

Note for Record

By: Shoaib Sultan Khan
March 24, 2014

Subject: Meeting with Chairman Imran Khan on March 22, 2014

The meeting was arranged through the good offices of my friend Rashid Khan at IK's residence in the afternoon of March 22, 2014 at Bani Galla.

IK welcomed me with the usual warmth. I reminded him how in 2005, he was the only Chairman of a National Political Party who came to my house and requested me for help in helping the poor in his electoral constituency and today I have come to him with the hope that he will be willing to adopt a programme of poverty reduction in KP. A programme the success of which he personally witnessed in Gilgit, Baltistan and Chitral. A programme which adopted by Andhra Pradesh in India, according to the Indian Minister of Rural Development "the project has seen the journey of over ten million organized households from despair to hope, from diffidence to confidence, from subjugation to empowerment in one decade. The spirit of community empowerment has continued to thrive in India since then".

I referred to the implementation of the same strategy by Government of Sindh in two districts. According to SDPI impact assessment, only after three years, 76.38% beneficiaries came out of poverty bands and moved to higher categories and 55% came out of poverty bands and moved to non-poor category. The EU Development Counsellor after 7 days sojourn in Sindh seeing the work of RSPs (NRSP, SRSO, TRDP) on the ground, met Shandana and me and expressed the desire to initiate a Rural Development programme in Sindh. On his request, I arranged his meeting with Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Chief Minister Sindh and the Counsellor offered Rs. 10 billion to cover one third of the 24 districts of the province by RSPs UC Plan through them and requested CM to provide funding for the remaining districts amounting to Rs. 17 billion in next five years from the Provincial ADP. The CM accepted the offer with thanks and promised to consider his suggestion.

In KP the previous government although implemented the programme in 40 Union Councils spread over four districts, the results according to an independent evaluation commissioned by P&D in KP government came up with highly positive conclusions, saying “large expectations are now raised from the new PTI government, especially in terms of extending the Micro health Insurance Programme”.

I reminded IK of the visit to Kalam in last August and my submission to him to launch the union council based poverty reduction programme, throughout 25 districts of KP covering 866 rural Union Council comprising 2.27 million households with direct benefit to 1.22 million households below the poverty line.

At his behest, strongly supported by Jahangir Tareen, the Chief Minister Mr. Parvez Khattak kindly asked me to give a presentation, entitled Chief Minister’s Poverty Reduction Programme (CMPRP) on September 18, 2013 which was attended by Provincial officials also. The CM fully approved the programme with the following highlights:

Out of total 2.65 million Rural Households in KP
1.22 million households will graduate from extreme poverty/
poverty and have a sustainable income with access to
Community Investment Fund (CIF) of a minimum monthly income of
Rs. 1500-3000 per month compared to Rs. 1000-1200 BISP pays them monthly.

An additional 1.05 million vulnerable poor will be helped not to fall
below the poverty line:

1 million households in the extremely poverty band
shall be protected with Health Insurance for Rs. 25,000
hospitalization, Rs. 25,000 accidental death,
Upto Rs. 25,000 accidental disability.

- In addition, apprenticeship training for gainful employment
to 173,200 youth

Support for agriculture to 86,600 farmers

Support for livestock to 43,300 persons

Infrastructure Projects 10392

The total cost of the CMPRP was estimated at 4.5% of 5 years of ADP allocation with a capital outlay of one time grant of Rs. 30 million in five years for a conglomerate of 10-15 proposed Village Councils each equivalent to former one Union Council. The total amount spread over five years amounted to Rs. 25 billion.

I requested IK's kind intercession as the first year of the five years is almost coming to an end and the CMPRP has not even been initiated.

Mr. Musharraf informed that the proposal has almost been finalized and as soon as the reshuffle of the Cabinet is implemented, it would be initiated.

I submitted to IK that from the information I have, only 60 UCs are being included in the proposal. I showed him the 5 year Roll Out Plan from the CMPRP presentation and requested him adherence to it. Mr. Musharraf assured that the balance of UCs will be added to the proposal.

When Rashid Khan asked if I had preferences for any district, I assured him that this is entirely upto the government to select whichever district it wants to give priority. According to CMPRP all the districts of the Province have to be covered within five years.

IK asked what would be the implementation mode and I requested that Bacha Khan Poverty Alleviation Programme mode worked very well and CMPRP should be implemented accordingly.

IK assured me of his full support and handed over papers to Mr. Musharraf, who promised to call me to Peshawar when he goes. I also requested IK to call me when he is next in Peshawar.