

## **SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN PRESS RELEASE**

### **THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF PAKISTAN CHAIRS 57<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL (POLICY MAKING) COMMITTEE**

**Islamabad, February 11, 2026** - Hon'ble the Chief Justice of Pakistan chaired the 57<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC), which was convened today at the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The meeting was attended by the Chief Justices of all the High Courts and the Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan.

The Committee deliberated on key policy issues, while reviewing implementation status of the decisions taken in its 56<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Committee unanimously reiterated its resolve to strengthen institutional capacity, accelerate access to justice, and ensure efficient and effective justice delivery.

The following decisions were taken unanimously;

#### **Agenda 1: IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF DECISIONS TAKEN IN THE 56<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

##### **I. INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE ON CASES OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES**

The NJPMC was apprised that the Federal Government is in the process of developing a structured redressal mechanism for addressing complaints of non-compliance with the legal requirement of production of arrested person before the Magistrate within 24 hours, which is expected to be finalized within two weeks.

The Committee underscored the need for strict compliance with all statutory requirements, to be observed in both letter and spirit. It was further resolved that the Attorney General for Pakistan shall keep the Committee regularly apprised of the progress and implementation of the framework through periodic updates.

##### **II. COMMERCIAL LITIGATION CORRIDOR (CLC)**

#### **DECISION:**

While appreciating the Islamabad High Court for the expeditious disposal of high-impact tax cases, the NJPMC expressed satisfaction with the overall compliance by the High Courts with its directions.

The Committee decided that every High Court shall constitute designated benches for dealing with cases arising out of 'Recognition and Enforcement (Arbitration Agreement and Foreign Arbitral Awards) Act, 2011'.

The NJPMC appreciated the measures undertaken by the FBR to discourage frivolous litigation, including screening of meritless appeals and rationalization of appellate practices. The Committee also appreciated PRAL for the progress made in developing High Court-wise Litigation Management System (LMS) dashboards on the pattern of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

### **III. TIMELINES FOR DISPOSAL OF DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF CASES**

#### **DECISION:**

The Committee appreciated all the High Courts in general and the District Judiciary in particular, for exemplary performance in disposal of huge number of cases within the prescribed timelines.

Commending the efforts of District Judiciary in reduction of backlog, the Committee unanimously recommended acknowledgment of best performers amongst the Judicial Officers, by giving them certificates, souvenirs and consideration for international exposure visits.

#### **Disposal and Current Pendency of Notified Timeframe Cases**

<b>High Court</b>	<b>Reported Pendency</b>	<b>Disposal 01.09.25 to 15.01.26</b>
Lahore High Court	948,353	622,831
High Court of Sindh	144,258	42,370
Peshawar High Court	133,710	66,303
High Court of Balochistan	13,486	10,276
Islamabad High Court	34,973	12,226
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,274,780</b>	<b>754,006</b>

The Committee also appreciated the progress made by the High Courts in the expeditious disposal of targeted old succession cases.

## Status of Disposal of Oldest Succession Cases (Up to Year 2019) Within 30 Days

High Court	Reported Pendency	Current Pendency
Lahore High Court	66	38
High Court of Sindh	46	36
Peshawar High Court	3	0
High Court of Balochistan	1	1
Islamabad High Court	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>75</b>

## IV. PERFORMANCE OF MODEL TRIAL COURTS

### DECISION:

After reviewing the implementation status of Model Trial Courts, the NJPMC noted with appreciation the progress made by the High Courts in the disposal of chronic civil and criminal cases, particularly the Lahore High Court, almost all cases older than 2020 have been disposed of.

In order to consolidate these gains, the Committee urged the High Courts to endeavor to further reduce pendency during the next reporting period.

### Cases decided by the Model Criminal & Civil Courts 01-09-2025 to 15-01-2026

S#	High Court	Civil Cases Disposal	Criminal Cases Disposal
1.	Lahore High Court	9083	29120
2.	High Court of Sindh	1595	6961
3.	Peshawar High Court	808	7606
4.	High Court of Balochistan	1436	2389
5.	Islamabad High Court	219	365
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13141</b>	<b>46441</b>

## V. JAIL REFORMS

### DECISIONS:

The Committee commended the progress made by the Islamabad High Court in advancing jail reform initiatives. The Chief Justices of the High Courts were asked to convene meetings of their respective Provincial Justice Committees for a comprehensive review and finalization of the Action Plan on Jail Reforms. The Committee emphasized the importance of coordinated oversight and timely implementation to ensure meaningful and sustainable improvements in prison administration and inmates' rights.

## **VI. NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN JUDICIAL INSTITUTIONS IN PAKISTAN**

### **DECISION:**

The NJPMC appreciated the efforts of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan and Chairman, National Judicial Automation Committee for his contribution in finalizing the guidelines and the development of National Judicial Analytics Dashboard.

The Committee also commended the High Courts for their constructive feedback and adopted the draft unanimously. It was, however, resolved that the High Courts shall retain full institutional autonomy to design and implement micro-level operational frameworks, workflows, and safeguards, duly tailored to their respective institutional structures, capacities, and regional requirements.

## **II. MANDATORY PRE-TRIAL MEDIATION**

### **DECISION:**

The NJPMC showed satisfaction on the progress made by the Ministry of Law and Justice, initiating legislative amendments for providing framework for Mandatory Pre-Trial Mediation and urged the High Courts to coordinate with their respective Law Departments to expedite similar legislative and procedural measures required for effective implementation of Mandatory Pre-trial Mediation mechanisms.

## **IX. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION ROADMAP-LAUNCH OF E-FILING OF CASES**

### **DECISION:**

The Committee resolved that the High Courts shall accord priority to the review of existing Rules and, where necessary, amend or frame new Rules to facilitate comprehensive electronic filing across all districts. A phased and pragmatic approach shall be adopted to ensure procedural clarity, system preparedness, and capacity building at the district level.

## **X. FAMILY SUPPORT AND MEDIATION CENTERS**

### **DECISIONS:**

The NJPMC unanimously decided to focus provision of Women-Centric Facilities across all provinces during the 2026 - 27. The LJCP Secretariat shall develop a concept note, proposing design and scope of these facilities, covering free legal aid, psycho-social services, visitation, mediation, GBV support systems and Child Protection Mechanisms and shall share it with the High Courts for their input.

**AGENDA ITEM-2: Recommendations of the Committee to address the disjunct between policy innovations of various high courts.**

### **DECISION:**

The Committee appreciated the Chief Justice, Lahore High Court for convening and hosting the meeting of the Committee of Chief Justices. It was unanimously decided that the High Courts may adopt the recommendations

of the Committee for District Judiciary Reforms, as endorsed by the Committee of the Chief Justices, relating to standardized eligibility criteria, uniform terms and conditions of service and judicial trainings.

While adopting the recommendations, the High Courts shall retain institutional autonomy to introduce province-specific adjustments, where necessary, to address local resource constraints, administrative exigencies, and contextual requirements.

**AGENDA ITEM-3: Discouraging the False and Frivolous Litigation.**

**DECISIONS:**

The NJPMC constituted a Committee headed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice, High Court of Balochistan and comprising the Registrars of all the High Courts for suggesting measures to provide for statutory framework on the pattern of Cost of Litigation Act, 2017 as enforced in Islamabad Capital Territory.

The Committee may co-opt Hon'ble Mr. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzaib, Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan.

**AGENDA ITEM-4: Cases of UTPS pending Adjudication for more than Three years**

**DECISIONS:**

The NJPMC unanimously decided to put cases of under-trial prisoners, pending for more than three years, on fast track and decide all such cases within **three months** under intimation to NJPMC.

Sr.#	Province	Total Number of UTPs	No. of UTPs confined for more than Three Years
1	Punjab	50780	1609
2	Sindh	21294	708
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	9007	146
4	Balochistan	1518	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>82599</b>	<b>2470</b>

The meeting concluded with an expression of appreciation for the sustained efforts of all High Courts, the Attorney General's Office, and the Secretariat of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan for their valuable contributions toward strengthening the administration of justice, fostering institutional coherence, and enhancing public confidence in the judicial system.

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