

BALOCHISTAN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT.

NOTIFICATION

Dated Quetta, the 08th August, 2020.

No.PAB/Legis;II(Caucus)/2020. In pursuance of a motion adopted by the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan in its sitting held on Monday, the 18th November, 2019, the Speaker as Patron of the Caucus, is pleased to formulate the following Rules for the conduct of Women Parliamentary Caucus in the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan:-

The Balochistan Women Parliamentary Caucus Rules, 2020.

to facilitate working of the Women's Caucus in the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan, to promote gender equality, to advocate for laws and policies curbing women suppression, to undertake activities for protecting and ensuring the rights of women.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide meaningful platform to the Women MPAs towards making collective efforts for the settlement of issues faced by the women of the Province.

AND WHEREAS to strengthen women MPAs to effectively lobby and advocate for legislation on gender mainstreaming and to facilitate the effective implementation of the provincial gender policy.

AND WHEREAS to promote and sensitize all parliamentarians to the principles of gender equality in the Province.

1. Short title and commencement.

(1) These Rules may be called the Balochistan Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Rules, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions.

In these rules, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:-

a) **“Assembly”** means the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan;

b) **“Cabinet”** means Office Holders of the Caucus;

c) **“Caucus”** means the Women Parliamentary Caucus established in the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan;

d) **“Caucus Member”** means women Member of the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan;

e) **“Chairperson”** means the Chairperson of the Caucus;

f) **“Deputy Speaker”** means Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan;

- g) **“General Secretary”** means the General Secretary of Caucus;
- h) **“Government”** means the Government of Balochistan;
- i) **“House”** means the House / Chamber of Provincial Assembly of Balochistan;
- j) **“Information Secretary”** means the Information Secretary of Caucus;
- k) **“Member”** means the Member of Provincial Assembly of Balochistan;
- l) **“MPA”** means the Member of Provincial Assembly of Balochistan;
- m) **“Patron”** means the Speaker of Provincial Assembly of Balochistan;
- n) **“Province”** means the Balochistan Province;
- o) **“Rules of Procedure”** means the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan, Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, 1974.
- p) **“Secretary”** means the Secretary of Provincial Assembly of Balochistan;
- q) **“Speaker”** means the Speaker of Provincial Assembly of Balochistan;
- r) **“Treasurer”** means the Treasurer of Caucus;
- s) **“Vice Chairperson”** means the Vice Chairperson of Caucus; *and*
- t) **“WPC”** means the Women Parliamentary Caucus

3. Functions and objectives.

Functions and objectives of the Caucus are –

- a) to boost role of women Members in Balochistan Assembly towards gender legislation for ensuring effective parliamentary oversight of discriminating aspects in provincial as well as national laws and policies;
- b) to strive for classic harmony among women MPAs towards basic agenda of women development and emancipation;
- c) to engage with legislative and policy making process for promoting women cause in Balochistan;
- d) to bring awareness in women, especially during implementation of national, international and regional obligations;
- e) to make every effort while coordinating with all stake holders of the state and of the civil society Organizations for women empowerment;
- f) to support implementation of legislation on violence against women;

- g) to coordinate with the statutory bodies and law enforcement agencies to encourage gender sensitive policies across Balochistan;
- h) to suggest improvements in the prevailing Laws in order to guarantee women's continued access and effective participation in the parliamentary institutions; *and*
- i) to assist in sharing information on the upset areas disturbing the common women, particularly social discriminatory practices.

4. Limitations.

(1) The Women Parliamentary Caucus established via Resolution of Provincial Assembly of Balochistan shall function within the limitations as may be defined under the provisions of Rules of Procedure and shall faithfully observe Federal as well as Provincial Laws.

(2) In the performance of its functions, the Women Parliamentary Caucus shall not impede or prejudice the exercise of the executive authority of the Government and the Provincial Assembly.

5. Structure of the Women Parliamentary Caucus.

The WPC structure shall include –

- a) a General Body having all women Members of the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan;
- b) a Cabinet comprising of Office Holders to be elected as per rule-8 of these Rules; *and*
- c) Committee(s) being constituted as and when the circumstances may warrant.

6. Membership.

Membership of the Caucus shall be open to all women Members and with prior approval of the Patron, may be extended on honorary basis to the minority Members of the Assembly.

7. Disqualification of a Member.

A Member of WPC shall cease to function if –

- a) loses Membership of the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan for any reason; *and*
- b) does not attend three consecutive meetings of the Caucus without cogent reason or prior information to the Chairperson.

8. Office Holders, Tenure and mode of elections.

The following Office Holders of WPC, except the Patron and Secretary, shall be elected by simple majority in the General Body via secret balloting for a tenure of eighteen months:-

- a) **Patron** of the WPC shall be the Speaker for the support and guidance in achieving objectives of the Caucus, who shall be deemed elected by virtue of post for the whole term of Assembly:

Provided that in absence or for any other reason, the Speaker may delegate all powers and responsibilities of the Patron to the Deputy Speaker.

- b) **Chairperson** shall be the head of WPC.
- c) **Vice Chairperson** shall head the WPC in absence of the Chairperson.
- d) **General Secretary** shall support the Chairperson in ensuring smooth functioning of the WPC
- e) **Treasurer** shall be responsible for the budget / financial management of WPC.
- f) **Information Secretary** shall be responsible to deal and communicate through electronic, print and social media, and supervise the annual newsletter, if any.
- g) **Secretary** Assembly shall be the Secretary of WPC.

9. Disqualification of the Office Holders.

(1) Any Office Holder shall cease to function if disqualified from the Membership of Provincial Assembly, for any reason;

(2) The Chairperson shall cease to function, failing to convene a meeting of the General Body within given timeframe; *and*

(3) Any Office Holder may be removed if majority of the WPC Members submit no confidence motion to the Patron.

10. Continuation of the Office Holders.

The Office Holders shall continue till the constitution of new WPC following every general election.

11. Constitution of Committee(s) and nomination of its Members.

(1) The Chairperson may Constitute Committee(s) for specific urgent mater(s) and shall nominate its members with concurrence of the General Body.

(2) Each Committee shall comprise of three Members.

(3) The Chairperson shall convey the terms of reference to Committee(s) with prior approval of the General Body.

(4) Every Committee shall stand dissolved after completion of the assigned task.

12. Office Holders' Role and Responsibilities.

(1) The Chairperson shall –

- a) steer and preside over the Caucus meetings;
- b) be in-charge of overall management of the Caucus;
- c) set the agenda of the meeting(s) and seek input of the WPC Members;
- d) be responsible for coordination between Patron and WPC;

- e) make liaison with the Donor Agencies;
- f) represent the Caucus at the national and international forums;
- g) convene meetings even on a single day's short notice;
- h) be empowered to take decision in the larger interest of WPC but shall be bound to get post-facto concurrence of such decisions from the General Body within thirty days; *and*
- i) table annual report of the WPC's performance in the House but may prepare and publish a special report of the Caucus on inevitable women related issues, whenever needed.

(2) The Vice Chairperson –

- a) may be assigned or delegated responsibilities of the Chairperson.
- b) shall act as Chairperson in the absence of Chairperson.

The General Secretary Shall –

- a) be responsible for maintaining the calendar, circulation of date, time, venue and agenda of meeting(s);
- b) ensure taking accurate minutes, get approval from the Chairperson and circulate it among the Members within ten days; *and*
- c) seek the services of Assembly staff deputed by the Secretary, while taking minutes and making necessary arrangements for the meeting(s) of WPC.

(4) The Information Secretary shall issue press releases, coordinate with media, women journalists, run and update WPC page of the social media (if any):

Provided that in the absence of Information Secretary, the Chairperson may nominate any Member to act as Information Secretary.

(5) The Treasurer shall be responsible for preparing the WPC budget and getting it approved from the Patron within the sanctioned limits of the Assembly Budgetary allocations.

13. Meetings.

Meetings of the General Body shall be held as follows:-

- (a) The Chairperson shall summon –
 - i. at least one meeting in three months; *and*
 - ii. extra ordinary meeting on a single day's short notice
- (b) The Secretary shall summon first meeting for voting of the Chairperson and other Office Holders within thirty days after general elections and as well on completion of eighteen months tenure of the Office Holders.
- (c) The quorum for meetings shall be one third of its total membership.
- (d) All the decisions in the meeting shall be taken on the basis of simple majority.
- (e) The Chairperson shall not vote in any matter except in case of tie.
- (f) The Chairperson may invite –
 - i. Officials of the Government Functionaries, Autonomous/Semi-Autonomous Bodies etc.;
 - ii. Officials of the Civil Society organizations relating to women related issues;
 - iii. Head/members of statutory bodies;
 - iv. Friends of the Caucus;
 - v. Experts; *and*
 - vi. International Development Organizations.

14. Funds.

Main sources of the Caucus's funding shall be supported by the Donor Agencies:

Provided that initial/basic operational expenses shall be borne by the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan.

15. Removal of difficulty.

Where these Rules may have no sufficient provisions for anything to be executed or if difficulty arises in giving effect to any of the provisions of these Rules, the Chairperson with prior approval of the Patron may issue such instructions as may be considered necessary for the removal of such impasse.

16. **Amendment of Rules.**
- (1) An amendment to the Rules, if and when required, shall be submitted in written form with the name of proposer and seconder to the Chairperson along-with Objects and Reasons.
- (2) The Chairperson shall read out the draft of the proposed amendment(s) in the General Body's meeting.
- (3) On approval of two-third majority of the General Body, the draft shall be forwarded to the Patron for assent.
- (4) The approved amendment(s) shall come into force at once, as and when assented to by the Patron and notified by the Secretary.
17. **General.**
- The Rules pertaining to Standing Committees of Provincial Assembly of Balochistan except rule-132 shall equally apply to WPC where not inconsistent with these Rules.

BY ORDER OF SPEAKER/PATRON

(TAHIR SHAH KAKAR)
Secretary.

**The Chief Controller,
Government Printing Press,
Quetta.**

(ABDUL REHMAN)
Special Secretary (Legis:).

No. Even. Dated. Even.
Copy forwarded for information to:-

1. All the Hon'ble Members of the Balochistan Provincial Assembly.
2. The Secretary, Senate of Pakistan, Islamabad.
3. The Secretary, National Assembly of Pakistan, Islamabad.
4. The Secretary, Provincial Assembly of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh at Lahore, Peshawar and Karachi.
5. The Secretary, Legislative Assembly of Azad Jammu & Kashmir at Muzaffarabad.
6. The Secretary, Legislative Assembly of Gilgit Bilitistan, at Gilgit.
7. The Chief Secretary, Balochistan, Quetta.
8. The Additional Chief Secretary (Dev:) Government of Balochistan, Planning & Development Department, Quetta.
9. The Additional Chief Secretary Government of Balochistan, Home and Tribal Affairs department, Quetta.
10. The Principal Secretary to Governor Balochistan, Quetta.
11. The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Balochistan, Quetta.
12. All the Administrative Secretaries to the Government of Balochistan, Quetta.
13. The Director General, Public Relations, Balochistan, Quetta.
14. The Secretary to Speaker, Balochistan Provincial Assembly.
15. The Chief Accounts Officer (B&A).
16. The System Analyst, Balochistan Assembly.
17. The P.S. to Deputy Speaker, Balochistan Provincial Assembly.
18. The P.S. to Leader of Opposition, Balochistan Provincial Assembly.
19. The P.S. to Secretary, Balochistan Provincial Assembly.

Special Secretary (Legis:)