

Note for Record

By: Shoaib Sultan Khan
October 28, 2017

Subject: - Meeting with Secretary Planning-Government of Gilgit Baltistan (October 24, 2017)

Mr. Babar Aman Babar very kindly met me in his office. I was accompanied with Dr. Akhtar Ali, Institutions Specialist of Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP).

The Secretary spoke about GB Annual Development Plan which in the current year was over 16 Billion rupees and how in the previous year, he ensured 99% utilization of development funds, unlike the usual phenomenon all over Pakistan of underutilization and consequent surrendering of approved funds. It was for this reason that the Federal Government was sympathetic to GB's request for development funds.

I briefed the Secretary about AKRSP and how over the years it has succeeded in fostering a framework of grassroots institutions in the shape of community and union level organizations and federating them in Local Support Organization at Union level. The main distinction of these institutions of the people unlike NGOs and social welfare organizations is that the WOs/VOs/LSO have their roots in each and every household.

I recounted to the Secretary, how Govt. of Sindh has made use of the community, village and union level organizations by launching a Union Council Based Poverty Reduction Programme (UCBPRP) and strongly commended a similar programme for GB's ten districts. In Sindh out of 22 districts, with provincial and donor funding 18 districts are implementing UCBPRP. The mainstay of this approach is social mobilization, community investment fund (CIF), vocational training for employment, health insurance and critical community infrastructure.

The secretary responded that GM-AKRSP has sent a concept note on the subject. He however, desired an approach taking up two districts at a time costing less than 75 Crores, to enable the Department to approve it within the financial Sanctioning powers of the Provincial Development working Party (PDWP). He desired a PC 1 to be developed in consultation with Mr. Alam AC PSD (Ph. 0310-1269918).

I profoundly thanked Babar for his time and sympathetic consideration of AKRSP request.

CC: Mr. Babar Aman Babar, Secretary Planning
Mr. Alam AC PSD, Planning Department
Mr. Muzaffaruddin, GM AKRSP
Dr. Akhtar Ahmad, AKRSP