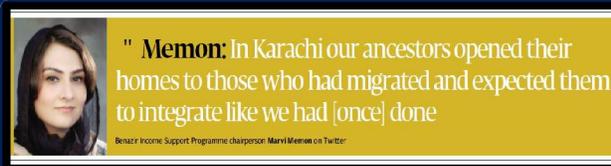




1. TWITTER

Published in Express Tribune, June 28, 2016



Marvi Memon: In Karachi our ancestors opened their homes to those who had migrated and expected them to integrate like we had [once] done.

Benazir Income Support Program chairperson **Marvi Memon** on Twitter.

2. IMF APPROVES \$510M FOR PAKISTAN

Published in The Nation, June 28, 2016

ISLAMABAD - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday approved \$510 million for Pakistan under Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

The Executive board of the IMF in Washington gave approval for releasing eleventh tranche under EFF.

Pakistan would receive the tranche in next few days, which would further increase the country's foreign exchange reserves.

Pakistan had completed 11 reviews under the 3-year Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme for an amount of \$6.64 billion, which was approved in September 2013. Pakistan and IMF held talks for 11th economic review from May 2-11, 2016 in Dubai.

Pakistan would receive \$6.1 billion from the IMF with the upcoming inflow.

The twelfth and last review under the programme is tentatively planned for August or September this year. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar already announced that Pakistan would not take new IMF programme after existing EFF expires.

Pakistan had met all of the end-March 2016 Quantitative Performance Criteria including those on central bank's net domestic assets, net international reserves, and foreign currency swap/forward position by significant margins. Quantitative performance criteria on govt borrowing from the SBP and budget deficit for end-March 2016 were over performed underlining government's commitment to sustained fiscal consolidation.

The indicative targets on targeted cash transfers through Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and power sector arrears were also met. It is worth mentioning here that World Bank had already given approval of \$500 million for Pakistan during previous week.

One billion dollars inflow from the WB and IMF combined would take the reserves to around \$22.5 billion, as currently these stood at \$21.42 billion wherein State Bank of Pakistan's reserves were \$16.5 billion and commercial banks had \$4.9 billion reserves.

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves target has been set at \$23.6 billion for the next financial year 2016-2017.



3. 'KP GOVT COMMITTED TO ASSIST POOREST OF THE POOR'

* KP is poorest province with poverty ratio of 41.3% against 26% at national level, seminar told

Published in Daily Times, June 28, 2016

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) P&DD Secretary Syed Zafar Ali Shah said that the KP government would extend its full support and cooperation to all donor agencies, development partners, international technical cooperation and implementing agencies in realizing the goal of social protection, economic empowerment and social justice in the province.

While addressing a seminar on "Coordinated Social Protection Experience Sharing and the Way Forward", jointly organised by government of Pakistan and ILO on Monday, said a press release.

Benazir Income Support Programme Secretary Salim Ahmad Ranjah and UN Resident Coordinator Pakistan, Neil Buhne, also attended the seminar.

The KP P&DD secretary said that the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is no exception with regard to the issues being faced by the safety net programmes throughout the country adding that KP is amongst the poorest provinces with poverty incidence ratio of 41.3 percent against 26 percent at the national level.

However, the KP government is cognizant of its responsibility, and is fully committed to assist the poorest of the poor.

The KP P&DD secretary informed the participants that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has made great strides towards a coordinated social service delivery system by adopting an updated and comprehensive planning document of the province like the Integrated Development

Strategy from 2014 to 2018 with the objective to deliver the fundamental rights and privileges to its citizens; constituting priority areas of social services, education, health, livelihood, safe drinking water and sanitation, good governance, poverty reduction, employment, and skilled work force.

He appreciated joint efforts of ILO and KP government in devising the draft of "Social Protection Policy" and welcomed the partners to any development investment, particularly, in the prioritized sector of social protection.

The UN Resident Coordinator Pakistan, Neil Buhne, said that Pakistan is a One UN countries and improving social protection is a priority area of the One UN Programme II of 2013-17.

He said Pakistan's "Vision 2025" is also very much in line with the 2030 agenda for sustainable development which highlights the need for social protection in Goal 1 and particularly in Target 1.3.

He emphasised the need for efforts to "leave no one behind" to ensure that social protection schemes are available and accessible to all people in the country and underlined the



importance of continuous improvement of the existing social protection system.

The ILO Pakistan Country Director, Ingrid Christensen, during his speech, informed the participants that the existing donor funded 'Social Protection Floor Initiative-KP (SPFI-KP) project' is coming to an end on June 30th this year. She assured the KP government that ILO's will continue support to implement coordinated social protection system in the province and for this purpose ILO will secure resources to continue activities until December 2017 and beyond.

The seminar also organised a panel discussion with the following panelists including Chief Poverty and SDG Unit, Planning Commission, government of Pakistan, Zafarul Hassan; BISP Complimentary Initiatives DG Dost Ali Shah; social security specialist, ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team for South Asia, New Delhi, Markus Ruck; other government officials and dignitaries of partner organisations.

The seminar was organised to share achievements, best practices and lessons learned under the project SPFI-KP and to identify ways and means, priority areas, and the institutional relationships that is required to collaborate at national and provincial level on the future course of actions related to social protection, including the implementation of draft "Social Protection Policy" along with a two years social protection strategy in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The SPFI-KP project was funded by the Japan Fund for Building Social Safety Nets in Asia and the Pacific' from 2013 till June this year

with the objectives of institutional capacity development of key social security institutions, awareness raising on social protection floors, policy development and policy debate on social protection; mapping of social protection programmes in the KP province; piloting district model under the draft policy in two selected districts of KP including Peshawar and Nowshera, and developing a video documentary for donors to generate synergies in continuing and sustaining support to the government of the province while scaling up the social protection programmes and projects.

As a way forward, a two year social protection strategy has been designed under the project which is intended to contribute not only to the integration of social protection schemes and projects but also to improve coordination among national and provincial level social protection systems in Pakistan.