

NOTIFICATION.

No.PAB/Legis: V (17)/2025/ The Balochistan Agricultural Solarization and Electricity Theft Prevention Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 17 of 2025), having been passed by the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan on 03rd June 2025, and assented to by the Governor Balochistan on 05th June 2025, is hereby published as an Act of the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan.

**THE BALOCHISTAN AGRICULTURAL SOLARIZATION AND ELECTRICITY THEFT
PREVENTION ACT, 2025.**

(ACT NO. XVI OF 2025)

**AN
ACT**

To regulate the transition of agricultural electricity consumers from subsidized electricity to solar energy, implement the Government of Pakistan (GoP) and Government of Balochistan (GoB) solarization agreements, and prevent subsidized agricultural consumers from reconnecting to the electricity distribution network and to prevent further electric theft and to provide for the matters connected therewith and ancillary thereto.

Preamble.

An Act to ensure the effective implementation of the solarization facility financed by the Government of Pakistan and the Government of Balochistan, to prevent subsidized agriculture consumers from reconnecting to the electricity distribution network in violation of the terms, and to criminalize unauthorized reconnections and electricity theft.

**Short Title,
Extent, and
Commencement.**

1. (1) This Act may be called the Balochistan Agricultural Solarization and Electricity Theft Prevention Act, 2025.
- (2) It extends to the entire Province of Balochistan and applies to all those beneficiaries of the solarization facility for agriculture tube wells who received the payments.
- (3) It shall come into force on such date as may be notified by the Provincial Government in the official Gazette.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions shall have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say:-
 - (a) **“Act”** means the Balochistan Agricultural Solarization and Electricity Theft Prevention Act, 2025;

- (b) **“Affidavit”** means a written undertaking executed on a stamp paper of appropriate value of Affidavit appended to this Act, in a prescribed format, duly signed and verified by the beneficiary in the presence of an authorized officer or notary public and shall include clear provisions, including but not limited to:
 - (i) acknowledgment by the beneficiary that they have availed the Solarization Facility provided by the government and relinquishes any claims over the poles, conductors, transformers, or other related electrical equipment previously used for electricity supply under subsidized arrangements owned by the Government, or electric supply company; *and*
 - (ii) a commitment not to engage in electricity theft or unauthorized reconnection to the QESCO, or any other electric supply network after availing the solarization facility;
- (c) **“Code”** means the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898;
- (d) **“Court”** means a court of Judicial Magistrate of the First Class;
- (e) **“Commissioner”** means the commissioner of the division;
- (f) **“Criminal Breach of Trust”** means dishonest misuse, misappropriation of the amount received by the agriculture consumer for shifting to the solarization facility, or disposal of the solarization equipment in violation of trust and in contravention of the terms of the affidavit;
- (g) **“Department”** means Energy Department and any other department responsible for administration of this Act;
- (h) **“District administration”** means deputy commissioner of the district;
- (i) **“Electric Supply Company”** means and includes any company, corporation, entity, or organization, whether public, private, or semi-government, licensed under the relevant electricity laws and regulations to generate, transmit, distribute, or supply electrical energy to consumers;
- (j) **“Electricity Theft”** means unauthorized use, tampering, or reconnection of electricity, including meters bypassing or manipulating, or distribution systems;
- (k) **“Federal Government”** means the government of Pakistan;
- (l) **“Feeder”** means and includes any electrical conductor, circuit, line, or distribution system that serves as a medium for transmitting electrical power from a substation or power source to distribution transformers or directly to consumers;
- (m) **“Force”** means levies, police and any other civil Armed force working in aid of civil power;

- (n) **Government** means the government of Balochistan;
- (o) **“Steering Committee”** means a committee as notified by the Government;
- (p) **“Standard Operating Procedure”** means standard operating procedure as notified by the government of Balochistan for solarization of registered legal tube wells getting power from Quetta Eclectic Supply Company (QESCO) or any other electric supply company grid system;
- (q) **“Solarization Facility”** Solar energy equipment and systems financed fully or partially by the Government for agriculture tube wells;
- (r) **“Subsidized Agriculture Consumer”** means a farmer or agricultural entity previously registered as a legal consumer receiving subsidized electricity for agricultural tube well or tube wells having valid CNIC; *and*
- (s) **“Unauthorized Reconnection”** means any reconnection to the electricity distribution network (e.g., QESCO or any other electric supply company) without prior authorization after availing of the solarization facility.

Prohibition on Reconnection After Solarization.

- 3. (1) Subsidized agriculture tube well consumers availing of the solarization facility are prohibited from reconnecting to the electricity distribution network for their agricultural operations.
- (2) Any subsidized agriculture consumer found unauthorized reconnecting to the electricity distribution network after availing of the solarization facility shall be guilty of an offence of electricity theft punishable under this Act.

Punishment for Electricity Theft.

- 4. Subsidized agriculture tube well consumers if found and proved guilty of offence of electricity theft, including tampering, bypassing, or unauthorized usage shall be punished with imprisonment up to one (01) year or a fine not less than PKR 2.00 million or both.

Recovery of damages.

- 5. Any person who has or have committed the offence as mentioned in section (4) of this section shall also be liable to pay an amount equivalent to the financial loss caused to the Government or the distribution companies concerned.

Confiscation of equipment.

- 6. When any person who has availed the facility of government financed Solarization is convicted of offence of unauthorized reconnection or electricity theft, the government financed solarization equipment shall be confiscated and forfeited in favour of the State.

Criminal Breach of Trust.

- 7. If a beneficiary of solarization facility dishonestly misuses, misappropriates the amount paid for facility, or disposes of the solarization equipment in violation of trust and in contravention of the terms of the affidavit, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three (3) years, or with fine, or with both.

Abetment.

- 8. Any government or QESCO official who aids, facilitates, or conspires in the commission of an offence involving electricity theft, including tampering, bypassing, or unauthorized use of solarization facilities or equipment

provided under a government program, or in the commission of criminal breach of trust involving the misuse, misappropriation, or illegal disposal of such facilities or equipment, shall be deemed to have abetted the offense and shall be subject to the same punishment as provided under section 4 of this Act.

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| Cognizance. | 9. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, all offences of unauthorized reconnections, electricity theft, including tampering, bypassing, unauthorized usage or criminal breach of trust by subsidized agriculture tube well consumer shall be cognizable, bailable and triable by a Judicial Magistrate of the First Class.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the code of criminal procedure, 1898, or any other law for time being in force, the police or levies shall not take cognizance of an offence or register FIR under this Act, except where information of such offence is provided in writing by a duly authorized officers (not below grade-17) of the electric supply company or department. |
| Delegation. | 10. The Government may, by notification, delegate, subject to such conditions as may be specified therein, all or any of the powers exercisable by it under this Act. |
| Monitoring Mechanisms. | 11. District Administration, Energy Department and Electricity Distribution Companies shall establish a data base of all subsidized consumer having solarization facilities and monitor for unauthorized reconnections. |
| Awareness Campaigns. | 12. District Administration and electric distribution companies shall conduct public awareness campaigns to educate consumers about the legal and financial consequences of violating this Act. |
| Indemnity. | 13. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person in respect of anything which is done in good faith or intended to be done under this Act. |
| Reporting Obligations. | 14. District Administration, Energy Department and the electric distribution companies shall monitor and forward reports of implementation of the solarization of the agriculture tube wells and proper use as per affidavit executed by the beneficiaries of the solarization facility and shall also submit monthly as well as annual reports. |
| Overriding Effect of Act. | 15. The provisions of this Act shall have overriding effect notwithstanding anything contained in the Code or any other law but, save as expressly provided in this Act, the provisions of the Code shall, in so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, apply to the proceedings before the Court. |
| Application of Other Laws. | 16. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force. |
| Powers to Make Rules. | 17. The Provincial Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules, within a year, for carrying out the purposes of this Act. |

**Removal of
Difficulties.**

18. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any provisions of this Act, the Provincial Government may make such order, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear to it to be necessary for the purposes of removing the difficulty.

(TAHIR SHAH KAKAR)
Secretary.

No.PAB/Legis: V (17)/2025/

Dated: Quetta, the 05th June, 2025.

A copy is forwarded to the Chief Controller, Government Printing Press, Balochistan Quetta for favor of publication in Extra –ordinary issue of Gazette of Balochistan. Before final printing, a copy thereof be sent to this Secretariat for Proof reading. Fifty copies of the Act may please be supplied to this Secretariat for record.

(ABDUL REHMAN)
Special Secretary (Legis:)

No.PAB/Legis: V (17)/2025/

Dated: Quetta, the 05th June, 2025.

Copy for information to: -

1. The Principal Secretary to Governor, Balochistan, Quetta.
2. The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Balochistan, Quetta.
3. The Secretary, Government of Balochistan, Energy Department, Quetta.
4. The Secretary, Government of Balochistan, Law & Parliamentary Affairs Department,
5. The Director General, Public Relations, Balochistan, Quetta for favour of publication.
6. The System Analyst, Balochistan Provincial Assembly.

SPECIAL SECRETARY (LEGIS:)