

BROAD PARAMETERS OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

The broad parameters of democratic governance are:

Sincere belief in strengthening the political process in Pakistan on strictly democratic lines, through the joint efforts of the parliament and government machinery, so that the people stand out as the real beneficiaries of socio-political and economic development.

Rejection of politics of self-interest, intrigue, deceit and confrontation, and promotion of politics of co-operation, co-ordination and consensus, in the national interest. The political process and efforts for solving of problems of the deprived people are, in fact, acts of worship. Development of a new political dispensation, quite distinct from the politics of vested interests.

Working towards constructing an ideology for the modern times, of love and tolerance, of human development and unity of humankind, essentially based on the principles of Islam and democracy.

Changing the present redundant system of governance, which is averse to public interest, through close collaboration between the government, political parties and private institutions doing useful work in the various fields of activity. For such collaboration to be possible, honesty of purpose of political leaders a relationship of trust and confidence between the government agencies and public and private institutions will have to be made operative.

The following commitments will have to be made by the government to the public for eliciting their willing support and assistance:

- (1) Clear indications and noticeable preparations of free, fair and transparent elections that will truly reflect the will of the electorate.
- (2) No checks like the NSC, or monitoring by various government agencies, over the duly elected Parliament or any over-riding powers of the Prime Minister and the President will be provided in the Constitution. The parliament will be considered as the supreme decision

making authority answerable to the people and the electorate.

- (3) All government expenditure, including those of defence, will be transparently provided in the budget, and will be subject to audit and public scrutiny.
- (4) All persons holding public offices, as well as all citizens will be held accountable for their serious acts of omission and commission, and a permanent Accountability Commission will be set up.
- (5) Politics of confrontation, intrigue and deceit will not be allowed in future, and all government working will be people-oriented. The role of the Opposition will be clearly defined.
- (6) The economy of the country will be developed on self-sustained basis and attempts will be made to make it debt-free.
- (7) All unnecessary and useless government expenses will be discouraged, and simple living encouraged.
- (8) Price-hike, unemployment and differences in income ratio will be reduced, and the vested interests will be prevented from unjust accumulation of wealth. The state will provide unemployment allowance to the unemployed youth.
- (9) The landless tillers of the soil will be provided with ownership of 12 1/2 acres per family through effective land reforms.

(10) The government and the Parliament should be made accountable to the people. The people must be accepted for all times as the supreme authority for running the state.

The summary of the Action Plan for implementing these commitments is:

1. FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS:
Spending limit of Rs. 20,000/- per candidate.
2. SUPREMACY OF PARLIAMENT:
Amendments in the Constitution only through the Parliament. President not authorized to dissolve parliament
3. PUBLIC SCRUTINY OF EXPENSES:
Promulgation of " Public Right to Information Act"

4. ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION:
Focus on Pro-active administrative accountability
5. ROLE OF OPPOSITION:
Formation of Shadow Government
6. DEBT-FREE ECONOMY:
Government to spend what it collects. Collection to precede expenditure.
7. SIMPLICITY:
Raise in salaries of public servants and non-allowance of perks. Taking clear steps for promoting simple living.
8. POVERTY & UN-EMPLOYMENT REDUCTION
Positive steps for reducing prices and providing jobs. Provision of 'cost of living allowance'.
9. LAND REFORMS:
Landless tillers to be made owners of land. Land to be given on easy terms.
10. DISSOLUTION OF HOUSE:
Assemblies to complete their term. Only the President and Prime Minister to be voted in or out.