

**A  
BILL**

*to provide for the establishment of Journalists  
Welfare Endowment Fund in the Province  
of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.*

**WHEREAS** it is expedient to provide for the establishment of Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund in the Province of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, for providing financial assistance to the journalists working in press, newspapers and news agencies enlisted in the media list of Government, who cannot afford the expenditure incurred on his own medical treatment or his family members or expenditure to be incurred on his or their family-member funeral expenses and compensation to the family members of such journalists, who embraces martyrdom in acts of terrorism.

It is hereby enacted as follows:

**1. Short title, application and commencement.**---(1) This Act may be called the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund Act, 2014.

(2) It shall apply to the deserving journalists of the Province of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Definitions.**---In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

- (a) “bank” means the Bank of Khyber, Civil Secretariat Branch, Peshawar in whose custody the proceeds of the Fund shall be kept and invested;
- (b) “Chairman” means the Chairman of the Committee;
- (c) “Committee” means the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund Committee established under section 5 of this Act;
- (d) “compensation” means the compensation paid to the family members of a journalist, who embraces martyrdom in acts of terrorism;
- (e) “deserving journalist” means a journalist who cannot afford the expenditures incurred on his own medical treatment or of his family member and the funeral expenses in case of death of his family member;
- (f) “Fund” means the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund established under section 3 of this Act;
- (g) “family member” means the dependant spouse, the dependant children and the dependent parents of the deserving journalists;

- (h) “Government” means the Government of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa;
- (i) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules; and
- (j) “rules” mean rules made under this Act.

**3. Fund.**---(1) As soon as, after the commencement of this Act, Government shall establish a Fund to be known as the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund.

(2) The Fund shall be established with an initial capital of rupees fifty million and may, from time to time, be credited with-

- (a) Government grants; and
- (b) grants from philanthropists, non-governmental organizations and any other organization working for the welfare of the people.

(3) The Fund shall be utilized for payment of expenses incurred on treatment of deserving journalists and their family member, funeral charges in case of death of the journalists or their family members, as the case may be, and compensation to the family members, in case of martyrdom of journalists in acts of terrorism.

**4. Maintenance of Fund.**---The Fund shall be kept and maintained in the bank and invested in such manner as may be determined by the Committee.

**5. Constitution of Committee.**---(1) Government shall constitute a Committee to be known as the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund Committee for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Committee shall consist of-

- (a) the Minister for Information, Public Relations and Culture; Chairman
- (b) the Secretary to Government, Information, Public Relations and Culture Department; Vice-Chairman
- (c) the Director, Information; Member
- (d) a representative of Finance Department, not below the rank of Deputy Secretary; Member
- (e) President, Khyber Union of Journalists Peshawar; Member
- (f) Presidents of three press clubs of the Province of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to be nominated by Government for a period of two years; and Members

- (g) a Deputy Director, Information and Public Relations. Member-cum-Secretary.

**6. Functions of the Committee.**---The Committee shall-

- (a) receive applications from the deserving journalists or their family members for financial assistance or compensation, as the case may be, in the prescribed manner;
- (b) scrutinize such applications for the purpose of granting assistance or compensation as the case may be;
- (c) examine minutely the medical reports or claims of the deserving journalists;
- (d) ascertain the entitlement of deserving journalist;
- (e) verify the family members of a journalist who embraces martyrdom in any act of terrorism; and
- (f) approve a specified amount for the purpose of funeral expenses for the deserving journalist or any of his family member, as the case may be.

**7. Meeting of the Committee.**---(1) The Chairman may convene meetings of the Committee on quarterly basis at time and place as he may deem necessary which is convenient for the transaction of its business.

(2) The Chairman or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman shall preside over the meeting of the Committee. In absence of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, the member nominated by the Chairman shall preside over the meeting.

(3) The quorum for the meeting of the Committee shall be half number of members.

(4) The decisions of the Committee shall be taken by majority of members present. In case of tie, the Chairman or Vice-Chairman presiding over the meeting may exercise a casting vote.

(5) Preparation of agenda and minutes of the meeting shall be responsibility of the Secretary.

**8. Extent of financial assistance.**---(1) A sum not exceeding rupees twenty thousand (20,000) shall be paid to the family members of a deserving journalist in case of his death or to the deserving journalist in case of death of any of his family member, as funeral charges.

(2) A sum not exceeding rupees twenty thousand (20,000) shall be paid for medical treatment of the deserving journalist or his family members. The claim must be supported by vouchers or invoices verified by a registered medical practitioner or Government health authority.

(3) A sum not exceeding rupees ten lac (10,00,000) shall be paid to the family members of a journalist, who embraced martyrdom in acts of terrorism, subject to the succession certificate from the Court of Senior Civil Judge of the concerned District.

(4) A sum not exceeding rupees **two lac (200,000)** shall be paid to the deserving journalist, who became permanent disabled due to any reason.

(5) A deserving journalist, once compensated or assisted under this Act shall not be entitled to claim for any other compensation under any other law for the time being in forced.

**9. Audit and accounts.**---(1) The accounts of the Fund shall be audited by the Auditor General of Pakistan in the prescribed manner.

(2) The bank shall be responsible to maintain the accounts of the Fund in the prescribed form or manner.

(3) No amount, from the Fund shall be withdrawn, unless it is approved by the Committee.

(4) Withdrawal of amount from the Fund shall be permissible only under the joint signatures of the Secretary Information, Public Relations and Culture and the Director, Information and Public Relations.

(5) In case of emergency, the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Committee may make payments of emergent nature, which shall be later on, approved by the Committee in the next meeting.

**10. Power to make rules.**---Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

#### **STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

To provide financial assistance to the journalists working in press, newspapers and news agencies enlisted in the media list of the Government, who cannot afford the expenditure incurred on his own medical treatment or his family members or expenditure to be incurred on his or their family-member funeral expenses and compensation to the family members of such journalists, who embraces martyrdom in acts of terrorism. Hence, this Bill.

**MINISTER-IN-CHARGE.**

**Certified that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund Bill, 2014 was passed by the Provincial Assembly in its meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 and it is further certified that this is a money Bill.**