

**MINUTES OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE  
FOR REORGANIZING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
HELD ON 22-10-2019**

The 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Implementation Committee was held on 22-10-2019 at 10:00 am in Institutional Reforms Cell (IRC), the P.M. Office under the Chair of Advisor to the P.M. on Establishment, Mr. Mohammad Shehzad Arabab. The list of the participants is annexed. The agenda items of the meeting were as under:

- (i) Comments / Views of M/o Information Technology as conveyed vide its letter #2-9/2019-Admn, dated 10-10-2019.
- (ii) Views and Comments of Defence Production Division on proposed Executive Departments and Autonomous Bodies as per Annex-7 & 8 of the Report.
- (iii) Briefing by Pakistan Post Office Department (PPOD) on future business plan.
- (iv) Views and Comments by Federal Education and Professional Training Division on Annex-3 as already communicated vide Establishment Division's Meeting Notice dated 11-10-2019.

**Agenda Item No.i Comments / Views of M/o Information Technology as conveyed vide its letter #2-9/2019-Admn, dated 10-10-2019.**

2. To begin with the Chair invited Secretary Information Technology to share his views on the proposed categorization of the entities of M/o Information Technology. The Secretary stated that organizations of M/o Information Technology already have a specific statutory structure as under:-

| S.# | Organizations | Legal Origin  |
|-----|---------------|---|
| a)  | NITB          | Is a Statutory Body established under the National Information Technology Board Ordinance 2019                    |
| b)  | NTC           | Corporation established under the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-Organization) Act, 1996 with a Management Board. |
| c)  | IGNITE        | Companies established under Section 42 of the Companies Act 2017  |
| d)  | USF           |   |
| e)  | PSEB          |   |
| f)  | PTET          | Trusts established under respective statues and the charitable Endowments Act, 1890                               |
| g)  | TF            |   |
| h)  | ECAC          | Statutory Body established under the Electronic Transaction Ordinance, 2002                                       |
| i)  | VU            | Established under the Virtual University Ordinance, 2002  |

Each of the above organizations performs very different tasks, requiring distinct decision making hierarchy, workflows and HR Structure to match. It is for this reason that these organizations based on the required quantum were either molded into different frames of existing functioning structures (Such as formations laid down in the Companies Act 2017) or had unique statutes laying down their unique organizational structure. Applying the same standard boundaries of being defined as “Autonomous Bodies” would create massive legal and audit ramifications, ineffectiveness in intra organizational communication and reduced transparency. The Ministry would like to retain their existing status. He further stated that all these entities have sufficient autonomy and further increasing autonomy may affect performance adversely.

3. In view of the above context, one of the members pointed out that the present 441 organizations in the Federal Government have been classified in 18 different categories. The idea is to simplify the broad array of organizational categories into only two types; one is Executive Department and other is Autonomous Body. As for the legal status of the present statutory bodies, limited companies and corporations it will remain unchanged but for the administrative purposes, all such bodies would be classified as Autonomous Bodies distinct from the Executive Department(ED).

4. The Secretary M/o Information Technology & Telecommunications while referring to the proposal of making the Head of the Executive Department as Principal Accounting Officer stated that he did not support the idea. He viewed that in this way it will become difficult to take results from so many people. He further stated that implementation of this scheme would not only undermine the accountability and implementation of directions and vision of the government, but would also cause disintegration of responsibility which, in turn, would severely impact effectiveness of the Government Public Accountability Mechanism which is one of the essential constituents of Parliamentary Dominion. This arrangement also has consequences in terms and conditions, and career progression of officers and staff.

5. In response to above observations, the Chair remarked that it is a step towards decentralization. He further said that the idea was to shift the burden from Secretary to enable him to focus more towards policy instead of engaging him too much in the process of implementation. Member from M/o Finance responded that the present reorganization is actually a sort of realignment based on the functionality. The purpose of it is to remove duplicity and to bring efficiency in the service delivery. Advisor to the Prime Minister on Petroleum stated that Responsibility, Authority and Accountability go simultaneously and dropping anyone of them will adversely affect the desired outcome. Accountability makes sense when Head of the Executive Department is delegated adequate financial and administrative powers. He further said that the present pattern in which we are entrenched in doing and not thinking needs reversal. He concluded that the present reforms are not an end rather means to an end.

**Agenda Item No.ii Views and Comments of Defence Production Division on proposed Executive Departments and Autonomous Bodies as per Annex-7 &8 of the Report.**

6. To begin with, the Secretary Defence Production desired the support of the Committee for restructuring the Ministry. The Chair agreed.

**Agenda Item No.iii Briefing by Pakistan Post Office Department (PPOD) on future business plan**

7. The Ministry requested in writing that the agenda may be deferred which was accepted.

**Agenda Item No.iv Views and Comments by Federal Education and Professional Training Division on Annex-3 as already communicated vide Establishment Division's Meeting Notice dated 11-10-2019**

8. The Secretary Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training stated that after 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment, the jurisdiction of all the above mentioned organizations is already confined to Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) only and they are working under the Ministry and cannot be transferred to Provinces or Gilgit Baltistan. On this, the Committee remarked that the point is not working of these organizations to the jurisdiction of ICT instead it is about the transferring of these organizations to ICT Administration. On this, the Secretary viewed that the Ministry is not agreed. Nevertheless, he requested that the agenda may be deferred to the next meeting.

## **Decisions**

- i. The Committee agreed with the proposed categorization of the Organizations of the Ministry of Information Technology tabulated in para 2 ante as Autonomous Bodies (reference Annex-8 of the Report).
  - ii. The Committee agreed to the request by the Secretary Defence Production Division to support him in the restructuring plan of the Ministry. He was asked to bring the proposal before the Committee after two weeks.
  - iii. The Committee accepted the written request of PPOD, Postal Services Division and deferred the agenda item to the next meeting.
  - iv. The Committee agreed to the request of the Secretary M/o Federal Education & Professional Training for deferring the agenda regarding transfer of the organizations of the Ministry to ICT administration (reference Annex-3 of the Report) to next meeting.
9. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

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**List of participants of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Implementation Committee  
held on 22-10-2019**

- i. Advisor to the Prime Minister on Establishment.
- ii. Chairman, Special Committee of the National Assembly on Kashmir.
- iii. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Petroleum Division.
- iv. The Special Secretary, Cabinet Division.
- v. The Secretary, M/o Information Technology.
- vi. The Secretary, M/o Defence Production.
- vii. The Secretary, M/o Federal Education & Professional Training.
- viii. The Additional Secretary-I, Establishment Division.
- ix. The Additional Finance Secretary (Expenditure), Finance Division
- x. The Member, Management Services Wing, Establishment Division.
- xi. The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice
- xii. The Joint Secretary, Institutional Reforms Cell (IRC).