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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF INFORMATION COMMISSION FOR DIFFERENT
POLICY DECISIONS.

A meeting of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Information Commission was held on 11th August, 2016 for policy decisions on different matters of the Information Commission. The following were present:

Sahibzada Muhammad Khalid, Chief Information Commissioner, RTIC
Mr. Abdul Matin, Information Commissioner, RTIC
Professor Kalimullah, Information Commissioner, RTIC

The participants discussed the performance of the Information Commission from its establishment to date. They observed that on assenting to the RTI Act, 2013, by the Governor on 4/11/2013, it has been enforced as a law. Under section 24(1) it was required that with the commencement of the Act, the government should establish the RTI Commission within 120 days. The appointment of members was completed by March, 2014, however neither fund were provided during 2013-14 nor there was any supporting staff. Therefore, the World Bank had sponsored the RTI Commission. A limited staff of 5 officers on contract basis was employed by the World Bank from its funds. None of them had any experience of working in a government organization, therefore on the recommendations of Establishment Department, the services of a retired Deputy Secretary were hired as consultant with the additional charge of the post of Secretary for disposal of day to day routine work of the RTI Secretariat and to train the newly recruited staff. The other supporting staff has been appointed and as such after appointment of all the required staff the RTI Commission has started its functions properly.

In light of the provisions of the RTI Act, 2013, the Chief Information Commission will retire on 16/8/2016 (Afternoon) and Mr. Abdul Matin Information Commissioner will retire on 23/10/2016 (Afternoon). For provision of their substitutes, a written request has already been made during the month of April, 2016 to the Provincial Government.

The Information Commission from its establishment to 10/8/2016 has received 2373 complaints, out of which 2016 (85%) have been disposed off. The remaining 357 complaints are in process. Most of the pending complaints have been received recently and under the RTI Act, these will be disposed off within 60 days. Besides disposal of complaints the following activities were also conducted:

1. Trainings of Public Information Officers of the public bodies were arranged at different stations, wherein more than 600 PIOs were trained.
2. Workshops/Seminars were arranged for awareness of the general public, media, and civil society.

3. Wall Calendars, Table Calendars, Pamphlets, newsletters etc: conveying the message of RTI were printed and distributed amongst government departments and general public during 2015 and 2016.
4. A Facilitation Center has been established in the office of the RTI Commission to guide on phone and facilitate the people regarding filing requests for information or complaints. This centre is financed by an NGO namely CGPA. The facilitation center has started its functions from May, 2015. From the date of its establishment to 10th August, 2016, it has attended and responded 898 calls. For public convenience a toll free telephone number has also been installed in this Facilitation Center
5. Advertisement campaigns were also carried out through newspapers, radio and bill boards.
6. The offices of various public bodies were Inspected/visited for checking the implementation of RTI Law and uploading of information on their web sites.
7. Instructions were issued for proactive disclosure of information.
8. Policy for extra copies charges was notified.
9. Publication of Annual Reports for 2014-15 and 2015-2016.
10. To make the RTI law more effective, amendments were proposed in the RTI Act. Two amendments have already been enacted. The third amendment is pending with the Law Department for vetting.
11. The Supreme Court of Pakistan was pleased to instruct this Commission to devise and formulate transparency standards for various departments like Prison, Police and Labour. The Commission took this as an honor and did the job in case of Prison and Police while work is in progress in the case of Labour.

The RTI Commission was of the view that under Section 24(2) of the RTI Act 2013, the RTI Commission is an independent statutory body, having operational and administrative autonomy from any other person or entity, including Government and its agencies, except as specifically provided for by law. Under Section 26(1) of the RTI Act 2013, the Information Commission has all powers, direct or indirect, as are necessary to undertake its functions as provided for in the Act, including full legal personality and powers to acquire, hold and dispose of property. With the passage of time, the work of the RTI Commission and its Secretariat is increasing day by day, therefore for smooth functioning of the Commission, the RTI Commission, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 24(2) and 26(1) of the RTI Act, 2013, took the following decisions:

1. There were two signatories for withdrawal of the amount from the Bank, one was the B&A Officer and the other was the Chief Information Commissioner. Later on the powers to sign the cheques were withdrawn from the then B&A Officer and Professor Kalimullah was authorized as the 2nd signatory. Since the Chief Information Commissioner is retiring on 16/8/2016 (AN), therefore the second signatory will be the newly appointed B&A Officer Mr. Ishtiaqur Rehman.
2. Professor Kalimullah, Commissioner-I, will be authorized to sanction Salary of officers/officials, payments to consultants and all other

amounts required to be paid from the Grant-in-Aid provided by the Provincial Government in the Budget 2016-17 and the surplus amount available from the previous grants. He will also exercise the financial powers as delegated to the Chief Information Commissioner vide RTI Commission's notification No. RTIC/BEA/2-1/2014, dated 01/12/2014, till the appointment of the new Chief Information Commissioner.

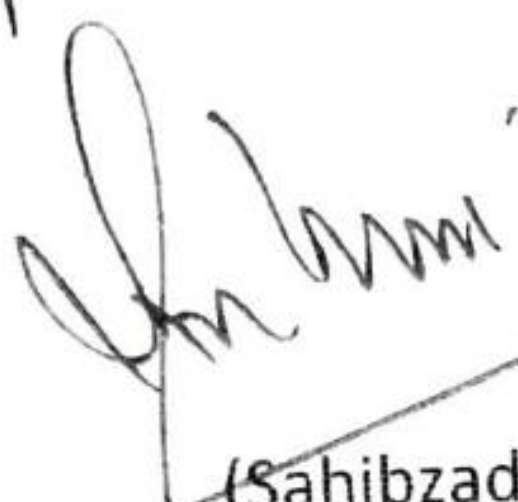
3. The Information Commissioners-I and II, will be authorized to appoint the staff, legal counselors and other experts till the appointment of the new Chief Information Commissioner, They will also be authorized to take decisions in disciplinary cases against the staff and decide leave and other service related affairs of the employees of RTI Commission.
4. Mr. Noor Said, the Administrative Officer of RTI Commission will be the Public Information Officer (PIO) in respect of the RTI Commission.

Mr. Abdul Matin and Professor Kalimullah thanked Sahibzada Muhammad Khalid for putting up a pioneering effort with his devotion, straight forwardness and dedication which gave this Commission the strength not only to stand on its feet but to earn the name its enjoys today. Both of them expressed the view that without the leadership of Sahibzada Muhammad Khalid, this infant would not have made its presence felt. By his bold stands he, though earned the ire of the vested interest, yet got the appreciation of those whose opinions matter.

The Chief Information Commissioner also thanked the two Commissioners for supporting him in his tasks and creating an environment of encouragement and cooperation.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks.


(Abdul Matin)
Commissioner-I


(Sahibzada Muhammad Khalid)
Chief Information Commissioner


(Professor Kalimullah)
Commissioner-II