

Record Note of Roundtable on Issues in Merged Area and Way Forward

Theme: **Post-Merger Role of Legal Fraternity & Elected Representatives from Merged Area**

"Advocacy for Sustainable Policy and Implementation Reforms- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" (Aspire-KP) is a registered, autonomous, non-profit research and advocacy platform of public service professionals dedicated to non-partisan review of public policy. With its formal launching in August, 2024, Aspire-KP decided to address issues in merged area in view of the fact that fallout of the situation in merged area is widespread with long lasting impact on the country in general and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in particular. On November 30, 2024, the **Aspire-KP** hosted a Roundtable of **Legal Fraternity** for deliberations on the issues in merged area. The platform concluded that merged areas have a genuine case for accessing the Superior Courts and soliciting their intervention for directives to the federal and provincial governments to address their development needs according to the commitments made in 2018. As a sequel to this event, Aspire-KP convened another Roundtable with a larger audience of Parliamentarians (Members National & Provincial Assemblies) and elected Chairmen, Tehsil Local Governments from merged area on December 24, 2024. The event was attended by the following:

Members of National Assembly: 1) Mr. Sajid Khan, NA-26 (Mohmand) Senior Opinion Leaders 2) Mr. Shaukatullah Khan, former Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Bajaur) 3) Mr. Noor ul Haq Qadri, Former Federal Minister (Khyber) 4) Mr. Gul Dad Khan, Former Member National Assembly (Bajaur) Chairmen, Tehsil Local Governments 1) Dr. Khalil Ur Rahman, Nawagai Bajaur, 2) Mr. Shah Khalid, Landi Kotal Khyber 3) Mr. Bilal Khan Razmak, North Waziristan 4) Mr. Naveed Ahmad, Lower Mohmand 5) Mufti Muhammad Kafeel, Bara Khyber 6) Mr. Shahid Bilal, Darra Adam Khel 7) Mr. Arshad Zaman Bangash Lower Kurram. 8) Mr. Ehsanullah Khan, Central Kurram 9) Ahamd Saeed, Mir Ali, North Waziristan Academia Professor Dr. Jamil Chitrali, Director IPCS, University of Peshawar	Members of the Provincial Assembly 1) Mr. Anwar Zeb Khan, PK-20 Bajaur-II 2) Mr. Ajmal Khan, PK-21 Bajaur-III 3) Mr. Muhammad Adnan Qadri PK-69 Khyber-I 4) Mr. Muhammad Sohail Afridi PK-70, Khyber-II 5) Mr. Muhammad Israr PK-68 Mohmand-II Legal Team 1) Mr. Shuamil Ahmad Butt 2) Mr. Ali Gohar Durrani 3) Barrister Bilal Aspire-KP Team 1) Mr. Mohammad Shehzad Arbab, Chairman Aspire-KP 2) Sahibzada Saeed Ahmad 3) Mr. Habibullah Khan Khattak 4) Mr. Arbab Muhammad Arif 5) Mr. Zaffar Iqbal Khan 6) Mr. Adnan Faisal Kundi 7) Mr. Hifz ur Rahman.
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Proceedings: The event was chaired by Mohammad Shehzad Arbab, Chairman Aspire-KP. Proceedings of the Roundtable started with recitation from the Holy Quran followed by an overview of the commitments made for development of the merged area at the time of merger in 2018. The Aspire-KP team presented an assessment of the situation on ground while the team of legal experts informed the participants about the legal aspects of the matter. Members of the National and Provincial Assemblies and Chairmen, Tehsil Local Governments expressed their concerns about the forgotten commitments and the slow pace of development in merged area.

Conclusions: After detailed deliberations, the Roundtable concluded as under:

- 1) A case shall be instituted in Peshawar High Court for soliciting its direction to the federal and provincial governments to fulfil their commitments, given to the people of merged area, for addressing the development lag in merged area.
- 2) It was decided, in principle, that all elected members of the National and Provincial Assembly, all elected Chairmen of Tehsil Local Governments and senior opinion leaders from merged area

shall join the case as petitioners for eliminating the branding of the effort with any political affiliations.

- 3) The legal team will prepare a Power of Attorney by Monday (December 30, 2024) and provide the same to Mr. Hifz ur Rahman for onward provision and signatures of the potential petitioners.
- 4) The following participants were given responsibility to obtain signatures of petitioners on the Power of Attorney:

#	Name	Responsibility for:
1	Mr. Sajid Khan, NA-26 (Mohmand)	Coordination with and Signatures of Members of the National Assembly on the Power of Attorney
2	(i) Mr. Anwar Zeb Khan, PK-20 Bajaur-II (ii) Mr. Muhammad Israr PK-68 Mohmand-II	Coordination with and Signatures of Members of the Provincial Assembly on the Power of Attorney
3	(i) Mr. Khalil Ur Rahman, Nawagai Bajaur (ii) Ehsanullah Khan Central Kurram (iii) Ahamd Saeed, Mir Ali, North Waziristan.	Coordination with and Signatures of all the Chairmen Tehsil Local Governments in Merged Area including the sub-divisions of Hassan Khel (Peshawar), Darra Adam Khel (Kohat), Wazir (Bannu), Bettani (Lakki Marwat), Jandola (Tank) and Darrazinda (Dera Ismail Khan)
Note: Aspire-KP will facilitate coordination and connectivity		

- 5) Mr. Sajid Khan, Member National Assmebly from Mohmand will table a resolution signed by all members of the National Assembly from merged area demanding fulfillment of national commuittments for development grants of merged area.
- 6) Mr. Ajmal Khan, Member Provincial Assmebly from PK-21 Bajaur-III will table a resolution signed by all members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly from merged area demanding fulfillment of national commuittments for development grants of merged area.
- 7) A Group of Chairmen Tehsil Local Governments including (i) Mr. Khalil Ur Rahman, Nawagai Bajaur, (ii) Ehsanullah Khan Central Kurram, (iii) Ahamd Saeed, Mir Ali, North Waziristan, (iv) Mr. Bilal Khan, Razmak and Shah Khalid, Landi Kotal will contact all other chairmen to table and pass resolution from their respective Tehsil Councils in merged districts and sub-divisions for demanding fulfilment of the promises.
- 8) The legal team will provide assistance in drafting of the resolutions.
- 9) Mr. Muhammad Sohail Afridi (PK-70, Khyber-II), Mr. Muhammad Adnan Qadri (PK-69 Khyber-I), Noor ul Haq qadri, Shaukatullah Khan and Sajid Turi will solicit an appointment with the chief Minister and put up a request to him for an All Parties conference on the Issues of Merged Area.

The Roundtable ended with a vote of thanks.