

Pakistan – South Africa Parliamentary Friendship Group Discusses Strengthened Cooperation and Future Prospects

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

The Pakistan – South Africa Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG) convened its second meeting today at the Parliament House, Islamabad.

The meeting was **chaired by Dr. Nafisa Shah, MNA and Convener of the Pakistan – South Africa PFG** and attended by prominent Members of the National Assembly (MNAs), including Mir Amer Ali Khan Magsi, Mr. Sher Ali Arbab, Rai Hassan Nawaz Khan, Syed Javed Ali Shah Jillani, Ms. Shandana Gulzar Khan, Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro, Syed Abdul Kadir Gillani, Mr. Muhammad Jawed Hanif, Mr. Khalid Hussain Magsi, Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani (virtually), Mr. Asad Alam Niazi (virtually), Ms. Farakh Khan, Ms. Mussarat Rafique Mahesar, and Mr. Naveed Aamir Jeeva.

Dr. Nafisa Shah, MNA / Convener of the Pakistan – South Africa Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG) expressed concern over the absence of High Commissioners in both Pakistan and South Africa. She directed the relevant ministries to expedite the appointment process in order to fill these crucial diplomatic positions at the earliest.

The members highlighted the limited exchange of government, parliamentary, and business delegations between the two nations, emphasizing the need to enhance such exchanges in order to foster closer cooperation.

The Pakistan – South Africa PFG members recommended further strengthening diplomatic relations, enhancing people-to-people contacts, facilitating high-level parliamentary exchanges, promoting cultural and sports diplomacy, and expanding trade and investment opportunities. They also highlighted the importance of addressing the concerns of the Pakistani community in South Africa.

In addition, **Convener Dr. Nafisa Shah** proposed organizing a conference in the near future, which would bring together all African Parliamentary Friendship Groups in the National Assembly of Pakistan, along with other Parliamentarians, business communities, chamber of commerce representatives, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and diplomatic representatives from African countries and other stakeholders.

The aim would be to discuss and promote regional cooperation. A subcommittee was established to discuss the logistics and arrangements for the proposed conference.

Representatives from Pakistan's community in South Africa, both in-person and virtually, actively participated in the meeting and raised various concerns and issues pertaining to their community.

This meeting represents a significant milestone in strengthening the bilateral relations between Pakistan and South Africa, while also exploring new avenues for mutual cooperation.