

**SPEECH OF  
THE PRIME MINISTER  
ON THE SIGNING CEREMONY OF  
18<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT BILL, 2010,  
ON  
APRIL 19, 2010  
AT AIWAN-E-SADR  
ISLAMABAD**

**BISMILLAH-IR-AHMAN-IRAHIM**

**President of Pakistan  
Mr. Asif Ali Zardari**

**Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif , Quaid PML (N)  
Leaders of all the political parties,  
Mr. Farooq H. Naek, Chairman Senate,  
Dr. Fehmida Mirza, Speaker National Assembly,  
Mr. Wasim Sajjad, Leader of the Opposition Senate,  
Colleagues from the Federal Cabinet,  
Distinguished Parliamentarians,  
Ladies and Gentlemen!**

**Assalam-o-Alaikum!**

**The signing of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment Bill 2010 reflects the magnanimity of the President who is also the Co-Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party and all the leaders of all the political parties for demonstrating their will to strengthen democracy and rule of law. The entire leadership deserves applause and admiration for rising above the party interest for the better future of the country. It is an unprecedented event in the political history of Pakistan that a leader has willingly transferred power in such a smooth process. It is a momentous occasion in the constitutional history of the country. This crowning achievement will be remembered for all times to come.**

**Passing of 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Bill is indeed a historic success of parliamentary democracy and supremacy of parliament, reflecting aspirations of the entire nation. Pakistan would definitely emerge stronger**

after the enactment of this Bill. The leadership of all the political parties has worked as catalyst in bringing about such historic change. All the parliamentary leaders and each and every member of the National Assembly and Senate, civil society, State Organs as well as the people of Pakistan deserve heartfelt congratulations.

I would specially like to extend my most sincere and heartiest felicitations to all the members of the Constitutional Reforms Committee. They had literally burnt the mid night oil to arrive at this historic consensus document.

It was indeed Herculean task to remove the distortions, inserted in the Constitution during autocratic rules in the last few decades. I fully acknowledge the hard work, devotion, and dedication of the members of Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms, particularly its Chairman Senator Mian Raza Rabbani, who lived up to his reputation of a true democrat and constitutionalist. He steered the Committee from stormy seas of uncertainty and mistrust to safe shores of confidence, consensus and fresh aspirations.

Let us pledge to uphold democratic values and traditions. It can be only possible when every one of us makes a solemn commitment to adhere to democratic principles in true letter and spirit. Democracy cannot be strengthened by words alone unless these are matched by deeds. The passage of the 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Bill is just the beginning towards establishment of a stable democratic polity in the country. Now, when we have successfully restored the democratic roadmap, it is time to work with renewed vigor and enthusiasm to address those challenges which are confronting the common man. The government is already making every effort to overcome energy shortage, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, inadequate health facilities, rural and regional

backwardness. However, it is a gigantic task and a challenge for the public representatives. Unless basic needs of the common man are not catered for, a stable democratic polity will remain a mirage.

On this occasion, I will like to quote the Architect of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah who said, (Quote) “If we want to make this great State of Pakistan happy and prosperous we should wholly and solely concentrate on the well-being of the people, and especially of the masses and the poor” (Unqoute). Thus, we have to join hands to discharge this responsibility successfully as desired by the Founder of the Nation. I assure you that the government will continue pursuing the policy of reconciliation and consensus for socio-economic progress of the country. On this auspicious occasion, I reiterate the Government’s resolve that we will strive to make Pakistan a truly welfare state as envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed.

Thank you,

Pakistan Paindabad