

**SPEECH FOR THE CHAIRMAN
GILGIT BALTISTAN COUNCIL/PRIME
MINISTER OF PAKISTAN**

3rd APRIL, 2010

**Mian Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo,
Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan**

**Dr. Shama Khalid
Governor Gilgit Baltistan**

Syed Mehdi Shah, Chief Minister, Gilgit Baltistan

**Ladies and Gentlemen
Assalam-o-Alaikum**

The promulgation of the Gilgit-Baltistan (Empowerment and Self Governance) Order 2009 was a landmark occasion to confer upon the people of that area political and financial rights which had never been allowed before. It has been the sole privilege of the People's Government to give maximum political and financial autonomy to the people of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Our endeavour has always been to treat the people of Gilgit Baltistan at par with the other Provinces of Pakistan. Simultaneously with the promulgation of the Gilgit-Baltistan (Empowerment and Self Governance) Order 2009, the Government of Pakistan has also committed to inject an amount of Rs. 15 billion in the next five years for rapid development of that area so as to ensure its rapid progress. Besides establishment of the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, the Article 33 of the Gilgit-Baltistan (Empowerment and Self Governance) Order 2009 also provides for the establishment of the Gilgit-Baltistan Council. This institution will play the role of a bridge between the Government of Pakistan and that of Gilgit-Baltistan.

The composition of the Council with the Governor as the Vice Chairman and the Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan as a Member indicate the important role which it will play in the governance of the area. The Council will also comprise six elected parliamentarians of Pakistan besides the six elected members from Gilgit-Baltistan. This will provide sufficient opportunity to the representatives of Gilgit-Baltistan to gain from the experience of our parliamentarians, while we will be in a better position to know about the problems and

issues of Gilgit-Baltistan. The Gilgit-Baltistan Council has been assigned 54 subjects for legislation. These include all important areas of governance.

It is now the responsibility of the members of the Council to ensure that they pass laws which ensure transparency, equity, justice, fair play and efficiency. This, in my opinion is a big challenge and the members shall have to rise to the occasion to provide their selfless services in overcoming this challenge.

The people of Gilgit-Baltistan have whole heartedly welcomed the Gilgit-Baltistan Council and Gilgit-Baltistan assembly to give practical shape to the aspirations of their electorate. This can be done only through untiring efforts, and commitment to bring about a change for the better.

In the end I congratulate the members of the Council who have taken oath as to join the 1st Gilgit Baltistan Council.

I am confident they would come up to the expectations of the people.

Thank you