

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CABINET SECRETARIAT ON "THE NATIONAL POVERTY REDUCTION BILL, 2021" MOVED BY MS. UZMA RIAZ, MNA

I, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat have the honour to present this report on the Bill "The National Poverty Reduction Bill, 2021" moved by Ms. Uzma Riaz, MNA (Private Member Bill) referred to Committee on 2nd February, 2021

2. The Committee comprises the following:

(1)	Ms. Kishwer Zehra	Chairperson
(2)	Mr. Saleem Rehman	Member
(3)	Mr. Ali Nawaz Awan	Member
(4)	Mr. Tahir Sadiq	Member
(5)	Mr. Muhammad Asim Nazir	Member
(6)	Mr. Aamir Talal Gopang	Member
(7)	Khawaja Sheraz Mehmood	Member
(8)	Mr. Muhammad Aslam Khan	Member
(9)	Ms. Uzma Riaz	Member
(10)	Mr. Muhammad Hashim	Member
(11)	Mr. Rasheed Ahmad Khan	Member
(12)	Mr. Ahmad Raza Maneka	Member
(13)	Rana Iradat Sharif Khan	Member
(14)	Ms. Shahnaz Saleem Malik	Member
(15)	Ms. Seema Mohiuddin Jameeli	Member
(16)	Mr. Raza Rabani Khar	Member
(17)	Mr. Roshanuddin Junejo	Member
(18)	Mir Ghulam Ali Talpur	Member
(19)	Syed Mehmood Shah	Member
(20)	Mr. Mohsin Dawar	Member
(21)	Minister-in-charge for Cabinet Secretariat	Ex-officio Member

3. The Committee considered the Bill as introduced in the National Assembly placed at 'Annex-A' in its meetings held on 25th February, 12th April, and 1st September, 2021 and recommended that the Bill as introduced may not be passed by the National Assembly.

Sd/-
(TAHIR HUSSAIN)
Secretary

Islamabad, the 27th September, 2021

Sd/-
(MS. KISHWER ZEHRA)
Chairperson

Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat

A
BILL

to provide and support continuous efforts in, and monitoring of, poverty reduction in Pakistan.

WHEREAS Pakistan is determined to eradicate all forms of poverty and to support a sustained long-term reduction of poverty in the Islamabad Capital Territory.

WHEREAS poverty reduction contributes to meeting Pakistan's international human rights obligations, including under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

AND WHEREAS the progress made by Pakistan in the reduction of poverty contributes to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations;

It is enacted as follows:

1. Short Title and Commencement.- (1) This Act shall be called National Poverty Reduction Act, 2020.

(2) It extends to whole of the Islamabad Capital Territory.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions. - The following definitions apply in this Act.

(a) "Council" means the National Advisory Council on Poverty established under section 3.

(b) "Minister" means the Minister In charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division.

(c) "Official Poverty Line" means the Market Basket Measure, as published by Statistics/concerned Division of Pakistan.

(d) "Poverty reduction targets" means commitments made by Pakistan in the reduction of poverty till 2030 which contribute to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

3. National Advisory Council on Poverty.-(1) A council shall be established by the Federal Government to be known as the National Advisory Council on Poverty, consisting of 12 members, including persons with live experience, leaders, experts, academics, and practitioners that work in the field of poverty reduction, representing all the federating units including a Chairperson and two members with particular responsibilities for children's and women's issues respectively.

(2) The council shall meet once in every three months. The members of the Advisory Council may also determine the number of additional meetings or tele-conferences that are necessary to fulfill their mandate.

4. Secretariat of the Council. -The Department of Poverty Alleviation and Social Security Division will provide the necessary support to the Advisory Council to carry out its mandate, including policy, administrative and logistical support.

5. Appointment of other members.(1) The members of the Council, other than the ex officio member, are to be appointed by the Federal Government through notification in the official Gazette.

Provided that at least one member from each province as well as Islamabad Capital Territory shall be appointed.

(2) Appointments will be part of an open, transparent and merit-based selection process that strives for gender parity and reflects Pakistan's diversity.

(3) Members of the Council shall hold office for a term not exceeding three years and are eligible for reappointment on the expiry of a first or subsequent term of office.

(4) Until otherwise provided by Regulations, one-third members of the Council shall form a quorum, and all of the acts of the Council shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting.

6. Appointment of chairperson.- The Chairperson of the Council shall be elected by the members of the Council from amongst themselves.

7. Chairperson's role. The Chairperson has supervision over and direction of the work of the Council.

8. Chairperson absent or unable to act. If the Chairperson is absent or unable to act or if the office of Chairperson is vacant, the Minister may designate another member of the Council to act as Chairperson,

9. Remuneration. Members will be paid, in connection with their work for the Advisory Council, the remuneration may be fixed by the Federal Government.

10. Travel and living expenses. The members of the Council are entitled to be reimbursed for the travel, living and other expenses incurred, in connection with their work for the Council, while absent from, in the case of full-time members, their ordinary place of work or, in the case of part-time members, their ordinary place of residence.

11. Functions of the Council. The Council shall perform the following functions:

(a) Provide advice to the Minister on poverty reduction in Pakistan, including funding and activities that support poverty reduction;

(b) Undertake consultations with the public, including the academic community and other experts, indigenous persons and persons with live experience in poverty;

(c) Within six months after the end of each fiscal year, submit a report to the Minister:

(i) on the progress being made in meeting the targets referred to in para (d) of section 2 and the progress being made in poverty reduction measured by, among other things, the metrics set out in the schedule, and

(ii) on the advice that the Council provided to the Minister under paragraph (a) during the fiscal year; and

(d) Undertake any activity specified by the Minister.

12. **Tabling of Report in Parliament.**- Within 15 days of the receipt of the report by the Minister under paragraph (c) of section 11, it shall be laid on the Table of Parliament

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The mandate of the Advisory Council proposed through this bill is to provide independent advice to the Minister in charge of Poverty Alleviation and Social Security Division and relevant social security and welfare departments of the country on poverty reduction; to annually report on the progress achieved toward reducing the level of poverty as per the targets set under SDGs till 2030 and the performance evaluation of poverty alleviation programs inaugurated by the government in this regard; and to undertake any activity specified by the Minister.

2. The Advisory Council will be representative of Pakistan's diversity, including gender, Indigenous peoples, visible minorities, regions and official languages, produce an annual report for the Minister that will provide detailed information on the progress being made towards meeting the poverty reduction targets and other indicators being tracked under the Strategy, as well as advice on poverty reduction. Functions of advisory council shall be to provide advice in relation to programs, funding and activities that, contribute to poverty reduction; undertake public engagement with various groups, including the academic community and other experts, Indigenous peoples and persons living in poverty or with live experience of poverty; and undertake any activity specified by the Minister.

3. The Bill is proposed in order to ensure that the best possible professional advice is available to the Government to inform, optimize and synergize the formulation and implementation of its poverty alleviation and social security policies, through consultation with the most erudite and well-respected experts, academics and practitioners of the field who are currently serving in, or have rich experience with, amongst the most specialized poverty alleviation and social security departments and organizations in Pakistan.

Hence the above bill is proposed.

Sd-

MS. UZMA RIAZ,

Members National Assembly

قومی اسمبلی سیکرٹریٹ

محترمہ عظمیٰ ریاض، رکن قومی اسمبلی کی جانب سے پیش کردہ قومی تخفیف غربت بل، ۲۰۲۱ء پر قائمہ کمیٹی برائے کابینہ سیکرٹریٹ کی رپورٹ میں، چیئر پرسن قائمہ کمیٹی برائے کابینہ سیکرٹریٹ ۲۲ فروری، ۲۰۲۱ء کو محترمہ عظمیٰ ریاض، رکن قومی اسمبلی کی جانب سے پیش کردہ اور کمیٹی کے سپرد کردہ "قومی تخفیف غربت بل، ۲۰۲۱ء" پر رپورٹ بذا پیش کرنے کا شرف حاصل کرتی ہوں۔

۲۔ کمیٹی درج ذیل اراکین پر مشتمل ہے:-

چیئر پرسن	۱۔ محترمہ کشور زہرا
رکن	۲۔ جناب سلیم رحمان
رکن	۳۔ جناب علی نواز اعوان
رکن	۴۔ جناب طاہر صادق
رکن	۵۔ جناب محمد عاصم نذیر
رکن	۶۔ جناب عامر طلال گوپانگ
رکن	۷۔ خواجہ شیراز محمود
رکن	۸۔ جناب محمد اسلم خان
رکن	۹۔ محترمہ عظمیٰ ریاض
رکن	۱۰۔ جناب محمد ہاشم
رکن	۱۱۔ جناب رشید احمد خان
رکن	۱۲۔ جناب احمد رضامانیکا
رکن	۱۳۔ زانا ارادت شریف خان
رکن	۱۴۔ محترمہ شہناز سلیم ملک
رکن	۱۵۔ محترمہ سیما جمی الدین جمیلی
رکن	۱۶۔ جناب رضاربانی کھر
رکن	۱۷۔ جناب روشن الدین جونجو
رکن	۱۸۔ میر غلام علی تالپور
رکن	۱۹۔ سید محمود شاہ
رکن	۲۰۔ جناب محسن داوڑ
رکن بلحاظ عہدہ	۲۱۔ وزیر انچارج برائے کابینہ سیکرٹریٹ

۳۔ کمیٹی نے ۲۵ فروری، ۱۲ اپریل اور یکم ستمبر، ۲۰۲۱ء کو منعقدہ اپنے اجلاسوں میں منسلکہ الف کے طور پر قومی اسمبلی میں پیش کردہ بل پر غور کیا اور سفارش کی کہ قومی اسمبلی پیش کردہ بل کی منظوری نہ دے۔

دستخط:-

(محترمہ کشور زہرا)

چیئر پرسن

قائمہ کمیٹی برائے کابینہ سیکرٹریٹ

دستخط:-

(طاہر حسین)

سیکرٹری

اسلام آباد، ۲۷ ستمبر، ۲۰۲۱ء