

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

Bill

to amend the National Archives Act, 1993

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the National Archives Act, 1993 (VI of 1993), in the manner and for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. **Short title and commencement.** - (1) This Act shall be called the National Archives (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 2, Act VI of 1993.**- In the National Archives Act, 1993 (VI of 1993), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 2,-

(a) clause (a) shall be re-numbered as clause (aa) and before that the following new clause shall be inserted, namely: -

“(a) “Administrative Division” means the Division to which business of this Act stands allocated;” and

(b) in clause (e), in sub-clause (i), after the words “Federal Government”, the expression “, Prime Minister or Secretary of the Administrative Division” shall be inserted.

3. **Amendment of section 3, Act VI of 1993.**- In the said Act, in section 3,-

(i) in sub-section (1), in the proviso, for the words “Federal Government”, the words “Secretary of the Administrative Division” shall be substituted; and

(ii) in sub-section (2),-

(a) for the words “Federal Government”, the words “Prime Minister” shall be substituted; and

(b) in clause (j), for the words “Federal Government”, the words “Secretary of the Administrative Division” shall be substituted.

4. **Amendment of section 4, Act VI of 1993.**- In the said Act, in section 4,-

(i) in sub-section (1), for the words “Federal Government”, the words “Prime Minister” shall be substituted; and

(ii) in sub-section (2), in clause (e), for the words “Federal Government”, the words “Prime Minister” shall be substituted.

5. **Amendment of section 7, Act VI of 1993.**- In the said Act, in section 7, in sub-section (2), for the words “Federal Government”, the words “Secretary of the Administrative Division” shall be substituted.

6. **Amendment of section 8, Act VI of 1993.**- In the said Act, in section 8, in subsection (1), in the proviso, for the words "Federal Government", the words "Minister-in-charge" shall be substituted.
7. **Amendment of section 10, Act VI of 1993.**- In the said Act, in section 10, for the words "Federal Government", the words "Secretary of the Administrative Division" shall be substituted.
8. **Amendment of section 12, Act VI of 1993.**- In the said Act, in section 12, in subsection (2), for the words "Federal Government", the words "Secretary of the Administrative Division" shall be substituted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In the judgment of the Honourable Supreme Court of Pakistan in the *Mustafa Impex, Karachi v. Government of Pakistan (PLD 2016 SC 808)*, it was clarified that executive decisions involving policy, financial or administrative implications are to be taken by the Federal Cabinet collectively, and not by individual office holders, unless duly authorized by law.

In the aftermath of the aforesaid judgment, it has been observed that several existing laws continue to vest routine, procedural and administrative powers in the "Federal Government," which necessitates repeated submission of minor and non-policy matters to the Federal Cabinet. This practice has resulted in avoidable burden on the Cabinet, and delays in administrative processes.

With a view to streamlining governance, improving administrative efficiency, and ensuring that the Federal Cabinet focuses on matters of national policy and strategic importance, the Cabinet Division, in pursuance of the direction of the Federal Cabinet, has undertaken a comprehensive review of relevant laws and has prepared the amendment bill to rationalize and reassign such powers to the appropriate authorities.

The Bill, therefore, intends to achieve the aforesaid objectives.


Minister-In-Charge