

NOTIFICATION.

No.PAB/Legis:V(04)/2024/3625. The Balochistan Center of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 04 of 2024), having been passed by the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan on 28th October, 2024 and assented to by the Governor Balochistan, on 31st October, 2024 is hereby published as an Act of the Balochistan Provincial Assembly.

THE BALUCHISTAN CENTER OF EXCELLENCE ON COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM ACT 2024, ACT NO. IV OF 2024.

**AN
ACT**

To provide for the establishment of research based Center for Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism in the Balochistan Province to cope with the severe emerging issues, challenges springing from the terrorism, subversive activities against the Islamic Republic of Pakistan through narratives of hatred, extremism, radicalization, intolerance, abusing charities, funds generation for entities of concern, glorification of terrorism, terrorist's organization and also to diagnose the root causes and for matters connected therewith or ancillary thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. Short title, Extent and commencement, ---(1) This Act may be called the Balochistan Center of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism Act, 2024.

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

(3) It shall come into force at once.

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

- (a) **“Act”** Means the Balochistan Center of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism Act, 2024;
- (b) **“Board of Governors”** means the Board of Governors constituted under section 5 of this Act;
- (c) **“Center”** means the Balochistan Center of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism, established under section 3 of this Act;
- (d) **“Chairperson”** means the Chairperson of the Board of Governors;
- (e) **“Chief Coordination Officer”** means the Chief Coordination Officer of the Center;
- (f) **“countering violent extremism”** means to prohibit the commission of violent acts, activities and beliefs to achieve ideological, religious, economic, social or political goals that lead to terrorism activities;
- (g) **“Fund”** means the Fund established under section 11 of this Act;
- (h) **“Government”** means the Government of Balochistan;
- (i) **“prescribed”** means prescribed by rules or regulations;

- (j) “**regulations**” mean the regulations made under this Act;
- (k) “**rules**”: mean the rules made under this Act; and,
- (l) “**Schedule**” means schedule, appended with the Act.

3. Establishment of the Center, --Soon after the commencement of this Act, Government shall establish a Center, to be known as the Balochistan Center of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism.

4. Appointment, -- (1) The Center shall be headed by a Chief Coordination officer, who shall be assisted by a Deputy Coordination Officer.

(2) The Chief Coordination Officer and Deputy Coordination Officer shall be appointed on contract basis having qualification provided in the schedule appended with this Act.

5. Board of Governors--- (1) There shall be a Board of Governors for the Center to administer and manage the affairs of the Center.

(2) The Board of Governor shall consist of:

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| (a) | Chief Minister, Balochistan | Chairperson |
| (b) | Minister for Higher Education, Balochistan and in case of his absence, an adviser or Special Assistant to Chief Minister to be nominated by the Chief Minister; | Vice-Chairperson |
| (c) | Minister for Home, Balochistan and in case of his absence, an adviser or Special Assistant to Chief Minister to be nominated by the Chief Minister; | Member |
| (d) | Chief Secretary Balochistan; | Member |
| (e) | Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, Balochistan; | Member |
| (f) | Inspector General of Police Balochistan; | Member |
| (g) | Secretary to Government Finance Department; | Member |
| (h) | Secretary to Government, Higher, Colleges & Technical Education, Department; | Member |

| | | |
|-----|---|------------------------------|
| (i) | Secretary to Government, Law & Parliamentary Affairs Department; | Member |
| (j) | Deputy Inspector General of Police, Counter Terrorism Department | Member |
| (k) | Director General, Balochistan Levies Force | Member |
| (l) | Vice-Chancellor of a public sector University of Balochistan, to be nominated by the Colleges Higher & Technical Education, Department; | Member |
| (m) | Chief Coordination Officer | Member -cum- Secretary |

(3) The Chairperson may co-opt any person, as he may deem fit and such member shall have no right to cast vote.

(4) The Chairperson shall preside over the meetings of the Board of Governors and in case of his absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside over the meeting.

6. Meeting of the Board of Governors---(1) The Board of Governors shall meet on quarterly basis in a year

(2) Subject to the approval of the Chairperson, the Secretary of the Board of Governors may convene the meeting of the Board of Governors at such time and place as the Chairperson may deem necessary.

(3) The decisions of the Board shall be taken by majority of votes of its members present.

(4) The Secretary of the Board of Governors shall prepare the agenda and minutes of the meeting.

(5) The half members of the total membership shall constitute quorum of the meeting.

7. Powers and functions of the Board of Governors. --- The Board of Governors shall-

- (a) ensure that objectives of the Center within the overall ambit of Government policies are achieved;
- (b) oversee the effective management of the Center and provide strategic direction;
- (c) ensure that the performance of the Center and its programs are efficient and effective;
- (d) prescribe procedure for appointment, terms and conditions of service, disciplinary matters and other service matters for the employees of the Center under section 10 of this Act;
- (e) approve the vision and mission statement of the Center;

- (f) approve the annual research priorities and program;
- (g) review and approve the annual research report;
- (h) monitor organizational performance of the Center;
- (i) approve the financial plans and annual budget of the Center;
- (j) approve the academic and research programs and services of the Center to ensure that fulfill legal, regulatory and accreditation requirements;
- (k) constitute committees and sub-committees, as it may deem appropriate and set terms of reference for each committee and sub-committees as constituted; and
- (l) compliance to Government policies and standards and in case of any deviation from agreed standards or procedures shall obtain prior approval from Government.

8. Powers and functions of the Center. -- The Center shall-

- (a) carry out research activities for countering violent extremism;
- (b) coordinate and prepare comprehensive strategies for countering violent extremism and review them on periodical basis;
- (c) develop action plans for countering violent extremism and report about implications of these plans on periodical basis to Government, develop and suggest draft policy with regard to Counter Violent Extremism (CVE) and update it from time to time;
- (d) engage groups of experts from Government and non-governmental organizations for deliberations in areas related to counter violent extremism;
- (e) provide technical and analytical support to Financial Action Task Force (FATF) working groups and other organizations/departments of Government of Balochistan in relation to crimes, investigation of various cases, and suggest policy recommendations based on best practices;
- (f) establish operational procedures for information gathering, process and disseminations;
- (g) provide training, develop modules and other programs;
- (h) institute fellowship for promotion of research in the fields of countering violent extremism;
- (i) establish an information network to counter violent extremism and combat terrorism;
- (j) organize workshops, seminars, symposia and other program for enhancing the capacity of various institutions in the prevention and combating terrorism in the Province;
- (k) receive and collect data or information, or intelligence and disseminate and coordinate between all relevant stakeholders to analyze threat assessments with periodical reviews to be presented to Government for making adequate and timely efforts to counter violent extremism and combat terrorism;
- (l) work with faith-based organizations and religious leaders to counter the abuse of religion by violent extremists;
- (m) work with the media to promote human rights and tolerance;
- (n) carry out liaison with international entities for facilitating cooperation in areas relating to terrorism, extremism and terrorist financing issues and challenges;
- (o) analysis to ensure a better understanding of the contextual drivers that have tipped disaffection and radicalization into violent extremist behavior and inform more effective conflict sensitive planning on the ground; and

(p) perform such functions as may be assigned to it by the Government.

9. Chief Coordination Officer, --(1) The Chief Coordination Officer, shall be the Secretary of the Board of Governors and shall perform such functions and exercise such powers as may be prescribed by regulations or delegated to him by the Board of Governors.

(2) The Chief Coordination Officer shall act as the Principal Accounting Officer of the Center.

(3) Subject to the approval of the Board of Governors, the Chief Coordination Officer shall

(a) ensure initiation, proceeding and completion of MoUs, collaboration with the donors and other stakeholders for the launch of any seminar, symposium, project, research, summit, conference;

(b) plan, contract and activate the database for the achievement of the aim of

(c) the center; and

(c) any other task assigned to it by the Board of Governors;

(4) The Chief Coordination Officer, while acting with reference to conducting meeting of the Board of Governors, shall be responsible for-

(a) convening meeting of the Board of Governors with the approval of Chairperson;

(b) the preparation of the agenda, working paper and its distribution among the members;

(c) recording the minutes of each meeting of the Board of Governors and its prompt dispatch of the concerned quarters;

(d) implement decisions of the Board of Governors; and

(e) proper follow-up of all matters connected with or raising out of a meeting of the Board of Governors

10. Officers, advisors, consultants and other employees of the center; --(1) The Center may employ such officers, advisors, consultants and other employees as may be necessary for efficient performance of its functions on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed:

Provided that till the appointment of the employees, the Secretary to Government Higher Education Department shall, on the request of Chief Coordination Officers, provide such number of technical support staff to the Center as may be required.

(2) In performance of their duties, officers, advisors, consultants and employees of the center shall abide by directions of the Chief Coordination Officer.

11. Fund, ---(1) There shall be established a Fund to be vested in the Center, which shall be utilized by the Center to meet all such costs and charges incurred in connection with its functions and affairs.

(2) The fund shall consist of-

(a) grants made by Federal Government or Finance Department, Government of Balochistan from time to time to manage daily functions;

(b) contributions and donations from individuals, local bodies corporations, institutions, organization and agencies;

(c) grants from any other source; and,

(d) income from any other source.

- 12. Accounts and Audit.** ---(1) The fund shall be kept in a scheduled bank and shall operate in accordance with the direction of the Board of Governors.
- (2) The accounts of the Fund shall be maintained in such form and in such manners as may be prescribed.
- (3) The chief Coordination Officer shall prepare Annual Account Statement of the Fund within thirty days of closing of the respective financial year.
- (4) Accounts of the Fund shall be audited by the Auditor General of Pakistan.
- 13. Employees of the Center.** --- All employees of the Center shall, when acting or purporting to act in pursuance of this Act, be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (XLV of 1860).
- 14. Annual Report.** --- (1) Subject to approval of the Board of Governors, the Center shall, within three months of the close of a financial year, submit to the Government an annual performance report of the Center through Higher Education Department of the Government.
- (2) The Government shall, within two months of receiving the annual report from the Center, give notice for laying the report in Provincial Assembly of Balochistan.
- 15. Indemnity.** --- No prosecution, suit or other legal proceedings shall be instituted against any person in respect of anything which is, in good faith, done or intended to be done under this Act.
- 16. Applications of other laws.** --- The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation from any other relevant law, for the time being in force.
- 17. Power to make rules,** --- The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purpose of this Act.
- 18. Power to make regulations.** --- Subject to the provisions of this Act and rules made thereunder, the Board of Governors, may make regulations for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

SCHEDULE

[see section 4]

Criteria for appointment of the Chief Coordination Officer and Deputy Coordination Officer.

1. Chief Coordination Officer (BPS-19)

- (a) Minimum Qualification by initial recruitment:

At least first class Ph.D. in Social Sciences and Master's Degree in Education or Law from a recognized University with at least four years' service in relevant field or above having sufficient experience in countering violent extremism or counter terrorism or countering terrorists financing Provincial or Federal Government Departments: and

- (b) age Limit: 40 to 50 years.