


WAFaqI MOHTASIB (OMBUDSMAN)'S SECRETARIAT
ISLAMABAD.

No.18 (1) WMS/Coord/2017

Islamabad the, 11th May, 2017

Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DELEGATION OF WAFaqI MOHTASIB SECRETARIAT WITH THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE BALOCHISTAN HIGH COURT ON 18-04-2017

The minutes of the meeting, duly approved by the Chief Justice Balochistan, High Court on the subject cited above are circulated herewith for information and further necessary action, please.


(Aijaz Hussain Lone)
Director General (Co-ordination)

Distribution:

1. The Registrar, Balochistan High Court, Quetta
2. Participants of the meeting.

Copy for information to:

- WMS*
1. P.S. to HWM.
 2. P.S. to Secretary WMS
 3. A.P.S. to Senior Advisor/NCC
 4. A.P.S. to A.S. (Co-ordination)
 5. P.S to A.S. (Admn)

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING WITH CHIEF JUSTICE
BALUCHISTAN HIGH COURT ON JAIL & POLICE REFORMS.

A meeting was held with Honorable Chief Justice, Mr. Mir Mohammad Noor Meskanzai Balouchistan High Court, on 18.04.2017 to apprise him of Jail and Police Reforms efforts initiated by Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat in recent past. List of participants is enclosed.

Meeting started with an introductory remark of Secretary, Wafaqi Mohtasib while explaining the purpose of the meeting, he gave an overview of functioning of Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat. He informed that complaints relating to maladministration against Federal Government agencies are heard by Sr. Advisors/Advisors and complaints are accordingly disposed off within 45 days. He informed that it was Supreme Court's decision to meet all Chief Justices of the Provinces to work a way forward. To take this cause forward judiciary's help can play a pivotal role.

Mr. Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi, Sr. Advisor gave a brief overview of the working of Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat after which he explained that the objective of today's meeting is to apprise the Honorable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court directive regarding recommendations made by the Wafaqi Mohtasib. He briefly explained that in pursuance of Supreme Court directive various committees were formed who visited different jails and compiled a report on issues relating to Women & Children, another report relating to Good Administration Standards in Police Stations was also compiled. He briefly explained the issues raised in the report relating to women & children, these were:

- Shortage of staff in jails,
- Over crowdedness,
- Lack of sanitation of health facilities,
- Lack of proper food, external oversight mechanism,
- Violence on prisoners particularly women & children,
- Non production of under-trial prisoners to courts,
- Improvement in Parole Services.
- Unnecessary/illegal detention of under-trial prisoners involved in petty crimes like stealing of small amounts, scuffles, and
- Lack of educational & skill training facilities etc.

He further stated that 80% cases are related to under-trial prisoners which need to be expedited with the help of judiciary, this will help reduce the overcrowding in jails. Drug users should also be identified. Convicted prisoners should be allowed to meet their family members for which there should be proper arrangements.

The number of courts should be increased and arrangements be made to hear the cases in prisons. Education and vocational skills be provided to prisoners in jails. He stated that when members of civil society were briefed they were very moved and wanted to help. Accordingly a committee under the chairmanship of Ms. Asma Jehangir former President of Human Rights Commission & Supreme Court Bar Association was formed. A sum of 14 million rupees was paid by a donor for release of 200 prisoners who were in jails on account of non-payment of petty fines. COMSAT University gave support and extended educational facilities in various jails, free gifts were distributed among children. 4000 unstitched suits were distributed to women in jails.

It is worth mentioning that Mr. Ali Zafar, former President Supreme Court Bar Association is supporting the case free of cost.

Mr. Afzal Ali Shighri former I.G Police gave an overview of the report on "Good Administration Standards in Police Stations". He stated that according to Supreme Court directive, the said report was to be prepared within 3 months. Accordingly a committee was formed which was chaired by Mr. Abbas Khan former I.G Police & senior retired Federal Government officers were its members. Extensive meetings were held and major issues that were highlighted were as follow:

- i) FIRs are not registered, to get an FIR registered bribes are taken. Investigation process has failed, there are no resources, rules as old as 1861 are being implemented.
- ii) After trials there are no punishments, there is improper evidence and no improvements have been made in this regard. Registered FIR requires follow up and investigation number of forensic & pathology labs be increased.
- iii) Structure of Police stations is very lopsided, educated personnel should be deployed in police stations, working of police stations should be monitored, officers should have monitoring facilities of all police stations.
- iv) SHO's should be present 24 hours in police stations, health & welfare issues of the staff should also be addressed.

- v) Budget of police stations should be enhanced to eliminate the element of corruption.
- vi) The Citizen Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) of Karachi is a very successful model & should be replicated in other cities.

Senior Advisor Law, Mr. Hafiz Ahsan Ahmed Khokhar explained that the Supreme Court has directed all Provinces to adopt the recommendations of these reports prepared by Wafaqi Mohtasib. He stated that the court will review these reports after 4 weeks. He also explained that other than the jail reports there are 2 major areas i.e Overseas Pakistanis complaints and pension cases that are dealt by him. He informed that complaints of overseas Pakistanis are heard on video link. Pension cases are also heard and agencies are directed to address pension issues six months before retirement of an officer, to a great extent these issues have been resolved.

Mr. Zamarad Khan, Patron in Chief of Sweet Homes stated that concept of Sweet Homes was started in 2009 for children who don't have parents are adopted & given education. He stated that first Sweet Home was established in Kot Lakhpat Jail and second is being established in Adiala Jail. To introduce the concept in Balochistan, data of such children is direly needed. He expressed his willingness to work in Balochistan.

Ms. Zaryab Mussarat, Director Investigation of Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat stated that she visited 2 jails Mach and Quetta in Balochistan. She pointed out that diet scales in Balochistan are very low and have never been revised, prisoners are only given lentils and vegetables. She also pointed out that medical facilities are also lacking. Home Department should take immediate necessary action.

In the end, the Honorable Chief Justice stated that after his retirement he would like to work for the cause of children. He said that this is our duty which has been imposed on us by society. In this regard Education Department & Madaris will be approached for collection of data, unfortunately good work is always delayed due to which people in general have lost confidence. Overall thinking needs to be changed to bring a change in the society.

With regard to work done by Wafaqi Mohtasib office in Balochistan, he was informed that two Wafaqi Mohtasib offices are working in Quetta and Hub.

Regarding the implementation of two reports he stated that reform without resource is not possible. He said that better solution is that all stakeholders be called in Quetta for a meeting and be assigned different assignments with time lines. Fruits will be borne after targets are assigned. He concluded that a date for the meeting will be conveyed shortly preferably before the month of Ramadan to be participated by all concerned stakeholders.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS:

1. Mr. Iftikhar Babar, Secretary Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat.
2. Mr. Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi, Senior Advisor/National Commissioner for Children.
3. Mr. Hafiz Ahsan Ahmed Khokhar, Senior Advisor Law.
4. Ms. Zaryab Mussarat, Director Investigation.
5. Mr. Afzal Ali Shighri, former I.G Police.
6. Mr. Zarmad Khan, Patron-in-Chief, Sweet Homes, Pakistan.
7. Mrs. Farah Ayoub Tarin, Senior Advisor/Secretary Jails Reforms Committee.