

## **Press Release**

### **The Chief Justice of Pakistan to address Seminar on 'Justice for All' in Quetta on November 4, 2006**

**(Islamabad-November 2, 2006)**

The Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry will be the key note speaker in a seminar on '**Justice for All**' with a focus on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms organized jointly by the Ombudsman's Office Balochistan and the Gender Justice through Musalihat Anjuman Project (GJTMAP) funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), and the Royal Netherlands' Embassy (NoRAD).

Others who would address different aspects of ADR during the seminar include: Mr. Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani - Chairperson Supreme Court ADR Committee, Chief Justice of Balochistan - Mr. Justice Amanullah Khan Yasinzai, Mr. Justice Fazal-ur-Rahman, Provincial Ombudsman - Balochistan, Mr. Salah-ud-Din Mengal - Advocate General Balochistan, Mr. Justice Kalash Naath Kohli - Judge Balochistan High Court, , Mr. Justice Zahid Hussain - Judge Lahore High Court, Mr. Haoliang Xu - Country Director UNDP, Provincial Minister LG&RDD Maulana Hussain Ahmed Sharodi, Mr. Riaz Akhtar, National Project Director - GJTMAP, Ministry of LG&RD and Capt. (Retd.) M. Yunus Durrani - Secretary LG&RDD Balochistan, just to name a few.

The Gender Justice through Musalihat Anjuman Project (GJTMAP) promotes the Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism which is a major initiative of the Government of Pakistan to address the issue of justice for the vulnerable and weaker sections of society particularly the women at the grass roots level.

The Local Government Ordinance 2001 provides under Chapter 11, Sections 102 - 106 for the establishment of Musalihat Anjumans (MAs) in each Union Council.

Based on tangible results during the pilot phase (2005-06), the Project has been up-scaled up to 2011 and an agreement to this effect was signed, amounting to US \$ 7.440 million, between MoLG&RD & UNDP and endorsed by Economic Affairs Division (EAD), Government of Pakistan on July 10, 2006 as informed by Mr. Hamid Raza Afridi, National Project Manager, GJTMAP. During the pilot phase, the Project was implemented by Provincial LG&RD Departments in eight (8) districts of the country, which include: Abbotabad, Attock, Bahawalpur, DI Khan, Dadu, Lasbela, Quetta and Shikarpur. In the second phase, the Project would be implemented in twelve (12) additional districts totaling twenty (20) in all. As a result, the number of Union Councils with Musalihat Anjumans would increase from the present 468 to more than 1,100 by year 2007.

The Gender Justice Project is an innovative initiative that forges partnerships between the Federal & Provincial Governments, Judiciary, Police, Bar Associations, CSOs, District Administrations and the Musalihat Anjumans for accountable, fair and equitable dispensation of justice. Under the Local Government Ordinance 2001, the

Musalihah Anjumans are legally empowered to facilitate resolution of issues ranging from domestic violence against women, matrimonial and property disputes, forced labor, sexual harassment, child abuse, and other similar social issues remarked Ms. Faiza Effendi – Assistant Resident Representative, Poverty Reduction and Gender Unit, UNDP. She also acknowledged the continued financial support from UNDP's Gender Support Programme cost-sharing partners, including SDC, NoRAD, DFID & CIDA.

Besides dwelling on the main features of the gender focused Musalihah Anjuman Project (GJTMAP) the speakers are also likely to share their insights on the overall initiatives of the Judiciary to ensure speedy justice for all. The seminar would help ensure improved coordination; networking and better results towards institutionalizing ADR mechanism in the country and its recommendations would provide further guidance for providing relief to the needy.