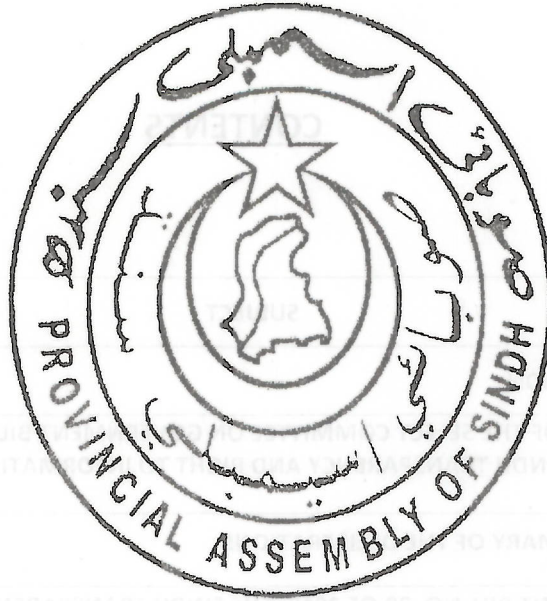


Sindh 30th Sitting 6th



REPORT

OF

THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON

ON

GOVERNMENT BILL NO.30 OF 2016
THE SINDH TRANSPARENCY AND RIGHT TO
INFORMATION BILL, 2016

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INTRODUCTION

The Government Bill No.30 of 2016, the Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016 was referred to the Select Committee by the Assembly on the motion moved by Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, Minister for Food and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Sindh in its sittings held on Wednesday, the 23rd of November, 2016 for at-length and clause by clause consideration and amendments, if any, and subsequently submission of its report to the Provincial Assembly of Sindh.

**CHAIRMAN/MEMBERS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT BILL
NO.30 OF 2016, THE SINDH TRANSPARENCY AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION BILL, 2016**

The Select Committee on Government Bill No.30 of 2016 who considered the mentioned Government Bill No.30 of 2016 was consisting upon the following members:-

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------|
| 1. | Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khuhro,
Minister for Food & Parliamentary Affairs,
Government of Sindh | Chairman |
| 2. | Dr. Sikandar Ali Mandhro,
Minister for Health,
Government of Sindh | Member |
| 3. | Syed Nasir Hussain Shah
Minister for Transport & Mass Transit,
Government of Sindh | Member |
| 4. | Pir Mujeeb-Ul-Haque, MPA | Member |
| 5. | Ms. Sharmeela Saheba Farooqui, MPA | Member |
| 6. | Syed Sardar Ahmed, MPA | Member |
| 7. | Mr. Muhammad Moin Aamir Pirzada, MPA | Member |
| 8. | Mr. Muhammad Shaheryar Khan Mahar, MPA | Member |
| 9. | Mr. Samar Ali Khan, MPA | Member |
| 10. | Mr. Shafi Muhammad Jamot, MPA | Member |
| 11. | Syed Awais Qadir Shah, MPA | Member |
| 12. | Mr. Nand Kumar Goklani, MPA | Member |
| 13. | Mr. Moula Bux Chandio,
Advisor to Chief Minister, Sindh
On Information | Ex-Officio Member |
| 14. | Barrister Murtuza Wahab,
Advisor to Chief Minister, Sindh for
Law, Enquiries & Anti Corruption | Ex-Officio Member |

Mr. G. M Umer Farooq, Secretary, Provincial Assembly of Sindh acted as Secretary to the Select Committee on Government Bill No.30 of 2016, the Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

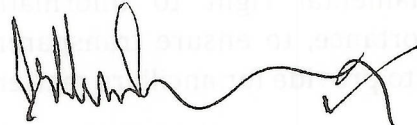
BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE BILL

The Select Committee on considered the referred Government Bill No.30 of 2016, the Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 during its number of sittings and heard view points, proposals, suggestions and amendments by the Honorable Members of the Select Committee and advises by worthy Secretary, Information Department, Government of Sindh and Secretary, Law Department, Government of Sindh in order to accommodate those suggestions and amendments, if deems fit.

Mr. Chairman convened the meetings of the Select Committee on Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 on following dates:-

<u>S.NO</u>	<u>MEETINGS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE HELD ON</u>
1.	9 th of January, 2017
2.	12 th of January, 2017
3.	13 th of January, 2017
4.	18 th of January, 2017

At the stage of conclusion of the Government Bill No.30 of 2016, the Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016, the Select Committee after an extensive, exhausted and prolonged deliberations taken the Government Bill clause by clause and after incorporation and accommodation of certain amendments by the Members of the Select Committee in different clauses of the Government Bill and keeping in view the valuable advises by the administrative Secretary of Information Department and Law Department, Government of Sindh unanimously approved the Government Bill No.30 of 2016, the Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 for the passage of the august House of Provincial Assembly of Sindh.



(NISAR AHMED KHUHRO)

CHAIRMAN

SELECT COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT

BILL NO.30 OF 2016

**GOVERNMENT BILL NO.30 OF 2016-THE SINDH TRANSPARENCY AND
RIGHT TO INFORMATION BILL, 2016**

**A
BILL**

to provide for promoting transparency in the working of every public authority by setting out a practical regime for every citizen to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, the constitution of a Sindh Information Commission and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

WHEREAS Article 19A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan provides that every citizen shall have the right to access information in all matters of public importance, subject to regulations and reasonable restrictions imposed by law;

Preamble.

AND WHEREAS transparency and access to information are essential principles of democracy which not only enable the populace to hold the Governments and their institutions accountable but also help in improving the system of governance;

AND WHEREAS it is essential that all citizens shall have right to information to participate meaningfully in the democratic process and further to improve their involvement and contribution in public affairs;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is expedient to provide for transparency and freedom of information to ensure that all citizens have better access to public information, to make the Government more accountable to citizens, to enforce the fundamental right to information in all matters of public importance, to ensure transparency in all Government matters and to provide for ancillary matters;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

- 1.(1) This Act may be called the Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2017.

**Short title, extent
and
commencement.**

(2) It shall extend to the whole of the Province of Sindh.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context – **Definitions.**

- (a) "Applicant" means a citizen of Pakistan or a legal person registered or incorporated in Pakistan, seeking information under this Act;
- (b) "Commission" means the Sindh Information Commission established under this Act;
- (c) "Commissioner" means an Information Commissioner and includes the Chief Information Commissioner;
- (d) "complainant" means a complaint made, in writing, to the Commission by an applicant on one or more of the following grounds:
 - (i) wrongful denial of access to information;
 - (ii) non provision of information within the stipulated time;
 - (iii) refusal to receive and process the request from an applicant;
 - (iv) furnishing false, misleading or incomplete information;
 - (v) charging fee or cost for provision of information in excess of the requisite fee;
 - (vi) deliberate destruction of information to avoid its disclosure;
 - (vii) failure of a public body to implement the provisions regarding proactive disclosure; or
 - (viii) violation of any other provisions of the Act

by a public body;

- (e) "Government" means the Government of Sindh;
- (f) "Information" means any information held by a public body and includes any memo, book, design, map, contract, representation, pamphlet, brochure, order, notification, document, plans, letter, report, accounts statement, project proposal, photograph, audio, video, drawing, film, any instrument prepared through electronic process, machine-readable documents and any other documentary material regardless of its physical form or characteristics;
- (g) "Prescribed" means prescribed by the rules or regulations made under the Act;
- (h) "Public Body" means:
 - (i) a department, attached department, autonomous or semiautonomous body of the Government, a company of the Government or a special institution created by the Government;
 - (ii) a local government constituted under the Sindh Local Government Act, 2013 or any other law for the time being in force;
 - (iii) Secretariat of Governor of Sindh;
 - (iv) any Court, Tribunal, Office, Board, Commission, Council, or other body functioning in the province of Sindh;

(v) Provincial Assembly of Sindh;

(vi) statutory body established under a provincial law; and

(vii) a non-government organization substantially financed by the Government or a local government;

(i) "designated official" means a public information officer designated under section 7 of the Act; and

(j) "right to information" means the right to obtain information accessible under the Act and includes the right to:

(i) inspect any work or document;

(ii) take notes, extract or certified copy of a document;

(iii) take certified sample of any material; and

(iv) obtain copy of information in electronic form.

3. Every public Body shall at all times endeavor to maintain transparency in discharge of its functions. **Transparency of Actions.**

4. Subject to provisions of this Act and any rules made therein, an Applicant may, in the prescribed manner, exercise the right to acquire information and/or record held by any Public Body. **Access to Information.**

5. Subject to the provisions of this Act and any rules made herein, each Public Body shall ensure that all of the records which it holds are properly maintained so as to enable it to comply with its obligations this Act, and in accordance with any relevant rules or standards established by the Sindh information Commission. **Proper Maintenance of Records.**

6. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a Public Body shall proactively disclose: **Proactive Disclosure.**

- (a) Particulars of its organization, functions and duties;
- (b) Powers and functions of its officers and employees;
- (c) Norms and criteria set by it for the discharge of its daily functions;
- (d) Rules, regulations, notifications circulars, instructions and other legal instruments being enforced, issued or used by it or being used by its employees in the discharge of its functions;
- (e) Statement of categories of information that are under its control;
- (f) Description of its decision-making processes and any opportunities for the public to provide input into or be consulted about decisions;
- (g) Details of all its administrative and developmental decisions;
- (h) Directory of its officers and employees with their respective remuneration, perks and privileges;
- (i) Budget including details of all proposed and actual expenditures;
- (j) Manner of execution of subsidy programs;
- (k) Full particulars of the recipients of concessions, permits or authorizations granted by it;
- (l) Facilities available with the public body for obtaining information held by it;
- (m) Complete particulars of its public information officer;
- (n) Any other information as may be prescribed.

(2) For the purpose of sub-section (1), every Public Body shall

disseminate all information as widely as possible including the internet where possible so that all citizens have easy access to it.

(3) Every public body shall endeavour to ensure proactive disclosure of information as explained in sub-section (1) of section 6.

7. (1) Every public body, within a period of 120 days from the commencement of this Act, designate and notify an officer or any appropriate number of the officers to act and serve as a designated officer with whom the request for information under this Act may be lodged.

Appointment of Designated Official.

(2) In case, no such officer is appointed, the person in-charge of the public body shall be deemed as a Designated Official.

(3) The Designated Official shall be responsible for ensuring full compliance of the provisions of this Act.

8. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, any citizen may make an application for obtaining information, about the working of the Public Body. The said application may be made in any form or manner to the Designated Official.

Application Procedure.

(2) The Applicant shall be required to provide reasons for request for information, adequate description of the information and the details necessary to provide the requisite information.

(3) The Designated Official shall respond to the application as soon as possible and in any case within thirty(30) working days. In case, the required information is not readily available, the Designated Official shall intimate the Applicant and take another fifteen (15) working days for responding to the application.

(4) Where the Designated Official decides not to provide the information, he shall intimate the Applicant the reasons for such decision along with a statement that the Applicant may file an internal review or a complaint against the refusal under this Act.

(5) The information or the copy of any public record supplied to the Applicant shall contain a certificate at the foot thereof that the information is correct or the copy is a true copy of such public record, and such certificate shall be dated, signed and stamped by the Designated Official.

(6) The public body or the Designated Official shall not charge any fee for making a request other than cost of reproducing or sending the information in accordance with a centrally set schedule of costs stipulated by the Sindh Information Commission.

9. (1) Where the Designated Official decides not to provide the information, the Applicant shall request the head of the public body for internal review of the said decision, in relation to what the Applicant regards as involving. **Internal Review.**

(a) a failure by the Designated Official to comply with any provision of this Act including failure to communicate decision within the specified time; or

(b) unreasonable behaviour by the Designated Official in the exercise of any direction under the Act; or

(c) provision of incomplete, misleading or false information under the Act; and

(d) any other matter relating to requesting or obtaining access to information.

(2) The Applicant shall, within sixty (60) days from the date of communication of the decision of the Designated Official or his failure to provide information within the stipulated time, submit a request, in writing, under subsection (1) and specify remedy which the Applicant seeks against the of the Designated official.

(3) The officer before whom an application for internal review is filed under this Section may exercise any of the powers of the Designated Official under this Act and shall, within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the application:

(a) Confirm, modify or reverse the decision of the Designated Official;

(b) Notify the decision of internal review to the Applicant including reasons for the decision; and

(c) Order departmental action against the Designated Officials if found negligent in performance of duties under this

Act.

10. (1) The Designation Official or the Public Body may refuse an application for access to information where disclosure of the information, in their opinion, shall or is likely to: **Exceptions.**

- (a) Cause harm to national interest;
- (b) Cause harm to national defence on security, public order or international relations of Pakistan;
- (c) Affect legitimate private interest, unless the person concerned has consented to disclosure of the information;
- (d) Affect protection of legally privileged information or of the rules relating to breach of confidence;
- (e) Affect legitimate commercial and financial interests of a public body or a third party, including information subject to third party's intellectual property rights;
- (f) Cause harm to life, health or safety of any person;
- (g) Affect law and order situation;
- (h) Reveal the identity of a confidential source or hamper investigation of a case;
- (i) Affect prevention or detection of crime, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders, or the administration of justice;
- (j) Cause harm to the property of any citizen;
- (k) Affect the dignity of a citizen;
- (l) Cause damage to the economy as a result of premature disclosure of the proposed introduction, abolition or variation of any tax, duty or any other decision affecting the economy of the country; or
- (m) Affect the formulation of or success of a policy either by its premature disclosure or by restraining the free and frank provision of advice within the Government.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub section (1), if the Commission determines that the public in such disclosure outweighs the harm that shall or is likely to be caused by such disclosure, it may direct the Designated Official to provide the information.

(3) Where a part of a document is covered by an exception in sub section (1), any information in the document which is not covered by an exception shall be disclosed if it is reasonably severable from the rest of the document.

11.(1) Anyone who believes that his request has not been dealt in accordance with the provisions of this Act has the right to lodge a complaint with the Commission to this effect.

(2) Complaints under sub-section (1) shall be free of charge.

Complaints

(3) The Commission shall decide any complaint within a period of sixty (60) days.

(4). In an appeal, the applicant shall bear the burden of proof of showing that the designated official or public body has acted in violation of this Act.

12.(1) The Government shall within a period of one hundred and twenty (120) days from the commencement of this Act, establish an Information Commission to be known as the Sindh Information Commission.

(2)The Information commission shall be an independent statutory body, which shall enjoy operational and administrative autonomy from any other person or entity, including government and any of its agencies, except an specifically provided for by law.

Sindh Information Commission

(3)The Information Commission shall comprise of three members appointed by the Government on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed and until so prescribed, as are determined by the Government.

(4)The Information Commission shall be headed by the Chief Information Commissioner, who shall be a retired Senior Government Servant not below the rank of BPS-20 and shall be appointed by the Government.

(5)The Information Commission, besides the chief Information Commissioner shall comprise of two other Members to be known as Commissioners, who shall be appointed in the following manner:

a) One Advocate of High Court or Supreme Court, who is qualified to be a Judge of High Court; and

b) A person from the civil society having experience of not less than fifteen years in his profession.

(6)The Chief Information Commissioner and the

Commissioners shall hold office for a term of three (03) years from the date on which they assume office and shall not be eligible for reappointment.

(7) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (5), the Chief Information commissioner and Commissioners shall not hold office after they have attained the age of sixty-five (65) years.

(8) A Commissioner may not hold any other public office, or be connected with any political party or be running any business or pursuing any profession at the time of or during their appointment to the Information Commission.

(9) A Commissioner may be removed by a positive vote of not less than two of the other Commissioners on grounds of failure to attend three consecutive meetings of the Information Commission without cause, inability to perform the duties of a Commissioner, failing to fulfill conditions for being a Commissioner or conduct which is materially inconsistent with the status of being a Commissioner.

(10) Notwithstanding any other Section, the Government may initiate the process of removing any commissioner on the grounds of misconduct and physical or mental incapacity. Provided that before making any such decision, the government shall communicate the charges to the Commissioner and afford him reasonable opportunity to explain his position.

(11) If the Government is not satisfied with the defence offered by the Commissioner, it may refer the case to the Provincial Assembly for an enquiry by a Special Committee to be constituted by the Speaker of Provincial Assembly.

(12) If the Committee finds the Commissioner guilty of any of the charges mentioned in subsection (10), the Government shall remove the Commissioner.

**Functions of
the
Commission.**

13.(1) The Commission may:

- (a) conduct an inquiry on a complaint and may direct a Public Body to disclose information to the Applicant;
- (b) determine the public interest in terms of Section 10 (2) of this Act;
- (c) resolve any inconsistencies in the application of the provisions of this Act or the rules or regulations.

(2) The Commission shall decide a complaint within sixty (60) days of its receipt and pass appropriate orders including recommending disciplinary proceedings against delinquent officials.

(3) The Commission may exercise the powers of a Civil Court to:

- (a) summon and enforce attendance of persons, compel them to give oral or written evidence on oath and to produce documents or information;
- (b) examine and inspect information;
- (c) receive evidence on affidavits;
- (d) requisition relevant information from any office;
and
- (e) issue summons for witnesses or documents.

(4) While inquiring into a complaint, the commission or any person authorized by the Commission, may examine any information on spot.

(5) The Commission shall facilitate the application of the provisions of this Act and may:

- a) issue directives to public bodies for preservation, management, publication, publicity and access to information;
- b) prescribe the procedure for accessing information from a

public body;

- c) advise and provide support to the Government to make necessary laws and procedures for implementation of the right to information;
- d) provide technical and other support to the public bodies for effective enforcement of right to information;
- e) conduct training of the Designated Officials;
- f) undertake mass awareness campaign to create awareness about the Act, rules and regulations;
- g) establish an information web-portal;
- h) compile a user handbook in Urdu and English, containing such information in easily comprehensible form and manner, as may reasonably be required by an applicant; and
- i) compile guidelines for use by Designated Officials.

(6) The Commission shall prepare an annual report on the implementation of the provisions of this Act during a financial year and submit it to the Government.

(7) The annual report of the Commission shall, in particular, contain the following information:

(a) status of right to information law, rules, regulations and procedures;

(b) Progress on implementation of the freedom of information law, including district and department-wise summaries of information requests showing current status of each information request;

(c) Hurdles being faced in the implementation of freedom of information law; and

(d) Budget, expenses and other organizational matters.

14. Government shall allocate adequate funds to the commission to enable it to establish a secretariat, hire the requisite staff to conduct its business properly, and promote access to information amongst the public, public servants and civil society.

Allocation of Funds.

15. Where a Designated Official has, without any reasonable cause, refused to receive an application, has not furnished information within time limits, or with malafide intent denied the request or knowingly gave incorrect, incomplete or misleading information, the commission may, after providing sufficient opportunity of defence to the Designated Official, direct the said officer to pay fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees.

Penalty on Designated Official.

16. Where a Designated Official has, without any reasonable cause, refused to receive an application, has not furnished information within time limits, or with malafide intent denied the request or knowingly gave incorrect, incomplete or misleading information, the commission may, after providing sufficient opportunity of defence to the Designated Official, direct the said officer to pay fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees.

Offence.

17. No Court shall entertain a suit, application or other proceeding in respect of any decision made under this Act and the decision shall not be called in question otherwise than by way of an internal review or a complaint under the Act.

Bar of Suits, etc.

18. The Government in consultation with the commission may be notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying the purposes of this Act.

Power to Make Rules.

19. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Government may, by order in the official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty.

Power to Remove Difficulties.

20. This Act and the rules shall be interpreted so as to advance the purposes of this Act and to facilitate and encourage, promptly and at the lowest reasonable cost, the disclosure of information and effective implementation of right to information. **Interpretation.**

21. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything which is done in good faith or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or any rules made under the Act. **Indemnity.**

22. The provisions of Act shall take precedence over the provisions of any other law. **Act to take precedence over other laws.**

23. The Sindh Freedom of Information Act, 2006 is hereby repealed. **Repeal.**

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In order to provide transparency and access to information which are considered essential principles of democracy which not only enable the populace to hold the Governments and their institutions accountable but also help in improving the system of governance and in view of article 19A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan which provides ever citizen the right to access information in all matters of public importance, it is expedient to enact a law in the matter.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above object.

MEMBER-IN-CHARGE

BILL NO.30 OF 2015- THE SINDH TRANSPARENCY AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION BILL, 2016 AS AMENDED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE

**A
BILL**

to provide for promoting transparency in the working of every public authority by setting out a practical regime for every citizen to secure access to information **in a rapid and low cost manner** under the control of public authorities, the constitution of a Sindh Information Commission and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

WHEREAS Article 19A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan provides that every citizen shall have the right to access information in all matters of public importance, subject to regulations and reasonable restrictions imposed by law;

Preamble.

AND WHEREAS transparency and access to information are essential principles of democracy which not only enable the populace to hold the Governments and their institutions accountable but also help in improving the system of governance;

AND WHEREAS it is essential that all citizens shall have right to information to participate meaningfully in the democratic process and further to improve their involvement and contribution in public affairs;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is expedient to provide for transparency and freedom of information to ensure that all citizens have better access to public information, to make the Government more accountable to citizens, to enforce the fundamental right to information in all matters of public importance, to ensure transparency in all Government matters and to provide for ancillary matters;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1.(1) This Act may be called the Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2017. **Short title, extent and commencement**

(2) It shall extend to the whole of the Province of Sindh.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context -

(a) "Applicant" means a citizen of Pakistan or a legal person registered or incorporated in Pakistan, seeking information under this Act;

Definitions.

(b) "Commission" means the Sindh Information Commission established under this Act;

(c) "Commissioner" means an Information Commissioner and includes the Chief Information Commissioner;

(d) "Document" means any order or decision made and duly notified;

(e) "complainant" means a complaint made, in writing, to the Commission by an applicant on one or more of the following grounds:

(i) wrongful denial of access to information;

(ii) non provision of information within the stipulated time;

(iii) refusal to receive and process the request from an applicant;

(iv) furnishing false, misleading or incomplete information;

(v) charging fee or cost for provision of information in excess of the requisite fee;

(vi) deliberate destruction of information to avoid its disclosure;

(vii) failure of a public body to implement the

provisions regarding proactive disclosure; or

(viii) violation of any other provisions of the Act by a public body;

(f) "Government" means the Government of Sindh;

(g) "Information" means any information held by a public body and includes any memo, book, design, map, contract, representation, pamphlet, brochure, order, notification, document, plans, letter, report, accounts statement, project proposal, photograph, audio, video, drawing, film, any instrument prepared through electronic process, machine-readable documents and any other documentary material regardless of its physical form or characteristics;

(h) "Prescribed" means prescribed by the rules or regulations made under the Act;

(i) "Public Body" means:

(i) a department, attached department, autonomous or semiautonomous body of the Government, a company of the Government or a special institution created by the Government;

(ii) a local government constituted under the Sindh Local Government Act, 2013 or any other law for the time being in force;

(iii) Secretariat of Governor of Sindh;

(iv) any Court, Tribunal, Office, Board, Commission, Council, or other body functioning in the province of Sindh;

(v) Provincial Assembly of Sindh;

(vi) statutory body established under a provincial law; and

(vii) a non-government organization substantially financed by the Government or a local government;

(viii) Secretariat of Chief Minister, Sindh;

(i) "designated official" means a public information

officer designated under section 7 of the Act; and

(j) "right to information" means the right to obtain information accessible under the Act and includes the right to:

- (i) Inspect any work or document;
- (ii) take certified copy of a document; and
- (iii) obtain copy of information in electronic form.

3. Every public Body shall at all times endeavor to maintain transparency in discharge of its functions. **Transparency of Actions.**

4. Subject to provisions of this Act and any rules made therein, an Applicant may, in the prescribed manner, exercise the right to acquire information and/or record held by any Public Body. **Access to Information.**

5. Subject to the provisions of this Act and any rules made herein, each Public Body shall ensure that all of the records which it holds are properly maintained so as to enable it to comply with its obligations this Act, and in accordance with any relevant rules or standards established by the Sindh information Commission. **Proper Maintenance of Records.**

6. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a Public Body shall proactively disclose **and publish:**

(a) Particulars of its organization, functions and duties;

(b) Powers and functions of its officers and employees;

(c) Norms and criteria set by it for the discharge of its daily functions;

(d) Rules, regulations, notifications circulars, instructions and other legal instruments being enforced, issued or used by it or being used by its employees in the discharge of its functions;

(e) Statement of categories of information that are under its control;

(f) Description of its decision making processes;

(g) Details of all its administrative and developmental

Proactive Disclosure.

decisions;

(h) Directory of its officers and employees with their **qualifications** and respective remuneration, perks and privileges;

(i) Budget including details of all proposed and actual expenditures;

(j) Manner of execution of subsidy programs;

(k) Full particulars of the recipients of concessions, permits or authorizations granted by it;

(l) Facilities available with the public body for obtaining information held by it;

(m) Complete particulars of its public information officer;

(n) Any other information as may be prescribed.

(o) Maintenance of record in respect of applications received and actions taken thereto;

(2) For the purpose of sub-section (1), every Public Body shall disseminate all information as widely as possible including the internet where possible so that all citizens have easy access to it.

(3) Every public body shall endeavour to ensure proactive disclosure of information as explained in sub-section (1) of section 6.

7. (1) Every public body, within a period of **45** days from the commencement of this Act, designate and notify an officer or any appropriate number of the officers to act and serve as a designated officer **(s) not below the grade of BPS-16** with whom the request for information under this Act may be lodged.

Appointment of Designated Official.

(2) In case, no such officer is appointed, the person in-charge of the public body shall be deemed as a Designated Official.

(3) The Designated Official shall be responsible for ensuring full compliance of the provisions of this Act.

8. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, any **applicant** may make an application for obtaining information of the public body. The said application may be made in any form or manner to the Designated Official **and duly acknowledged**;

**Application
Procedure.**

(2) The Applicant shall be required to provide adequate description of the information and the details necessary to provide the requisite information.

(3) The Designated Official shall respond to the application as soon as possible and in any case within **fifteen (15)** working days. In case, the required information is not readily available, the Designated Official shall intimate the Applicant and take another **ten (10)** working days for responding to the application.

(4) Information needed to protect the life or liberty of any individual shall be provided within two working days;

(5) Where the Designated Official decides not to provide the information, he shall intimate the Applicant the reasons for such decision along with a statement that the Applicant may file an internal review;

(6) The information or the copy of any public record supplied to the Applicant shall contain a certificate at the foot thereof that the information is correct or the copy is a true copy of such public record, and such certificate shall be dated, signed and stamped by the Designated Official.

(7) The public body or the Designated Official shall not charge any fee for making a request other than cost of reproducing or sending the information in accordance with a centrally set schedule of costs stipulated by the Sindh Information Commission.

9. (1) Where the Designated Official decides not to provide the information, the Applicant shall request the head of the public body for internal review of the said decision, in relation to what the Applicant regards as involving.

**Internal
Review.**

(a) a failure by the Designated Official to comply with any provision of this Act including failure to communicate decision within the specified time; or

(b) unreasonable behavior by the Designated Official in the exercise of any direction under the Act; or

(c) provision of incomplete, misleading or false information under the Act; and

(d) any other matter relating to requesting or obtaining access to information.

(2) The Applicant shall, within sixty (60) days from the date of communication of the decision of the Designated Official or his failure to provide information within the stipulated time, submit a request, in writing, under subsection (1) and specify remedy which the Applicant seeks against the of the Designated official.

(3) The officer before whom an application for internal review is filed under this Section may exercise any of the powers of the Designated Official under this Act and shall, within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the application:

(a) Confirm, modify or reverse the decision of the Designated Official;

(b) Notify the decision of internal review to the Applicant including reasons for the decision; and

(c) Order departmental action against the Designated Officials if found negligent in performance of duties under this Act.

10. (1) The Designated Official or the Public Body may refuse an application for access to information where disclosure of the information, in their opinion, shall or is likely to:

Exceptions.

(a) if it Causes harm to sovereignty and national integrity, that includes, national defence, security, public order and international relations of the country;

(b) Affect private sector interest, not related to public sector, unless the person connected has consented to disclosure of the information;

(c) Affect protection of legally privileged information or of the rules relating to breach of confidence;

(d) Affect legitimate intellectual property rights;

(e) Cause harm to life, health, safety or property of any person;

(f) Reveal the identity of a confidential source or hamper investigation of a case;

(g) Affect prevention or detection of crime, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders, or the administration of justice;

(h) Affect the fundamental rights of a citizen;

(i) Cause damage to the economy as a result of premature disclosure of the proposed introduction, abolition or variation of any tax and affecting the economy of the country; or

(j) Affect the formulation of or success of a policy either by its premature disclosure or by restraining the free and frank provision of advice within the Government.

(k) Affect the fair evaluation of a candidate in a test, competition, examination, interview etc.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub section (1), if the Commission determines that the public in such disclosure outweighs the harm that shall or is likely to be caused by such disclosure, it may direct the Designated Official to provide the information.

(3) Where a part of a document is covered by an exception in sub section (1), any information in the document which is not covered by an exception shall be disclosed if it is reasonably severable from the rest of the document.

(4) Provided, that the information withheld in accordance under this law shall be declassified after a period of ten years;

Complaints.

11.(1) Anyone who believes that his request has not been dealt in accordance with the provisions of this Act has the right to lodge a complaint with the Commission to this effect.

(2) Complaint under sub-section (1) shall be free of charge.

(3) The Commission shall decide any complaint within a period of **forty five (45)** days.

(4) In an appeal, the Applicant shall bear the burden of proof of showing that the Designated Official or Public Body has acted in violation of this Act.

12.(1) The Government shall within a period of **one hundred (100) days** from the commencement of this Act, establish an Information Commission to be known as the Sindh Information Commission;

**Sindh
Information
Commission.**

(2) The Information commission shall be an independent statutory body, which shall enjoy operational and administrative autonomy from any other person or entity, including government and any of its agencies, except as specifically provided for by law.

(3) The principal seat of the Information Commission shall be located at the provincial capital, and the Information Commission offices at each District Headquarters.

(4) The Information Commission shall comprise of three members appointed by the Government on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed and until so prescribed, as are determined by the Government.

(5) The Information Commission shall be headed by the Chief Information Commissioner, who shall be a retired Senior Government Servant not below the rank of BPS-20 and shall be appointed by the Government.

(6) The Information Commission, besides the chief Information Commissioner shall comprise of two other Members to be known as Commissioners, who shall be appointed in the following manner:

a) One Advocate of High Court or Supreme Court, who is qualified to be a Judge of High Court; and

b) **A person from the civil society having experience of not less than fifteen (15) years in his profession.**

(7) The Chief Information Commissioner and the Commissioners shall hold office for a term of three (03) years

from the date on which they assume office and shall not be eligible for reappointment.

(8) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (5), the Chief Information commissioner and Commissioners shall not hold office after they have attained the age of sixty-five (65) years.

(9) A Commissioner may not hold any other public office, or be connected with any political party or be running any business or pursuing any profession at the time of or during their appointment to the Information Commission.

(10) A Commissioner may be removed by a positive vote of not less than two of the other Commissioners on grounds of failure to attend three consecutive meetings of the Information Commission without cause, inability to perform the duties of a Commissioner, failing to fulfill conditions for being a Commissioner or conduct which is materially inconsistent with the status of being a Commissioner.

(11) Notwithstanding any other Section, the Government may initiate the process of removing any commissioner on the grounds of misconduct and physical or mental incapacity. Provided that before making any such decision, the government shall communicate the charges to the Commissioner and afford him reasonable opportunity to explain his position.

(12) If the Government is not satisfied with the defence offered by the Commissioner, it may refer the case to the Provincial Assembly for an enquiry by a Special Committee to be constituted by the Speaker of Provincial Assembly.

(13) If the Committee finds the Commissioner guilty of any of the charges mentioned in subsection (10), the Government shall remove the Commissioner.

13.(1) The Commission may:

- (a) conduct an inquiry on a complaint and may direct a Public Body to disclose information to the Applicant;
- (b) determine the public interest in terms of Section 10 (2) of this Act;

**Functions of
the
Commission.**

- (c) resolve any inconsistencies in the application of the provisions of this Act or the rules or regulations;
- (2) The Commission shall decide a complaint within forty five (45) days of its receipt and pass appropriate orders including recommending disciplinary proceedings against delinquent officials.
- (3) The Commission may exercise the powers of a Civil court to:
- a) summon and enforce attendance of persons, compel them to give oral or written evidence on oath and to produce documents or information;
 - b) examine and inspect information;
 - c) receive evidence on affidavits;
 - d) requisition relevant information from any office; and
 - e) issue summons for witnesses or documents.
- (4) While inquiring into a complaint, the commission or any person authorized by the Commission, may examine any information on spot.
- (5) The Commission shall facilitate the application of the provisions of this Act and may:
- a) issue directives to public bodies for preservation, management, publication, publicity and access to information;
 - b) prescribe the procedure for accessing information from a public body;
 - c) advise and provide support to the Government to make necessary laws and procedures for implementation of the right to information;
 - d) provide technical and other support to the public bodies for effective enforcement of right to information;
 - e) conduct training of the Designated Officials;
 - f) undertake mass awareness campaign to create awareness about the Act, rules and regulations;
 - g) establish an information web-portal;

- h) compile a user handbook in Urdu, **Sindhi** and English, containing such information in easily comprehensible form and manner, as may reasonably be required by an applicant; and
- i) compile guidelines for use by Designated Officials.

(6) The Commission shall prepare an annual report on the implementation of the provisions of this Act during a financial year and submit it to the Government.

(7) The annual report of the Commission shall, in particular, contain the following information:

(a) status of right to information law, rules, regulations and procedures;

(b) Progress on implementation of the freedom of information law, including district and department-wise summaries of information requests showing current status of each information request;

(c) Hurdles being faced in the implementation of freedom of information law; and

(d) Budget, expenses and other organizational matters.

14. Government shall allocate adequate funds to the commission to enable it to establish a secretariat, hire the requisite staff to conduct its business properly, and promote access to information amongst the public, public servants and civil society.

Allocation of Funds.

15. Where a Designated Official has, without any reasonable cause, refused to receive an application, has not furnished information within time limits, or with malafide intent denied the request or knowingly gave incorrect, incomplete or misleading information, the commission may, after providing sufficient opportunity of defence to the Designated Official, direct the said officer to pay fine which may extend to ten **percent (10%) of his basic pay.**

Penalty on Designated Official.

(1) Whosoever misuses the information obtained under this law with malafide intentions to exploit, the Information Commission may punish with a fine of Rs.1,00,000/- or an imprisonment of three months;

(2) Whosoever misuses the information obtained under this law with malafide intentions to exploit, the Information Commission may, after providing sufficient opportunity of defense to that person, impose a penalty on that person, which may extend to Rs.1,00,000/- **Offence.**

16. In addition to any other action under any other law, any person who destroys a record which at the time it was destroyed was the subject of an application for access to information, internal review or complaint, or otherwise obstructs access to information which is the subject of an application; internal review or complaint, with the intention of preventing its disclosure under this Act, or violates any provision of this Act, shall commit an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years six months or with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees or (10%) percent of his basic pay or with both.

17. No Court shall entertain a suit, application or other proceeding in respect of any decision made under this Act and the decision shall not be called in question otherwise than by way of an internal review or a complaint under the Act. **Bar of Suits, etc.**

18. The Government in consultation with the commission may by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying the purposes of this Act within sixty (60) days after establishment of the Commission. **Power to Make Rules.**

19. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Government may, by order in the official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty. **Power to Remove Difficulties.**

20. This Act and the rules shall be interpreted so as to advance the purposes of this Act and to facilitate and encourage, promptly and at the lowest reasonable cost, the

disclosure of information and effective implementation of right to information. **Interpretation.**

21. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything which is done in good faith or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or any rules made under the Act. **Indemnity.**

22. The provisions of Act shall take precedence over the provisions of any other law. **Act to take precedence over other laws.**

23. The Sindh Freedom of Information Act, 2006 is hereby repealed. **Repeal.**

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In order to provide transparency and access to information which are considered essential principles of democracy which not only enable the populace to hold the Governments and their institutions accountable but also help in improving the system of governance and in view of article 19A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan which provides every citizen the right to access information in all matters of public importance, it is expedient to enact a law in the matter.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above object.

MEMBER-IN-CHARGE

disclosure of information and effective implementation of right to information.

21. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything which is done in good faith or intended to be done in pursuance of the Act or any rules made under the Act.

22. The provisions of Act shall take precedence over the provisions of any other law.

23. The Sindh Freedom of Information Act 2006 is hereby repealed.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Government of Sindh is committed to transparency and access to information. It is the policy of the Government to hold the Government and their institutions accountable but also help in improving the system of governance and in view of article 19A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan which provides every citizen the right to access information in all matters of public importance, it is expedient to enact a law in the

The Bill seeks to achieve the above object.

MEMBER-IN-CHARGE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE HELD ON 9TH OF
JANUARY, 2017 TO CONSIDER THE GOVERNMENT BILL NO.30 OF 2016-
THE SINDH TRANSPARENCY AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION BILL, 2016**

A meeting of the Select Committee constituted by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh was held on 9th of January, 2017 at Committee Room No.1 of Sindh Assembly Building, Karachi under the Chairmanship of Honorable Senior Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Sindh for clause by clause consideration of referred Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Bill, 2016.

The following were present:-

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khuhro,
Senior Minister for Parliamentary Affairs,
Government of Sindh | Chairman |
| 2. | Syed Nasir Hussain Shah,
Minister for Transport & Mass Transit,
Government of Sindh | Member |
| 3. | Pir Mujeeb-Ul-Haque, MPA | Member |
| 4. | Syed Sardar Ahmed, MPA | Member |
| 5. | Mr. Muhammad Moin Amir Pirzada, MPA | Member |
| 6. | Mr. Muhammad Shaheryar Khan Mahar, MPA | Member |
| 7. | Mr. Samar Ali Khan, MPA | Member |
| 8. | Mr. Shafi Muhammad Jamot, MPA | Member |
| 9. | Mr. Moula Bux Chandio,
Advisor to Chief Minister, Sindh
for Information, Sindh | Ex-Officio Member |
| 10. | Mr. G.M Umar Farooq,
Secretary,
Provincial Assembly of Sindh | Secretary to the Committee |
| 11. | Mr. Parkash Lal Ambwani,
Secretary,
Law & Human Rights Department,
Government of Sindh | |
| 12. | Mr. M.H.M Hassan Shah,
Additional Secretary,
Provincial Assembly of Sindh | |
| 13. | Syed Muhammad Ali Shah,
Official Parliamentary Reporter,
Provincial Assembly of Sindh | |
| 14. | Ms. Zeenat Jahan,
Additional Secretary,
Information & Archives Department,
Government of Sindh, | |

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The proceedings of the meeting were commenced with the recitation from Holy Quran.

Mr. G.M Umar Farooq, Secretary, Provincial Assembly of Sindh acted as Secretary to the Select Committee.

At the very outset Mr. Chairman welcomed all the Members of the Select Committee to the meeting, especially the Advisor for Information, Sindh, Syed Sardar Ahmed, MPA/Member to the Committee, Mr. Samar Ali Khan, MPA/Member to the Committee, Mr. Shaheryar Khan Mahar, MPA/Member to the Committee and other distinguished participants to the meeting of Select Committee. He briefed the august forum of Select Committee about the reasons for reconvening the meeting and regretted the inconvenience caused to the Members in this regard.

Thereafter the Committee took-up the Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016 clause by clause for consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Mr. Samar Ali Khan, MPA and Mr. Shaheryar Khan Mahar, MPA/Members to the Select Committee recalled and reminded the amendment under very introduction of the Bill proposed by them which after extensive deliberations adopted by the Committee, but not incorporated to the Bill provided to them. they added that they proposed insertions were supposed to be added under second line of the Introduction after the word "information" and was to the effect that "in a rapid and low cost manner, they emphasized for incorporation of those words already accepted by the Committee.

Mr. Chairman endorsed the views and directed to add the sentence at appropriate place.

After addition of above mentioned sentence, the Introduction of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016 will be read as follows:-

"An Act to provide for promoting transparency in the working of every public authority by setting out a practical regime for every citizen to secure access to information, "in a rapid and low cost manner" under the control of public authorities, the constitution of a Sindh Information Commission and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

Committee unanimously approved the amended Introduction of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

PREAMBLE

Mr. Chairman read-over Preamble of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee unanimously approved the Preamble of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Bill, 2016.

SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-1(1)(2) and (3) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-1(1)(2) and (3) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Bill, 2016.

DEFINITIONS

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-2(a)(b)(c) and (d)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi) and (vii) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-2((a)(b)(c) and (d)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(v) and (vii) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Committee suggested to insert the definition of "Document" under the title of definitions as Clause-2(d), as follows, resultantly the forthcoming sub-sections will be re-numbered accordingly.

"Document means any order or decision made and duly notified"

Committee unanimously approved the definition of "Document" and decided to insert the same as Clause-2(e) to Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Bill, 2016 and directed to re-numbered the forthcoming sub-sections at the time of finalization and printing of Draft Government Bill.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-2(e)(f) and (g) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-2((e)(f) and (g) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-2(e)(f) and (g) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-2(e)(f) and (g) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-2(h) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Committee after at-length deliberations decided to insert the Secretariat of Chief Minister, Sindh as Clause-2(h)(viii) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016.

After proposed insertion, the Clause-2(h)(viii) will be read as follows:-

“Secretariat of Chief Minister, Sindh”

After extensive deliberations Committee unanimously approved above mentioned new sub-clause as Clause-2(h)(viii).

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-2(i) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-2(i) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-2(j) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-2(j) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-2(j)(i) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Committee after threadbare deliberations decided to delete Clause-2(j)(i) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Sub-Clause-(i) of Clause-2(j) stands deleted.

Committee unanimously approved amended Clause-2(j)(i) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-2(j)(ii) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after threadbare deliberations decided to delete the words “notes, extracts” from Clause-2(j)(ii) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016.

After deletion of above mentioned words the Clause-2(j)(ii) will be read as follows:-

“take certified copy of a document”

Committee unanimously approved the amended Clause-2(j)(ii) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-2(j)(iii) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after prolonged deliberations decided to delete Clause-2(j)(iii) on the grounds that the same will cause un-necessary complications and delays in execution of on-going works on the development schemes.

Committee unanimously decided to delete Clause-2(j)(iii) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Sub-Clause-(iii) of Clause-2(j) stands deleted.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-2(j)(iv) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after at-length deliberations unanimously approved Clause-2(j)(iv) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

TRANSPARENCY OF ACTIONS

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-3 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-3 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-4 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-4 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

PROPER MAINTENANCE OF RECORD

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-5 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-5 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

PROACTIVE DISCLOSURE

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-6(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Committee after prolonged discussion decided to add the words "**and publish**" at the end of the Clause-6(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

After addition the above mentioned words, the Clause-6(1) will be read as follows:-

"Subject to the provisions of this Act, a Public Body shall proactively disclose and publish"

Committee unanimously approved the amended Clause-6(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

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Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-6(1)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (e) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after extensive deliberations unanimously approved Clause-6(1)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (e) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-6(1)(f) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after at-length deliberations decided to delete the words “and any opportunities for the public to provide input into or be consulted about decisions” appearing after the word “processes”

After deletion of above mentioned sentence, Clause-6(1)(f) will be read as follows:-

“Descriptions of its decision making processes.”

Committee unanimously approved the amended Clause-6(1)(f) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-6(1)(g) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-6(1)(g) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-6(1)(h) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after prolonged deliberations decided to insert the word “Qualification” after the words “perks and privileges” appearing in the last line of the subject Clause.

After addition of the word of Qualification the Clause-6(1)(h) will be read as follows:-

“Directory of its officers and employees with their qualifications and their respective remuneration, perks and privileges.”

Committee unanimously approved the amended Clause-6(1)(h) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-6(1)(i)(j)(k)(l) and (m) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after heated deliberations unanimously approved Clause-6(1)(i)(j)(k)(l) and (m) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Committee after at-length deliberations decided to add a sub-section as **Clause-6(1)(o)** after Clause-6(1)(m) to the Government Bill No.30 of 2016, which will be read as follows:-

“Maintenance of record in respect of complaints and actions taken thereto.”

Committee unanimously approved the added Clause as Clause-6(1)(o) to Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-6(2) and (3) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after extensive deliberations unanimously approved Clause-6(2) and (3) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

APPOINTMENT OF DESIGNATED OFFICER

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-7(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after extensive deliberations decided to substitute the figure 120 days to 45 days appearing in the first line of the subject clause, in addition to that the

words "officer" appearing in third line will be substituted with Officer(s) not below the Grade of BPS-16.

After carrying out the amendments the Clause-7(1) will be read as follows:-

"Every public body, within a period of 45 days from the commencement of this Act, designate and notify an officer or any appropriate number of officers to act and serve as a designated officer(s) not below the grade of BPS-16 with whom the request for information under this Act may be lodged."

Committee unanimously approved the amended Clause-7(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-7(2) and (3) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-7(2) and (3) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-8(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after prolonged deliberations decided to substitute the word "citizen" appearing in the first line of subject Clause with the word "applicant" in addition the word "Official" appearing in the last line of subject clause the words "and should be duly acknowledged" will be added. Committee further decided to delete the words "**about the working**" appearing in second line of the subject Clause.

After carrying out the above mentioned amendments, the Clause-8(1) will be read as follows:-

"Subject to provisions of this Act, any applicant may make an application for obtaining information of the Public Body. The said application may be made in any form or manner to the Designated Official and duly acknowledged."

Committee unanimously approved the amended Clause-8(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-8(2) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016- The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after detailed deliberations decided to delete the words "reasons for request for information" appearing under first to second line of subject Clause.

After deletion of above mentioned sentence, the Clause-8(2) will be read as follows:-

"The Applicant shall be required to provide adequate description of the information and the details necessary to provide the requisite information"

Committee unanimously approved the amended Clause-8(2) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-8(3) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016- The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after threadbare deliberations decided to substitute the words 30 days appearing in second line of subject clause with the words "not more than 15 working days" and the words 15 days with the 10 days.

After proposed amendment the Clause-8(3) will be read as follows:-

"The Designated Official shall respond to the application as soon as possible and in any case, within fifteen (15) working days. In case, the required information is not readily available, the Designated Official shall intimate the Applicant and take another ten (10) working days for responding to the application."

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-8(4) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016- The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after due deliberations decided to delete the words "or a complaint" appearing in second last line of subject sub-clause.

After deletion the above mentioned words, the Clause-8(4) of the Government Bill No.30 of 2016 will be read as follows:-

“Where the Designated Official decides not to provide the information, he shall intimate the Applicant the reasons for such decision along with a statement that the Applicant may file an internal review.”

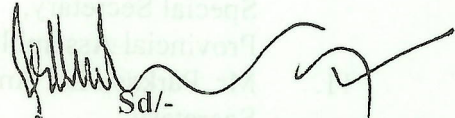
Committee unanimously approved the amended Clause-8(4) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-8(5) and (6) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after at-length deliberations unanimously approved Clause-8(5) and (6) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman apprised that since he has a very important official commitment, therefore it will not possible for him to consider the whole text of the Bill in one sitting, he after consultation with other Members of the Select Committee fixed the next meeting of the Select Committee on Thursday, the 12th of January, 2017 at 11.30 AM.

The meeting was then adjourned with a vote of thanks to all Members of the Select Committee, especially the Minister for Transport & Mass Transit, Government of Sindh, Syed Sardar Ahmed, MPA, Mr. Shaheryar Khan Mahar, MPA, Pir Mujeebul Haque, MPA, Mr. Samar Ali Khan, MPA, Mr. Shafi Muhammad Jamot, MPA/Members to the Select Committee and other distinguished participants to the meeting.



Sd/-
(NISAR AHMED KHUHRO)
CHAIRMAN/SENIOR MINISTER
SELECT COMMITTEE
PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF SINDH

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE HELD ON 12TH OF
JANUARY, 2017 TO CONSIDER THE GOVERNMENT BILL NO.30 OF 2016-
THE SINDH TRANSPARENCY AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION BILL, 2016**

A meeting of the Select Committee constituted by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh was held on 12th of January, 2017 at Committee Room No.1 of Sindh Assembly Building, Karachi under the Chairmanship of Honorable Senior Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Sindh for clause by clause consideration of remaining part of the subject Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Bill, 2016.

The following were present:-

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khuhro,
Senior Minister for Parliamentary Affairs,
Government of Sindh | Chairman |
| 2. | Syed Nasir Hussain Shah,
Minister for Transport & Mass Transit,
Government of Sindh | Member |
| 3. | Pir Mujeeb-Ul-Haque, MPA | Member |
| 4. | Syed Sardar Ahmed, MPA | Member |
| 5. | Mr. Muhammad Moin Amir Pirzada, MPA | Member |
| 6. | Mr. Muhammad Shaheryar Khan Mahar, MPA | Member |
| 7. | Mr. Samar Ali Khan, MPA | Member |
| 8. | Mr. Shafi Muhammad Jamot, MPA | Member |
| 9. | Mr. Moula Bux Chandio,
Advisor to Chief Minister, Sindh
for Information, Sindh | Ex-Officio Member |
| 10. | Makhdoom Shafi Muhammad,
Special Secretary,
Provincial Assembly of Sindh | Secretary to the Committee |
| 11. | Mr. Parkash Lal Ambwani,
Secretary,
Law & Human Rights Department,
Government of Sindh | |
| 12. | Mr. M.H.M Hassan Shah,
Additional Secretary,
Provincial Assembly of Sindh | |
| 13. | Syed Muhammad Ali Shah,
Official Parliamentary Reporter,
Provincial Assembly of Sindh | |
| 14. | Ms. Zeenat Jahan,
Additional Secretary,
Information & Archives Department,
Government of Sindh, | |
| 15. | Dr. Raza Gardezi, SHEHRI CBE | |

16. Ms. Saima Adeel, SHEHRI CBE

The proceedings of the meeting were commenced with the recitation from Holy Quran.

Makhdoom Shafi Muhammad, Special Secretary, Provincial Assembly of Sindh acted as Secretary to the Select Committee.

At the very outset Mr. Chairman welcomed all the Members of the Select Committee to the meeting, especially the Advisor for Information, Sindh, Syed Sardar Ahmed, MPA/Member to the Committee, Mr. Samar Ali Khan, MPA/Member to the Committee, Mr. Shaheryar Khan Mahar, MPA/Member to the Committee and other distinguished participants to the meeting of Select Committee. He briefed the august forum of Select Committee about the reasons for reconvening the meeting and regretted the inconvenience caused to the Members in this regard.

Thereafter the Committee took-up remaining Clauses of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016 for clause by clause consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

INTERNAL REVIEW

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-9(1)(a)(b)(c) and (d) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee after at-length deliberations unanimously approved Clause-9(1)(a)(b)(c) and (d) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-9(2)(3)(a)(b) and (c) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee after prolonged deliberations unanimously approved Clause-9(2)(3)(a)(b) and (c) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

EXCEPTIONS

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-10(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h)(i)(j)(k)(l) and (m) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee prolonged and exhausted deliberations unanimously approved Clause-10(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h)(i)(j)(k)(l) and (m) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016, however decided to add a proviso after sub-section(m) of Clause-1, which will be to the effect:-

“Provided, that the information withheld in accordance with this law shall be declassified after a period of ten years.”

Committee unanimously approved the proviso with sub-section(m) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-10(2) and (3) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after extensive deliberations unanimously approved Clause-10(2) and (3) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

COMPLAINTS

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-11(1) and (2) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after threadbare deliberations unanimously approved Clause-11(1) and (2) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-11(3) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after heated deliberations decided to substitute the sixty (60) appearing in the first line of subject Clause with the word forty five (45).

After amendment the Clause-11(3) will be read as follows:-

“The Commission shall decide any complaint within a period of forty five (45) days.”

Committee unanimously approved the amended Clause-11(3) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-11(4) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-11(4) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

SINDH INFORMATION COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-12(1) Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee after exhausted deliberations decided to substitute the words “one hundred and twenty” appearing in the first line of sub-section (1) of Clause-12 with the words “one hundred” and in the end of sub-section after full-stop added “at all Divisional Head Quarters of the province”

After amendment the Clause-12(1) will be read as follows:-

“The Government shall within a period of one hundred (100) days from the commencement of this Act, establish an Information Commission to be known as the Sindh Information Commission at the level of all Divisional HQs of the province.”

Committee unanimously approved amended Clause-12(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read over Clause-12(2)(3)(4) and (5)(a) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

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Committee unanimously approved Clause-12(1)(2)(3)(4) and (5)(a) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-12(5)(b) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after heated deliberations decided to delete the entire sentence after the word "years in" appearing in second line of sub-section(b) of Clause-12(5)(b) and inserted the words "his profession".

After amendment the Clause-12(5)(b) will be read as follows:-

"A person from the civil society having experience of not less than fifteen years in his profession."

Committee unanimously approved the amended Clause-12(5)(b) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-12(6)(7)(8)(9)(10)(11) and (12) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee unanimously approved the Clause-12(6)(7)(8)(9)(10)(11) and (12) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

The meeting was then adjourned with a vote of thanks to all Members of the Select Committee and other distinguished participants to the Committee.



Sd/-
(NISAR AHMED KHUHRO)
CHAIRMAN/SENIOR MINISTER
SELECT COMMITTEE
PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF SINDH

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE HELD ON 13TH OF JANUARY, 2017 TO CONSIDER THE GOVERNMENT BILL NO.30 OF 2016- THE SINDH TRANSPARENCY AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION BILL, 2016

A meeting of the Select Committee constituted by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh was held on 13th of January, 2017 at Committee Room No.1 of Sindh Assembly Building, Karachi under the Chairmanship of Honorable Senior Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Sindh for clause by clause consideration of remaining part of the subject Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Bill, 2016.

The following were present:-

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khuhro,
Senior Minister for Parliamentary Affairs,
Government of Sindh | Chairman |
| 2. | Syed Nasir Hussain Shah,
Minister for Transport & Mass Transit,
Government of Sindh | Member |
| 3. | Pir Mujeeb-Ul-Haque, MPA | Member |
| 4. | Syed Sardar Ahmed, MPA | Member |
| 5. | Mr. Muhammad Moin Amir Pirzada, MPA | Member |
| 6. | Mr. Muhammad Shaheryar Khan Mahar, MPA | Member |
| 7. | Mr. Samar Ali Khan, MPA | Member |
| 8. | Mr. Shafi Muhammad Jamot, MPA | Member |
| 9. | Mr. Moula Bux Chandio,
Advisor to Chief Minister, Sindh
for Information, Sindh | Ex-Officio Member |
| 10. | Makhdoom Shafi Muhammad,
Special Secretary,
Provincial Assembly of Sindh | Secretary to the Committee |
| 11. | Mr. Parkash Lal Ambwani,
Secretary,
Law & Human Rights Department,
Government of Sindh | |
| 12. | Mr. M.H.M Hassan Shah,
Additional Secretary,
Provincial Assembly of Sindh | |
| 13. | Syed Muhammad Ali Shah,
Official Parliamentary Reporter,
Provincial Assembly of Sindh | |
| 14. | Ms. Zeenat Jahan,
Additional Secretary,
Information & Archives Department,
Government of Sindh, | |

15. Dr. Raza Gardezi, SHEHRI CBE

16. Ms. Saima Adeel, SHEHRI CBE

The proceedings of the meeting were commenced with the recitation from Holy Quran.

Makhdoom Shafi Muhammad, Special Secretary, Provincial Assembly of Sindh acted as Secretary to the Select Committee.

At the very outset Mr. Chairman welcomed all the Members of the Select Committee to the meeting, especially the Advisor for Information, Sindh, Syed Sardar Ahmed, MPA/Member to the Committee, Mr. Samar Ali Khan, MPA/Member to the Committee, Mr. Shaheryar Khan Mahar, MPA/Member to the Committee and other distinguished participants to the meeting of Select Committee.

Thereafter the Committee took-up remaining Clauses of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016 for clause by clause consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

FUNCTIONS OF COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-13(1)(a)(b) and (c) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee after extensive deliberations approved Clause-13(1)(a)(b) and (c) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-13(2) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee with mutual consultations agreed to substitute the word sixty (60) with the word "*forty five (45)*" appearing in first line of the subject clause.

After substitution of above mentioned word the Clause-13(2) will be read as follows"-

“The Commission shall decide a complaint within forty five (45) days of its receipt and pass appropriate orders including recommending disciplinary proceedings against delinquent officials.”

Committee unanimously approved the amended Clause-13(2) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-13(3)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (e) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-13(3)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (e) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-13(4) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-13(4) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-13(5)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f) and (g) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee after prolonged deliberations unanimously approved Clause-13(5)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f) and (g) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-13(5)(h) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee with mutual consultations agreed to insert the word “Sindhi” after the word “Urdu” appearing in first line of the subject clause.

After substitution of above mentioned word the Clause-13(5)(h) will be read as follows”-

“compile a user handbook in Urdu, Sindhi and English, containing such information in easily comprehensible form and manner, as may reasonably be required by an applicant, and;”

Committee unanimously approved the amended Clause-13(5)(h) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016- The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-13(5)(i) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-13(5)(i) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-13(6) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-13(6) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016- The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-13(7)(a)(b)(c) and (d) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-13(7)(a)(b)(c) and (d) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016- The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-14 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-14 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016- The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

PENALTY OF DESIGNATED OFFICIAL

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-15 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee after heated deliberations decided to substitute the words "ten thousand rupees" appearing in the last line of subject Clause with the words "ten percent of his basic pay".

After substitution the Clause-15 will be read as follows:-

"Where a Designated Official has, without any reasonable cause, refused to receive an application, has not furnished information within time limits, or with malafide intent denied the request or knowingly gave incorrect, incomplete or misleading information, the Commission may, after providing sufficient opportunity of defence to the Designated Official, direct the said officer to pay fine which may extend to ten percent (10%) of his basic pay."

OFFENCE

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-16 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee after at-length deliberations decided to substitute the word "two years" and "ten thousand rupees" appearing in second last line of subject Clause with the words "*six (06) months*" and "*ten percent (10%) of his basic pay*".

After substitution the Clause-16 will be read as follows:-

"In addition to any other action under any other law, any person who destroys a record which at the time it was destroyed was the subject of an application for access to information, internal review or complaint, or otherwise obstructs access to information which is the subject of an application, internal review or complaint, with the intention of preventing its disclosure under this Act, shall commit an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six (06) months with fine which shall not be less than to ten percent (10%) of his basic pay or with both."

Committee unanimously approved the amended Clause-16 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

BAR OF SUITS, ETC:

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-17 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee unanimously approved the Clause-17 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

POWER TO MAKE RULES

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-18 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee after mutual consultations decided to add the sentence "within sixty (60) days after establishment of Commission" in the end of the subject clause.

After amendment the Clause-18 will be read as follows:-

"The Government in consultation with the Commission may by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying the purpose of this Act within sixty (60) days after establishment of the Commission".

Committee unanimously approved the amended Clause-18 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

POWER TO REMOVE DIFFICULTIES

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-19 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee unanimously approved the Clause-19 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

INTERPRETATION

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-20 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee unanimously approved the Clause-20 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

INDEMNITY

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-21 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee unanimously approved the Clause-21 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

ACT TO TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER OTHER LAWS

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-22 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee unanimously approved the Clause-22 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

REPEAL

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-23 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee unanimously approved the Clause-23 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Mr. Chairman read-over Statement of Objects and Reasons of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the esteemed forum of Select Committee for its consideration and decision thereupon.

Committee unanimously approved the Statement of Object and Reasons of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Syed Sardar Ahmed, MPA/Member to the Select Committee drew the attention of the worthy Chairman of the Select Committee towards Chapter of

“Exceptions” of the Government Bill No.30 of 2016 and viewed that since the mentioned Chapter has significant importance, therefore it will be in the fitness of things that the mentioned Chapter may be revisited, so that a comprehensive and flawless piece of legislation could be placed before the Assembly for its consideration and subsequently passage of the Bill to the House, he added that he personally feels that the said Chapter still has sufficient room for improvement and modification, hence certainly requires to revisit the same with optimal level of care and cautiousness.

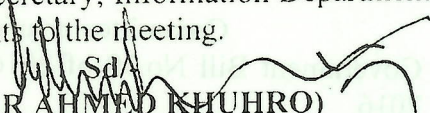
Mr. Samar Ali Khan, MPA, Mr. Amir Moeen Pirzada, MPA, and Mr. Shaheryar Khan Mahar, MPA/Members to the Select Committee endorsed the views of learned Member and suggested to revisit the Chapter “Exceptions” of under consideration Government Bill.

Mr. Chairman graciously accepted the suggestion/proposal and directed the Special Secretary, Provincial Assembly of Sindh for convening another meeting of the Select Committee on 18th of January, 2017 at 11.30 AM, so that the mentioned Chapter could be revisited and an ample opportunity could again be made available to Honorable Members of the Select Committee to further dilate upon the Chapter of “Exceptions” and the Committee could bridge the shortcoming or lacunas, if any, under the said Chapter, he added that the Committee beside the Chapter of “Exceptions” should also consider a very important issue regarding exploitation of information which may cause un-necessary and unlawfully defamation without any concrete evidence and merely based on perceptions to any citizen of the province or any notable of the civil society, therefore in the prevailing circumstances it is necessary to insert a clause into the Bill for that purpose.

All Members of the Select Committee endorsed the views of worthy Chairman of the Select Committee.

Makhdoon Shafi Muhammad, Special Secretary, Provincial Assembly of Sindh/Secretary to the Select Committee assured compliance of the directions of the esteemed forum.

The meeting was then adjourned with a vote of thanks to all Members of the Select Committee, Secretary, Law Department, Government of Sindh, Special Secretary, Provincial Assembly of Sindh, Additional Secretary, Information Department, Government of Sindh and other distinguished participants to the meeting.


(NISAR AHMED KHUHRO)
CHAIRMAN/SENIOR MINISTER
SELECT COMMITTEE
PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF SINDH

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SELECT COMMITTEE HELD ON 18TH OF
JANUARY, 2017 TO CONSIDER THE GOVERNMENT BILL NO.30 OF 2016-
THE SINDH TRANSPARENCY AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION BILL, 2016**

A meeting of the Select Committee constituted by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh was held on 18th of January, 2017 at Committee Room No.1 of Sindh Assembly Building, Karachi under the Chairmanship of Honorable Senior Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Sindh for the purpose to revisit the Chapter of "Exceptions" of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 and inclusion of a deterrent clause regarding "exploitation of information" under the Bill, as was decided during the previous meeting of the Select Committee held on 13th of January, 2017.

The following were present:-

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khuhro,
Senior Minister for Parliamentary Affairs,
Government of Sindh | Chairman |
| 2. | Syed Nasir Hussain Shah,
Minister for Transport & Mass Transit,
Government of Sindh | Member |
| 3. | Pir Mujeeb-Ul-Haque, MPA | Member |
| 4. | Syed Sardar Ahmed, MPA | Member |
| 5. | Mr. Muhammad Moin Amir Pirzada, MPA | Member |
| 6. | Mr. Muhammad Shaheryar Khan Mahar, MPA | Member |
| 7. | Mr. Samar Ali Khan, MPA | Member |
| 8. | Mr. Shafi Muhammad Jamot, MPA | Member |
| 9. | Syed Awais Qadir Shah, MPA | Member |
| 10. | Dr. Sikandar Ali Mandhro,
Minister for Health,
Government of Sindh | Member |
| 11. | Mr. Moula Bux Chandio,
Advisor to Chief Minister, Sindh
for Information, Sindh | Ex-Officio Member |
| 12. | Mr. G.M Umar Farooq,
Secretary,
Provincial Assembly of Sindh | Secretary to the Committee |
| 13. | Mr. Parkash Lal Ambwani,
Secretary,
Law & Human Rights Department,
Government of Sindh | |
| 14. | Mr. M.H.M Hassan Shah,
Additional Secretary,
Provincial Assembly of Sindh | |
| 15. | Syed Muhammad Ali Shah,
Official Parliamentary Reporter,
Provincial Assembly of Sindh | |

16. Ms. Zeenat Jahan,
Additional Secretary,
Information & Archives Department,
Government of Sindh,
17. Dr. Raza Gardezi, SHEHRI CBE

The proceedings of the meeting were commenced with the recitation from Holy Quran.

Mr. G.M Umar Farooq, Secretary, Provincial Assembly of Sindh acted as Secretary to the Select Committee.

At the very outset Mr. Chairman welcomed all the Members of the Select Committee to the meeting, especially Mr. Moula Bux Chandio, Advisor on Information to Government of Sindh, Dr. Sikandar Ali Mandhro, Minister for Health, Government of Sindh/Special Invitee to the Select Committee, Syed Sardar Ahmed, MPA/Member to the Committee, Mr. Samar Ali Khan, MPA/Member to the Committee, Mr. Shaheryar Khan Mahar, MPA/Member to the Committee, Pir Mujeebul Haque, MPA/Member to the Committee and other distinguished participants to the meeting of Select Committee. He referred the deliberations held during the course of last meeting of the Select Committee wherein the Members of the Select Committee proposed to revisit the Chapter of "Exceptions" and inclusion of a deterrent clause for prevention regarding exploitation of information.

Thereafter the Committee took-up Clause-10(1) relating to Chapter "Exceptions" of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency And Right to Information Bill, 2016 for reconsideration of the Committee, so that the shortcomings, vagueness and lacunas under the mentioned Chapter could be bridged accordingly.

EXCEPTIONS

Mr. Chairman read-over Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its reconsideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee unanimously approved Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over sub-sections(a) and (b) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for reconsideration and decision thereupon by the Select Committee.

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Committee after exhausted deliberations decided to merge sub-sections (a) and (b) of Clause-10(1) by insertion of some additional words and deletion of some unnecessary and repeated words.

After amendment Sub-sections(a) and (b) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 will be merged as sub-section (a) of Clause-10(1)(a) and will be read as follows:-

“if it causes harm to sovereignty and national integrity, that includes, national defense, security, public order and international relations of the country;”

Committee unanimously approved amended sub-section(a)(b) as merged sub-section-(a) of Clause-10(1)(a) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over sub-section-(c) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Select Committee for its reconsideration and decision thereupon by the esteemed forum of Select Committee.

Committee after extensive deliberations decided to delete the word “legitimate” appearing in the first line of under consideration sub-section and substituted the words “private” with the words “public sector” under sub-section-(c) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016.

After amendment the Clause-10(1)(c) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016 will be read as follows:-

“Affect private sector interest, not related to public sector, unless the person connected has consented to disclosure of the information;”

Committee unanimously approved the amended sub-section-(c) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over sub-section (d) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its reconsideration and decision thereupon.

Committee unanimously approved sub-section (d) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

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Mr. Chairman read-over sub-section (e) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its reconsideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after at-length deliberations decided to make the subject sub-section more specific and precise, which will be read as follows:-

“Affect legitimate intellectual property rights;”

After amendment the sub-section-(e) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to information Bill, 2016 will be read as follows:-

“Affect legitimate intellectual property rights;”

Committee unanimously approved the amended sub-section-(e) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over sub-section (f) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its reconsideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after prolonged deliberations viewed that since sub-sections (f) and (j) are identical in nature, therefore sub-section (j) may be merged under sub-section (f) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

After merging both sub-sections the sub-section-(f) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 will be read as follows:-

“Cause harm to life, health, safety or property of any citizen;”

Committee unanimously approved amended sub-section-(f) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over sub-section (g) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its reconsideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after threadbare deliberations decided to delete sub-section-(g) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Committee unanimously recommended for deletion of sub-section-(g) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016.

“Sub-section-(g) of Clause-10(1) stands deleted”

Mr. Chairman read-over sub-section (h) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its reconsideration and decision thereupon.

Committee unanimously approved sub-section-(h) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over sub-section (i) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its reconsideration and decision thereupon.

Committee unanimously approved sub-section-(i) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Consequent upon merging the Sub-section-(j) into sub-section-(f), the sub-section-(j) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016 stands deleted.

Mr. Chairman read-over sub-section (k) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Committee for its reconsideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after at-length deliberations decided to substitute the word “dignity” with the word “fundamental rights” under sub-section-(k) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016.

After substitution the sub-section-(k) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016 will be read as follows:-

“Affect the fundamental rights of a citizen;”

Committee unanimously approved the amended sub-section-(k) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over sub-section (l) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Select Committee for its reconsideration and decision thereupon.

Committee after prolonged deliberations decided to substitute the comma appearing after the word "tax" in the second line of subject sub-section with the word "and" and deleted the word "or" appearing in the end of second line. Committee further decided to delete the words "any other decisions" appearing in the beginning of third line of subject sub-section of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

After amendment the sub-section-(l) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016 will be read as follows:-

"Cause damage to the economy as a result of premature disclosure of the proposed introduction, abolition or variation of any tax and duty affecting the economy of the country; or"

Committee unanimously approved the amended sub-section-(l) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over sub-section (m) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Select Committee for its reconsideration and decision thereupon.

Committee viewed that since the subject sub-section has already been amended during the course of a previous meeting of the Select Committee which was held on 12th of January, 2017, hence the amended sub-section should be retained.

The amended sub-section-(m) of Clause-10(1) was as follows:-

"Affect the formulation of or success of a policy either by its premature disclosure or by restraining the free and frank provision of advice within the Government;

Provided, that the information withheld in accordance under this law shall be declassified after a period of ten years."

Mr. Chairman read-over sub-section-(2) of Clause-10(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Select Committee for its reconsideration and decision thereupon.

Committee unanimously approved the Section-(2) of Clause-10 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016, however decided to add another section as Clause-10(2)(1), which will be read as follows:-

“Affect the fair evaluation of a candidate in a test, competition, examination, interview etc.”

Committee unanimously approved the newly added sub-section as Clause-10(2)(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over Sub-clause-(3) of Clause-10 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Select Committee for its reconsideration and decision thereupon.

Committee unanimously approved Sub-clause-(3) of Clause-10 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

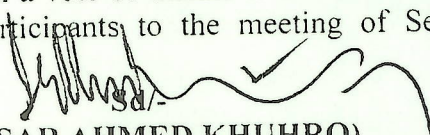
Mr. Chairman was of the view that if a deterrent clause should not be added under the subject Government Bill, then there are apprehensions, that the information may be used to defame any citizen without any evidence, therefore it will be in the fitness of things that a suitable section may be added to restrain such apprehensions under the Chapter of Penalty.

All Members of the Standing Committee endorsed the views, hence after extensive deliberations decided to add the below mentioned Section as Sub-clause-(1) of **Clause-15** of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

“whosoever misuses the information obtained under this law with malafide intentions to exploit, the Information Commission may punish with a fine of Rs.1,00,000/- and an imprisonment of three months, or with both.”

Committee unanimously approved the added Sub-clause-(1) to Clause-15 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

The meeting was then adjourned with a vote of thanks to all Members of the Select Committee and other distinguished participants to the meeting of Select Committee.


(NISAR AHMED KHUHRO)
CHAIRMAN/SENIOR MINISTER
SELECT COMMITTEE
PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF SINDH

Committee unanimously approved the Section-(2) of Clause-10 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016, however decided to add another section as Clause-10(2)(1), which will be read as follows:-

"Affect the fair evaluation of a candidate in a test, competition, examination, interview etc."

Committee unanimously approved the newly added sub-section as Clause-10(2)(1) of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman read-over sub-clause-(1) of Clause-10 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016 to the Select Committee for its reconsideration and decision thereupon.

Committee unanimously approved sub-clause-(3) of Clause-10 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

Mr. Chairman was of the view that if a default clause should not be added under the subject Government Bill, then there are apprehensions that the information may be used to detain any citizen without any evidence, therefore it will be in the fitness of things that a suitable section may be added to restrain such apprehensions under the Chapter of Penalty.

All Members of the Standing Committee endorsed the views, hence after extensive deliberations decided to add the below mentioned Section as Sub-clause-(1) of Clause-15 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

"Whoever misuses the information obtained under this law with multiple intentions to exploit, the Information Commission may punish with a fine of Rs.1,00,000/- and an imprisonment of three months, or with both."

Committee unanimously approved the added sub-clause-(1) to Clause-15 of Government Bill No.30 of 2016-The Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill, 2016.

The meeting was then adjourned with a vote of thanks to all Members of the Select Committee and other distinguished participants to the meeting of Select Committee.

(NISAR AHMED KHURRO)
CHAIRMAN SENIOR MINISTER
SELECT COMMITTEE
PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF SINDH