



**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
ISLAMABAD**

**PRIME MINISTER SYED YUSUF RAZA GILANI's MESSAGE ON
MAY DAY 2010**

"May Day is a day of great significance in the history of workers movement. Today we are observing the International Workers Day with a renewed commitment to protect workers rights and create a congenial working environment in the country.

In Pakistan, it was the Pakistan Peoples Party government which celebrated the Labour Day for the first time in 1970's and provided legal cover to protect the workers rights, extended pensionary benefits to them, made them share holders in the companies' profits, and created institutions for the welfare of the workers.

The present government, which has come to power through votes of the masses, also accords highest importance to the well-being of the working class and common man. The workers are backbone of the economy and we are striving to get them on their feet as the economic situation cannot improve without the whole-hearted cooperation of the workforce.

During last two year, we have taken a number of steps aimed to restore dignity of labour and to promote welfare of the workers. The draconian Removal from Service Ordinance 2000 and Industrial Relations Ordinance 2002 have been repealed, while union activities have been restored throughout the country. It is also a credit to this government which has reinstated services of thousands of employees who were dismissed on flimsy charges by the previous regime. Moreover, the minimum wages from Rs. 4600 per month has been increased to Rs. 6000 and EOB (Employees Old-age benefits) pension has been enhanced from Rs. 1500 to Rs. 2000. We have also handed over shares to the workers in the public sector corporation to make them partners and ensure their role in the decision making.

We have formulated a new labour policy in the light of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed vision which will be announced soon. The new Labour Policy has been designed to meet the requirements of economy, workers and employers.

Pakistan is facing an energy crisis. Factories and businesses are not running to their full capacities. In this connection, we assembled all the chief ministers and other stakeholders to devise a workable strategy to address the challenge as energy shortage is a national issue which demands a national response. Primary objective behind this unprecedented marathon meeting was provision of uninterrupted power supply to the industry so that our labour and production may not suffer.

On this day, I urge the workers to give their best output for enhancing production and simultaneously ask the entrepreneurs to provide maximum possible relief to the labour. Entrepreneurs and workers are two pivotal components of production and only their harmonious relations can make Pakistan a prosperous country. I assure the workers that their government will keep on striving to protect their rights, to create a congenial working environment, and to promote their welfare.

May Almighty Allah be with us in our endeavors. Ameen! ”