

PM Address at the Graduation Ceremony of the 88th National Management Course and the 3rd Senior Management Course 17th July, 2008



Mr. Salman Taseer, Governor Punjab

Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Chief Minister Punjab

Lt. Gen. (Retd) Javed Hassan, Rector, National School of Public Policy and Dean, National Management College

Mr. Ghiasudin, Secretary, Establishment Division
Distinguished Guests

Faculty and participants of the 88th National Management Course and the 3rd Senior Management Course

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assala'm-o-Alaikom!

It is indeed a privilege for me to address you today at the National School of Public Policy. The participants deserve my congratulations on successful completion of their respective courses.

Ladies & Gentlemen

Nation building requires years of hard work and many resources, human as well as financial, tangible as well as intangible.

There are also unique features in each country, which require indigenous solutions. In Pakistan's case too, we need to solve our problems ourselves. And that is what you are supposed to undertake.

This institution is doing the important job of sensitizing, and empowering you for this challenging task. I know that the School has come a long way since its inception in 2002, when the NSPP Ordinance was first promulgated.

This speedy progress is due to the dedication of the present leadership and the faculty. I am sure that the qualitative improvement and the expansion made, will turn this institution into a centre of excellence within a short span of time.

As functionaries of the state, your first and foremost responsibility is to perform your duty with honour, integrity, justice and fair play. Each one of you must know what selfless duty means.

Public service does not lie in career hunt, or in advancing at the cost of your colleagues, or other self-serving motives. It comes out of passion to serve.

It resides in going out and finding for yourself, what the needs of the common people are, and how they can be met.

My Dear Officers!

Let me quote here from Quaid's address to the Civil, Naval, Military and Air Force Officers of Pakistan at Karachi on October 11, 1947: He urged them to show and I quote.....

"a grim determination to get down to the task of building our State on strong and firm foundations, as a State which should be fit for our children to live in. This requires work, work and more work.

I fully realize that a majority of you have worked under a terrible strain, during the war years and might need relaxation. But you should remember that for us the war has not ended. It has only just begun, and if we are to fight it to victory, we shall have to put in super-human efforts. This is not the time to think in terms of personal advancement and jockeying for positions. It is the time for constructive effort, selfless work and steadfast devotion to duty."(Unquote).

Again while addressing the Gazetted Officers at Chittagong on 25th March, 1948 he said and I quote: *"You have to do your duty as servants; you are not concerned with this political or that political party; that is not your business. It is a business of politicians to fight out their case under the present constitution, or the future constitution that may be ultimately framed. You, therefore, have nothing to do with this party or that party.*

You are civil servants. Whichever gets the majority will form the Government and your duty is to serve that Government for the time being as servants not as politicians. How will you do that? The Government in power for the time being must also realize, and understand their responsibilities that you are not to be used for this party or that.

I know we are saddled with old legacy, old mentality, old psychology, and it haunts our footsteps, but it is up to you now, to act as true servants of the people even at the risk of any Minister, or Ministry trying to interfere with you in the discharge of your duties as civil servants. I hope it will not be so but even if some of you have to suffer as a victim—I hope it will not happen—I expect you to do so readily. We shall of course see that there is security for you and safeguards to you. If we find anything

that is in any way prejudicial to your interest, we shall find ways and means of giving you that security. Of course you must be loyal to the Government that is in power.” (unquote)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Do you not see how relevant the Quaid’s words sound even today?

Do you not see in what state are we today because we did not listen to the Quaid? We all, Politicians, Civil Servants, Military-men and Members of Judiciary, alike, and repeatedly, collaborated in an unholy alliance which caused irreparable damage to the country. You as Civil Servants must share a portion of the blame. Even if only you had remained steadfast, and not provided misguided advice to others, we might have been much better off.

I regret to say that, day in and day out, from morning to evening, I see Senior Civil Servants, running from pillar to post, to gain favours. Money is used to acquire power and then power is abused for acquisition of more money, leading to corruption. Key career positions often become subject to who wants who at which place.

I am saying this because while you go out of this institution, you must remember as to how the Quaid wanted public servants to work.

And that should not come to you as a cause of stress, but as a character-building opportunity, not as a punishment but as a touchstone, on which to evaluate your own capabilities, not as a burden but as a trust that, you owe to this country.

My Dear Officers,

The complexities of our governmental systems at federal, provincial and district levels make your task difficult.

In addition to this, you work with incomplete information, unforeseen interruptions, and time and resource constraints. You need to possess and demonstrate a will to serve, despite the distortions in the system, and put in your best effort, in spite of the fact that perfect conditions may not be available at all times.

We are still in search of true recipe for development of the services. Innovation and reform will not serve any purpose unless backed by an in-depth analysis of the facts and a correct assessment of the prevailing environment. We have already been presented the report of Dr. Ishrat Hussain’s, Commission on Governmental Reforms. Here I would direct the Secretary Establishment to examine the recommendations and bring up the same before the Cabinet within a period of one month.

This is important because a lot of effort has gone into the Commission’s work.

My Dear Officers!

As civil servants, you are the best human resource this nation can produce. You are the ones, who should have the ability to formulate and interpret, the given policies at federal and provincial levels, with a view to implement them by harnessing the available resources.

Given the diversity and the enormity of your challenge, you will be called upon to bring into play your best potential. All your energies should be diverted towards protecting and promoting the state.

The effectiveness and the value of your actions will be determined by the speed and the quality of the service delivery, in a socio-economic and political environment, where income deprivation, Islamic extremism, sectarian and ethnic divides, vested interests, and misguided perceptions have all combined, to make it an extremely difficult challenge.

I am sure these training Courses have taken into account all requirements of knowledge, skills and attitudes which are needed to be developed to build your capacity as more effective, more committed, and a capable public servants, who are adequately sensitized to this enormous challenge.

Finally, a public servant as a functionary of the state must be a beacon of light for the rest of the community.

Let us not forget, for a moment, that today, Pakistan needs to be a more stable, stronger and more powerful state than it ever was. By the grace of God, we are a nuclear power. That status provides us tremendous power and influence in our dealings with other nations. Despite our problems, we have the 1973 Constitution, an excellent consensus document, which provides parameters and mechanisms, for running the affairs of the state.

And we have an elected representative government. Hence you should feel secure.

I would therefore, strongly urge upon you to give the people hope, and not despair; give them trust and not fear; give them relief and not grief; and go to their doorsteps instead of making them languish at your doorsteps. Each one of you has to make a contribution to lift the spirit of the people you serve.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

To conclude I thank, Lt. Gen. Javed Hassan, Rector, NSPP and Dean, National Management College, once again, for providing me this opportunity to be with you today.

I would once again like to congratulate you on your achievements. May Allah protect you and bless you with happiness.

Pakistan Painsdabad.