

## **Analytical Study of the Governance and Politics of PML-Q 2002-2007**

**Khursheed Begum**

Pak. Study Department, BZU Multan.

**Muhammad Aslam Faiz**

Pakistan studies department, Ghazi University, D.G.Khan,

**Sohail Akhtar**

History Department, Ghazi University DG Khan

\*Email of the corresponding author: [Khushikhursheed946@gmail.com](mailto:Khushikhursheed946@gmail.com)

### **ABSTRACT**

*The study discusses the General Elections 2002 in which Pakistan Muslim League Quaid-e-Azam (PML-Q) emerged as majority party with the support of military ruler president Musharraf PML-Q formed government in center and in Punjab. Then it analyzes the performance of PML-Q in terms of governance and politics. Major points of discussion included the politics of PML-Q being a majority party, role of opposition parties, influence of non-elected institutions in state affairs, Baluchistan issue, accountability system, people participation in state affairs, public welfare works, law and order situation, economic development and performance of government in health and education sectors. So, it is clear that during PML-Q government (2002-2007) some development noticed in social and economic sectors but this government completely compromised on democratic norms and facilitated the military general to hijack the whole system of the State as a result political institutions got further weakened. This paper highlights the governance and politics of PML-Q and its impact on Pakistan.*

**Keywords:** PML-Q, Politics, Pakistan, Military, Judiciary, etc

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### **Preparations for General Elections 2002**

In August, 2002 Election Commission of Pakistan announced '10 October 2002' as polling day for the elections of National and Provincial assemblies. After this announcement All political parties decided to participate in these General

elections.(Khan,2009:490) Legal Frame work Order (LFO) promulgated by military government in August,2002 increased the total strength of national assembly from 217 to 342.Women quota was revived in National Assembly and sixty seats were allocated for them. Election for women seats was to be held on the basis of proportional representation system.

The order introduced Joint Electorate system and 18 years minimum age limit for voters. This order also made bachelor degree mandatory for the candidates who wanted to contest elections. Political parties protested against this condition and challenged it in Supreme Court but Supreme Court dismissed this petition of anti-Musharraf political parties. Religious political parties severally criticized the clause regarding joint electorates' and declared it contradictory to the constitution of the State.

### **Election Campaign**

More than 70 political parties were ready to contest these elections. The major parties were PML-Pakistan people's party (PPP), MQM, PML-Q and MMA and National Alliance (NA A combination of six small parties). PML-Q and NA were Pro Musharraf parties. The provincial Governors and other government official facilitated the seats adjustment process between PML-Q and NA. In order to weak the position of PML-N and PPP Musharraf promulgated two presidential Ordinances. The first ordinance prohibited any one to hold the Premier ship of the country for more than two times. This ordinance ended the hopes of assuming premier ship for both Nawaz and Benazir. The second ordinance declared that any person ineligible for contesting elections would also be ineligible for leading Political party. This ordinance was promulgated just to target Benazir because she had been declared ineligible for contesting elections in some cases. Her nomination papers were already rejected so she changed her party name from Pakistan People's Party to Pakistan people's Party Parliamentarians (PPP-P) and Makhdoom Amin Fahim was made the president of this party. Furthermore electronic and print media of state were used for defaming Nawaz and Benazir and for the publicity of PML-Q. While PML-Q claimed itself a moderate, liberal and progressive political party. Its manifesto pledged to enhance the effective role of parliament by adopting immediate measures, to set a limit of maximum members in federal and provincial cabinets, to give greater share of funds to provinces and to ensure the institutionalization of accountability in all public offices especially for elected representatives. Beside this, party pledged to introduce social, economic, political, educational and health reforms in the country for the wellbeing of common people. They also promised that women would be encouraged to take effective part in every field of life.

Various Political Parties during election campaign alleged that their workers had been harassed and their public meetings and gatherings had disturbed by government. MMA was successful in attracting the masses especially of NWFP (KPK) due to its anti-American stance and pro-Taliban policies. Its manifesto promised to introduce Islamic system and to implement Shariat Law in the State. They also promised to ensure true democratic system, justice, rights for minorities, independence of judiciary and accountability for rulers, judiciary and military. This alliance also promises to provide food, clothing, residence, health and education facilities for all citizens. This alliance criticized Musharraf Afghanistan policy and his unconditional support to USA.

## General Elections Results

The General elections held on Oct 10, 2002 were considered controversial one. Anti-Musharraf Political parties criticized military government for pre and post elections rigging International Media reported that these elections were rigged by military government. Common wealth Observers group reported that the governors, chief secretaries and Nazims were busy to assist PML-Q. The election observation mission of European Union to Pakistan observed the failure of election commission to assert its independence from military. Furthermore the criteria of graduation for contesting elections deprived more than 96% of population from contesting elections. Result of the elections were issued after an accountable delay. Overall turnout was 40.69%, The party position was as under.

PML -Q	78
PML N	14
PPP-P	62
MMA	45
IND	28
MQM	13
NA	12
PML (F)	04
PPP Sherpao	02
Other small parties	10

In Punjab Provincial assembly PML-Q was the leading party by securing 128 seats followed by PPP-P with 63 seats. PML-N secured just 37, NA secured 12, independent candidates secured 34, MMA secured 07 and 06 seats were secured by other minor parties. In Sindh PPP-P was the leading party by securing 51 seats followed by MQM with 31 seats. MMA secured 15 seats, PML-Q and NA each secured 10-10 seats, PML-F secured 04. Independent candidates secured 05 seats while 02 seats were secured by other minor parties. In NWFP MMA was the leading party with 47 seats, followed by PPP-Sherpao with 09 seats. ANP secured 09; PPP-P secured 08, PML-Q 07, while independent candidates secured 14 seats. In Balochistan the leading party was MMA with 13 seats followed by PML (Q) with 10 seats. NA grabbed 04 seats, PPP-P 02, independent candidates secured 07 and other minor parties secured 12 seats.

Although military government gave a powerful support to PML-Q but in National Assembly it could not get a strong majority. These results brought surprising victory for MMA. Islamist parties also won good number of seats in national assembly as well as in provincial assemblies for the first time in history of Pakistan. MMA got a clear cut majority in NWFP and Baluchistan provinces and were in position to form its own government.

### **Central Government**

Election results made it clear that no party was in position to form government singularly. Despite of all efforts on the part of military government PML-Q although emerged largest party in the national Assembly but was not in position to form its own government. Cooperation of PML-Q with PPP-P was looking impossible due to their anti-Musharraf stance. Negotiation started between MMA and PML-Q and military government tried its level best to finalize a deal but that process of negotiations failed due to MMA's demand for the post of prime Minister and final date from Musharraf to step down as COAS. The other demand of MMA was a change in pro-US policy of the military government. These demands of MMA were not acceptable for Musharraf. MQM decided to support PML-Q in government formation. Military government wanted to see King's party in power. Independent members also joined PML-Q. But despite of all these efforts PML-Q was in need of 10 more votes to form government. (Khan,2011:103-4) This shortage was filled when 10 elected members of PPP-P formed a forward block "Peoples party (Patriots)" and announced their support to PML-Q. Article 63(A) of constitution prohibited floor crossing so it was difficult for them to support PML-Q candidate. To solve this issue Musharraf suspended article 63(A) of constitution which was a clear indication that Peoples party Patriots was a product of military government. MMA and PML-N nominated Fazal-ur -Rehman while PPP-P nominated Shah Mahmood Qureshi as a candidate for prime minister.

After all these arrangements the inaugural session of the National Assembly was held on 16 November, 2002. Opposition parties denied taking oath under the LFO proclaimed by Musharraf. (Khan,2009;491) Chudhary Amir Hussain of PML-Q was elected as speaker and Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob was elected as deputy speaker of the national Assembly. (<http://www.na.gov.pk>)

Voting for Prime Minister was held on November 22, 2002. There were 03 contestants namely Mir Zafar Ullah Khan Jamali of PML-Q, Fazal ur Rehman of MMA and Shah Mahmood Qureshi of PPP-P. Mir Zafar Ullah Khan Jamali was elected as prime minister by securing 172 votes. Fazal-ur-Rehman and Qureshi secured 86 and 70 votes respectively. The members of forward block were awarded with six ministries in new cabinet. Jamali after his election as prime minister pledged to continue the policies of president Musharraf and to work in complete coordination with him. Jamali nomination was the choice of President Musharraf although Shujjat Hussain was the member of the party. According to Parliamentary traditions as a leader of majority party in national assembly Shujjat Hussain should have nominate his name for the post of prime minister.

In Punjab a coalition government of PML-Q, NA with the cooperation of PPP-P and PML-N dissidents was formed. Chudhary Pervez Ilahi of PML-Q was elected as chief minister of Punjab by securing 235 votes while his rival Qasim Zia a joint candidate of PML-N and PPP-P secured 102 votes. While MMA remained indifferent in election process.

### **The Seventeenth Amendment**

After formation of government PML-Q started its efforts to provide a legal cover to the orders of president Musharraf. In order to legalize the Musharraf's LFO it arranged a round of discussion with MMA which resulted in an agreement based on "07 points" among which the most important point was "Musharraf would step down from the post of COAS on Dec 31, 2004" and in return MMA agreed to support the 17th amendment Bill. PML-Q government moved 17th amendment bill on Dec 26, 2003 and got it passed with the support of MMA. Other opposition parties boycotted the session as a protest against the deal between PML-Q government and MMA. This amendment was basically the replica of 8th amendment of Zia's period. It shifted all executive powers to the President from parliament. It empowered president to dismiss Prime Minister and dissolve National Assembly. The Governors could use the same powers against the provincial Assemblies. It validated all the actions of military regime from Oct 12, 1999. LFO amended 29 articles of constitution in which 20 remained untouched by the 17th amendment. LFO became a part of the constitution which was in reverse to the stance of MMA for a year. As a reaction to this all opposition parties excluding MMA formed "Alliance for Restoration of Democracy" (ARD). This move of PML-Q was a clear compromise on its manifesto pledges. In parliamentary system real executive powers are exercised by Prime Minister but PML-Q shifted all executive powers to president. This also indicated the powerful position of military and helplessness of PML-Q. The other controversial move on behalf of PML-Q government was the vote of confidence for Musharraf. The 17th amendment had added a new clause to the article 41 of the constitution which made obligatory for Musharraf to get one time vote of confidence in Parliament for further affirmation of presidency. Prime Minister Jamali and President of PML-Q Chudhary Shajaat Hussain moved a resolution for vote of confidence for Military man as president. On January 1, 2004 parliament and four Provincial Assemblies were summoned for voting in this regard. Musharraf received 658 votes from the electoral college of 1,170. This vote of confidence permitted legitimacy to the military presidency of Musharraf. ARD boycotted the voting process and raised the slogans of Go Musharraf Go before leaving the National Assembly while MMA abjured without opposing the president.

### **National Security Council Bill (NSC)**

PML-Q government tabled the proposed 'Bill of National Security Council' in National Assembly in April 2004. NSC was an attempt to legalize a heavy role of armed forces in Pakistani politics and provide an effective veto to military over Parliament on the desire of president Musharraf. This Bill proposed eleven members NSC out of which five were to be from military. MMA and ARD strongly criticized this bill and announced to oppose it jointly on the floor of Parliament. As a simple majority was required to pass this bill, it was passed in short time with the support of PML-Q and MQM during the walkout of

opposition .The formation of NSC was indicative of the desire of the Pakistan Army especially of General Musharraf to handle Pakistani politics and PML-Q fulfill this desire of president by compromising on democratic values and norms.

### **Removal of Prime Minister Jamali**

The 17th amendment left government and Prime Minister on the mercy of a strong and powerful president and it had serious implication on future politics of the country. Musharraf warmly welcomed Jamali election as Prime Minister while Jamali also pledged to follow the instructions and policies of the Musharraf. With Jamali election as prime minister, an era of exemplary civil-military relations started. But very surprisingly on June 26, 2004, Jamali declared his resignation on television. According to a media report, Jamali failed to fulfill the desires of Musharraf and to satisfy the opposition parties. The allied parties initially shocked at Jamali's resignation and termed it as forced resignation and embarrassment for democracy. Later on in his interview Jamali revealed that Musharraf wanted to hand over Abdul Qadir Khan to USA and was also in favor of sending Pakistani forces to Iraq, he opposed him on both issues as a result he was forced to render resignation while on the other hand Musharraf in his interview revealed that Jamali was an incapable Prime Minister that's why he forced him for resignation. PML-Q government remained silent on this removal and once again supported the authoritative step of Musharraf. After Jamali resignation Shukat Aziz was the choice of president for premiership, so Chudhary Shujaat Husain being the president of PML-Q nominated him for the post of prime minister but he was not the member of National Assembly .Again PML-Q government compromised on the democratic values and made arrangements for the appointment of un elected person to become prime minister. In order to fulfill the constitutional requirement that the prime minister must belong to popular house, bye elections was planned for the election of Shoukat Aziz as a member of National Assembly. Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain worked as interim Prime Minister. He remained prime minister for less than two months.

### **Shoukat Aziz as New Prime Minister**

PML-Q government supported the pro-establishment person Shoukat Aziz to become Prime Minister. He took the vote of confidence from National Assembly and became the Prime Minister of Pakistan in August 2004. He secured 192 votes out of 342. He was working as Finance Minister in the Cabinet of Musharraf since 1999. (Ahmed, & Afridi, 2014:479) Nationality of Shoukat Aziz as a Pakistani was suspicious but PML-Q elected him he as prime minister. After his election as president he formed his ninety members' cabinet which was one of the largest cabinets in history of Pakistan.

In the mid of 2004, PML-Q parliamentarians started a campaign requesting Musharraf to remain as COAS far after 31 December 2004. This campaign of PML-Q leadership was bitterly criticized by MMA and ARD and termed it contradictory to the constitution .PML-Q introduced this bill in the National Assembly named and got it passed on Oct 13, 2004 in the amid of walkout of the opposition. The bill allowed the President to hold dual posts simultaneously. MMA rejected the said bill and asserted that article 43(1) of the constitution banned the president to hold another office. Qazi Hussain Ahmad argued

that National Assembly had no power to pass such a law with simple majority which would make COAS to overrule and manipulate the whole constitution.

### **Devolution of Power and Local Government Elections 2005**

A new local government system was introduced by Musharraf through Local Government Ordinance and in 2001 elections were held on non-party basis. PML-Q government followed the same system elections for local governments were held throughout Pakistan in the months of Sep and Oct 2005. Unfortunately those elections were rigged on large scale especially in Sindh and Punjab by PML-Q government. Provincial governments of PML-Q in fact manipulated these elections. Election commission of Pakistan totally failed to conduct fair elections. Election results were frequently tempered on the instruction of provincial governments by returning officers.

### **Lal Masjid Event**

Lal Masjid is located in the center of Islamabad and in 2007 clerics of the mosque started to challenge the writ of the state which resulted in the open confrontation between State authorities and Ghazi brothers. A series of talks started between official government delegation under Ch. Shujaat Hussain and authorities of Lal masjid (Ghazi brothers). Shujaat Hussain on July 8, 2007 declared that negotiation with the Mosque authorities came to fruition, however no agreement could be finalized. But later on mosque authorities refused to accede to the demands of the State agencies. Ghazi Abdul Rashid, the deputy cleric of the Mosque, hold the fort near the mosque. When negotiation failed, army was given green signal by president to storm the complex. "Operation Silence" was launched with the objective to capture or kill the militants if they resist as well as to rescue the students to keep them as hostages. This operation resulted in the loss of subsequent number of lives. Aftermath of this operation was terrible. An endless series of suicide bombing started resulting in a huge loss of human lives. In the month of July 15 suicide attacks were made in Punjab, NWFP and Islamabad resulting in about 200 deaths. Law and order situation was deteriorated to such an extent that Pakistan was termed as "The world's most dangerous place" by Economist.

### **National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO Oct, 2007)**

Leadership of two major political parties PPP-P and PML-N came on the same page by putting aside their long standing differences and pledged to start an era of reconciliation and to stand together against Musharraf. Both parties in April,2006 signed 'Charter of Democracy'(COD), the main agenda point of this agreement was return to civilian rule. Musharraf realizing the situation, opened the channels of communication with PPP leadership and managed to finalized a dual concession deal with Benazir. According to this deal Musharraf would shed his uniform and Benazir would allow him to work as president after general elections. In return Musharraf would revoked all those cases against Benazir which compelled her to live in exile. This deal was put into practice by Musharraf's National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) promulgated on Oct 5, 2007

which granted amnesty to all political leaders and cases of corruption (1988-1999) lifted against them.

### **Musharraf's Election as President**

On May 18, 2006 Musharraf announced in a televised speech that the existing Assemblies would elect him as president for a second term. This announcement added fuel to the already existed fire. On the other hand PML-Q defended Musharraf and Ch. Pervez Ilahi, Chief minister of Punjab pledged that they would elect Musharraf as president in uniform not for one but for two terms. The tenure of National Assembly was going to an end on Nov 15, 2007 and Musharraf's term of presidency was going to end on Nov 16, 2007, he could simultaneously work as COAS till the same date. Musharraf wanted to secure his seat of president before next general elections. Opposition parties filed a petition against Musharraf eligibility in Supreme court and apex Court allowed Musharraf to contest elections but bound Election Commission of Pakistan not to certify results before Supreme Court's further order. More than 80 MNAs of MMA and PML N resigned from National Assembly. On Oct 6, 2007 this controversial election took place in which Musharraf secured 671 votes out of total 685 polled votes. Retired justice Wajihuddin secured 8 votes. PPP-P due to their agreement with Musharraf not boycotted the election process but remained abstained from voting.

### **Centralized Administration**

The 17th amendment passed by PML(Q) government authorized Governors (representative of center in provinces) to dismiss the provincial assemblies. During this era administration was centralized one because Musharraf local government reforms according to Mohammed Waseem "enhanced unbridled centralism" most important issue of tension among provinces remained unsolved.

### **Kala Bagh Dam issue**

PML-Q government failed to resolve the issue of construction of Kala Bagh Dam. From the mid of 1980s plans was made to construct a major dam at Kala Bagh on river Indus. But NWFP and Sindh had serious reservations on the issue. One of the main causes of their stand against construction of Kala Bagh Dam was the lack of trust on Punjab. Punjab was seemed the main beneficiary of this project at other provinces cost. PML-Q a political party of Punjab should take practical steps to resolve this issue but they failed to take any practical step in this regard. Calls were made to put national interest above provincial interest but these calls produced no results. President Musharraf announced in Dec, 2005 that Kala Bagh Dam would go ahead. At this announcement mounting campaign started in Sindh and NWFP, as a result that proposal was abandoned by PML-Q government.

### **Baluchistan Insurgency and Murder of Akbar Khan Bugthi**

During this period attempt on the part of PML-Q government to complete the construction of Gawader Sea port resulted in tense center-Baluchistan relations. Baloch nationalist killed 3 Chinese engineers in Gawader as a result security arrangements were immediately stepped up. In 2005 an unpleasant incident occurred in the Bugthi tribal area when Dr. Shazia Khalid, a guest of Nawab Akber Bugthi was raped by an army officer.



This incident gave birth to a serious conflict between Bugattis and Pakistan state. Bugatti's attempt to prevent an official cover up led to severe conflicts and attacks on gas-pipe lines. Army action compelled him to flee his residence and to take shelter in a cave of Bhamboor hills later on he was killed in a cave near Kohlu by bombardment of F-16 and helicopters along with his 38 followers on 26 August 2006. The Baloch termed him martyr but his murder had long lasting effect on the future of Pakistan.

### **Accountability**

National Accountability Bureau a successor of National Ehtesab established by Musharraf in 1999 failed to work independently in PML-Q government. It was mainly used for political victimization of the opponents. It played an important role in cobbling together the coalition government of PML-Q by giving threats to politicians of dire consequences. Hence the loyal politicians escaped accountability and got an opportunity of further corruption. In order to assist pro-Musharraf politicians Prime Minister Shukat Aziz introduced writing off loan scheme which benefited 50,000 persons mainly politicians and business men. When a confidential report of this scheme was leaked out, Supreme Court took action but no further step was taken in this regard. Finally corruption was legalized by the government when president Musharraf promulgated NRO on Oct.5.2007 which closed all the cases of corruption against politicians of PPP and PML-N.

### **Relation between Judiciary and Executive**

Judiciary is one of the most important pillars of the state and custodian of constitution. For the smooth working of government one of the pre-requisite is an independent judiciary. When it is looked at the history of Pakistan, we found judiciary was used for political interests by military dictators and even civil governments tried to dictate Judiciary. During this period relations between executive and judiciary were cordial but later on worsened and judiciary proved one of the major factors for the down fall of president Musharraf. Before PML-Q government Chief Justice Riaz supported Musharraf on the issue of referendum. When referendum was objected before the apex Court being illegitimate, Supreme Court dismissed this objection. Through LFO (August, 2002) retirement age of judges was increased to 68 from 65 in case of Supreme Court and to 65 from 62 in case of High Courts. In this way Musharraf rewarded the judiciary for its decision in his favor with the extension of age limit of retirement and Judiciary accepted it warmly but at the expense of its independence because judiciary was termed as restrained judiciary by various sections of people.(PLD SC 74,2003) However agreement between MMA and Government on LFO reversed retirement age of judges clause and it was undone to previous. As a result, five judges of Supreme Court got retired due to age factor. Chief Justice Riaz was succeeded by Chief Justice Nazim Husain Siddique in Dec, 2003. His period was termed as spineless period. Because some important constitutional controversies were validated during his tenure the most important one among these controversies was the controversy of 17th amendment. During this period many appeals were filed under Article 184 (3) of Constitution challenging LFO of 2002, 17th Amendment to constitution in 2003 and the president to hold dual office Act 2004. A five member Bench of Supreme Court of Pakistan heard all these cases in April 2004 and all were dismissed.(PLD SC 719,2005) Supreme Court tried to provide protection to

Musharraf by dismissing the argument that Musharraf had not transferred powers to parliament because elections to Provincial and National Assemblies were held on time as declared by the Supreme Court. Furthermore Constitution was fully restored. Supreme Court also dismissed the petition of high treason against Musharraf. Justice Nazim got retired on 29th of June 2005. And was succeeded by Chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhary, who joined his office on June 30 2005. He was as energetic and active judge, as after becoming Chief Justice he tried to consider pending cases in Supreme Court. Activism of Judiciary started with his sou motto actions against injustice in society. His approach resulted in the extreme displeasure of General Pervaiz Musharraf and his allies. Supreme Court decided the important case of privatization of Pakistan Steel Mills and held that it was violation of law because privatization process was vitiated by the acts of state functionaries. This decision brought great embarrassment for Prime Minister Shukat Aziz and President Musharraf.( Constitutional Petition No 9 ,2006) One important sensitive case related to disappeared persons' was arising as a part of war on terror in which Pakistan military and ISI were alleged to have detained hundreds of persons without due course and most of them were from Baluchistan, Chief justice's native Province. He used his Suo-mote power in 2005, when he ordered to investigate the disappearance of thousands of persons. He ordered the government to furnish the whereabouts of those people. Due to his efforts on 9th of March, 2007 a good number of persons were released. Musharraf showed his displeasure and suspended Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry on 7th March 2007 on the charges of misuse of power but the reason was not misuse of power. Supreme Court held a hearing to determine the charges labeled against Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhry. Supreme Court gave its verdict on 20 July, 2007 and reinstated the deposed Chief Judge and declared Musharraf order unconstitutional and illegal. This decision brought a powerful boost to the legal community. Chief justice continued to hear the cases of missing persons and led the judiciary to challenge Musharraf's eligibility for presidency in uniform. Musharraf was elected as president on 06 Oct, 2007 but results were not certified by ECP due to Court order. A bench of 9 members under Justice 2 Iqbal decided to delay the ruling on this issue until Nov 12. Musharraf, sensing the situation, on Nov 03, 2007 imposed emergency rule in the Country and constitution was suspended. The judges of Supreme Court and high courts have to take new oath under PCO. Chief Justice response quickly and pass a emergency order with the help of 7 members penal annulling the PCO and directed all judges not to take oath under PCO. Chief justice and those judges who refused to take oath were placed under house arrest. Abdul Hamid Dogar was appointed as new Chief Justice who overruled Chudhary's annulment of the PCO by validating it.

### **Emergence of Private TV Channels**

The era of PML-Q government is important for the rapid increase in number of private TV and radio channels. Since 2002 government allowed a large number of channels to operate .Government also eased restrictions on the ownership of private channels. This era was actually an era of diversification and liberalization in media sector. After the proclamation of emergency harsh restriction were imposed on TV and radio channels.

### **Social Development**

Social development means improving the well-being of each and every individual in society so they can attain their full potential. The success of society is directly connected to the well-being of its citizens. It means that investment on people which contribute to the economic prosperity of society include youth programs and services, higher education, job opportunities, promotion of health facilities, active living and safe and secure communities.

Social development is one of the most important pre requisite for sustained economic growth but unfortunately it is ignored by the successive civil and military governments of Pakistan. Burki narrates these phenomena as “missed opportunities”. Pakistan is among those countries which allocate less amount of budget for health, education and human development.

### **Educational Reforms**

During PML(Q) period some improvement was noticed in this sector. In order to increase the enrollment of students in educational institution different policies were formulated which included Medium term Frame Work(2005-2010) and Educational Sector Reforms(2002-2006).These policies produced positive results and literacy rate which was 45% in 2001 reached to 53% in 2005. In financial year 2007-2008 government allocated 4% of GDP for educational sector. Government also paid attention to Madaris.In order to improve their educational standard an attempt was made to introduce some secular subjects in these Madaris (Religious institutions) and for that purpose huge amount was allocated.During PML-Q government the standard of higher education improved marvelously. In order to provide better facilities of higher education UGC was converted in HEC in 2002 with an independent and autonomous status.HEC played a vital role in improving higher education . PML-Q government invests a lot on higher education sector and about 18 new public sector universities were established till 2006.

Notable progress was made in educational sector in Punjab province under Chief Minister Chudhary Pervez Ilahi. Literacy rate of the province was enhanced to 67% in 2007 which was 47% in 2002. Enrollment rate in schools which was 45% in 2002 was reached to 70% in 2007 Missing facilities were provided to 1000s of school and colleges. In order to decrease the dropout ratio free education and free books were provided up to metric class. To encourage female education in province stipends were granted. The other marvelous work of Chief Minister was his special measures for the welfare of special persons .In this regard separate Special Education Department was founded on October 1st,2003 and sufficient funds were allocated for special education. In financial year 2006-007 Rs 954 million was reserved for this sector. Government provided wheel chairs, hearing equipments, brail books, pick and drop transportation facilities were provided to the students.In all educational intuitions 2% quota was reserved for special persons. 1st degree college for special persons had established by government at Lahore in September 2004.

### **Health Sector**

So far health sector is concerned; some positive changes were introduced by PML-Q government. Health expenditure was Rs 25 billion in previous civil governments but during this era it was increased by 100% and reached to Rs 50 billion. There was a

notable increase in the number of registered doctors, dentists, nurses and lady health workers. Programs were started to control polio, hepatitis, TB and Aids. Chief Minister Punjab introduced valuable reforms in health sector with the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank, World Bank and other donor agencies. When PML-Q took over the charge of Punjab there was demoralization and frustration among doctor community they were agitating against the autonomy of boards of governors and medical institutions. To resolve this issue PML-Q Punjab government passed "The Punjab Medical and Health institutions Act, 2003". Under this Act Board of Management was constituted which was comprised of eminent persons from society and was delegated with administrative, financial and development responsibilities. Chief Minister launched The Strengthening Emergency Medical Service and Punjab Emergency Ambulance Service in order to provide better emergency health services to people. Infant mortality rate sharply declined in Punjab. In 2007 infant mortality rate was 72/1000 while in 2002 it was 82/1000. Government also established Multan Institute of Cardiology center comprised of 250 beds in order to facilitate kidney patients. In order to reduce the incidents of blindness in the province government established Multan Institute of Preventive Ophthalmology at Lahore. To cope up with the medical needs of growing population government established 03 new public sector medical colleges in Punjab. Government also established Jinnah Burn and Reconstructive center at Lahore in order to facilitate burnt patients. Punjab government also founded new nursing college at Jinnah hospital Lahore. University of Health Sciences was founded by this government for the improvement of medical education in the province. Ilahi government also gave full attention to Polio eradication and Punjab government observed National Immunization Days for the eradication of this disease. In 2002 health budget of Punjab was Rs 90 billion but in 2007 Rs 23 billion rupees was allocated for health department.

### **Rescue 1122**

In Pakistan there was no proper management to deal with the emergencies. Dozens of people were lost lives and property due to the unavailability of timely and proper assistance in emergencies. To tackle this issue PNL-Q Government in Punjab passed emergency service Act 2006 in order to provide legal protection to emergency services related to road incidents , building collapse and fire explosions. After this legal step Ilahi government launched a comprehensive and integrated emergency management system "Punjab emergency service Rescue 1122". Rescue 1122 was basically an emergency service for humanity. This service was initially established at six important locations of Punjab. These rescue centers were provided with 14 emergency ambulances and 200 well trained rescuers. Police training school of Lahore was used for the training of rescuers. Later on emergency service academy was established at Lahore for the better training of the rescuers. Rescue 1122 performed well and provided fast service during emergencies and saved 100s of precious lives. This service greatly helped in reducing morality rate. Government then planned to extend this service to other cities of Punjab.

### **Poverty Reduction**

According to economic Survey 2005, Poverty was reduced remarkably in Pakistan during PML-Q government. In 2005 poverty ratio was 23.9% while in 2001 it was 34.46%. About Rs 1441 billion had been spent by government on poverty reduction.

Punjab government of PML-Q also took especial initiatives due to which GDP increased and poverty reduced in the province. To provide relief to one million poor families CM Punjab launched “Sasta Ration” scheme under which 10 kg flour,4 kg sugar and pulses were provided to these poor families on low prices.

### **Facilities of Gas and Electricity for greater Population**

PML-Q government tried to provide the facilities of gas and electricity to greater population. Thousands of gas and electricity connections were provided to hundreds of villages.

### **Efforts for Women Empowerment and Protection**

PML-Q government tried its level best to empower Women. Six women were included in federal cabinet for the first time in history of Pakistan. Some legislation was also done in order to provide security to women. Honour Killing Bill, 2004 and Women Protection Act, 2006 were passed to provide security and protection for women. Quota was reserved for women in all jobs including Central Superior Services. PML-Q government of Punjab took special steps to facilitate women and Gender Reforms Action Plan was launched in this regard. Protection houses for women were built in 26 districts of Punjab. Government established social ,economic and rehabilitation centers in 20 jails for the welfare of prisoner women.(Blogspot,2017) But according to some sources this government failed to tackle the severe problem of public sector deficits, basic infrastructure and social development projects. Poverty increased and new job opportunities were not created.

### **Law and order situation**

PML-Q government failed to ensure peace in the country. Due to a part of war on terror Pakistan became a victim of terrorists. Thousands of citizens lost their lives in suicide bombs attacks or in bomb blast during this period. Pakistan military as well as police failed to provide security to the citizens. Violence increased to such an extent that Pakistan became synonyms with terrorism for international community.

### **Growth in GDP**

According to Pakistan economic survey 2004-2005, real GDP growth rate was 8.4% much higher as compared to previous governments GDP. In Agriculture sector growth was 4% whereas service sector showed a tremendous growth rate of 7.9%.Per capita income which was stagnant from many years reached to \$700. During PML-Q government I T industry grown tremendously and reached to be worth of \$2 billion. Many foreign IT companies entered in this market. This sector created more than 90,000 employment opportunities. During this period GDP grew, at an average of 7%per capita income increased to \$925 previously it was \$435. Revenue collection crossed a record Rs. 1 trillion, Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) reached Rs. 520 billion, Foreign direct investment (FDI) grew to \$6.5 billion, Remittances were at a record height \$5.5 billion, exports rose from \$9 billion to \$17 billion and Foreign Exchange reserves reached to \$16 billion.All major economic indicators showed improvement as compared to last years

### **Large Scale use of Cell Phones**

A clear evidence of the prosperity was the use of mobile phones on a large scale. In 2001 about 6 lac people were using mobile phones but in 2007 this number reached to 5 corers. During this period although government focused on technical education but government failed to reduce unemployment, According to reports of SBP and economic Survey of Pakistan (2006-2007) unemployment ratio was 7.52% much higher than 6.60 of 2002.

### **Agriculture Sector**

To improve the agriculture sector government introduced loan scheme for farmers. Huge amount of was reserved for the development of agriculture. CM Punjab took special initiatives in this regard. To improve the on farm water channels mega project of brick lined had introduced. State of Art bio technology research institute was established in Faisalabad. Fruit, vegetables and grains whole sale markets of 18 cities were shifted to open space in order to facilitate the farmers.

### **Taxation**

During this period amount collected through various taxes increased many folds. An attempt was made to improve the Taxation system but unfortunately although tax base got widened but government failed to enforce direct taxes

### **Energy Sector**

During PML-Q rule in order to resolve the issue of energy and water many projects were started among which most important were Mirani dam at Makran district, expansion of Tarbela Dam project, Gommal zam dam project in NWFP , Subakzai Dam in Zhob and kachi canal project.

### **Policy of Privatization**

PML-Q, government under prime minister Shoukat Aziz privatize some State owned enterprises and banks. Prime Minister Shukat Aziz announced in Nov, 2007 that government earned Rs 417 billion through privatization. According to him privatization, liberalization and deregulation are the major factors of economic growth. Privatization policy of this government was severally criticized by some sections. According to Anti Privatization Alliance of Pakistan, a massive corruption of Rs 1550 billion worth occurred during privatization process. Valuable national assets like HBL, PTCL and various fertilizers companies were sold at very nominal prices. If the Supreme Court had not blocked the process of privatization of Pakistan Steel Mills the government would have sold the reaming national institutions on bargain prices. According to government the main objective of privatization was to reduce poverty and reimbursement of foreign debt. But despite of large scale privatization Pakistan foreign debt reached to \$45 billion and according to independent surveys Over 45% population is living under poverty line. This policy just resulted in price hike, monopolization, unemployment and huge profits for the rich.

It is true that economic growth rate was encouraging during this period but the structural weakness of economy such as low taxation and poor physical infrastructure were not tackled by PML-Q government. Government failed to translate the high GDP growth in

sustainable poverty reduction and improvement of infrastructure. Sources of growth rate show that this growth rate was pro-rich. There was wide range gap between growth policies and income distribution policies. The poor sections of society were not facilitated from this economic growth. There were some factors at that time which resulted in the economic growth. US economic aid provided to Pakistan (due to cooperation in war on terror in 2001) was one of the major factor for the increase of foreign exchange reserves and economic growth.

## **Conclusion**

PML-Q government completed its tenure on Nov 15, 2007. During this period PML-Q, NA and MQM rendered unconditional support to Musharraf. In fact it was an era of controlled democracy. Parliamentarians of PML-Q were just used like a rubber stamp by Musharraf. Being a powerful president as well military General Musharraf had a tight grip on PML-Q. Legislation was done in the best interest of Musharraf throughout 05 years of legislature. The 17th amendment to constitution, vote of confidence for Musharraf and dual office bill were the steps clearly against the democratic norms and values. But PML-Q government made compromise not only on democratic norms but also on its own manifesto. Opposition alliances MMA and ARD failed to work together. MMA support to 17th amendment bill was a clear violation of their pledges of election campaign. Fazal-ur-Rahman's appointment as leader of opposition was a clear violation of parliamentary rules according to which the opposition leader must be from party having 2nd position in National Assembly. The nomination of Shoukat Aziz as prime minister who had to no political background and political affiliation was an undemocratic step but PML-Q parliamentarians failed to argue before Musharraf on this issue. Bugti murder and Lal masjid operation were the decision taken by man of military and PML-Q again failed to resist these decisions of Gen Musharraf. These operations have long lasting implication on Pakistan and innocent people lost their lives in terrorist attacks. Although both these issues could be resolved through negotiation. It is true that during this period some development was noticed in the field of education, health and infrastructure. Country also witnessed growth in GDP. But major factor behind this growth was the US aid. Government failed to introduce structural reforms in economy as a result when new civilian government take charge in 2008 it had to approach IMF for financial aid. PML-Q government of Punjab under Ilahi performed quite well and many new programs were launched in Punjab but this party faces defeat in the general elections of 2013 because common people were not happy with their pro-Musharraf policies.

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