

**Government of Pakistan
Benazir Income Support Programme**

PRESS RELEASE

21st January, 2014

Islamabad () A presentation on Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) for diplomatic corps was held in BISP Secretariat today. The event was hosted by Chairman BISP Enver Baig and attended by the members of Diplomatic Corps, representatives from donor organizations, members of the Parliament and Media personnel.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Enver Baig, Argentinean Ambassador H. E. Mr. Rodolfo Martin Saravia and Secretary BISP at the event held at BISP Secretariat. (Dated: January 21, 2014)

In his opening remarks Mr. Enver Baig said that it is the Prime Minister's and his governments' mission to cater for the needs of the impoverished segments of the society. Present Government's enhanced support for the Benazir Income Support Programme is a manifestation of PM Nawaz Sharif's devotion for the fight against poverty but also reflective of our commitment to foster the culture of political reconciliation and ensuring smooth functioning of democracy. He added that BISP is poised to continue its journey towards a transparent and comprehensive social safety net programme as stated in the manifesto of PML(N) under the patronage and supervision of the President Mamnoon Hussain and continued encouragement and support of the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

During his speech Chairman BISP shared his vision and plans regarding the establishment of a comprehensive social protection network in the country. He said that the agenda of current government with regards to BISP will focus on supporting the poorest of the poor masses through conditional and unconditional cash transfers,

investing in people's capabilities and promoting demand-driven policies for an effective poverty reduction scheme.

Chairman BISP stressed the importance of better coordination with the provinces and discussed various measures taken to ensure the involvement of different federating units of the country. He praised the efforts of Punjab Chief Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif, who has shown keen interest in BISP and has asked for the assistance of the management to establish a similar programme in his province as well. Chairman told the audience that an MoU in this regard would be signed soon.

The presentation on BISP was given by the Secretary BISP. In his presentation, Secretary BISP discussed all scientific tools and instruments adopted by BISP to ensure better targeting of the beneficiaries, efficient disbursement of funds and effective mechanism for grievance redressal. In his presentation, Secretary BISP also shared the future course to be adopted by BISP, which would ensure transparency and effective utilization of funds with clear outcomes of different initiatives.

On the occasion, Chairman BISP appreciated the efforts of members of the audience with regards to their continuous support and financial assistance for poverty reduction through effective social protection measures in Pakistan. Mr. Enver Baig reiterated the fact the under the leadership of PM Nawaz Sharif, the programme will grow and an effective social protection system in the country will be established, which is also evident from the fact that the unconditional cash transfer has been raised from Rs. 1000/month to Rs. 1200/month by the current government.
