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PRESS RELEASE

Today, i.e. 28th August, 2020, meeting of the Provincial Justice Committee-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (PJC) has been held at Peshawar High Court, Peshawar under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Waqar Ahmad Seth, Chief Justice, Peshawar High Court/Chairman-PJC. The meeting was convened by Dr. Muhmand Raheem Awan, Secretary Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan/National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (member/Secretary to the PJC). The meeting was also attended by the Advocate General KP, senior most District & Sessions Judge (District Judiciary KP), Member Inspection Team, Peshawar High Court, Peshawar, Secretary Home & Tribal Affairs Department KP, Secretary Law & Parliamentary Affairs Department KP, Inspector General of Police KP, Additional Secretary Health KP, Director General Prosecution, Inspector General of Prisons, and Director Parole/Probation KP.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice/Chairman, Provincial Justice Committee Khyber Pakhtunkhwa welcomed the participants and remarked that the PJC is the apex provincial body responsible for ensuring the effective administration, operation and development of affair, impartial and inclusive rule of law and for addressing provincial law, justice and security challenges within their jurisdiction and has a pivotal role in provincial inter-organizational coordination and cooperation. The Hon'ble Chair also remarked that the constitutional and fundamental rights available to the general public could be effectively enforced from this forum.

In the meeting, as per mandate, steps for the speedy and inexpensive justice were discussed and urged for capacity building of the justice sector stakeholders for quick disposal of cases and providing relief to the litigants. It was further aimed that there should be effective coordination between the judiciary, executive and other justice sector service providers. Moreover, the Hon'ble Chair emphasized that such coordination would be helpful for the quick disposal and redressal of the grievances of the public.

Generally, the agendas items regarding improvement in case registration mechanism, timely submission of challan, video linking facilities between the courts, Government departments including prisons, capacity building of the judicial officers, prosecutors and investigation officers, establishment of forensic sciences laboratories and clarity in medico-legal reports and establishment of the separate independent prosecution department, were deliberated upon.

It was resolved that for the effective implementation, the laws related to probation/parole, prosecution would be made more effective by provision of required infrastructure and necessities. Moreover, timely production of witnesses and safe custody of the case property, would ensure logical conclusion of the case and there is a need to devise independent management system for safe and secure custody of the case properties at Malkhanas.

It was deliberated that for revamping of criminal justice system reforms in Criminal Procedure Code, Pakistan Penal Code, Police Law and Rules, SOPs for public safety bodies Qanoon-e-Shahadat Order 1984, Telecommunication Evidence Law, Anti-terrorism Law and Anti-corruption Laws, the relevant stakeholders department would share their input within 15 days. As regards, digitalization of case management and court records, it was deliberated that an integrated effort could be undertaken in the National Judicial Automation Unit chaired by Hon'ble Senior Puisne Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan, members including a Hon'ble Judge of Federal Shariat Court and from each High Court. Moreover, it was also deliberated that the ex-cadre judges having less number of cases could be assigned cases of other ex-cadre courts having large pendency.

For better coordination between prosecution and police, it was resolved that a committee may be notified by the Government comprising of representatives from the Law, Home, Prosecution departments and Advocate General office. Moreover, it was also deliberated that all the relevant stakeholder departments may provide input upon the recommendations of the Director, National Judicial Policy Implementation Unit, Peshawar High Court (NJPIC) which were placed in the previous meeting of PJC. Furthermore, the participants deliberated that the draft Anti-corruption law addressing the requirements of Anti-corruption establishment would be shared within three months.

To meet with the infrastructure and human resource requirements of the judiciary, it was resolved that initially the focal persons (to be nominated shortly) of all relevant departments should address the issue by devising a mechanism on the basis of population.

The committee deliberated that the expeditious disposal of civil cases would minimize the ratio of criminal cases and would also eliminate the root cause of the litigation. The committee also resolved that use of the modern technology is the solution for efficient revamping of justice system.

As regards the provincial offices of Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, it was deliberated that the focal persons to be nominated by the relevant justice sector departments could initiate the process of coordination between Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan and the concerned provincial departments

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