

**PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH
AT NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY**

JULY 15, 2010

**Senator Rehman Malik, Minister for Interior,
Commandant, National Police Academy,
Excellencies, officers,
Ladies & Gentlemen
Assalam-o-Alakium**

It gives me immense pleasure to be present here at the Passing out Parade of Police Officers. I compliment the officers on their smart turn-out and excellent drill. Today marks a watershed in the lives of young Police Officers as they pass out of the National Police Academy to take up challenging task of maintaining peace and security.

It is my fervent hope that these officers will have a successful and distinguished career dedicated to the service of the people of Pakistan. It is, however, heartening for me to learn that these officers are passing out well prepared to face the challenges that the nation confronts today.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The expectations of the general public from our Police and law enforcement agencies are immense. In this age of easy access to information, comparisons are easily drawn and when you do not come up to the expectations, frustration is inevitable. These feelings reflect themselves in various types of emotional behaviors when individuals tend to create disruption and disorder in the society.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At a time when the fabric of a free and civilized society is threatened by anti-state elements, who wish to dismantle our culture and our way of life by seeking to bring down the symbols of state power, the role of law enforcement agencies assume paramount significance. Since 9/11, we are involved in the war against terror, an involvement which has cost us dearly

in terms of human life and economic loss. Police, law enforcement agencies and the Pakistan Armed Forces have resolutely defended against these attacks on innocent lives across the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Your government is determined to eliminate the forces of extremism and terrorism from our midst through a mix of policy response. There is no doubt in my mind that with the support and backing of people of Pakistan, we are destined to succeed against the forces of darkness. We have already broken the back of terrorism through expression of unity and political will. We will never allow terrorism, and forces of violence and extremism to overtake our way of life, our culture and our traditions. The nation owes a huge debt of gratitude to all those martyrs, both civilians and military, who rendered their lives to secure the future of Pakistan. The People of Pakistan will forever remain grateful to them for their heroic sacrifices.

Distinguished audience,

The world, we live in, is changing rapidly and if we as a nation has to keep pace with the ongoing developments, our state institutions are required to respond to the emerging challenges. This is possible only if they pass through evaluation and adapt themselves to the requirements. Unfortunately, the thrust of our efforts on that count has been more individualistic and less institutional. This has resulted into out-dated methods of policing with police and community being in an adversarial relationship.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I may remind you that the reforms are successful and can deliver goods only if the implementing machinery demonstrates its commitment to make a difference and incorporates them into their working culture. The key to removing mistrust lies in restoring people's confidence in the institution of

police. We owe it to the people of Pakistan to ensure that the rule of law prevails, due process is followed legitimately and that the responsibility, vested in government functionaries, is considered as an obligation to be used as a sacred trust on behalf of the people in larger public interest. It calls for change of attitude among our Police force. This is the only way to earn respect and prestige in the eyes of people of Pakistan.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In the battle against terrorists and criminals, the role of the people will be vital. A major effort is required on our part to sensitize the public so that they remain vigilant against these dark forces. All peace loving forces will have to create a synergy to defeat their evil designs of anti-humanity and anti-Pakistan elements.

Unfortunately, at the moment, despite the huge sacrifices that have been rendered, the image of the police remains at a low ebb with complaints of different nature and abuse being rampant. One of the core problems of the police has been the management and discipline of the force. It is here that the need of sound and state of the art training comes in. If we need top class police managers, we shall have to provide for excellent training. If the police officers are imparted the necessary skills, there is no reason why they cannot provide the right kind of leadership, which is the need of the hour. I would direct the management of National Police Academy to study the best training practices being followed in the world and modify its training program by incorporating the universal elements of training and discipline.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The officers passing out today will have to lead by example and their level of performance will depend on the emphasis they place on achieving excellence. You will have to set excellent personal examples of character, behavior and establish a tradition of integrity. You will have to be conscious of the happenings around you besides keeping your fingers on

the pulse of the force. You need to be creative and innovative in order to keep abreast of the changing.

It is heartening to see lady police officers joining the Police Service. My government is committed to carving out a role for the women of Pakistan to join the government as equal partners in the national development. We are making sure that the 10% quota reserved for women in the federal services is implemented in letter and spirit. Womenfolk, who I consider as my constituency, need to be empowered and we are already on that path. I am sure that the participation of lady Police Officers is a welcome step and would go a long way in improving the image of the police.

I would like to assure the Minister for Interior and the Commandant of the Academy that the Government will leave no stone unturned to make the National Police Academy a centre of excellence. We are fully aware that mediocrity has no future and that the survival and progress of Pakistan lies in making excellence our goal.

I am pleased to appreciate the endeavors put in by the Academy in designing, organizing, conducting and imparting quality training to the officers of law enforcing agencies. I am sure that the training imparted here would undoubtedly have a positive impact upon the officers and bring about a change in the culture of policing.

In the end, I once again congratulate the Passing out officers and wish them best of luck.

Pakistan Paindabad.