

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

BILL

further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the purpose hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. **Short title and commencement.**- (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Substitution of Article 251 of the Constitution.**- In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for Article 251, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

National Language.- (1) The National Languages of Pakistan are Balochi, Balti, Brahvi, Punjabi, Pushto, Shina, Sindhi, Siraiki, Hindko, Urdu and all those mother tongues as deemed to be major mother tongues of Pakistan by the National Language Commission. The said Commission which will comprise of experts and linguists will be set up with the prime objective to develop criteria for giving the status of national languages to major mother tongues of Pakistan.

(2) The Official language of Pakistan shall be English until arrangements are made for its replacement with Urdu within fifteen years from the commencement day.

(3) The Federal Government will establish a fund for the development and promotion of National languages as well as ensure that Arabic and Persian are taught as subjects at school level.

(4) Without prejudice to the status of the National languages, a Provincial Assembly may by law prescribe measures for the teaching, promotion and use of a provincial language in addition to the national language.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONABLE

In all nation states all major mother tongues are all National languages. Since the major mother tongues of Pakistan which are Balochi, Balti, Brahvi, Punjabi, Pushto, Shina, Sindhi, Siraiki and Urdu have not been given their due status in the Constitution of Pakistan and a number of popular movements are going on in the country demanding grant of National Status

to these languages, therefore, it has become imperative to give those languages the status of National Language of Pakistan. This will inherently be recognizing the fact that each mother tongue of Pakistan is equal to the other in terms of status. That no one language is superior to the other. That all mother tongues belong to all of Pakistan and not just to the restricted areas where they are spoken. This nation will enhance concept of equality between all peoples of Pakistan speaking different languages. Giving respect to all mother tongues will bring the people of Pakistan closer to each other and enhance inter provincial harmony. Moreover, the teaching of Arabic and Persian at school level needs to be encouraged so that Islam is better understood by our population and so that regionally we remain connected to our age old literary traditions of Persian. Additionally it is important that all these National language promotion makes a country's culture and history richer and increases understanding between the peoples. It is a known UNESCO fact that education is enhanced in mother tongues and thus giving them due status will also enhance real education levels of Pakistan. The official language should continue being English till Urdu's substitution is made possible within next 15 years.

2. The instant Bill seeks to achieve the aforesaid purpose.

Sd/-

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