

Ministry to strengthen Musalihat Anjumans

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLG and RD) would take effective steps to activate Musalihat Anjumans for provision of justice to the people at their doorsteps.

This was stated by Saleem Khan Jhagra, Secretary MoLG and RD in a meeting with UNDP officials held on Monday to explore new venues for partnering under new UN Joint Programme.

The UNDP team warmly welcomed the secretary for resuming the responsibility of MoLG and RD and briefly introduced the project to the secretary.

Ms Effendi explained that the project was developed as a result of a study on "Social Audit on Abuse Against Women (SAAAW)" carried out by the government and UNDP and is being implemented by MoLG and RD in collaboration with UNDP.

Ms Effendi further added that UNDP was pursuing the donors and also seeking the government's support for cost-sharing for the project for institutionalisation and sustainability.

It was shared that government of Balochistan has already approved Rs 25 million and similarly, government of Punjab is in process of approval of Rs 50 million for the

project on cost-sharing basis.

All the modalities such as cost-sharing agreement and PC-1 are taken care of by UNDP for the subsequent financial support from the government, Ms Effendi added.

The chairperson appreciated and took keen interest in the project. He mentioned that these social development projects are an unconventional means for resolving disputes at the door-steps and provide relief to the vulnerable community.

The secretary suggested to explore poverty alleviation fund of the government and to include the project in Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) and provincial Annual Development Plan (ADP), so that funding could be made available.

He also emphasised to explore funding from the bilateral donors apart from the government, e.g. Asian Development Bank (ADB) as they provide grants for longer periods although their funding mechanisms are very tough.

During the meeting management review and issues related to technical assistance to National Center for Rural Development (NCRD) were also brought forward by the chairperson and asked MoLG and RD to develop ToRs and share with UNDP CO for providing technical assistance. —APP