

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

TASK FORCE ON AUSTERITY MEASURES & GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING

Date: 27th September 2018
Time: 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm
Venue: Prime Minister's Office, Islamabad

The 2nd meeting of the Task Force on Austerity Measures & Government Restructuring was held at Prime Minister's Office under the chair of Dr. Ishrat Hussain. Following is a re-cap of the key areas of discussion and decisions regarding them.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	DECISIONS
Empowering Cabinet Secretary and Federal Secretaries Committee	There was a consensus amongst members on the lack of effective co-ordination and conflict resolution mechanism among various ministries. Even relatively mundane inter-Ministerial disputes/differences went to the highest levels for solution. To improve the quality of overall decision making and relieve the highest decision makers from the drudgery of mundane affairs of the state, the proposal to strengthen the office of the Cabinet	To present this proposal to the cabinet for approval.

	<p>Secretary and making an effective use of the Secretaries' Committee was well received. It was however considered important that the charter of functions and responsibilities for these offices is clearly laid out.</p>	
<p>Restructuring of the Federal Government</p>	<p>Chair apprised the members that based on the five criteria agreed upon in the first meeting of the Task Force, a three stage strategy for restructuring of the Federal government was being proposed. The strategy would enable government to achieve efficiency, consistency and coherence in the functioning of the government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Restructuring of Divisions b) Restructuring of Attached Departments and Autonomous Bodies c) Clearly defined job description of the Secretary of the Division and nature of his relationship with Minister to ensure efficiency and accountability. <p>As a result of this proposal the number of Ministries will be reduced from 34 to 21 and 43 Divisions will be reduced to 32. The proposal was discussed at length with a greater emphasis on the government's priority</p>	<p>The proposed restructuring of Ministries and Divisions was agreed upon in principle and it was decided that the proposal would be sent to the Federal Cabinet for approval.</p> <p>Following specific areas were assigned to various sub-groups of the task force to prepare their recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Rules of Business to be headed by Mr. Wajid Rana 2) Public Financial Management to be

	<p>areas.</p>	<p>headed by Mr.Abdullah Yousaf</p> <p>3) IT and E-Governance headed by Mr.Asad Ali Shah</p> <p>4) Science & Technology Division to be headed by Mr. Burhan Rasool</p>
<p>E-Governance and the Level of Preparedness of the Federal Government</p>	<p>A presentation on the extent of IT use by the federal government preceded the discussion on the matter. It was unanimously agreed that e-governance was the way forward for making the government more effective, transparent and responsive. The Chair highlighted five integral components of E-Government:</p> <p>a) LAN (Local Area Network) connectivity for all Ministries and Departments</p> <p>b) Fully populated websites with a functional Public Interface.</p>	<p>The meeting decided to give high priority to the application of e.governance</p> <p>The Sub Group on IT and E-Governance headed by Mr. Asad Ali Shah was tasked to give its recommendations in the next meeting.</p>

	<p>c) A credible data source, whereby data entry made by an official is verified by another official and is validated by his superior.</p> <p>d) Shifting the Federal Government Inter & Intra communication on one domain.(gov.pk)</p> <p>e) An end-to-end secure Shared E-Filing/Sharing System, for paperless government</p>	
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