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ORDINANCE NO. XXV OF 2021

AN

ORDINANCE

*to provide for the establishment of National Rahmatul-lil-Aalameen Authority*

WHEREAS it is expedient to establish a National *Rahmatul-lil-Aalameen* Authority to promote research in practical and theoretical aspects of *Seerat* for addressing contemporary social challenges and inculcating positive changes in the Pakistani society, while, *inter alia*, providing illustrations about the life of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ);

AND WHEREAS the objective of the National *Rahmatul-lil-Aalameen* Authority is to promote research on the *Seerat*, guide the young generation on key and multifarious aspects from the life of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ); and review, consolidate and acknowledge local and international literature and analysis about the *Seerat*, build linkages with provincial governments and prominent institutions working on the *Seerat*, promote the *Seerat* Chairs in higher education and formulate strategies and frameworks for organizing impactful events to promote lessons from the *Seerat-e-Tayyabba*;

AND WHEREAS the National Assembly and Senate are not in session and the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action;

NOW, THEREFORE in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 89 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance:—

1. **Short title, extent and commencement.**—(1) This Ordinance shall be called the National *Rahmatul-Lil-Aalameen* Authority Ordinance, 2021.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Definitions.**—In this Ordinance, until there is anything that is repugnant to the subject or context,—

(a) “Authority” means the National *Rahmatul-Lil-Aalameen* Authority established under section 3 of the Ordinance.

(b) “Advisory Board” means the advisory board established under section 4;

(c) “Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Authority;

(d) “Director General” means the Director-General of the Authority, who shall be the in-charge of general administration of the Authority;

(e) “Government” means the Federal Government;

(f) “member” means member of the Authority;

(g) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules or regulations made under this Ordinance;

- (h) "regulations" means the regulations made under this Ordinance;
- (i) "rules" means the rules made under this Ordinance;
- (j) "staff" means the staff and officers of the Authority.

3. **Establishment of the Authority.**—(1) There shall be established a National *Rahmatul-lil-Aalameen* Authority by the Government, which shall carry out the purposes of this Ordinance.

(2) The Prime Minister shall be the Patron-in-Chief of the Authority.

(3) The Authority shall comprise a Chairperson and six (06) other members, to be appointed by the Prime Minister, on such terms and conditions and in the manner as determined by the Patron-in-Chief.

4. **Advisory Board.**—(1) A high-level Advisory Board shall be constituted for providing advice and strategic guidance to the Patron-in-Chief to meet the desired objectives of the Authority.

(2) The Advisory Board shall consist of ten members having scholarly eminence and impeccable credentials.

(3) The members of the Advisory Board shall be appointed by the Prime Minister, on such terms and conditions and in the manner as determined by the Patron-in-Chief.

(4) The Advisory Board shall meet at least once on quarterly basis.

5. **Chairperson of the Authority.**—(1) The Chairperson of the Authority shall be appointed by the Prime Minister, on such terms and conditions the manner as determined by the Patron-in-Chief, and shall be a person of impeccable integrity, eminent scholarship, reputation and competence who shall be well-versed in *Seerat* matters and literature, experienced in religious affairs and research.

(2) The Chairperson shall hold office for a period of three years, which may be extendable for such term or terms as may be determined by the Patron-in-Chief.

(3) The Chairperson may resign from his office by writing under his hand, addressed to the Prime Minister.

6. **Members of the Authority.**—(1) Subject to sub-section (4), the members of the Authority shall be appointed by the Prime Minister on such terms

and conditions and in the manner as determined by the Patron-in-Chief and shall be persons of impeccable integrity, possessing high morality and scholarly achievements, and being highly well-versed in *Seerat* matters and literature, experienced in religious affairs, research, administration and having skills to mass communicate and propagate the real ethos and essence of the *Seerat*.

(2) A member shall hold office for a term of three years, which may be extendable for such term or terms as may be determined by the Patron-in-Chief.

(3) The business of the Authority shall be conducted in such manner as may be prescribed.

(4) The Authority shall preferably comprise:—

- (a) one eminent *Seerat* Scholar;
- (b) one eminent person with expertise in media affairs, who is able to use facts, undertake research and propagate the real essence of the *Seerat* to the public at large;
- (c) one eminent person with abilities to undertake special initiatives through innovative approaches;
- (d) one eminent person with Research expertise in the subject matter of *Seerat* and religion;
- (e) one eminent person experienced in prescribing curricula;
- (f) one eminent person, having expertise expert in international outreach and equipped to provide counter-narrative to misperceptions of Islam and Islamophobia, while propagating the real essence and narrative of the *Seerat* in the international community.

7. **Management.**—(1) The general direction and administration of the Authority and its affairs shall vest in the Chairperson and the Members, which shall exercise all administrative and financial powers and do all acts and things which may be exercised or done by the Authority.

(2) On questions of policy the Government may issue directives, which shall be final and binding on the Authority.

(3) If any question arises as to whether any matter is a matter of policy or not, the decision of the Government in respect thereof shall be final.

8. **Powers and functions of the Authority.**—The functions of the Authority shall be —

- (a) to actualize the concept of Riyasat-e-Madina based upon justice, rule of law and a welfare state through character building of the nation;
- (b) to identify the social, economic, and political morals and values from the practical life of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) and inculcate them in the life of individuals and the society at large;
- (c) formulate policies, strategies and interventions to advance and propagate key elements of the life of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ), including peace, empathy, care for others, tolerance, knowledge, progress, wisdom, patience, contentment, ethical behavior, social bearing, environmental protection and other prominent aspects from the *Seerat*;
- (d) conducting research studies on the *Seerat* of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) and the Hadith, for guidance of the young generation;
- (e) to develop educational and learning processes for better personality development of the young generation on the pattern of the Holy Prophet's (ﷺ) life;
- (f) to review and project international literature and research on *Seerat* from all over the world and make it accessible, translatable, and relatable to contemporary times;
- (g) coordinate with provincial education departments to organize events, conferences, dissemination activities in respect of *Seerat-un-Nabi* (ﷺ);
- (h) to undertake national level consultations with religious scholars, researchers, and education-related entities in all provinces and areas to design strategies to promote *Seerat-un-Nabi* (ﷺ);
- (i) to undertake assessments of gaps, challenges, and sources of fallacies and misinformation about the way of life that Islam promotes;
- (j) provide international counter-narrative to various misconceptions against Islam prevalent globally;
- (k) to bring together eminent scholars and work to agree upon key fundamental elements of the *Seerat* for promotion at national level through education;

- (l) to promote modesty, non-materialistic approach, simple and dignified lifestyle based on the life and *Sunnah* of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ);
- (m) coordinate with the National Curriculum Council to adopt and continuously update curricula, syllabi and guidelines for effective uptake of lessons from the *Seerat*, guided by research, logic, and scholarship;
- (n) to build linkages and partnerships on *Seerat* research with other prominent entities working in this area;
- (o) to make efforts and coordinate promotion of *Seerat* study and scholarships;
- (p) to guide higher education institutions for establishment of *Seerat* Chairs;
- (q) to formulate strategies and frameworks for the organization of the *Seerat* related events on key occasions related to Holy Prophet's (ﷺ) life and Islamic history;
- (r) to engage full-time and part-time resources as deemed appropriate, as per the requirement, on such terms and conditions, as may be prescribed by the Authority;
- (s) bridge diverging gaps between theoretical and practical aspects, in view of technological advancements of contemporary world, in relation to the *Seerat*.

9. **Secretariat of the Authority.**—(1) The Secretariat of the Authority shall consist of a Director-General, who shall be appointed by the Prime Minister on such terms and conditions and in the manner as determined by the Patron-in-Chief.

(2) The Director-General shall also act as the Secretary and Principal Accounting Officer of the Authority.

(3) The Director-General shall be a person of known integrity, having experience in the field of administration and management, and shall either be appointed afresh or posted by the Prime Minister and shall be authorized to:—

- (a) carry out administration and day to day affairs of the Authority;
- (b) execute all orders and directions given by the Chairperson;