

Press Release

Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner in Punjab Information Commission Urged by CPDI

Lahore, Punjab - April 18, 2024 - The Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) has addressed an urgent appeal to Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Chief Minister of Punjab, regarding the impending conclusion of the incumbent Chief Information Commissioner's tenure at the Punjab Information Commission on May 29, 2024.

Expressing concern over the necessity of maintaining the Commission's operational efficiency, CPDI emphasizes the critical need for the prompt appointment of a new Chief Information Commissioner, ensuring the incumbent's successor possesses the requisite qualifications.

According to Mukhtar Ahmad Ali, Executive Director of CPDI, "It is imperative that the Punjab government takes swift action to appoint a new Chief Information Commissioner to ensure the smooth functioning of the Punjab Information Commission. Failure to do so may hinder transparency and accountability in governance."

Of particular concern to CPDI is the recent amendment to the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2013, allowing for the extension of Commissioners' terms to a second three-year tenure. CPDI contends that this amendment may compromise the impartiality and integrity of the Commission's decisions and orders, calling for its withdrawal to preserve the Commission's credibility.

CPDI's concerns and recommendations have been previously communicated to the Chief Minister's office through a detailed report titled "Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2013 - Analysis and Recommendations," dated March 26, 2024. In light of this, CPDI urges the Punjab Government to carefully consider the recommendations put forth and take proactive steps to fortify the Act, strengthening transparency and accountability in governance.

In conclusion, CPDI appeals for the expeditious appointment of the Chief Information Commissioner before the current Commissioner's term concludes, ensuring continuity and effectiveness in the Commission's operations.

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