



YOUTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**ANALYSIS OF ACTS OF
SINDH ASSEMBLY
2018-20**

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YOUTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SINDH ASSEMBLY ACTS

ACT NO. 1 OF 2019

SINDH ZAKAT AND USHR (AMENDMENT) ACT 2018

Executive Summary:

The Sindh Zakat and Ushr (Amendment) Act 2018 was introduced by the Minister of Zakat and Ushr and passed by the Sindh Assembly on 11th January 2019. It received assent from the Governor on 24th January 2019 and was published as an "Act." The amendment faced no opposition and was passed unanimously. It applies to the entire province of Sindh and came into effect immediately.

Problem Statement:

- The term "district" was replaced with "revenue district" in Section 14, Subsection 1 of the Zakat and Ushr Act, 2011.
- The Council will now constitute a District Zakat and Ushr Committee in each Revenue District.

Background:

The Zakat and Ushr system in Pakistan was initially established under the Zakat and Ushr (Organisation) Ordinance, 1979, followed by the Zakat and Ushr Ordinance, 1980. These ordinances aimed to establish zakat organisations at various levels, including national, provincial, district, and local (village/ward). While zakat provisions were immediately enforced, ushr (zakat on agricultural produce) became operational in 1983.

At the federal level, the Zakat and Ushr Ordinance, 1980 is administered by the Ministry of Finance, while policies are formulated by the Central Zakat Council. District Zakat and Ushr Committees oversee zakat distribution at the district level, with local zakat committees identifying deserving recipients. Over time, provincial involvement became less significant due to amendments in the Finance Bill of 1994-95. However, after the 18th Constitutional Amendment, zakat and ushr responsibilities were devolved to the provinces, leading to the enactment of the Zakat and Ushr Act 2011 in Sindh.

Conclusion:

In line with the Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) manifesto, which highlights the need for economic restructuring and growth, this amendment aims to improve resource mobilization and efficient distribution of zakat and ushr. The PPPP manifesto emphasizes the importance of valuing the resources and activities of all citizens and calls for deeper reforms in taxation and resource mobilization. This amendment also reflects PPPP's commitment to strengthening democracy through civil service reforms, as outlined in the "Strengthening Democracy" chapter of their manifesto.

ACT NO. 2 OF 2019

THE SHAHEED MOHTARMA BENAZIR BHUTTO INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AT KARACHI ACT, 2018

Executive Summary:

This Act was enacted to restructure and improve the administration of the Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Institute of Trauma (SMBB), which had not been performing as expected. The bill was forwarded by the Health Minister of Sindh and was passed by the Sindh Assembly on 14th January after the final report from the selected committee was presented. It was then enacted as an Act on 14th February 2019. This legislation aims to enhance the administrative structure and service delivery mechanisms of the Institute.

Problem Statement:

- **Functions of the Institute:** i. To acquire the latest physical facilities necessary for carrying out investigations and treatment of various diseases and injuries in the fields of Orthopedic Surgery, Neurosurgery, Traumatology, Vascular Surgery, and Rehabilitation. ii. To provide optimal emergency treatment, subsequent definitive care, and post-trauma rehabilitation to road accident victims, those triaged from the accident site, and those referred from Karachi, its outskirts, and satellite trauma centers located in other districts of the Province of Sindh. iii. To undertake postgraduate teaching programs, including FCPS, M.S., M.D., Ph.D., and other Diplomas in the fields of Orthopedic Surgery, Neurosurgery, Traumatology, Vascular Surgery, Rehabilitation, and Emergency Medicine. These programs are to be carried out in collaboration with the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan or universities recognized by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC). iv. To carry out and promote research, surveys, experiments, and demonstrations, as well as to develop a data registry for improving services, preventive methodologies, and future planning in Orthopedic Surgery, Neurosurgery, Traumatology, Vascular Surgery, Emergency Medicine, and Rehabilitation.
- **Inclusivity:** The Institute shall be open to all individuals, regardless of gender, religion, race, creed, caste, color, or domicile, as long as they are academically qualified for admission on merit. No person shall be denied these privileges based solely on the aforementioned factors.
- **Tenure of Members:** Members, other than ex-officio members, shall hold office for a term of three years unless they cease to hold office before their term ends. A member appointed by virtue of holding a specific office shall cease to be a member when they no longer hold that office.
- **Policy Guidance:** In discharging its duties and functions, the Board shall be guided by policies formulated in light of any instructions issued by the government from time to time.

Background:

To address the growing challenges in trauma management, the Health Department of Sindh identified the need for establishing a specialized facility that complies with the standards of a Level I Trauma Center. It was recognized that doctors, even in tertiary care hospitals, are often not adequately trained to manage traumatized patients. As a result, the Government of Sindh decided to establish a state-of-the-art trauma center at Dr. Ruth K. M. Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi, naming it after Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto (SMBB).

The SMBB Institute of Trauma is a Level I Trauma Center—the first of its kind in South Asia. Level I trauma centers are capable of providing comprehensive care for every aspect of injury, from prevention to rehabilitation. The Institute operates 24 hours a day with in-house coverage from all relevant specialties. It includes 500 specialized emergency care and management beds, a 97-bed emergency receiving room, 18 fully equipped operating rooms dedicated to emergency and elective surgeries, sophisticated isolation rooms for managing infectious diseases, specialized examination clinics for Eye, ENT, and Oral Maxillofacial departments, and a fully equipped medical imaging department.

In addition to Neurosurgery and Orthopedics, specialties like Cardiothoracic Surgery are also available. The Institute is equipped with a comprehensive quality assessment program and operates an organized teaching and research plan to innovate trauma care. It provides leadership in prevention and public awareness about trauma and offers continuing education and training for trauma team members.

Conclusion:

In line with the Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) manifesto, under the section of "**Health Care for All**" (pages 7-10), the PPPP has emphasized that every individual has the right to access basic healthcare services. The party committed to passing legislation at both federal and provincial levels to ensure the provision of quality healthcare facilities for all. This Act is in accordance with PPPP's "Expanding, Linking-Up, and Joining-In" (ELAJ) program, which aims to expand healthcare services and create a unified, individual-centered healthcare system.

Hospital upgrades and the development of specialist hospitals and treatment facilities are essential components of the manifesto, especially in areas outside major cities. This is already planned for Sindh through the province's annual development program. The establishment of the SMBB Institute of Trauma is a significant step in fulfilling this vision.

The Act ensures that the SMBB Institute of Trauma will provide cutting-edge medical care, offer education and training in trauma care, and promote public awareness of trauma prevention. It stands as a testament to the Sindh government's commitment to improving healthcare standards and ensuring access to specialized medical services across the province.

ACT NO. 3 OF 2019

SINDH INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES ACT, 2018

Executive Summary:

The Sindh Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases Act was introduced by the Health Minister of Sindh. On 10th January 2019, the bill was passed and sent to the governor, but it was returned to the assembly. The Sindh Assembly passed the bill again in its session on 30th January 2019 and sent it back to the governor. The governor did not provide his assent this time either, and under clause (3) of Article 116 of the Constitution, after 10 days, the bill was automatically enacted into law. This Act establishes cardiovascular disease centers in designated districts and provides a framework for their functioning. The centers will not only offer patient treatment but will also conduct research and development to discover new treatments in the field of cardiovascular care. The Act came into immediate effect and is applicable throughout Sindh.

Problem Statement:

The Act provides for the establishment of the Sindh Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (SICVD), with the following key points:

- “Branch” refers to a branch of the Institute.
- “Governing Body” means the Governing Body of the Institute.
- The headquarters of the Institute shall be either in Karachi or Sukkur.
- Any hospital or unit may be transferred to the Institute by the government.
- The Institute shall be a body corporate, called the Sindh Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, having perpetual succession and a common seal. It has the authority, subject to the provisions of this Act, to acquire, hold, and dispose of property, both movable and immovable. The Institute can sue and be sued under this name.
- The Institute may enter into agreements and joint ventures with international and foreign universities, institutes, hospitals, and other agencies, with prior approval from the government, in furtherance of its objectives.
- The Executive Director, appointed by the government for a term of four years (with possible extensions), shall be someone who has served as a professor in cardiovascular diseases or has experience managing a medical sciences institute.
- The Governing Body may form working groups or committees from among its members to assist in performing its functions and may assign them specific duties.
- The Institute's accounts shall be audited by one or more chartered accountants, as defined in the Chartered Accountants Ordinance, 1961. These auditors will be appointed by the Institute in consultation with the Accountant General of Sindh.
- No legal proceeding shall lie against the government, the Governing Body, or any person in respect of anything done in good faith under this Act.

Background:

The headquarters of the Sindh Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (SICVD) will be either in Karachi or Sukkur. According to the Sindh Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases Bill 2018, the new institute will include a 250-bed cardiac-care hospital in Sukkur as well as all eight existing National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) satellite centers located in Hyderabad, Tando Muhammad Khan, Sukkur, Sehwan, Khairpur, Mithi, Larkana, and Nawabshah. Additionally, all seven chest pain units of the NICVD in Karachi—located in Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Malir Halt, Gulbai, Nagan Chowrangi, Qayyumabad, I.I. Chundrigar Road, and Sindh Government Lyari General Hospital—along with the under-construction Pediatric Cardiology Institute at the main NICVD, will be incorporated into the SICVD.

Conclusion:

The Pakistan Peoples' Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) has played a significant role in advancing health policies and programs in Pakistan. In its manifesto, the PPPP asserts that every individual has the right to access basic medical facilities. The party has committed to passing legislation at both federal and provincial levels to ensure the provision of quality healthcare services for all. The **Healthcare for All – Expanding, Linking-Up, and Joining-In (ELAJ)** program proposes measures to expand healthcare services, fill gaps in primary, secondary, and tertiary care, and ensure that vulnerable populations have access to necessary healthcare services. This Act is in line with the PPPP's manifesto, particularly under the "Healthcare for All" chapter, which emphasizes expanding health services across Sindh and ensuring that all citizens can benefit from improved healthcare infrastructure.

ACT NO. 4 OF 2019

THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE (SINDH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2018

Executive Summary:

The bill was introduced by the Sindh Government and passed on 30th January 2019 and was assented to by the governor on 12th February 2019. This amendment made an addition to lessen the burden on courts. The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism was proposed to settle civil and commercial disputes outside the court. Under this provision, the court will first review the case and then refer it to a designated mediator. A specific timeframe is given for resolving the case. The purpose is to reduce the workload and expenses of the court system. Measures such as mediation and conciliation are part of this amendment, particularly in section 89-A of the Code of Civil Procedure (Act V of 1908), and Order X, with modifications added in 2002.

Problem Statement:

- "Alternative Dispute Resolution" (ADR) refers to the procedures for settling disputes without court trials, namely arbitration, mediation, conciliation, or negotiation.
- By submitting to the court's jurisdiction, the court will assume that parties mutually agree to refer the dispute to ADR if ordered by the court for securing expeditious disposal.
- A case may be forwarded for ADR by referral to a mediator/conciliator as identified under Order X, Rule 1C of this Code, in the following circumstances:
 - Upon presentation of a plaint, the court shall, in the first instance, assess the possibility of resolving the case through ADR to the advantage of all parties.
 - At any stage before or after recording admissions and denials, if the court considers it advantageous to resolve the case through ADR.
- The court may adopt any lawful procedure not inconsistent with this Code and choose any ADR method under Section 89-A.
- No communication or documentation made during the ADR process may be produced in court regarding the case or related proceedings.
- Mediators/conciliators must have a minimum of 40 hours of training in mediation or conciliation, and be accredited by a reputable organization or institution.
- The court, upon deciding to refer a case to ADR, may determine the mediator's/conciliator's fees, to be paid by one or both parties.
- Once referred to ADR, the court will direct parties to appear before the mediator/conciliator on a specified date and time, and the timeframe for resolution shall not exceed 60 days. Extensions of up to 30 days may be granted upon written request showing good cause.
- Parties resolving a civil or commercial dispute through ADR before initiating legal proceedings may file an application with a settlement agreement and supporting documents.

The court will register it as a Judicial Miscellaneous matter and pass judgment and a decree in accordance with the Code.

Background:

The Code of Civil Procedure, originally passed in 1908, is applicable across Pakistan. It outlines procedural laws that civil courts must follow, aiming to provide uniformity in handling civil cases. The objective of the code, as stated in its preamble, is to consolidate and amend the laws relating to civil court procedures. Being a general law, it is subordinate to special laws in case of conflict. With the 18th Amendment, provinces like Sindh were given the power to modify civil procedure laws. The introduction of ADR mechanisms is part of a global trend to relieve courts from unnecessary case backlogs and encourage settlements outside formal legal channels.

Conclusion:

The lack of good governance in Pakistan is often attributed to poor state functioning, inadequate service delivery, and a lack of political will. While politicians are held accountable, the restructuring of the bureaucratic system is equally important for improving governance and ensuring efficient policy implementation. The inclusion of ADR in the Sindh Amendment Act is a positive step toward reducing court burdens, accelerating case resolution, and promoting good governance through efficient legal processes.

ACT NO. 5 OF 2019

THE SINDH LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019

Summary:

The Local Government Amendment Bill was introduced by the Sindh government and passed on 23rd January 2019, and it was assented to by the governor on 20th February 2019. After this amendment, the elected local government councils will now reportedly be able to remove the mayor and district chairperson through a simple majority vote. According to the current law, the mayor and district chairperson can only be removed by a two-thirds majority. MQM-P raised concerns about this amendment. The opposition leader announced plans to table the amendment on 18th January 2020, stating that MQM-P and GDA would be consulted and included in the process.

Problem Statement:

- Under the **Amendment of Section 27** of the Sindh Act of 2013, it is stated that: A Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairman, or Vice-Chairman (except the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Union Committee and Union Council) shall be removed from office if a vote of no confidence is passed against him or her by a simple majority of the total number of members of the Council concerned.
- Under the **Amendment of Section 53** of the Sindh Act of 2013, it is stated that: In the case of an election to a Council, where after the conclusion of the trial, there is an equality of votes between contesting candidates, the Election Tribunal shall declare both the candidates as returned candidates, and each one of them shall be entitled to represent his constituency in the Council for half of its term of office.
- In the said Act, for **Section 58: Undue Influence**, a person is guilty of exercising undue influence if he directly or indirectly, by himself or through another person on his behalf, uses any place of religious worship or any place reserved for the performance of religious rites for the purpose of canvassing for votes or influencing voters not to vote in an election or for a particular candidate.
- Under the **Amendment of Section 59** of the Sindh Act of 2013, it is stated that: the following shall be substituted Illegal Practice, if he obtains or procures, or attempts to obtain or procure, the assistance of any person in the service of Pakistan to further or hinder the election of a candidate.
- In the said Act, for **Section 62**, the following shall be substituted: A person is guilty of tampering with papers if he intentionally takes out of the polling station any ballot paper or puts into any ballot box any ballot paper other than the one he is authorized by law to use, without due authority.

Background:

Under the Sindh Local Government (LG) law, the provincial government has now retained the right to set up a Board, Authority, or any corporate body to perform one or more functions of any Council, either singly or jointly with any public or private body. The provincial government may acquire, manage, or operate any commercial venture or activity deemed necessary in the public interest. The Sindh LG law also authorizes the provincial government to appoint Chief Executives of Councils, who are required by law to supervise the financial and executive administration of the Councils. All licenses and permissions under law, rules, or by-laws can only be issued, granted, or given under the signature of the Chief Executive. The provincial government retains the authority to advise a Council to revise a decision, resolution, order, or action, and holds authority for the final decision. It also has the authority to direct any Council, person, or Authority in matters concerning governance.

Conclusion:

Under the chapter of Strengthening Democracy, the Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) manifesto highlights Accountability at all levels (page 39), a principle reflected in this act. The party believes in across-the-board accountability of all those who benefit from the state exchequer. While political rhetoric on corruption has become meaningless noise, addressing the disease without treating its cause, the PPPP advocates for holistic accountability. Without it, mechanisms merely fuel a "victim narrative" often used by politicians, including those in power. The unfortunate reality is that politicians remain the most vulnerable to accountability mechanisms, and these mechanisms, as they currently exist, suffer from significant legal, administrative, and implementation flaws.

ACT NO. 6 OF 2019

THE SINDH LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SECOND AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019

Summary:

The Sindh Local Government (Second Amendment) Bill was introduced by the Sindh government, passed on 7th February 2019, and assented to by the governor on 20th February 2019. This amendment allows local government councils to remove the mayor and district chairperson through a simple majority vote, whereas previously, a two-thirds majority was required. This change has raised concerns, particularly from MQM-P, which expressed reservations about the amendment. The opposition leader announced plans to table the amendment again, stating that MQM-P and GDA would be consulted.

Problem Statement:

- The amendment substitutes "to the Council" with "to the Chief Executive of the Council."
- Similarly, it replaces "the Council" with "the Chief Executive of the Council" and "Government" with "Secretary, Local Government."

Background:

The Sindh Local Government Act of 2013 was passed by the provincial assembly of Sindh and enacted on 29th August 2013. This Act is based on the Local Government Ordinance of 1979 and retains the following local government tiers: metropolitan corporation, district municipal corporations in Karachi, municipal corporations, district councils, municipal committees, town committees, and union councils. Karachi is divided into one metropolitan corporation, five district municipal corporations, and one district council for its rural areas. Hyderabad, Sukkur, and Larkana are designated as municipal corporations.

The Act focuses solely on local government/municipal functions and does not involve other sectors such as revenue or police. Local councils established under this law function as corporate bodies under the provincial framework.

Additionally, the Act calls for the establishment of a "local government commission" to ensure the administrative accountability of elected officials. The commission includes two members from the provincial assembly—one nominated by the leader of the house and the other by the leader of the opposition—two technocrats nominated by the government, the secretary of law, and the secretary of local government. The minister for local government will serve as the chairman of this commission.

Conclusion:

According to the Pakistan Peoples' Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) manifesto, robust internal defense begins with sound law enforcement. Securing Pakistan internally and externally requires a coordinated strategy involving all agencies at the local, provincial, and state levels. This amendment aligns with their belief in strengthening local governance and accountability.

ACT NO. 7 of 2019

THE SINDH INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND NEONATOLOGY ACT,2018.

Summary:

This Bill was introduced by the Sindh government, passed by the assembly on 28th January 2019, and received the governor's assent on 22nd February 2019, at which point it became law. The Act came into force immediately across Sindh. It establishes an institution known as "The Sindh Institute of Child Health and Neonatology," outlining its functions, admission policies, and governance. The institution is open to people of all sexes, castes, creeds, or colors, and its admission policy is to be framed by its Academic Council. The Chief Minister of Sindh is the Patron of the Institute, with the Minister of Health serving as Chairperson. The Act also defines the powers of the Institute's Board.

Problem Statement:

- The term "Academic Council" refers to the Institute's Academic Council.
- The term "Board" refers to the Board of Directors of the Institute.
- The "Chairperson" is the Chairperson of the Board.
- "Trainee" refers to the Postgraduate/Paramedic Trainee of the Institute.
- The Institute will be headquartered in Karachi, with branches across Sindh.
- It will function as an independent degree-awarding institution.
- The Institute will offer technical support and supervision to child health care facilities across government entities in Sindh.
- It aims to develop standardized techniques and protocols for pediatric, neonatology, and newborn care.
- The Board will oversee the Institute's general administration, property, and funds.
- The Board will maintain and audit the accounts of the Institute in accordance with governmental rules.
- The Government may make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Background:

The Child Health Institute Bill was introduced in the Assembly on 4th January and subsequently referred to a special committee for further review and amendments. Sindh's Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mukesh Kumar Chawla, emphasized the need for specialized health care for neonates and children, stating that the Government of Sindh plans to establish a child health institute to bring various child health outlets under one umbrella. The law will also ensure that technical expertise and trained human resources are available at all child emergency centers in provincial government health facilities.

The passage of the law was prompted in part by the tragic case of 10-year-old Amal Umer, who died due to alleged hospital negligence after being caught in crossfire during a police shootout in August. The law mandates hospitals to provide compulsory medical treatment to injured children before completing medico-legal formalities, with penalties for non-compliance.

Conclusion:

Pakistan has made significant commitments to providing healthcare to its most vulnerable populations, including neonates and children. As part of its obligations under the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Pakistan aims to reduce maternal, infant, and under-five mortality rates, while achieving 100% immunization coverage for children under two. This Act is in line with the Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) manifesto's commitment to healthcare for all, specifically under the section "Freeing All Our People from Hunger and Helplessness."

ACT NO. 8 OF 2019

THE SINDH INJURED PERSONS COMPULSORY MEDICAL TREATMENT (AMAL UMER) ACT, 2019

Summary:

This Bill was introduced by the Sindh government and passed by the assembly on 28th January 2019. It was sent to the governor for his assent and became an Act on 11th March 2019. The Act came into force immediately and applies throughout Sindh. It mandates that hospitals, both private and government, must provide immediate medical treatment to any injured person without delay, prioritizing the injured individual's health and life over medico-legal formalities or the demand for payment before treatment. Police are prohibited from interfering with the medical treatment until the injured person is declared out of danger, and doctors are not required to obtain consent from relatives before providing the necessary treatment. This Act revokes The Sindh Injured Persons (Medical Aid) Act, 2015.

Problem Statement:

- The Act makes it compulsory for hospitals and medical professionals to provide medical aid to injured persons without delay, to protect their lives and health in emergencies.
- The term "emergency medical condition" refers to any health condition requiring immediate medical attention or treatment, the denial of which could worsen the injured person's condition or result in death.
- Hospitals cannot demand payment for compulsory medical treatment from patients unable to pay; in such cases, the hospital must bear the cost of treatment.
- Law enforcement officers are prohibited from interrupting or interfering with medical treatment or interrogating an injured person during treatment.
- Injured persons cannot be taken to a police station or subjected to medico-legal procedures before receiving necessary medical treatment.
- Upon request, hospitals must provide copies of medical records and information related to the injured person to the individual or their legal heirs within 14 days.
- An awareness campaign will be conducted by the Department, in cooperation with government bodies and private entities, to educate the public, medical professionals, and law enforcement officers about the duties and obligations under this Act.

Background:

The Act was prompted by the tragic case of Amal Umer, a young girl who was denied immediate medical treatment due to medico-legal formalities after suffering gunshot wounds during an exchange of fire between police and robbers in Karachi. Her death, caused by delayed treatment,

sparked public outrage and raised concerns about both police performance and hospital negligence in such cases.

Conclusion:

The Pakistan Peoples’ Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) manifesto emphasizes the right of every person to access basic medical care. Under its "Healthcare for All" chapter, PPPP commits to enacting legislation at the federal and provincial levels to ensure the provision of quality medical facilities for all citizens. This Act addresses a key element of the manifesto, focusing on expanding health services, bridging gaps in care, and ensuring that vulnerable individuals receive the medical attention they need without delay. It aligns with the PPPP's proposals under the "Health Care for All – Expanding, Linking-Up and Joining-In (ELAJ)" program, promoting effective healthcare management and timely interventions to save lives.

ACT NO. 9 OF 2019

THE SINDH TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019.

Summary:

This bill was introduced by the Sindh government and passed by the assembly on 1st March 2019. It was then sent to the governor for his assent, and the Act was promulgated on 15th March 2019. The Act came into force immediately.

Problem Statement:

- The word “Government” has been replaced by “Chief Minister” throughout the Act.
- The Chairperson of the Sindh Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (STEVTA) will be the Minister, Advisor, or Special Assistant to the Chief Minister or any other person nominated by the Chief Minister.
- The Vice Chairperson shall also be appointed by the Chief Minister.
- Two members from the provincial assembly shall be nominated by the speaker.

Background:

Sindh TEVTA (Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority) was established in 2009 to manage technical education and vocational training institutions in the province. The establishment of STEVTA was part of a reorganization effort to meet domestic and international labor market demands. To enhance the effectiveness of its management, STEVTA's policy-making responsibilities were assigned to a board comprising professionals from both public and private sectors, as well as representatives from leading industries and universities. This amendment seeks to reinforce the authority of the Chief Minister in the organization's leadership, ensuring the alignment of policy with provincial priorities.

ACT NO. 10 OF 2019

THE SINDH PRISONS AND CORRECTIONS SERVICES ACT, 2019

Executive Summary:

This bill was introduced by the Sindh Government, passed by the assembly on 17th May 2019, and sent to the governor for his assent, which was given on 29th May 2019. It came into force at once and is applicable all over Sindh. The previous Prisons Act of 1894 was largely punitive in nature and lacked provisions for reformation, security, clarity on policies, and human resources development within the prison system. This Act contains 14 comprehensive chapters that outline various aspects of prison management, including the establishment of a Prison Policy Board, segregation of prisoners based on classification, rehabilitation efforts, and defining the rights of prisoners. This Act aims to transform Sindh's prisons into correctional facilities that provide opportunities for reformation and eventual reintegration into society.

- **Chapter 1** deals with important definitions.
- **Chapter 2** deals with declaration of prisons, sub-jail, judicial lock-ups.
- **Chapter 3** deals with establishment of Prison policy board and management committees.
- **Chapter 4** contains duties of IG and other officers and with establishment of Prison Training Academy, recruitment, transfer, posting, discipline and performance and powers of officers and the medical officer.
- **Chapter 5** contains treatment of lawful custody under which UTPs to be treated differently from convicted prisoners. Admission process, rights of inmates, security classification- high, medium and low, introduction of biometric, rights to lawyer and legal aid and undergo on health examination on admission are given in this chapter.
- **Chapter 6** It segregates prisoners on the basis of gender, age, and conviction status, danger, condemned and with contagious diseases etc. It also has the clauses of adequate diet provision- needs of the patients, pregnant women, children and religious requirements, entitlement of one- hour daily exercise.
- **Chapter 7** is about transfer of prisoners - inter-provincial, international, extradition etc.,
- **Chapter 8** about discharge or early discharge of a prisoner for certain reasons of incapacitated, incurable, infirm, above age of 65 and good conduct rules.
- **Chapter 9** deals with prisoners' wellbeing rehabilitation such as non-discrimination, meaningful remunerated employment opportunities, minimum one visit for one hour per month, education, vocational training, health facilities and social and psychological services.

- **Chapter 10** deals with visits and correspondence such as prisoners can send or receive letters, visits – supervised, audio or video recorded etc.
- **Chapter 11** has the provisions of board of visitors, prisoners’ oversight committee visits, inspections, testing of food and inquiries into complaints.
- **Chapters 12** states punishments.
- **Chapter 13** states offences by prisoners and
- **Chapter 14** is about general provision. It came into force at once and was applied all over Sindh.

Problem Statement:

1. The Act's core purpose is to contribute to the maintenance and protection of a just, peaceful, and safe society by focusing on the welfare and rehabilitation of prisoners, ensuring their reintegration as law-abiding citizens.
2. The Act mandates the creation of an environment where prisoners can live with dignity and develop socially responsible and crime-free lifestyles. All opportunities and benefits of the reformation programs will be available to prisoners without discrimination.
3. The Sindh Prisons and Correctional Facilities and Corrections Service will emphasize promoting self-respect and responsibility among prisoners.
4. The government has the authority to classify prisons and correctional facilities, establish a prison policy board, and designate officers responsible for the security and welfare of the prisons.
5. Officers are authorized to use reasonable force to maintain discipline under extraordinary circumstances.
6. Prison officers are required to conduct periodic health check-ups of all prisoners and ensure their well-being during incarceration.
7. Prisons must ensure proper security measures and lawful confinement for each prisoner.
8. The Act mandates that prisoners sentenced to death must be kept separately, and every prisoner must be provided with adequate nutrition and opportunities for exercise.
9. The Act protects prisoners' inherent dignity, religious freedom, and rights to education, vocational training, health services, and rehabilitation programs.
10. Educational institutions such as primary, secondary schools, and colleges will be established within prisons by the Sindh Education Department, while vocational training centers will be established by the Sindh Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (STEVTA).
11. Prisons will also have computer labs and internet access to allow prisoners to access outside libraries and educational resources.

Background:

The Sindh Assembly passed the Sindh Prisons and Correctional Facilities Bill, 2019, to address the need for transforming the prison system in Sindh into one that focuses on rehabilitation rather than punishment. The Act aims to offer prisoners opportunities to participate in reformation processes and ultimately reintegrate as responsible members of society once they are freed. This legislation was passed amid protests by opposition members regarding an HIV outbreak in Sindh, but the ruling party emphasized the Act's importance in granting dignity and promoting the welfare of prisoners. The Sindh Assembly has taken the lead in creating rules to benefit vulnerable segments of society, including prisoners, women, children, and minorities.

The Act outlines several new reforms aimed at modernizing the prison system. These reforms include new administrative roles, duties of prison officers, rights of prisoners, provisions for health and welfare, and the establishment of educational and vocational training programs within prison facilities. It promotes a more rehabilitative approach to prisoner management by ensuring opportunities for reformation through educational and vocational programs, health care services, and psychological support.

Conclusion:

Under the Truth and Reconciliation Commission section of the Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) manifesto (page 50), the party reaffirms the belief that advancing and protecting human rights goes hand in hand with establishing the state's writ and ensuring law enforcement. This Act reflects these values, as it aims to safeguard the rights of prisoners while providing them with opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration. The detailed and comprehensive nature of this legislation demonstrates the PPPP's commitment to ensuring the welfare and rehabilitation of marginalized segments of society, including prisoners, while upholding justice and security for the state.

ACT NO. 11 OF 2019

THE SINDH (REPEAL OF THE POLICE ACT, 1861 AND REVIVAL OF POLICE ORDER, 2002) (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019.

Executive Summary:

The bill was introduced by the Sindh government and passed on 13th June 2019. It faced significant criticism and opposition from PTI, MQM-P, and GDA. The bill was forwarded to the governor and subsequently sent back for amendments. After revisions, it was resubmitted to the governor. Due to no response within the constitutional 10-day window, the bill was considered passed under Article 116(3) of the Constitution and came into force on 26th June 2019.

This bill proposed amendments to The Police Order 2002, which increased the duties and responsibilities of the police in the province. However, it did not allocate any monetary increments to cater for the additional services required of the police. The bill notably omitted the provision for a Capital City Police (CCP) and introduced a Police Complaints Commission. The Commission is to consist of one-third elected members of the national and provincial assemblies, with an additional one-third being district councilors. A key aspect of the bill is the establishment of a fixed three-year tenure for the Inspector General of Police (IGP) for the province, which was heavily opposed by opposition parties. Critics argued that the bill would worsen the situation for the provincial police, especially since the Sindh government had already removed IG Sindh Kaleem Imam, effectively abrogating the three-year tenure provision.

Problem Statement:

1. Under exceptional circumstances, such as exigency of service, misconduct, or inefficiency, which warrant major penalties, the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) may be transferred with government approval before completing their term of office.
2. The head of investigation for the province will be an officer of the rank of DIG, and the head of investigation for each district will be an officer of the rank of Superintendent of Police (SP).
3. A Provincial Public Safety and Police Complaints Commission will be established for police oversight and the redress of public complaints.
4. The Commission will have an independent budget, managed under a separate budgetary head, with the Chairperson serving as the Principal Accounting Officer.
5. There will be a District Public Safety and Police Complaints Commission in every district for police oversight and public complaints, consisting of nine members, one of whom will be the Chairperson.

Background:

The colonial-era policing model was designed primarily for rural needs, and although the Police Order of 2002 attempted to address the needs of both rural and urban policing, it has remained insufficient. The concept of a Capital City Police (CCP) was introduced under the Police Order of 2002 to address urban challenges, but the recently adopted law has omitted this provision. In previous recommendations, experts like Sir Oliver Gilbert Grace and Justice Cornelius (in 1950 and 1962, respectively) advised the implementation of a commissioner system for big cities to ensure functional autonomy for the police chiefs and to improve public safety. The police committee, headed by Aslam Hayat in 1985, also supported restructuring police systems along similar lines, believing it would improve decision-making, accountability, and responsiveness within the police force.

Conclusion:

The PPPP manifesto emphasizes the need for economic restructuring and growth, pledging not only to implement immediate course corrections but also to introduce deeper reforms. These reforms are aimed at building a sustainable base to tackle narrow economic growth, external imbalances, and public finance issues. The PPPP also stresses the importance of reaffirming the writ of the state through the rule of law.

In the section titled "Ensuring Rights, Securing Peace: For Our State and Our People," the manifesto highlights the party's commitment to reaffirming the writ of the state by channeling resources, building political consensus, and bolstering law enforcement capacity. The party believes that effective law enforcement and the National Action Plan against Violent Extremism must be implemented judiciously to protect the rights of all citizens and ensure peace and stability. This bill reflects the party's commitment to advancing these principles while ensuring that the use of force remains under the sole monopoly of the state.

ACT NO. 12 OF 2019
THE SINDH FINANCE ACT, 2019

Executive Summary:

The bill was prepared by the Sindh government and subsequently forwarded to the Governor of Sindh, who approved it on 5th July 2020. This bill was proposed as the finance bill for the financial year 2019-2020. It introduced several taxation measures, including an increase in taxes on shops and rents, and a 5% tax on online shopping. The bill, valued at Rs. 1.217 trillion, covered financial allocations for various sectors across the province.

The budget reflected cuts in operational expenses, reducing the overall expenditure from Rs. 1.144 trillion to Rs. 956.779 billion. Additionally, the budget deficit was reduced from the expected Rs. 20.45 billion to Rs. 11 billion.

Conclusion:

In the Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) manifesto of 2018, under the section titled *Taxation Measures and Resource Mobilization* (pages 35-36), the party's focus on financial matters is clearly outlined. The PPPP aims to progressively increase the tax-to-GDP ratio to 15% over five years through various measures, with an emphasis on shifting towards direct taxation. This shift will occur as more individuals and economic entities are brought into the formal tax net. The manifesto also highlights the central bank's role, particularly the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), in regulating monetary and credit systems to foster economic growth. The SBP Act of 1956 mandates the central bank to promote monetary stability and ensure the productive utilization of resources. However, since 1991, the SBP has moved away from this developmental role, leading to a lack of long-term credit instruments and directed credit, which are crucial for sustainable growth.

ACT NO. 13 OF 2019

THE PROVINCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019

Executive Summary:

This bill, introduced by Mukesh Kumar Chawla of the Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP), was unanimously adopted on 8th November 2019 and became law on 27th November 2019. The bill allows hearing-impaired persons to acquire driving licenses, marking a significant step toward inclusivity. It mandates special arrangements for hearing-impaired drivers, such as installing mirrors and devices that enable them to hear horns. Traffic license offices were also instructed to provide special provisions for hearing-impaired individuals, including offering sign language assistance and waiving license fees for them. The bill garnered international attention and widespread support from all political parties, with MQM-P praising the bill and PTI members advocating for additional legislation to support disabled individuals in securing employment.

Problem Statement:

1. The words "defect or disability" were amended to include "differently abled persons with hearing impairment."
2. Applicants with hearing impairments up to 40 dB must wear hearing aids, while those with greater hearing loss must use assistive technology devices.
3. The driving test must be administered by someone who knows sign language or who is assisted by a person proficient in sign language.
4. No license fee will be charged to hearing-impaired applicants.
5. Vehicles driven by hearing-impaired individuals must display mandatory stickers as prescribed.

Background:

The driving laws related to persons with disabilities were originally introduced in 1965, but this new bill, which adds provisions for hearing-impaired individuals, is a progressive step toward making driving more inclusive and accessible. The legislation has been well-received, particularly for addressing an underserved demographic and ensuring equal opportunities.

Conclusion:

The PPPP has long acknowledged the need for economic restructuring and inclusive growth, ensuring that every individual, regardless of physical or sensory abilities, has equal access to opportunities. The Pakistan Peoples' Party Parliamentarians firmly believe in fostering an inclusive society, where every person is integrated and respected for their abilities. This amendment, which

allows hearing-impaired individuals to obtain driving licenses, directly aligns with the section titled *A More Inclusive Society: Integration of Differently-Abled People* in the PPPP manifesto (pages 15-16). The manifesto emphasizes developing strategies, strengthening policies, and enacting legislative measures to safeguard the rights of all differently-abled individuals. The amendment ensures the practical implementation of laws that promote accessibility and inclusion, and underscores the commitment to enforcing regulations for organizations that fail to comply.

ACT NO. 14 OF 2019

THE SINDH INSTITUTE OF OPHTHAMOLOGY AND VISUAL SCIENCES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019

Executive Summary:

This bill, proposed by the Sindh government, was passed on 13th November 2019, sent to the governor for assent, and enforced as an act on 27th November 2019. It came into effect immediately and was applied across Sindh. The bill faced no opposition and was unanimously passed. This amendment granted the Sindh Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (SIOVS) the status of a degree-awarding institute, allowing it to become a higher education institution. The purpose of the bill was to empower SIOVS to offer degrees in ophthalmology and visual sciences, encouraging more students to pursue this specialized medical field.

Problem Statement:

1. The Board shall meet at least twice a year with a gap of at least three months between meetings, as scheduled by the Executive Director and communicated to the Chairman two weeks in advance. These meetings shall be held at the Institute.
2. The Institute will have the authority to hold examinations and confer degrees, diplomas, certificates, and other academic distinctions in ophthalmology and visual sciences to those who pass its examinations under prescribed conditions.
3. The Eye Hospital in Khairpur shall be handed over to the Sindh Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.
4. The Institute shall operate as an independent degree-awarding institution.
5. SIOVS will coordinate and collaborate with provincial, national, and international organizations in the field of ophthalmology with the approval of the Board.

Background:

The Sindh Institute of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences (SIOVS) is a key institution in Pakistan, established through legislation by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh, by upgrading the status of Liaquat University Eye Hospital Hyderabad. SIOVS provides patient care services, teaching, training, and research in ophthalmology and is located in Hyderabad, Sindh's second-largest city.

Conclusion:

This act aligns with the Pakistan Peoples' Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) manifesto, particularly under the chapter *Naujawan Pakistan: Opening Opportunities for Our Children and Our Youth*. The manifesto emphasizes that the future belongs to the youth, and education is key to building a

well-functioning system that provides equal opportunities for all. The PPPP envisions a system fostering creativity, confidence, and compassion, which will help individuals grow into valuable members of society. The act supports these goals by promoting higher education in medical fields such as ophthalmology, contributing to *Quality and Free Education for All*, fostering *21st Century Skills*, and *Maximizing the Youth Dividend: Naujawan Pakistan* as outlined in the manifesto (pages 16-19).

ACT NO. 15 OF 2019

THE SINDH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE RIGHTS ACT, 2019

Executive Summary:

The Sindh Reproductive Healthcare Rights Act, 2019 was introduced to safeguard reproductive rights across Sindh. The act was enforced on 29th November 2019, following its passage on 13th November 2019. Although it was proposed by the Pakistan Peoples' Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) and opposed by PTI, MQM-P, and GDA, the act aims to ensure confidentiality, gender equality, and access to reproductive healthcare for all individuals. It mandates that public and private healthcare institutions offering reproductive services adhere to these rights, including the integration of reproductive health education into school curriculums.

Problem Statement:

It was passed on 13th November 2019 and enforced on 29th November 2019. Proposed by PPPP and opposed by PTI, MQM-P, GDA.

1. In this Act “choice” means to decide freely as how to manage reproductive life;
2. “confidentiality” means to assure not to disclose or share any personal information relating to reproductive health with others;
3. “Continuity” means a constant process of receiving reproductive health care services for lifetime.
4. “Reproductive health” means a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, but does not merely mean the absence of disease and infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system, its functions and processes;
5. “Reproductive right” means the right of a couple to reach the highest level of reproductive health, without discrimination, coercion and violence.
6. Men and women are the subject of reproductive health care and they are jointly involved and responsible for parenting and are equally entitled to access to information relating to reproductive health care and reproductive rights.
7. There is a need for developing public awareness which prevents maternal deaths and suffering of women and children.
8. The right of reproductive healthcare information shall be promoted by including reproductive health education in the curriculum at the secondary and higher secondary school levels as “life Skills”.
9. Right to gender neutral information shall be promoted by access to information related to the reproductive rights and responsibilities with a gender perspective, which is free

from stereotype, discriminatory, coercive and obscurantist customs and is presented in an objective and pluralistic manner.

10. It is important to recognize that the couples have the right to information whether to start or plan a family including spacing, timing and the number of their children.
11. The right to equality and to be free from all forms of discrimination shall be promoted by ensuring that all women have the right to protection from discrimination in social, domestic or employment spheres by reasons of pregnancies or motherhood “as prescribed”.
12. All persons shall have the right to be free from ill treatment and to be protected from sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and other forms of gender-based violence.
13. The need of reproductive healthcare shall be accepted as to reach underserved persons by increasing access to the disadvantaged and vulnerable by strengthening the basic health units, “rural health centers,” MCH Centers, Family Welfare Centers for the provision of family planning, maternal and neonatal healthcare, in addition to other services.
14. To meet health needs or requirements of men and women by or through observance of World Health Organization (WHO) standards of antenatal, inter-natal and post natal care including post abortion care which reduces the incidences such as involuntary miscarriage and to increase access to skilled birth attendants.
15. The facilitation of reproductive healthcare services shall focus on the provision of quality family planning services through a range of mixed methods which may include short term, long term and permanent methods, and also includes new methods based on informed choice and that the facilities are visible to the communities through better promotion and branding.
16. Provision of services to reduce infant and neonatal mortality, decrease preterm and stillbirths, all of which are linked to multiple pregnancies without birth spacing.

Background:

This act recognizes the joint responsibility of men and women in reproductive healthcare, ensuring that both genders have equal access to information and services related to reproductive rights. It encompasses the entire province of Sindh and aims to address issues such as maternal and infant mortality through integrated services, including family planning and reproductive healthcare.

The act ensures no one is subjected to forced sterilization, abortion, or contraception, and mandates gender-sensitive training for healthcare providers to protect patients’ privacy and dignity. The government will establish rules for effective implementation.

Conclusion:

In line with the PPPP manifesto, this act supports the goal of reducing maternal and infant mortality rates by 2030, as committed under the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The act emphasizes the importance of providing comprehensive reproductive healthcare, especially for vulnerable populations, reflecting the manifesto's commitment to *Healthcare for All* (page 7). Through this legislation, Pakistan moves closer to fulfilling its international obligations and ensuring reproductive healthcare is accessible and equitable for all citizens.

ACT NO. 16 OF 2019

THE SINDH CHARITIES REGISTRATION AND REGULATION ACT, 2019

Executive Summary:

The Sindh Charities Act, 2019 was introduced by the Sindh Government and was passed by the Sindh Assembly on 21st November 2019. After being forwarded to the Governor for approval, it was enacted on 2nd December 2019. The law seeks to ensure accountability and transparency in charitable organizations, making it mandatory for all charities, promoters, and fundraising campaigns to register with a new regulatory body, the Charities Registration and Regulation Commission. This act introduces measures aimed at preventing organizations from engaging in criminal or political activities under the guise of charity work. The bill also stipulates that donors disclose the source of their donations, and it gives the commission the authority to revoke the registration of any charity found violating the provisions of the act. Non-registered non-profit organizations will face legal action under this act.

The law makes it mandatory for charitable organizations to get registered with the commission, which holds the authority to revoke the registration of organizations found violating the rules of the act. The act outlines the creation of the Charities Registration and Regulation Commission to oversee and regulate charitable activities, with the objective of preventing misuse of charity funds. Moreover, if a trustee involved in dishonest activities is not removed, the commission can appoint a charity trustee or officer within six months. This act is a significant step toward improving transparency in how charitable organizations operate in Sindh, ensuring that charitable funds are used for their intended purpose.

Problem Statement:

1. The Sindh Charities Act, 2019 applies to the entire province of Sindh and comes into effect immediately.
2. The purpose of the act is to regulate charities that promote education, health services, community development, human rights, and environmental protection, among others.
3. The law defines "charity" and provides detailed explanations for its various aspects.
4. The act establishes the Charities Registration and Regulation Commission through government notification in the official gazette.
5. The commission's functions include maintaining public trust in charities, regulating and sanctioning fundraising, protecting beneficiaries, and establishing a central database and website for the commission.

6. The commission is empowered to sanction fundraising activities, ensuring proper custody and administration of funds.
7. The commission can request that the Chief Secretary or Chief Minister appoint an officer of BS-19/20 rank to oversee monitoring and evaluation.
8. After evaluating or auditing a charity, the commission may suspend or cancel its registration and impose fines up to one million rupees for non-compliance.
9. Charity trustees must ensure that accurate accounting records are kept, reflecting all transactions and financial positions.
10. Violations of this act may result in imprisonment for a term of six months to one year, with fines ranging from fifty thousand to one hundred thousand rupees.

Background:

The Sindh Charities Registration and Regulation Bill, 2019 (Act No. XVI) was passed on 21st November 2019 and enacted on 2nd December 2019. It was proposed by the PPPP and faced opposition from MQM and GDA. The purpose of the act is to regulate charitable organizations and ensure that the funds they raise are not misused for criminal or terror-related activities. A commission, titled the "Charities Registration and Regulation Commission," will oversee these activities, comprising 12 members, including two MPAs nominated by the Sindh Assembly speaker. The commission will discharge its functions and powers through a prescribed manner, with the minister or special assistant to the chief minister on social welfare serving as its chairperson.

Conclusion:

Under the PPPP manifesto's Social Protection to Poverty Reduction section, the party emphasizes the need for a comprehensive social protection system that addresses various risks faced by vulnerable populations. The regulation of charity organizations through the Sindh Charities Act is in line with the party's broader agenda of ensuring accountability and transparency in the utilization of funds. This act aims to protect public trust in charities and prevent the misuse of charitable donations, providing a legal framework for the registration and regulation of charitable activities in Sindh.

ACT NO. 1 OF 2020

THE AGRICULTURAL PROCEDURE MARKETS (AMENDMENT) ACT,2019

Executive Summary:

The Agricultural Procedure Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2019 having been passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 4th December, 2019 and was approved by the Governor of Sindh on 7th January, 2020 and then published as an Act of the Legislature of Sindh.

Major Statement:

1. This Act may be called the Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Act, 2019.
2. Under the Amendment of Act V of 1939; In the Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1939, for the word “Government” wherever occurring, the words “Minister for Agriculture” shall be substituted.

ACT NO. 2 OF 2020

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN FOR THE PROVINCE OF SINDH (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2020

The Establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman for the Province of Sindh (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 23rd January 2020 and enforced on 6th February 2020. The bill was initially passed on 8th January 2020 and reconsidered by the assembly on 23rd January 2020 without any amendments. Following its passage, the bill was sent to the Governor for final approval. The main focus of this amendment was to shift certain powers from the Governor to the Chief Minister of Sindh.

Problem Statement:

- In the said Act, for the word “Governor,” the words “Chief Minister” shall be substituted.

Background:

The Ombudsman, as per this amendment, will hold office for a non-renewable term of four years. The previous Establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman for the Province of Sindh Act, 1991, had empowered the Governor to appoint the Ombudsman. The new amendment replaces "Governor" with "Chief Minister," thereby shifting this appointment authority to the Chief Minister. To qualify for the role of Ombudsman, an individual must either be a Judge of the High Court or a government officer of BS-20 or above, or be known for their integrity and contributions to society. This amendment aligns with the provisions of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan, making Sindh the first province to transfer such powers from the Governor to the Chief Minister.

Conclusion:

The 18th Amendment resolved constitutional disparities by restoring the distribution of powers between the governor and the chief executive. Before the 18th Amendment, the Governor had authority over government business transactions, but now these powers have been transferred to the Chief Minister. This amendment reinforces the spirit of decentralization and provincial autonomy, which is highlighted in the PPPP manifesto under the section *Devolution as an Ongoing Process: The 18th Amendment* (page 40). This shift is part of ongoing efforts to consolidate authority within the province and ensure greater control at the provincial executive level.



YOUTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY