



## **1. COMPUTERISATION OF BISP TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY, SAYS MARVI**

*Published in Daily Times, May 23, 2016*

GILGIT: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Chairperson Marvi Memon said on Sunday said the computerised system had been introduced in the BISP to ensure transparency.

Addressing BISP beneficiaries here at the Basin City Jaglot and Sultanabad, she said that a new poverty survey would be conducted after the holy month of Ramazan. The survey teams would be accompanied by monitoring squads to ensure transparency and best international practices, she added.

The BISP chairperson said the new poverty survey would employ the latest technology. This time, Memon said, the government would make sure that no deserving person is deprived of the programme benefits. She stressed that being the custodian of the poor, the BISP was focussing on mitigating sufferings of downtrodden segments of the society.

Memon said that she visited the aforementioned areas on the directives of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar to give the needy people their due rights. She said that women of the area were educated and announced that interest free loans would be given to them.

## **2. 'GOVT COOPERATIVE WITH OPPOSITION ON TORs'**

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Islamabadô The government is fully cooperating with the opposition on Terms of Reference (ToRs) and every possible support would be extended to the Parliamentary Committee in this regard.

Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Marvi Memon made these remarks in her address to the local representatives, notables and beneficiaries during her visit to Thatta and Chohaar Jamali, said a news release issued here on Sunday.

Confused opposition should pay attention to development in their respective areas of power instead of maligning the sincere efforts of the government.

Chairperson BISP highlighted the achievements of the government and stated that this commendable performance would make PML (N) win the next elections.

Over the past three years economic indicators have shown positive growth and investor confidence has been restored. The country is en-route to prosperity under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and nothing can impede this journey towards development While addressing, Chairperson further added it is high time that Imran Khan should accept the mandate of PML (N) given by people of Pakistan instead of misguiding the masses. PML (N) is a powerful reality that



Khan should accept as we drive our power from the people.

Vision, passion, consistency, empathy, struggle and responsibility are the ingredients that are must for leaders but I fear this is beyond the understanding of Pakistan Tehreek-e- Insaf.ô APP

*(Express, Naibaat and Jinnah also carried the story)*

## **3. PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY VITAL FOR POVERTY REDUCTION**

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### Protecting biodiversity vital for poverty reduction

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Climate Change Syed Abu Akif on Sunday said stemming the loss of biodiversity was vital for the poverty reduction and economic sustainability.

He pledged support to provincial governments and private organisations to protect biodiversity. The official was speaking at a three-day national awareness and training workshop on "Biodiversity conservation, access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of their benefits under the United Nations Nagoya Protocol."

"We must realise that the loss of biodiversity in all parts of the country has increased alarmingly and many wildlife and plant species are on the verge of extinction," Mr Akif added.

The event coincided with the International Day for Biological Diversity that was also celebrated by the climate change ministry to highlight the role of biodiversity conservation for poverty reduction and achieving the United Nations' 17 sustainable development goals. The goals were adopted on September 25 last year and are to be achieved by 2030.

The theme of the day this year was

"Mainstreaming biodiversity, sustaining people and their livelihoods."

The workshop and the biodiversity day event were organised by the ministry in partnership with the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) under its GIZ Biodiversity Khyber Pakhtunkhwa project and German Cooperation Organisation.

Mr Akif added: "We must understand that biodiversity is the foundation for the life and for the essential services provided by ecosystems. It ensures people's livelihoods and sustainable development in all realms of socio-economic activity, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism."

The gathering was informed that Pakistan provided habitats for 188 mammal species, of which six were endemic and 20 threatened with extinction. There are 666 bird species of which 25 are endangered. As many as 174 reptile species are found in the country, 13 of them ranked as endemic species.

The reptiles include 14 turtles, one crocodile, 90 lizards and 65 species of snakes. Besides, there are 22 amphibians, nine of them declared endemic. Total 198 fresh water fish species exist in the country and 29 of them are endemics. So far, more than 5,000 species of invertebrates have been identified. In addition, there are over

5,700 species of flowering plants with over 400 species endemic in the country.

The country is also home to 26 national parks, 96 wildlife sanctuaries and 93 game reserve areas.

Other speakers said the increasing population, spontaneous, reckless urbanisation, deforestation and over-exploitation of natural resources were the main causes of the biodiversity loss.

The inspector general of forests, climate change ministry, Syed Mahmood Nasir, said biodiversity was an important cross-cutting issue in the 17 sustainable development goals.

"It is critical that we make progress on mainstreaming biodiversity and transforming how societies value and manage it," said Mr Nasir.

Director biodiversity Raja Naem Ashraf talked about the draft National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

He said the draft plan aimed at checking the biodiversity loss by conserving and protecting the wildlife and plant species, restoring ecosystems and promoting sustainable use of natural resources.

Wolfgang Hesse, the policy adviser of GIZ, spoke on the importance of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources.

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