



**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
ISLAMABAD**

**PRIME MINISTER SYED YUSUF RAZA GILANI'S MESSAGE
ON MOHTARMA BENAZIR BHUTTO'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY**

Islamabad: June 21, 2010

Today we are celebrating 57th birth anniversary of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed, the first women Prime Minister of the Muslim World and a great democratic leader. The best tribute which we can pay to the martyred leader is allegiance to the principals which she espoused vigorously in her life and the values she promoted consistently in her career.

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed was a symbol of national integration and incarnation of democracy. She combined in her personality qualities of head and heart, but what appealed most to the people were her genuineness and her boldness. Her political acumen, vision and will were put to the severest test but she always came out with flying colours.

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed made the supreme sacrifice for restoration of democracy, peace in the country, independence of judiciary, sovereignty of the Parliament, human rights and economic wellbeing of the common man. She was an ardent advocate of the rights of the masses and champion of democracy. Throughout her life, she valiantly campaigned against injustices, oppression and prejudices. She faced great difficulties and tragedies, yet she never wavered from her chosen path and continued her struggle to oust arbitrary rulers and thwart nefarious designs of the retrogressive and obscurant forces till her last breath.

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed was a true leader of the masses who embraced martyrdom in the midst of the masses. She was warned not to travel to Pakistan, but she responded that since the people need her then how she could stay away from them. Soon after her arrival in Karachi in October 2007, while she was leading a mammoth public rally, the conspirators made an attempt on her in life in which hundreds of her followers and supporters were killed. She was not intimidated rather immediately rushed to the hospitals to raise the spirit of the injured and visited homes of the bereaved families to share their grief. Despite challenging moments and threats to her life, she continued her mission of restoring democracy and rule of law in the country.

The conspirators and forces of darkness succeeded to extinguish the beacon of light right in the middle of her people when she came out after addressing a large public gathering in Rawalpindi. However, these oppressors failed to thwart her mission and now the whole nation is custodian of her mission. Her supreme sacrifice like her father's shahadat has further strengthened public belief in democracy and has ushered in an era of democratic rule in the country.

On this occasion, I call upon every citizen of Pakistan, particularly workers of Pakistan Peoples Party to pledge on this day that we will never waver in our quest for a democratic, peaceful and prosperous Pakistan. The Government of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed's party with the support of her coalition partners shall translate her vision into reality. With the support of our brave people of Pakistan, we will overcome the present challenges.

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