

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

BILL

further to amend the Abandoned Properties (Management) Act, 1975

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Abandoned Properties (Management) Act, 1975 (XX of 1975), 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 Abandoned Properties (Management) (Amendment) Act, 2026.
(2) It shall come into force at once.
2. Amendment of section 4, Act XX of 1975.- In the Abandoned Properties (Management) Act, 1975 (XX of 1975), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 4,-
 - (i) in sub-section (1), for the words "Federal Government" wherever appearing, the words "Prime Minister" shall be substituted; and
 - (ii) in sub-section (5), for the words "Federal Government", the words "Prime Minister" shall be substituted.
3. Amendment of section 5, Act XX of 1975.- In the said Act, in section 5, for sub-section (1), the following shall be substituted, namely: -

“(1) For the purpose of carrying the provisions of this Act into effect, there shall be an Administrator for Pakistan and one or more Deputy Administrators for such areas to be appointed by such authority, in such manner and on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.”
4. Amendment of section 19, Act XX of 1975.- In the said Act, in section 19, in sub-section (3), for the words "Federal Government", the words "Division concerned" shall be substituted.
5. Amendment of section 25, Act XX of 1975.- In the said Act, in section 25, after the word "Act", the expression “, except the power exercisable under section 30,” shall be inserted.

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