii) The steps taken by PTV to enhance the performance of its employees.
- iii) The steps taken for accreditation/affiliation of PTV Academy with any Local and International Institution/University.



- iv) The steps taken to telecast Public Messages on the Health and Environmental Awareness Issues.

3. The Sub-Committee was not briefed according to the agenda of the second meeting of the Sub-Committee which was held on 19th February, 2014. After conducting these meetings with PTV the Sub-Committee observed the following points:-

- The Sub-Committee recommended that the vacant post of Managing Director (MD) PTV shall be filled at earliest and it should be filled on merit.
- The Sub-Committee also recommended the concerned to take necessary steps for the accreditation / affiliation of PTV Academy with any local or international institution / University.
- The Direct to Home (DTH) services may also be started.
- The PTV shall provide digital cameras to the production department and upgrade the studios for the improvement of production.
- The standards of PTV dramas, programs, news bulletin, and talk shows shall be improved.
- The performance of the employees shall also be evaluated for the smooth functioning of the PTV and the parameters for evaluating the performance of the employees may also be formulated.
- The steps should be taken for improving the rating of PTV's viewer ship.
- The Sub-Committee invited suggestions from each Department of PTV for its improvement / betterment, which will be appreciated by the Committee.

4. The Sub-Committee decided to conduct its next meeting on the points which have not been clarified by the PTV.

(MUHAMMAD TALLAL CHAUDRY)

Convener



SPECIAL REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE

National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage enjoys the unique privilege of presenting four (4) Special Reports under Rule 234 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in The National Assembly 2007, namely on:

1. National Language Commission
2. Media Security
3. Right to Information Bill
4. Media Commission

These Reports are available online on the Committee's Official Website at:

http://nacomm-infobh.pk/special_reports.asp

1. Special Report on National Language Commission

Special Report on National Language Commission discusses the history and importance of Pakistan's Mother Tongues, their National Language status, and their role in creating inter-provincial harmony along with reviewing a Concept Paper on the National Language Commission.

This report starts with the discussion of the meeting on National Languages by the Standing Committee of Information, B&NH held on 13th March, 2014. The report highlights the fact that PML-N manifesto also incorporates the formation of a National Language Commission to develop criteria for giving status of National Languages to all major mother tongues. Over 35 speakers, Linguists, Experts and Academia had been invited from all over Pakistan for their valuable input on the subject. Balochi, Balti, Brushaski, Brahui, Hindko, Khowar, Kashmiri, Pahari, Pashto, Punjabi, Saraiki, Shina, Sindhi and other Mother Tongues were amply highlighted from participants representing the diverse areas of Pakistan.

Common Confusions between 'National Language & Official Language' and 'Language & Dialect' were eloquently addressed. It was established that a National Language is a language which is the mother tongue of people; and enjoys use in the political, social, and cultural realms. National languages are mostly multiple for one country. Whereas, an official language is one which is used for the operations of the Government. Official languages are mostly one or maximum two.

The report also mentions the list of countries that have multiple languages as their mother tongues. The difference between National & Official Languages and Language & Dialect has also been clarified. A brief entailing the origin, history & significance of major mother tongues/proposed national languages that include Balochi, Balti, Brahui, Brushaski, Hindko, Kashmiri, Khowar, Pahari, Pashto, Punjabi, Saraiki, Shina, Sindhi has been given. The main feature of the report is the concept paper of



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National Language Commission. The vision, objectives, rules of business and the organogram of the commission have been specified.

The objectives of the Commission were outlined as,

- to develop criteria to give status of National Language to all major Mother Tongues of Pakistan
- to strengthen the Mother Tongues & ensure their longevity in the National narrative
- through these Mother Tongues/proposed National Languages, enhance inter-provincial harmony
- through these Mother Tongues/proposed National Languages, enhance learning capabilities of Pakistanis & their productivity
- Promote National Languages and their teachings
- To scientifically conduct language planning, policy, survey through research.

The report ends with the recommendations of the committee as given in the meeting of March 13th, 2014.



2. Special Report on Media Security

The members of the Standing Committee of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage unanimously submitted recommendations at closure of 3rd April 2014 Meeting on Media Security to the Speaker National Assembly as per 'Special Report' Rule 234 of Rules of Procedure and to the Executive. The Committee agreed after discussing the issue of Security for media persons that as Pakistan's international standing and the current law and order situation in Pakistan demanded that the recommendations shall be implemented at top priority by the Executive side.

The Committee strongly condemned attacks on Raza Rumi along with all the attacks on media persons. Executive branch was asked to ensure that any issues related to the security of media are handled on top priority so that they can function without fear and deliver on their mission of delivering highest levels of media freedom and quality to the people of Pakistan. The Committee was ensured by the Government that a Special Prosecutor will be inducted to fast track investigations and that the compensation for those media personnel hurt or martyred in the line of fire will be standardized across all provinces. It was recommended by the Committee that Bullet proof vests must be provided to all journalists in the line of duty and that scanners must be installed by government at all media houses. It was also recommended that a 24/7 cell in the Ministry of Interior to process such intelligence intercepts and share with the concerned persons to ensure security. Also media bodies and organizations to provide Standing committee a complete comprehensive security plan for all media personnel working for them including any equipment and security infrastructure. The Committee expects all IGs to inform standing committee of hotlines assigned for media personnel in case of emergencies. Committee also recommended that the protocol of communication on the subject of sensitive national security for media houses should be developed by the Cabinet Media Security Committee and should be part of national narrative of NISP and cyber-crime bill.

This was a mid-status report given by the Main Committee. The Sub-committee formed on this critical issue of Security for media will be ongoing till all its terms of references have been duly addressed. Pakistan's international standing and the current law & order situation in Pakistan demand that these 21 recommendations are implemented as top priority by the Executive branch. The report also annexes the confidential brief on attack on Raza Rumi of Express News from IG, Punjab Police.



3. Special Report on Right to Information Bill

Special Report on RTI Bill under Rule 234 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in The National Assembly 2007 was also presented by the Committee. The report starts off with the Executive Summary of Actions Taken on Right to Information Bill, 2013 by Various Stakeholders. It outlines that the Current RTI Bill was taken up by Senate's Sub-Committee on RTI Bill in Sep 2012. The current status of the Bill is that approval of Federal Cabinet is being awaited, following which the Draft Bill will be introduced in either House.

A brief on legislative history of RTI has also been given in the Special Report. This entails the Importance of RTI globally, Principles on Freedom of Information, International Ranking of Countries regarding RTI laws and a chronology of RTI legislation in Pakistan. The 18th Amendment made the *Right to Information* a fundamental right enshrined in the constitution. According to **19A** of the constitution:

“Every citizen shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, and there shall be freedom of the press, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of the glory of Islam or the integrity, security or defense of Pakistan or any part thereof, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, commission or incitement to an offence”.

Pakistan ranks 79th among 96 countries having RTI laws. The first attempt for RTI in Pakistan dates back to 1990 in Senate. At Federal Level RTI Bill 2014 still awaits cabinet approval but stands passed by all the provincial assemblies of Pakistan.

The sub-committee formed on RTI in pursuance of Rule 224(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007, also gave its recommendations after detailed study of the bill. The report then incorporates the Input of Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage on Right to Information Bill. The report ends on Main Committee's Final Recommendations on Right to Information Bill given in main committee's meeting held on 30-04-2014, as being proposed to Executive Branch which included those Recommendations of Sub-Committee that were not taken by Government Bill. These recommendations include various amendments. These are:

Amendment in Section 12 was recommended which entails that if printed forms and copies are required, only then there should be charge of fees. However, if the application process is made online, it should be free of cost for the general public so as to reinforce the spirit of Article 19-A of the Constitution. The Committee also recommended formation of Independent Information Commission instead of Federal Ombudsman and that the provision for protection of Whistle Blowers may well be added in the Bill. Suggestions include amendment in 8 2(d) to give specific guidelines outlining the type of information that the Federal Government may declare as classified. The chair also suggested that the articles 8, 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in National Assembly 2007 be followed as yardstick in defining criteria for confidentiality. Also Section 2, pertaining to definitions describes “complaint” in a limited manner only. Broadening the scope of



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'Grievances of Complainant' was also recommended. Adding in definitive timelines for Disposal of Complaints by Wafaqi Mohtasib and Federal Tax Ombudsman in Section 19 was also recommended. Section 21(2) was recommended to be amended by increasing the criteria of offences punishable by the Designated Official. It was also recommended by the Committee that a time frame of 60 days for Government to make rules be also added in Section 26(1) and the fines for designated official given in Section 21 may also be increased. Accountability clause and adding time frames for different sections has also been recommended in the Report by the Standing Committee after unanimous approval.



4. Special Report on Media Commission

A special report on Media Commission Appointed by The Supreme Court of Pakistan, 2013 was formulated under Rule 234 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in The National Assembly 2007. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the said media commission have been included in the report. The queries on various issues by the Members of Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage from the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage for their response and to confirm with the relevant Stakeholders have been enlisted next in the report.

The Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage submitted its response to the Supreme Court of Pakistan on 26-07-2013 regarding Media Commission Report. The response of the Ministry was insufficient in this regard and doesn't adequately suffice the recommendations and questions raised by the Commission's Report. The Ministry was thus asked to re-submit a more detailed response to the Media Commission Report especially in light of the Points raised by the Members of the Standing Committee.

The Action Plan & Response of the Ministry of I,B&NH on the questions & issues raised by the Standing Committee has been included in the report in its entirety. Senator (R) Javed Jabbar was the Member of the Media Commission itself and he briefed the Standing Committee about the Media Commission report during Committee's meeting on 16th April, 2014. Brief of his presentation has been given in the report as well. With reference to the Recommendations by the Media Commission appointed by the Supreme Court 2013, the Standing Committee of Information, Broadcasting, and Heritage in its meeting of 16th April, 2014 unanimously agreed to 30 actions & proposals which were adopted as resolution by the committee and have been given in this report.

In compliance with the Recommendation by the Media Commission appointed by the Supreme Court 2013 and in pursuance of the unanimous resolution passed by the Standing Committee of Information, Broadcasting, and Heritage in its 8th meeting held on April 16, 2014; the Standing Committee finalized the Members Names and Terms of Reference (ToRs) for Media Laws Review Task Force in its 9th meeting held on 30-04-2014. The ToRs and the List of Members of this taskforce have been included in this report.

The Terms of Reference of the Media Laws Review Taskforce were outlined as:

1. To conduct a comprehensive review of all existing laws, rules, regulations at the Federal, Provincial and Local levels which are either directly named as media-related laws, or have a bearing on the operation and output of media.
2. To identify the needs, if any, for amendments, changes, etc in sections of such laws, rules, regulations including " Definitions " and substantive provisions so as to accurately reflect contemporary realities and factors such as new technologies, and to propose specific amendments to existing laws, rules, regulations for consideration by the respective Legislatures.
3. To draft the texts for new laws, rules, regulations in the light of contemporary conditions and emerging trends, and with reference to the Recommendations of the Media Commission as



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unanimously endorsed by the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage in its meeting on 16th April 2014.

4. Develop a monitoring Framework for committee reference to have an oversight on the implementation of the existing and the amended laws rules regulations.
5. Any other TORs that the Task force experts may wish to add as a result of their deliberations with the approval of the committee.

The Members of the taskforce were finalized on the basis of recommendations from all the Committee Members so as to ensure full provincial as well as party representation. These were:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| 1. Mr Babar Sattar | Member |
| 2. Barrister Salman Afridi | Member |
| 3. Mr Nawazish Peerzada | Member |
| 4. Mr Rizwan Ejaz | Member |
| 5. Mr Faisal Siddiqi | Member |
| 6. Ms Yasmeen Aftab Ali | Member |
| 7. Ms Afia Salam | Member |
| 8. Mr Abdul Jabbar Qureshi | Member |
| 9. Mr Khurram Hashmi | Member |
| 10. Mr Rabel Akhund | Member |



COMMITTEE WEBSITE

As Chairperson of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information Broadcasting and National Heritage, it is my proud privilege to present the website for the Committee.

<http://nacomm-infobh.pk/>

The purpose of this portal is to ensure that democratic traditions of transparency are encouraged and supported by the Committee, whose main objective is legislative oversight over the Ministry of Information and the Executive branch's main information systems.

We hope that by displaying information related to committee hearings we are able to further enhance the concept of sharing information delivered to us, deliberated by us and analyzed by us in order to provide policy guidelines of a recommendatory nature to the government.

We understand that our responsibility towards enhancing information systems in the midst of Pakistan facing formidable challenges of security and economy is important for our progress as a nation.

As such we look forward to having feedback on the information given on this website so that quality of committee hearings is improved in the future.

We have introduced a first time ever interactive cultural heritage map of Pakistan (district and province mapping). We hope that it will enhance the concept that whether it's new or old culture, it needs to be linked to roots and to all the people it represents versus just an elite. Through this mapping we intend to enhance inter provincial harmony as well as Pakistan's image.

nacomm-infobh.pk/memberslist.asp

National Assembly of Pakistan
Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage

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Chairperson

Marvi Memon, MNA

As Chairperson of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information Broadcasting and Heritage, it is my proud privilege to present the website for the Committee. The purpose of this portal is to ensure that democratic traditions of transparency are encouraged and supported by the Committee, whose main objective is legislative oversight over the Ministry of Information and the Executive branch's main information systems.



PRESS RELEASES

PRESS RELEASE:

Meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage, Thursday, 13th March, 2014, Islamabad.

A meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage was held on 13-03-2014 at 2:00 p.m in Committee Room # 7, in Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chair of MNA Marvi Memon.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the history and importance of Pakistan's Mother Tongues, their National Language status, and their role in creating inter-provincial harmony along with reviewing a Concept Paper on the National Language Commission.

Over 35 speakers, Linguists, Experts and Academia had been invited from all over Pakistan for their valuable input on the subject. Balochi, Balti, Brushaski, Brahui, Hindko, Khowar, Kashmiri, Pahari, Pashto, Punjabi, Saraiki, Shina, Sindhi and other Mother Tongues were amply highlighted from participants representing the diverse areas of Pakistan.



Ms. Marvi Memon, Chairperson Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage Chairing the Committee meeting at Parliament House on 13.03.2014.

Common Confusions between 'National Language & Official Language' and 'Language & Dialect' were eloquently addressed. It was established that a National Language is a language which is the mother tongue of people; and enjoys use in the political, social, and cultural realms. National languages are mostly multiple for one country. Whereas, an official language is one which is used for the operations of the government. Official languages are mostly one or maximum two. Consequently, national languages



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are symbolic and official languages are pragmatic. Similarly, there is a distinction between Language and Dialect on the basis of 'mutual intelligibility.'

It was reiterated during the meeting that the importance of National Language was imperative in National Harmony. Committee members agreed that Language is the main source of communication, so it is also the best means to bring divergent people together. Developed countries have declared their major mother tongues as national languages. This has helped reduce differences between different types of people living in one country. The committee was informed that National Languages were generally multiple in numbers as can be observed globally. A few amongst the many countries having multiple National Languages were, China (9), India (22), Belgium (3), Namibia (11), Singapore (4), South Africa (13), Spain (5) and Switzerland (4). This has been a major contributor in nation building.

It was agreed in the meeting that it was high time that habitants of the same society should use their languages for unity and better understanding between each other. Pakistani society is a hub of ancient languages. Unfortunately, Pakistan since its inception, instead of recognizing & celebrating linguistic diversity, started its journey by denying the distinct historical status of these languages. Diversity and recognition of these languages will be the path for nation building, which is acutely required.



The committee further discussed a working paper on the concept of the National Language Commission as envisioned by Pakistan Muslim League (N) President, Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, in PML (N) manifesto. The PMLN manifesto states, *“Pakistan currently has many mother tongues but only one national language which is Urdu and one official language which is English. In most nation states, all major mother tongues are national languages. A National Language*



Commission will be set up by the PMLN government to develop criteria for giving the status of national languages to all major languages.” The Concept Paper incorporated the Vision of National Language Commission as, “to establish a National Language Commission which protects and promotes mother tongues of Pakistan, giving them National Language Status & as a result enhances nation building, education and productivity of Pakistan.”

The objectives of the Commission were outlined as,

- to develop criteria to give status of National Language to all major Mother Tongues of Pakistan
- to strengthen the Mother Tongues & ensure their longevity in the National narrative
- through these Mother Tongues/proposed National Languages, enhance inter-provincial harmony
- through these mother tongues/proposed National Languages, enhance learning capabilities of Pakistanis & their productivity
- Promote national languages and their teachings
- To scientifically conduct language planning, policy, survey through research.

The committee members also passed a unanimous resolution to the effect:

The Information Broadcasting and Heritage Committee of the National Assembly resolves the following:

1. We appreciate the importance in according Pakistan’s major mother tongues like Balochi, Balti, Brushaski, Brahui, Hindko, Khowar, Kashmiri, Pahari, Pashto, Punjabi, Saraiki, Shina, Sindhi the National language status.
2. We will not allow the linguisticide in Pakistan of its rich mother tongues.
3. We understand that all mother tongues of Pakistan belong to all of Pakistan rather than just one particular area.
4. We agree that all mother tongues are rooted to Pakistan’s soil in entirety and thereby derive their National status. Their promotion and this national status will root out sense of deprivation, prejudices and create inter provincial harmony.
5. We agree that cultural and linguistic diversity is an asset for Pakistan which will promote education, learning and productivity.
6. We understand that this will improve inter-provincial harmony and create a national narrative much required for nation building in Pakistan.
7. We support the establishment of a National Language Commission which will ultimately decide which major mother tongues of Pakistan should be declared as National based on internationally accepted criteria. It will develop a language policy, fully researched, conduct language scientific survey and conduct language planning.
8. We appreciate the efforts of all those Pakistanis who have made contributions for this noble and nation building cause of National Language status, since inception of Pakistan.
9. We commit to seeing the legislation of the National Language Bill through the proper legislative routes in the tenure of this National Assembly at the earliest.
10. We commit to also protecting the endangered mother tongues of Pakistan through the National Language Commission.



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It was decided that The Resolution will be sent to the Law committee so that at time of review of bill it should assist the Law committee.

The Committee Members thanked the Experts for their valuable and enlightening input. The following MNAs attended the meeting: Ms Marvi Memon (Chairperson), DMuhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon MNA, Mr Muhammad Tallal Chaudry MNA, Mian Muhammad Farooq MNA, Ms Ghulam Bibi Bharwana MNA, Mr Waseem Akhtar Shaikh MNA, Mr Tahir Iqbal Ch MNA, Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote MNA, Mr Imran Zafar Leghari MNA, Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti MNA, Ms Naeema Kishwar Khan MNA, Ms Arifa Khalid Parvez MNA, Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb MNA & Mrs. Belum Hasnain MNA.



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PRESS RELEASE:

Meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage, Friday, 21st March, 2014, Islamabad.

A meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage was held on 21-03-2014 at 3:30 p.m in Committee Room # 2, in Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chair of MNA Marvi Memon.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the progress of the 7 Sub-Committees constituted by the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage as per their Terms of References.

The conveners of the Sub-Committees; Mr Muhammad Tallal Chaudhry (Pakistan Television Corporation), Ms Saman Sultana Jafri (Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation), Ms Arifa Khalid Pervez (Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority), Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote (National Heritage Wing), Dr Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon (Press Information Department), Ms Naeema Kishwer Khan (Media Person Killing) and Ms Belum Hasnain (Right to Information Bill, 2013) submitted their progress reports to the Chair. The Honorable Committee Members apprised the Committee about the progress and recommendations of their respective sub-committees. Representatives from the Ministry, its concerned departments and institutions answered the concerns of the Sub-Committee Conveners.



MD Pakistan Television Corporation, Mr Mohammad Malick apprised the committee that the current situation of PTV is very grim. An audit of the Corporation is soon going to be done. He informed that the HR Policy will be revisited since the Corporation lacks technical staff and the steps are being taken for the modernization of Studios/Workplace and up gradation of PTV Screen. The PTV Academy will be soon affiliated with some foreign or local institute/university. Means are being put in to ensure the employee performance evaluation. He also ensured that the quality and output of different programs and channels



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will be revamped. He thanked the cooperation and support extended by the sub-committee in reviving PTV as the supreme state channel. The Chair expressed her expectations from PTV on uniting the Nation in this suffering state of Terrorism.

On Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation, the committee was informed to have similar issues as PTVC. Ms Sameena Pervez, DG from PBC reported that the Corporation's marketing department is underway and the restructuring plan would be submitted to the Committee as well. Proposals for modernization of the equipment were also in the pipeline. The committee recommended that PBC should start meteorological advisory programs in Mother Tongues so that people are provided with travel guide during untoward weather conditions beforehand. The Committee further suggested that PBC needs to come up with quality content that spreads the ideology of Pakistan in these times of Sectarianism.

Sameena Farzeen, Director Press Information Department, informed the standing committee that being an attached department of the Ministry, its main purpose is the coverage of federal government activities. She apprised the Committee that there are budget constraints to meet the technical up gradation of the department. The Chair instructed the sub-committee on PID to take up the matter seriously.



The Chair and committee members showed serious concern to General Manager, PEMRA on the absence of the main Commission Members of PEMRA from the Standing Committee's Meeting

The Committee Members thanked the Experts for their valuable and enlightening input. The following MNAs attended the meeting: Ms Marvi Memon (Chairperson), Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon MNA, Mr Muhammad Tallal Chaudry MNA, Mian Muhammad Farooq MNA, Ms Ghulam Bibi Bharwana MNA, Mr Murad Saeed MNA, Mr Imran Zafar Leghari MNA, Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti MNA, Ms Zeb Jaffar MNA & Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb MNA. Mr Iftikhar-ud-Din, MNA Chitral attended the Committee Meeting as a Special Guest.



Press Release: 03 April, 2014

MEDIA SECURITY IN PAKISTAN

We the members of the Standing Committee of Information, Broadcasting and Heritage unanimously submit the following recommendations to the Speaker National Assembly as per 'Special Report' Rule 234 of Rules of Procedure and to the Executive. This is the third such meeting and a mid status report is being given by the Main Committee. The Sub-committee formed on this critical issue of Security for media will be ongoing till all its terms of references have been duly addressed. Pakistan's international standing and the current law and order situation in Pakistan demand that the following recommendations are implemented at top priority by the Executive branch:



1. We condemn the attack on Raza Rumi and those present with him at the time, and on all the hundreds of media personnel before him by terrorists and enemies of Pakistan. We stand united against all such terrorists. We take strict notice on why Punjab police despite notification was not present to give the



update on these cases and a notice will be sent to them on same. IG Punjab must give a mid status if not a full investigation report confidentially to the Standing committee within 24 hours.

2. The security of media in Pakistan is the responsibility of the state, the Executive branch and Parliament. We intend ensuring that any issues related to the security of media are handled on top priority so that they can function without fear and deliver on their mission of delivering highest levels of media freedom and quality to the people of Pakistan.

3. We accept that media as well as the rest of Pakistan is functioning in a law and order situation which has Target Killings, abductions, Sectarian Killings, Crossfire, bomb attacks, Terrorist suicide bombings, Abduction for ransom or political gain.

4. Media in particular faces two threats. One when they follow stories in the middle of the fire and secondly when the fire is brought to them by the terrorists.

5. We have been informed by the government that the compensation for those media personnel hurt or martyred in the line of fire will be standardized across all provinces. The Committee ensures following up on all such cases where this is not conducted as per the Executive's commitment.

6. We have been informed by the government that a Special Prosecutor will be inducted to fast track investigations.

7. All lists of targeted media personnel needs to be taken seriously by the Executive branch because now we have seen action by terrorists on these lists as well as the fact that we have recorded threats to some of those on this list by the terrorists' outfits.

8. We expect that there will be better coordination between Ministry of Interior and media, on intelligence chatter on targeting of media personnel so that media is better protected.

9. All IGs must immediately inform standing committee of hotlines assigned for media personnel in case of emergencies. As informed by Ministry and Minister of Information they have a commitment to media on this and thus special hotlines will be established by April 8 and we expect an update on the same.

10. Bullet proof vests must be provided to all journalists in the line of duty.

11. Special arrangements at all media houses must be undertaken by government to ensure top level security.

12. Scanners must be installed by government at all media houses.

13. All open investigations must be closed within 3month period and full compensations paid in each province. Every Single attack on media must be fully investigated and details tabled in the Parliament on monthly basis, which should also be made public with the permission of the concerned media persons, organization. The names of the groups involved in such attacks must be made public and their masterminds and foot soldiers are taken to task, with full public identification, no cover up for any group.

14. A 24/7 cell in the Ministry of Interior to process such intelligence intercepts and share with the concerned persons to ensure security.

15. Cabinet Committee on Media Freedom & Security, with mandatory twice monthly meetings or even more if such attacks continue to discuss the matter threadbare in the presence of senior journalists.

16. A focal person of the level of Minister of State, which could be immediate approached for help.

17. Provision of light arms for personal protection may also be considered.

18. A criteria maybe determined to have A, B or C level of security for different media persons, organizations based on the threat level s per intelligence intercepts.

19. Media bodies and organizations must provide Standing committee a complete comprehensive security plan for all media personnel working for them including any equipment and security infrastructure.



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20. The protocol of communication on the subject of sensitive national security for media houses should be developed by the Cabinet Media Security Committee and should be part of national narrative of NISP and cyber crime bill.

21. We have been informed by the Executive branch that Life Insurance is being given by government for all media personnel. We as committee will ensure that this is the case and be willing to listen to any public petitions where this is not the case. This is one area where the state and the media groups have to accept the responsibility. If a media person is injured, killed, there should be some defined mechanism

- 1) to cover the costs of his treatment
- 2) in case of his death, some cash benefits for the family
- 3) education of his children



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Press Release

The 8th Meeting of the Information Standing Committee of the National Assembly, as presided by the chairperson MNA Marvi Memon was held at the National Assembly on April 16, 2014. The Minister Information, Secretary Information, Department Heads, Senator (R) Javed Jabbar, Mr Hamid Mir, Mr Absar Alam, Mr Moeed Peerzada and Honorable Members Ms Parveen Masood Bhatti, Ms Arifa Khalid Pervez, Ms Marriyum Aurangzeb, Mr Imran Zafar Leghari, Ms Belum Hasnain, Mr Murad Saeed, Dr Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon, Ms Saman Sultana Jafri and Ms Naeema Kishwer attended the meeting.





With reference to the Recommendations by the Media Commission appointed by the Supreme Court 2013, the Standing Committee of Information, Broadcasting, and Heritage unanimously agreed to the following actions and proposals and adopted the resolution as follows:

1. In the age of independence of media, globalization, IT and Information it is important to have a specific role of the Ministry of Information for policy setting, to facilitate media development with freedom and accountability.
 2. Review of the existing 64 laws on Media is critical. New laws are equally required, specifically for advertising regulation, convergence, cross media ownership negative impacts, and self regulation. The Standing Committee will be having special meetings with legal experts on this critical subject soon and will be appointing a Media Laws Review Taskforce with a 6 month mandate to examine 64 laws and to propose amendments as well as new laws where required.
 3. The existence of a Ministry of Information is important. However, its restructuring is critical. The Ministry and bodies under the purview of the Ministry have assured the committee that their restructuring plans will be presented within one month to the committee.
 4. Ministry of Information and IT can be merged due to new areas of convergence. A new name for the Ministry to be Ministry for Public Information, Media and National Heritage.
 5. Make PEMRA truly autonomous and accountable to Parliament and not to the Executive. Thus a change in mode of appointment of chairperson and its members along the lines of the ECP is recommended.
 6. Create a single new integrated regulatory body by merging PEMRA, PTA including cinema on the lines of OFCOM in the UK. In the cinema sector there is a need to ensure inter provincial harmony in the implementation of censorship rules in the provinces. All imported films to be censored by the Federal government. Provincial censor boards should include federal representation.
 7. Policy to ensure minimal time for Pakistani content on TV and Radio to be strengthened.
 8. Public, regular, structured dialogue of government and regulatory bodies with all stakeholders relevant to electronic media is necessary. Similar Regular structured dialogue with non-media stakeholders i.e civil society is extremely important.
 9. Judiciary should conduct expeditious and conclusive disposal of the large number of stay orders obtained by TV and Radio against PEMRA as at present even non licensed TV channels are operating freely.
 10. Actual compliance should be ensured by media of their own Codes and transparency by appointing Internal Ombudsman and Compliance coordinators to respond to complaints and concerns of citizens.
 11. Temporarily Freeze (except community licenses) issuance of licenses for new TV channels as cable TV distribution capacity is already saturated and until transition to digital technology.
 12. Ensure effective actions by government authorities to prevent smuggling and sale of DTH set top boxes.
 13. Ensure licenses are issued for valid, eligible community radio stations and community TV channels with safeguards.
 14. PTV, PBC APP should be transformed into genuine public service entities which are even handed and fair for them to be consistent with Article 19. New system to should be introduced for appointment of Chairman, CEO and Board of Directors. Government should look into options for restructuring the ownership of PTV, PBC and APP to make their ownership more broad based and public service oriented.
 15. A new Law is required within which self regulation by media can be conducted in a transparent and accountable manner, so that self interest doesn't substitute self regulation in media.
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16. The funding for Press Council to be equitably shared by media proprietors (such as APNS) and other segments in order for it to be independent.
 17. Alleged corrupt practices indulged into by media and government should be investigated and discouraged.
 18. There is a need for more effective practice of existing Codes by media themselves.
 19. Strict effective action is needed by PEMRA and Press Council to prevent excesses by media against public figures, thereby preventing unfair defamation or ridicule of public figures. Strict action needs to be taken by the Councils of complaints appointed by PEMRA which could include parliamentarians to prevent unfair defamation.
 20. Forensic audits should be conducted to determine whether corruptions occurred in award of advertising contracts by NAB, FIA etc.
 21. There is a need to Rationalize the principles on the basis of which advertising rates are determined for placement of govt advertising in print and electronic media so as to end the discrepancies. Government should propose single transparent policy for awarding advertisement.
 22. There is a need to Reform the system by which advertisements of federal and provincial governments are placed by restructuring the audit bureau of circulation and inducting reputed firms from private sector to make ABC credible; and by other methods such as possible decentralization.
 23. ECP is urged to implement recommendation of media commission to ensure transparency in use of funds for advertising in the forthcoming local governments.
 24. PEMRA should facilitate preparation of options for new revenue model for TV channels to reduce existing 100% dependence on advertising.
 25. More Effective regulatory actions are required to reduce imbalanced interruptions, disruptions intrusions of advertising on TV and radio.
 26. Secret funds have been abolished. Second list will be presented to the committee and to the public after audit or as per SC instructions.
 27. It is considered opinion of the committee that PEMRA has not satisfactorily addressed the concerns raised by the Media Commission Report regarding: the restructuring of PEMRA, Autonomy of PEMRA from Executive, Direct Parliamentary Purview & Oversight of PEMRA, Review of the PEMRA Act 2002 (Amended 2007) and Private Monopolies in Media created as a result of the Amended PEMRA Act 2007. Unfortunately without addressing these core issues it is difficult to conceive that PEMRA will be able to respond to the challenges it faces as an independent media regulator. It is therefore recommended that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting should undertake an immediate examination of these concerns, with a clear deadline in mind, to suggest the best ways and means to implement the recommendations of the Media Commission.
 28. Ministry of Information has committed itself to help improve security for journalists and media. However it has not presented any coherent plan so far. It needs to present an over-view of its Security Plan which it has designed after its consultations with the various media organisations. Ministry also needs to give action plan on the Committee of Information recommendations on the same.
 29. The existing reliance on an predominantly big cities audience measurement system to determine TV ratings should be replaced with new alternative options which accurately reflect the countries demographic realities.
 30. As per commitment made by PBA to the media commission the actual rates charged by PBA members, (eg election advertising) should be placed on the internet and transparency ensured on the assets, income, expenses of media proprietors and senior journalists including TV anchors.
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PRESS RELEASE:

Meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage

Wednesday, 30th April, 2014 , Islamabad.

9th meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage was held on 30-04-2014 at 2:00 p.m in Islamabad under the chair of MNA Marvi Memon. The meeting was attended by Marvi Memon (Chairperson), Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon MNA, Mr Murad Saeed MNA, Ms Ghulam Bibi Bharwana MNA, Waseem Akhtar Shaikh MNA, Tahir Iqbal Ch MNA, Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote MNA, Imran Zafar Leghari MNA, Naeema Kishwar Khan MNA, Saman Sultana Jafri MNA, Arifa Khalid Parvez MNA, Marriyum Aurangzeb MNA and Mrs. Belum Hasnain MNA and Honorable Minister Senator Pervaiz Rasheed, Parliamentary Secretary MNA Mohsin Ranjha, and Representatives from the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage.

The schema of the meeting was to discuss the following:

1. Presentation by the Ministry on “Pakistan Culture and Arts Foundation Relief Fund” and Committee’s initial recommendations on the same:
 2. Finalization of main Committee’s Recommendations on Right to Information (RTI)
 3. Finalization of Members Names and Terms of Reference (ToRs) for Media Laws Review Task Force.
 4. Discussion of Committee’s Recommendations on Code of Conduct of Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA)
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1. **Initial recommendations of the Committee on 'Pakistan Culture and Arts Foundation Relief Fund':**

- Definition of the scope of beneficiaries to be increased to include not just artisans, artists, musicians, performing artists, drama artists of film radio TV, but also writers, poets, actors, and others.
- Amount to be increased from Rs 5000, to minimum 10,000 per month.
- Special medical emergency fund to be given by federal and provincial governments and rules to be laid down by both.
- District wise equal representation to be given via district quotas for all provinces and 2 territories
- Gender balance to be ensured for women representation at 50%
- Advertisement to be given by Ministry on PTV, Radio, Print newspapers, internet, social media to ensure all districts citizens aware of this opportunity. Ministry to ensure that the Registration of these applications for fund are transparently displayed on website.
- All members of Parliament to have recommendary facility through sending their suggestions for applications to the Sub Committee of Information on Heritage so that needy in their constituencies can be given an opportunity to be heard. Similarly Arts councils and other relevant bodies to also present their lists to the sub committee.



2. Right to Information recommendations:

2.1 RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON RIGHT TO INFORMATION: headed by MNA Beelum Hasnain were reviewed by Main committee and sub-committee dissolved at successful completion of their work. Their notes will be included in final report to be submitted to parliament.

2.2 MAIN COMMITTEE'S FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON RIGHT TO INFORMATION BILL, as being proposed to executive branch which includes those recommendations of sub-committee not taken by government bill:

a) **Amendment in Section 12:** The RTI draft of the Federal Government has asked for both the fee to apply for information and a prescribed form to furnish request. The Chair suggests that if printed forms and copies are required, only then there should be charge of fees. However, if the application process is made online, it should be free of cost for the general public so as to reinforce the spirit of Article 19-A of the Constitution that declares access to information as basic right of every citizen.

b) **Formation of Independent Information Commission:**

Countries of the region like Bangladesh, Nepal and India have entrusted the task of protecting this right to *independent and autonomous information commissions*. Punjab & KPK RTI Bills



also include the formation of independent and powerful information commission to take action against the departments denying public access to information.

The ombudsman does not have any judicial authority and can only recommend that is not mandatory for the offending departments to comply with. It does not promise an independent and powerful information authority to take action against the departments.

c) Legal Protection to Whistle Blowers:

The draft RTI Bill has no provision that provides legal protection for Whistleblowers. The purpose of including such a provision is to encourage individuals to report serious misconduct and wrongdoing of public officials, while carrying out their official duties.

In order to discourage individuals from whistleblowing in bad faith, the law must be clear to not protect information, which is a mere allegation, is false and is made in bad faith.

Inclusion of this clause is in compliance with the principles of FOI, which have been published by Article 19 - Global Campaign for Free Expression, in 'The Public's Right to Know: Principles on Freedom of Information Legislation' (1999). They were also endorsed by the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression in 2000 and the Organisation of American States (OAS) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression in 1999.

d) Amendment in Section 8 2(d):

Section 8 pertains to exclusion of record that includes 2(d); "*record declared as classified by the Federal Government.*"

This provision provides a wide discretion to declare any matter of public interest as not disclose-able to the public. This provision must be amended to give specific guidelines outlining the type of information that the Federal Government may declare as classified.

There is a dire need of establishing some criteria to define the terms 'classified, secret, confidential and restricted information'. But any information pertaining to National Integrity should stand exempt.

e) Rule 78 of "Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business in National Assembly 2007"

Articles 8, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 deal with the nature of information that is exempted under this law. The matter of what should be open to public scrutiny and what should be confidential is of utmost importance. Heavy criticism has been placed on RTI Bill, 2013's draft for being overlapping, confusing and restrictive when it comes to the permissibility of State Records for the public. The chair suggests using the **Rule 78 of "Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business in National Assembly 2007"** as yardstick. This Rule specifies the "Admissibility of Questions" by setting criteria for the nature of questions to be asked on the floor of the House. It explains both the admissibility and non-admissibility principles for the MNAs. If the Elected MPs serving in the most prestigious and apex State Institute, the National Assembly, are bound by Rule 78 and they cannot question anything over and above it, then it should serve well for the general public as well. And the debate of the liberty of access to information can be reassured by this Rule.

f) Broadening the scope of 'Grievances of Complainant':



Section 2, pertaining to definitions describes “complaint” in a limited manner only. **Section 2(ii)(b)** limits the scope of “complaint” to denial & delay of information only. Whereas, grievance by applicant might also occur in the case of false, partial or misleading information provided. Following grievances may also be included here as these could also constitute a possible cause of complaint:

- *a public body has excessively charged a requester for the information provided.*
- *a public body has provided false or misleading information to a requester.*
- *only partial information has been provided to a requester.*
- *the requester feels that irrelevant information has been provided.*

g) Broadening the scope of ‘Public Body’:

Section 2(ix) defines the types of divisions, organizations and departments that fall under ‘public body’ and hence come under purview of this Bill.

Following establishments/ bodies have not been included in the definition of public body, which may also be considered to be added in the list:

- a. National Assembly, Senate and respective Secretariats.*

h) Exemptions under Sections 14 to 18:

Section 8 deals with exclusion of record. Whenever in the Bill, exclusions are referred to (for example in Section 7, Section 13(2)(c)), only section 8 is being mentioned. Whereas, **Sections 14 to 18** deal with Exemptions as well and need to be mentioned as well to avoid possible confusion.

i) Procedure for disposal of applications and review:

Section 13(2) states that *“In case the designated official, on authority of the principal officer, is of the opinion that...”*

If the Designated Official seeks authority/ blessing from the Principal Officer at this stage, there is no point in making a review application to Principal Officer under Section 13(4). Therefore, **this part of the statement may be deleted** to read only as:

“In case the designated official is of the opinion that...”

j) Time Frame for Disposal of Complaints by Wafaqi Mohtasib and Federal Tax Ombudsman:

Section 19 lacks deadline for the Wafaqi Mohtasib and Federal Tax Ombudsman to comply with, in disposal of any such complaints. For the clearance of such complaints by the Ombudsman, it’s imperative that a time frame be put in place. The deadline is suggested to be of **three months extendable to further three months**, with reasons of such delay **till the time Information Commission is fully established & functional.**

k) Offences by the Designated Official:

Section 21(2) declares fine for the designated official in case he fails or refuses to provide inspection or disclose records. Apart from these offences, the designated official may be found guilty of furnishing **delayed, false, misleading, irrelevant or partial information.** Hence, these offences too should be added in this section and made punishable.



l) Power to Make Rules:

Section 26(1) empowers the Federal Government to make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act and reads as: “*The Federal Government **may**, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.*”

A deadline needs to be put in place bounding the Government to make the subordinate rules, to ensure swift compliance with the draft Bill. It is recommended that a time frame of **60 days** be given to the Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act and the word ‘may’ be changed to read ‘will’.

m) Fine for Designated Official:

The fine on offences under section **21 (1) and (2)** may be increased.

n) Adding Time Lines & Accountability in the Rules made by the Ministry:

The committee recommended that Time Lines be added to the different sections of the law to ensure swift implementation.

- v. It was suggested that this Act should give a deadline of say ‘**6**’ months to all public bodies to implement Section 4 for ‘**Maintenance & Indexing of Records**’.
 - vi. It would also be worthwhile giving a similar deadline for Computerization of public records as well, that is mentioned in **Section 6**.
 - vii. It was also recommended that a maximum of **15 days’ time limit** be given to the principal officer to respond to the review application of the complainant in **Section 13(4)**.
 - viii. Accountability clauses for not implementing the RTI Act by public bodies are missing and should be incorporated in **Section 5**.
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3. Finalization of Members Names and Terms of Reference (ToRs) for Media Laws Review Task Force.

1. To conduct a comprehensive review of all existing laws, rules, regulations at the Federal, Provincial and Local levels which are either directly named as media-related laws, or have a bearing on the operation and output of media.
2. To identify the needs, if any, for amendments, changes, etc in sections of such laws, rules, regulations including " Definitions " and substantive provisions so as to accurately reflect contemporary realities and factors such as new technologies, and to propose specific amendments to existing laws, rules, regulations for consideration by the respective Legislatures.
3. To draft the texts for new laws, rules, regulations in the light of contemporary conditions and emerging trends, and with reference to the Recommendations of the Media Commission as unanimously endorsed by the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage in its meeting on 16th April 2014.
4. Develop a monitoring Framework for committee reference to have an oversight on the implementation of the existing and the amended laws rules regulations.
5. Any other TORs that the Task force experts may wish to add as a result of their deliberations with the approval of the committee.

Members of the Media Laws Review Task Force:



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1. Mr Babar Sattar
2. Barrister Salman Afridi
3. Mr Rizwan Ejaz
4. Mr Nawazish Peerzada
5. Mr Faisal Siddiqi
6. Mr Ayub Baloch
7. Ms Yasmeen Aftab Ali
8. Ms Afia Salam
9. One more name to be added.

4. **Review of report of sub-committee headed by MNA Arifa Khalid Pervaiz by main information Committee, regarding Recommendations on Code of Conduct of PEMRA.**

The committee decided to discuss this report and further information in the next committee meeting.



PRESS RELEASE: MEDIA LAWS REVIEW TASKFORCE MEETING

Meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage
Tuesday, 13th May, 2014 , Islamabad.

10th meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage was held on 13th May, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. in Parliament House, Islamabad under the chair of MNA Marvi Memon. The meeting was attended by Mr Murad Saeed MNA, Mr Waseem Akhtar Shaikh MNA, Mr Muhammad Tallal Ch MNA, Ms Parveen Masood Bhatti MNA, Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote MNA, Ms Naeema Kishwar Khan MNA, Ms Arifa Khalid Parvez MNA, Ms Marriyum Aurangzeb MNA, Mrs. Belum Hasnain MNA and Secretary Information and Representatives from both the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and Law Division were there.

The schema of the meeting was to discuss the following:
To commence the work of the Media Laws Review Task Force.



MEDIA LAWS REVIEW TASK FORCE:

The members of the Standing committee resolved that:

- The 10 member list of the legal taskforce was finalized and their work should commence.
- All members of the Standing committee gave names for taskforce which were included and thus political consensus and balance was maintained in the formation of the legal taskforce.
- Committee reserved the right to add more members to the legal taskforce for its strengthening.
- 4-6 months was the time frame given to the legal taskforce to conclude its recommendations.
- Periodic input would be taken from legal taskforce on monthly basis to show progress.



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- Stakeholders inputs were taken in sub-committee meetings chaired by MNA Beelum Husnain and MNA Arifa Khalid. However, further public opinion and continued stakeholders input would continue to be sought through the Standing Committee's website: <http://nacomm-infobh.pk>
- Legal taskforce was advised by Standing Committee members to keep Constitution, National integrity, National interest and freedom of expression as important elements whilst recommending laws.
- Information, Broadcasting and Heritage laws were given for review to legal taskforce. These included heritage, electronic, print, broadcasting, copyright, classical media, below the line advertising, journalists laws and any other media related laws.



The following terms of reference were given to the Legal taskforce:

6. To conduct a comprehensive review of all existing laws, rules, regulations at the Federal, Provincial and Local levels which are either directly named as media-related laws, or have a bearing on the operation and output of media.
7. To identify the needs, if any, for amendments, changes, etc in sections of such laws, rules, regulations including " Definitions " and substantive provisions so as to accurately reflect contemporary realities and factors such as new technologies, and to propose specific amendments to existing laws, rules, regulations for consideration by the respective Legislatures.
8. To draft the texts for new laws, rules, regulations in the light of contemporary conditions and emerging trends, and with reference to the Recommendations of the Media Commission as unanimously endorsed by the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage in its meeting on 16th April 2014.
9. Develop a monitoring Framework for committee reference to have an oversight on the implementation of the existing and the amended laws rules regulations.
10. Any other TORs that the Task force experts may wish to add as a result of their deliberations with the approval of the committee.



PRESS RELEASE:

Meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage
Monday, 30th June, 2014 , Islamabad.

11th meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage was held on 30th June, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Parliament House, Islamabad under the chair of MNA Marvi Memon. The meeting was attended by Mr Tahir Iqbal Ch MNA, Mr Muhammad Tallal Ch MNA, Ms Leila Khan MNA, Ms Parveen Masood Bhatti MNA, Dr Azhar Khan Jadoon MNA, Ms Naeema Kishwar Khan MNA, Ms Zeb Jaffar MNA, Mr Imran Zafar Leghari MNA, Ms Ghulam Bibi Bharwana MNA and Ms Marriyum Aurangzeb MNA. Minister Information Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Secretary Information, Director General, Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) and Representatives from the Ministry were also there.



The schema of the meeting was to discuss the following: Briefing on the working of Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) and policy of Government on promoting Arts and Heritage.

The members of the Standing Committee resolved that:

- i) PNCA's mission of integrating and unifying all of Pakistan needs to be adhered to in all its plans. In 2014's Pakistan it can play a vital role in unifying all cultures.
- ii) In order to make the workings of the PNCA more efficient and more effective, a structural change in the working apparatus of the PNCA is required. There is a need to create a stronger private / public linkage that will help address grievances of the artist community.



- iii) The job of the Director General PNCA is a specialist job & hence the Director General of PNCA needs to be selected on a competitive basis with a short listing of names, from a pool of artists that have considerable contribution and background in Arts & Culture. By getting the right person in place, who has had experience in curation / international linkages / arts education / social, educational outreach / will give PNCA the benefit of this wide range of expertise and the hands on knowledge of getting things done.
- iv) The governing body of the PNCA needs to have significant representation from people comprised of mid-late career arts professionals from the arts and culture sector, and their term needs to rotate every 3 years. Their task is to:
 - a. Develop ideas through a consensus of the Governing body of PNCA comprising of mid-late career art professionals from the arts and culture sector.
 - b. Implementation / budgeting annual funds
 - c. Follow up / feedback / reports
- v) The current BOG & its executive committee should be made functional at once as per the legal provisions to advise on issues on regular basis.
- vi) There should also be a larger oversight body/committee that oversees the working of PNCA, so that initiatives and problems are voiced, scrutinized and solutions found.
- vii) PNCA's policy should clearly outline its outreach for artists with disabilities and cater to their needs.
- viii) The contract should be immediately concluded with the Civil Works & HBC, so that proper maintenance of National Art Gallery is carried out.
- ix) PNCA ought to provide before the committee its Performance in all of its divisions in last one year, to compare actual performance from plans in paper work along with their defined timelines.
- x) A policy needs to be defined by PNCA for Talent Acquisition and Social Media can also be used to achieve this objective.
- xi) Efforts need to be made by PNCA to engage artists and strengthen its linkages with the artist community across Pakistan for a centralized assimilation including all divisions.
- xii) "Art Acquisition Committee" needs to meet yearly and should be made functional immediately.
- xiii) PNCA should design an agenda on priority basis so as to create Employment Opportunities and Job Creation for the Artists certified from PNCA.
- xiv) PNCA should complete the Structure of its Council and its 27 members with immediate effect & on merit.
- xv) PNCA should integrate divisions in its three regional groups to promote National Integrity.
- xvi) PNCA should conduct art & cultural activities in local schools and far flung areas, free of cost and give the committee a yearly plan to explain in which areas specifically for puppets.
- xvii) PNCA should immediately revive "National Art Exhibition" and "National Music Festival" which are mandatory to be conducted every year.
- xviii) There should be an international curator hired for national art gallery, so it can perform its role more effectively.
- xix) PNCA to assist artist community in achieving international awards and to give us an action plan as to how they will assist.
- xx) Publications by National Art Gallery should be commissioned by a committee which selects renowned art historian or critic, respected scholars on art whose writings will contribute to the importance of the national collections and disseminate them internationally.



- xxi)** New works must be acquired for its collection, especially contemporary art through the recommendation of a well respected committee and this process must be fair, transparent and following merit.
- xxii)** Visa support and institutional (PNCA) support could prove quite valuable for Pakistani Artists working internationally. Governmental Support could make the process faster and increase the credibility of the artist and his work.
- xxiii)** The Pakistani embassies around the world should show extra interest in promoting art activities internationally and promote the artists, share opportunities and attend events which showcase Pakistan.
- xxiv)** Government (federal and provincial) should provide special permission to artists to temporarily use the abandoned spaces/ buildings in the country as pop spaces or maybe form temporary museums/ studios/ exhibition space in such areas.
- xxv)** Small art galleries should be established in smaller cities so the art activity is not concentrated in Islamabad but reaches to a wider public across the country. Coordination with provincial governments.
- xxvi)** PNCA should allow and invite different artists and curators on a rotation to organize month/ two month long exhibitions, activities, workshops in the National Art Gallery. This could include dance, theatre and music as well.
- xxvii)** PNCA should facilitate inviting international artists, exhibitions and researchers to Pakistan and vice versa. Giving importance and support to art and culture will promote a positive and progressive image of Pakistan towards a brighter future.
- xxviii)** The ministry should define a transparent manner of inviting and recruiting local budding talent from all divisions of Pakistan.
- xxix)** Government should plan international exhibitions of Pakistani art and participation of Pakistan in important international art events, such as Venice Biennale and others, so the country's image as a civilized, cultural and peace loving nation spreads/improves globally. List of all such international events need to be part of the calendar for targets of PNCA.
- xxx)** Govt. must promote a protectionist policy and form some barrier to entry against foreign imports of entertainment products, so local art is nurtured.
- xxxi)** Govt./PEMRA needs to ensure broadcasters follow the 10 % Rule of airing non-Pakistani Products/Content on TV/Radio networks to provide local artists equitable playing field.
- xxxii)** There is dire need for Govt. to ensure strict adherence by broadcasters to copyrights laws and royalty collection for both local and foreign content aired.
- xxxiii)** Above mentioned Royalty should be poured into a centralized agency which should be supervised by Intellectual Property Organization (IPO).
- xxxiv)** The revenue from Public Broadcast should reach the entire team connected with the piece of art aired.



PRESS RELEASE:

22nd July, 2014:

12th Meeting of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage:

The Special Assistant to the PM Prof Irfan Siddiqui briefed the Information Standing Committee on the efforts of his committee constituted by the PM on the code of conduct.

On a query from the Information Standing Committee he showed his reservations with the inputs provided by PBA and their participations in his committee. Similar reservations showed by PBA towards the PM committee in terms of letter sent to the Information Standing Committee were also put in front of the Information Standing Committee.

The Information Standing committee showed their dissatisfaction at PBA's non attendance of the Information Standing committee meeting. The Information Standing committee resolved to examine the inputs given by PBA and the PM committee including all the members of the PM committee and to give its recommendations to the executive branch and Speaker after a meeting with PBA and other stakeholders. The Information Standing committee members showed their seriousness in the implementation of a formal code of conduct without any further delay.



PRESS RELEASE

ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES SHALL BE EXPLORED FOR THE PROTECTION OF MEDIA AGAINST VIOLENCE: MS. MARVI MEMON

Islamabad: October 16, 2014



A meeting of the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage was held under the Chair of Ms. Marvi Memon in Islamabad today. The Committee took notice of recent attacks on media during the “Dharna” and long march. The representatives of various media organizations such as Geo, Samaa, Aaj and PTV informed the Committee in detail about the attacks on their buildings, vehicles and violence against their staff. The committee asked Islamabad Police to process the matter earnestly and conclusively. The chair instructed police to bring record in next meeting showing what measures were taken to apprehend the culprits and what protections measures are put in place to save media persons from such attacks in future.

The Committee also took notice of hate speeches by Tahir-ul-Qadiri and Imran Khan inciting for violence. The Committee asked PEMRA to clarify the position regarding rules and action taken against hate and violence inciting speech. The PEMRA informed the Committee that the use of drone camera for the purpose of coverage currently is under usage and rules are yet to be promulgated but many channels are already using the technology.

In the end of the meeting, the chair decided to continue the deliberation on the same issue in the next meeting. The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage, Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Secretary IB&NH, representative of Ministry of Interior, PEMRA, Islamabad Police and media houses.
