

The Charter of Democracy (2006) and the Way Forward

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ABSTRACT :-

The authoritarian regime of General Pervez Musharraf deteriorated the democratic system in Pakistan. The Pakistan's return to the democracy, its transition and consolidation are significant aspect of the country's politics in the post Musharraf era. This research work deals with an unusual political development which may be termed as politics of reconciliation. The era 2006-18 was unique features in the political history of Pakistan because it brought closer the leadership of Pakistan People's Party and Pakistan Muslim League (N) for the restoration, protection and continuation of democratic process in Pakistan. The central focus of the research work offers an overview the Charter of Democracy (CoD) 2006 and politics of reconciliation between the PPP and PML-N in Pakistan. It also analyses the prospects of constitutional reforms, political performance of two democratic regimes and stability for perusing democratic goals under CoD (2006).

Key Words: Democracy, Political Parties, Reconciliation, Charter of Democracy.

Introduction, Origin and Development

According to Karl Marx "The term reconciliation is coined by German idealist philosopher Fredrick Hegel. It is actually a way to resolve socio - political issues or conflicts in the interest of state. It is a source to promote political harmony between the political entities of the state". According to Gorton Ash, "Reconciliation promotes ideals of political harmony that denies the fundamental pluralism of the modern societies. Reconciliation politics must be conceptualized in the establishment of mutual respect, harmony, peace, law and order" (Andrew, 2017).

In ancient Greek, Socrates adopted resistance policy and lost his life yet reconciled with prevalent laws. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) also adopted reconciliation over bloodshed and signed Hudabia pact for the maintenance of peace and political harmony. In South Africa, Nelson Mandela reconciled with other political groups just to end bloody clashes in the country. Finally, the racist autocratic regime was dismantled and replaced with a smooth democratic political

order. The Luknow Pact (1916) provided an amazing opportunity of reconciliation between the two rival parties of the Subcontinent. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto got released more than 90000 prisoners of war from India through reconciliation. Z.A Bhutto adopted resistance policy against the dictatorship of Ayyub Khan while his later life is an amazing example of reconciliation (Khan, 2017). Benazir Bhutto's life was a blend of resistance and reconciliation. She resisted against the undemocratic forces and extremist while reconciled with the aspirants of democracy and peace. She started resistance against the dictatorial regime of Zia-ul-Haq. Although she knew about her political opponents yet adopted the reconciliation policy for the interest of state and public. In an address to American Jewish Association, General Pervez Musharraf also put an emphasis on the reconciliation among religions to overcome the crisis of bitterness and religious disharmony (Hassan, 27 Dec 2018).

Theoretical Frame Work and Literature Review

Literature found on the topic may be categorized into various sections.

The first group is included of various renowned Political philosophers who described politics of reconciliation with plenty of details and highly conceptual way. Sathkunanathan (2014), Murphy (2012), Philpott (2012), Kymlicka(2010), Schaap (2005), Arthur (2010), Moellendorf (2007), Bloomfield (2003), Drager (2003) and Lefrance (2006) are the strong supporter of this group. The second group highlights the politics of reconciliation and democracy in the context with Pakistan. In this regard, Hassan Askari Rizvi states that Pakistan has been suffering political instability, a number of Martial laws, experiments of different forms of governments and constitutions since independence. Law and order situation remained poor due to the undemocratic norms of politicians (Rizvi A. , 1988). The political tendencies designate the weak democratic spirit and least commitment of politicians institutionalize the democratic system in Pakistan (Aziz K. K., Pakistan's Political Culture, 2001). (Aziz S. , 2020), (Belokrenitsky, 2013), (Cohen, The Future of Pakistan, 2012), (Chawala I. , Dec 2017), (Jafferlot C. , 2017) (Lieven, Pakistan a hard country, 2011), (Ayaz, 2014), (Ahmed I. , 2015), (Maher,2021), (Shah,2021) and (Lodhi, 2016) provided enough details about politics of reconciliation and The Charter of Democracy (2006) with the prospects of Pakistan's political process.

Major Reasons behind the Charter of Democracy

On 12th October 1999, General Pervez Musharraf dismissed P.M Nawaz Sharif and his government in a bloodless coup and issued Provisional

Constitutional Orders to control the affairs of government (Yaseen, 2015, p. 185; Rolf Paasch, December,2018). On 06th November 1999, he established military dominated National Security Council (NSC) a consultative body and

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commenced the NAB to initiate a politically motivated accountability against the opponents of his government (Shah, 2014, p. 186).

To seek legitimacy, General Musharraf organized referendum to become President of Pakistan and organized general elections 2002 with new election rules. Only bachelor degree holder could contest the elections. The two prominent leaders of Pakistan were Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto were living in exile. The king's party PML-Q won the election and formed a majority coalition with the support of MQM, MMA and independent members (Ahmed I. , 2015, p. 320).

In July 2002 'The National Reconstruction Bureau' (NRB) was designed to propose constitutional reforms which was implemented through LFO. On 21st August 2002, the LFO validated all the undertakings of military government including the five years extension of General Musharraf presidential term and his post as the COAS. The president became authorized to dissolve the National Assembly at his own discretion; to appoint the military chiefs and governors; to approve the appointment of Judges of the Superior Courts; to regularize the NSC which provided military a validated institutional role in the affairs of government. (Shah, 2014, p. 191).

The 17th amendment validated the LFO and all the laws enacted from 12 October 1999 to till date. The 17th amendment changed the whole structure of the constitution of 1973 and parliamentary form of government (Yaseen, 2015, p. 199; Rabbani, 2014, p. 227). Civil bureaucracy had been monitored through intelligence officers. Military officers were deployed on various level to detect the impact of governance, public perception, controlling the bureaucracy and intelligence gathering (Shah, 2014, pp. 198-99)

General Musharraf had already damaged his impression in the United States by his growing authoritarian manifest in the hijacking of elections, repression of judiciary and eventually declaration of Emergency in November 2007. Bruce Riedel, Teresita Schaffer and various other members of US Congress regretted that the Bush administration did nothing to promote democracy in Pakistan (Jafferlot C, 2017, pp. 231-232).

Efforts of Reconciliation between PPP and PML-N

The PPP and PML (N) had diverse ideology, art of politics and being anti or pro-establishment. Those differences distorted into personal enmities, and false criminal cases were prosecuted against each other. In that scenario, the PPP leader Benazir Bhutto ensured the popular support for accommodation and reconciliation. In April 2002, the frost began to thaw between the leadership of PPP and PML-N. Benazir Bhutto and Ishaq Dar along with Aftab Shaban Mirani Started negotiations between the two rival parties at Benazir's residence in Dubai. The reconciliation between the two parties was an uphill task (Rabbani, 2014, p. 130).

Finally, two factions set aside their difference and realized the need of cooperation between them. After intra-party consultations and frequent messages, a set of proposal was prepared eventually. On 5th February Benazir Bhutto arrived

at Nawaz Sharif's residence in Jaddah (Saudi-Arabia) Farooq H Naek (PPP) and Ahsan Iqbal (PML-N) were the witnesses of that historic summit. The meeting led to a broad understanding between the two party leaders. On the suggestion of MNA Ahsan Iqbal written record of agreement had been put down. The two party leaders decided to appoint a committee of four members comprising Senator Ishaq Dar, MNA Ahsan Iqbal from PML-N, Senator Mian Raza Rabbani and Senator Safdar Abbasi from PPP to prepare a detailed road map for documenting the Accord. After endless debates, exchange of thoughts and a great hard work, the committee members succeeded to incorporate the text of agreement. The committee completed its drafting work in the office of the leader of opposition in the Senate at the parliament house (Rabbani, 2014, p. 131; Khan H. , 2021).

The Charter of Democracy 2006

The crucial bridge building and historic agreement named as 'Charter of Democracy' was signed at London in May 2006 between the leadership of two major political parties in Pakistan. The CoD 2006 provided them a frame work or line of action for further political engagements in the political history of Pakistan. The leadership of the two political parties expressed their responsibility through this agreement and set a concrete direction toward democratic federal state. They decided that only elected representatives had right to govern in the larger interest of the people of Pakistan. Although the two parties were ideologically different from each other yet they decided to observe tolerance and respect between each other in the larger interest of the state. The CoD was divided into four basic components are thirty six points (Rabbani, 2014; Rauf, 2017; Dawn, 2006). In short, it proved a milestone in the social, political and constitutional history of Pakistan. The COD 2006 redefined the civil-military equivalence; redeveloped the democratic spirit; strengthened the affairs of parliament; enhanced the capability of institutions and political system; uttered federalism and provincial autonomy, guaranteed transparency in the undertakings of good governance and provided a positive role of opposition (Masood, 2017).

“Pakistan Khappy” (Long live Pakistan)

Benazir's tragic death created a political vacuum which was filled by Asif Ali Zardari. He had been called "Mr. Ten Percent", implying a cut for government contracts that he facilitated during his wife premiership (Paul, 2014, p. 90). However, He emerged as a new leader of the PPP and tried to settle the national and provincial political affairs diligently. He took the responsibility and proved himself the right person at the right time. After the demise of Benazir, Sindh was practically burning and the federation of Pakistan was at great risk. The Liaquat Garden incident was by far much more horrible because the enemies of state

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wanted to separate Sindh from the federation. The democratic process of the country was also in danger (Chawala, Dec 2017).

On that occasion, Asif Ali Zardari raised the slogan of “Long live Pakistan” (Pakistan Khappy Khappy) during a public meeting (Ahmad, 2008, p. 07). Consequently, the panic situation in Sindh came to an end and the slogan of Zardari proved as a significant tool for the stability and solidarity of Pakistan. Asif Zardari reorganized the party and took bold decision to contest the general elections of 2008. He took positive measures for the survival of democracy and essence of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973. He advanced the wisdom of Benazir Bhutto as “Democracy is the best revenge” (Nizami, 4 July 2015).

The General Elections 2008 and Formation of Government

The PPP and PML-N emerged as the leading parties, securing 120 and 90 seats respectively in the 342 members of National Assembly. The Pro-Musharraf party PML-Q won only 51 seats in the National Assembly. The result turned out to be a gigantic protest vote against authoritarianism. The slogan of Benazir Bhutto had won “Democracy is the best revenge against the dictatorship of Country”. PPP secured victory even it did not gain an overall Parliamentary majority (Lodhi, 2016, p. 106).

Yousaf Raza Gilani became the Prime Minister of Pakistan with complete consensus between the major political parties of Pakistan. After the Murree Summit Declaration, the PPP and PML-N two bitter rivals of past decided to establish a broad-based coalition government which included ANP, MQM and JUI (Chawala, Dec 2017). The PPP succeeded to form governments at national as well as provincial levels through reconciliation. Zardari appreciated the PML-N gestures of joining the central government and alliance based administration (Times, 2008). In first phase, PPP suggested 11 members from the federal cabinet after the mutual consultation with the PML-N among 11 Members, 05 belonged to Punjab, 04 From Sindh, One from NWFF or KPK and one from Baluchistan. PMLN agreed to share power with every coalition party in the Punjab with the same ratio as followed in the federal government. On 24 March 2008, Dr. Fehmdia Mirza secured 249 votes and became the first female Speaker in the National Assembly of Pakistan. (Kanwal, December, 2017; Khan H., 2021).

Break-up of Coalition Government

The major political forces of Pakistan built up true spirit of Cooperation and succeeded to implement the terms of Charter of Democracy to greater extent. However, the parties strongly committed to cooperate till the resignation of General Pervez Musharraf and the issue relating to the reinstatement of Judiciary created a rift between PPP and PML-N (Rauf, 2017, pp. 79-80). Muhammad Nawaz Sharif pulled back his party's nine ministers out of 24 ministers from Federal Cabinet (Ahmed I. , 2015, p. 352). That shattered the coalition but PML-

N continued to support the coalition within the Parliament (Khan, H 2021). After the resignation of Governor Khalid Maqbool, the PPP appointed Salman Taseer as the governor of Punjab. His appointment became one of the major factor that twisted the distance between the PPP and PML-N (Kanwal, 2017).

August Communique

On 4th August 2008, leaders of coalition parties resumed their dialogue to sort out the reservations of one another. They also agreed to ask President Musharraf to step down or ready to face impeachment. However, there were difference over the restoration of judiciary between the two parties leadership. On 7th August 2008, a joint communique was issued after the agreement between the two party leaders. It contained a comprehensive plan for the impeachment of President Musharraf strictly in accordance with Murree declaration (Dawn, 2008).

Asif Ali Zardari as President

After the resignation of President Musharraf, Benazir Bhutto's spouse and PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari emerged as the strongest man in his party.

Despite of prior corruption allegations, he expressed great commitment after Benazir Bhutto's death (Lodhi, 2016, p. 106). He assured consolidating control over the PPP and had sought reconciliation with the other major political parties of Pakistan particularly PML-N, ANP, JUI and even MQM. He got the Title of "The Reconciliation Builder" (Chawala, Dec 2017). After the resignation of President Musharraf, Nawaz Sharif nominated justice Saeed us Zaman Siddique as presidential candidate on the behalf of PML-N. The PML-Q nominated Mushahid Hussain Syed. Asif Ali Zardari also decided to contest the presidential elections with the support of ANP, JUI, MQM, PPP and other coalition parties (Kanwal, 2017). The PPP candidate Asif Ali Zardari won a land slide victory and became 14th President of Pakistan on 06th September 2008 (Khan H, 2021).

Implication of CoD 2006 during 2008-13

The PPP government expressed great commitment to restore the constitution in its original form. In 2009, President Asif Ali Zardari incorporated a Special Parliamentary Commission on Constitutional Reforms (SPCCR) to restore the Parliamentary Federal structure of the state (Adeney, 2012). After consultation with the leaders of all political parties, the twenty seven members of SPCCR were nominated from the entire political parties according to their representation in the federal parliament. The SPCCR had been established to prepare the terms of amendments in the constitution under the recommendations of CoD 2006. That step was taken to satisfy the desires of people to make their country a democratic state in true sense (SPCCR, 2010). The PPP Senator Mian Raza Rabbani was elected as chairman of the SPCCR on 25th June 2009. The members of SPCCR

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were asked to submit their proposals for amendments to the constitution. The committee held 77 meetings and spent 385 hours during its deliberations. All its proceedings held in camera and no press release was issued by the committee (Khan H. , Constitutional and political History of Pakistan, 2021, p. 566).

The 18th Constitutional Amendment

The first portion of the recommendations of COD 2006 were based upon the constitutional changes which the two parties wanted to implement. Actually it was the future plan for the advancement of democratic culture of Pakistan. The PPP and PML-N had decided to restore the constitution before the position of 12th October 1999. The 18th amendment is indeed a first step toward the implementation of the recommendations of CoD 2006. The SPCCR presented its report before the parliament in April 2010 which proposed the alteration about 102 articles. Those recommendations reversed all the alterations made by Musharraf to prolong his tenure (Gazdar, 2010). The 18th amendments bill was passed unanimously by the both chambers of parliament and President Asif Ali Zardari put his signature on the 18th amendment bill on 19th April 2010 (Adeney, 2012). The 18th amendment again restored the parliamentary form of govt. The power to dissolve the parliament or article 58-2b was withdrawn from the President. The federal legislation list had sixty seven subjects, the concurrent list had 47 subjects and all other subjects were handed over to the provinces. Concurrent list was abolished and all the powers of its subjects had been allocated to the federating units. The 17 ministries were also transferred to the provinces which were under the control of central government. The role of senate had been increased. Now the Federal cabinet would be answerable to the both houses. Islamabad High Court was established after the amendment. The appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner would be made through the mutual consultation of the treasure and opposition benches. The role of the Counsel of Common Interests had been enhanced. (Khalid, 2013; Adeney, 2012; Rabbani, 2014; Cookman, 2010).

The 19th Constitutional Amendment

The two parties had decide in the CoD (2006) to reform in the judiciary for the sake of justice. The 19th amendment to the constitution of Pakistan reformed in the judicial appointments procedure of the Superior Courts. The Chairman Raza Rabbani presented the bill in the parliament and President Zardari approved it on 1st January 2011 (The Express Tribune, 2011). The 19th amendment introduced the new procedure of appointments of judges of the superior courts and the Judicial Commission was initiated to achieve that task. Laki- Marwat and Tank districts had been declared as the region of FATA. (Khan, 2010). Through this amendment the Parliament expressed its commitment that all state organs must take care of their prescribe limits for the independence of judiciary. The parliament seemed to convince that without the independence of judges, the chariot of

democracy cannot move forward. The parliament must ensure the honor and dignity of all state institutions (Rabbani, 2014, p. 277)

The 20th Constitutional Amendment

The third portion of the CoD 2006 aimed to conduct transparent elections in the country without any involvement. The two parties decided to introduce the reforms in this regard. Without the installation of care taker set up the dream of transparent election could not come true. The 20th amendment organized a process to install a care taker set up of government to hold free and fair elections and matters related to the office of Election Commission of Pakistan (The Express Tribune, 2012). There were two main aims of this amendment: First, Installation of care taker government; second, to conduct free and fair elections (Pakistan Today, 2012; The Dawn, 2012).

The Elections 2013 and Formation of Government

President Asif Ali Zardari skillfully used the CoD 2006 to complete the PPP's tenure from 2008-13 with special thanks to the friendly opposition of PML-N who honored the principles of CoD (Chawala M. I., 2018). After Successful completion of five years constitutional tenure, he organized the General Elections 2013, and transferred the power to PML-N without any delay tactics. He respected the mandate and handed over the power to the winning party on September 2013. The efforts of Zardari earned deep appreciation for promoting the democratic culture of Pakistan (Rauf, 2017).

An independent Election Commission and a neutral care taker government were put in place on the basis of understanding between the treasury and opposition benches. After winning the Elections 2013 with heavy mandate, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif could form his government at various level yet he preferred coalition government. He continued the tradition set by PPP government and allowed the majority parties in KPK, Baluchistan and Sindh to form coalition government. (Chawala, Dec 2017)

In a speech at his party head quarter Lahore, Nawaz Sharif Appealed for all parties to come to the table and sit with him to solve the country's problem (BBC, 2013). The Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif took a historic decision in Baluchistan. Despite of PMLN's majority, He facilitated National Party's Dr. Abdul Malik to organize the government in Baluchistan. Two and a half years were given to the National Party and the 2nd half tenure had been given to PML-N's Sana Ullah Zehri by the arrangement of PML-N (Abbas, 2017). The PMAP, PML-N and NP joined hands to form a coalition government in Baluchistan. A power sharing agreement was signed between the two parties PML-N and NP. The Baluchistan Chief Minister's tenure had been divided between the two parties (Mehmood Z. , 2013). Asif Ali Zardari became the first president of Pakistan to complete his

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constitutional tenure. He not only handed over the charge to another democratically elected President Mamnoon Hussain but also tried to strengthen the democratic set up in Pakistan (Khan H, 2021).

Implication of CoD 2006 and Constitutional Reforms during 2013-18

The following constitutional reforms passed by the political parties of Pakistan with complete consensus in the parliament. These are amazing examples of political reconciliation among the political forces of Pakistan for the achievement of democratic spirit in the era of PML-N government.

The 21st Constitutional Amendment

Under the recommendations of CoD 2006, the PML-N government decided to establish the military courts to nip in the bud terrorism and all illegitimate activities of terrorist groups and militant organizations. Those terrorist groups had damaged the image of Pakistan in the world and were playing the lives of innocent people. On 06th January 2015, the parliament of Pakistan passed the 21st amendment bill which was actually a chain of National Action Plan (Dawn T. D., 2015). This amendment authorized the government to establish the Military Courts for speedy trial of terrorist who were involved in the terrorist activities because they had become a threat for the security of state and plunged into a war against Pakistan (Draft of the Bill, 2015).

The 22nd Amendment

The part third of the CoD 2006 was relating to the clauses about the conducting of election, its procedure and structure of the ECP. The appointment procedure of the members of the ECP had significant role for the political parties because fair elections cannot be possible without the neutrality of the Election Commission. Keeping in view the reservations of the major political parties, the PML-N government along with its ally parties decided to amend the constitution under the recommendations of CoD 2006. The constitution 22nd Amendment amended the procedure for appointment, qualification, other prerequisites for the chief election commissioner and the four member of the election commission of Pakistan for the maintenance of transparency of Elections in Pakistan (Mehmood A. , NA passes unanimously the 22nd Constitutional Bill, 2016)

The 23rd Amendment

The Military Courts were established previously only for two years through 21st amendment in the Constitution of Pakistan. To meet the security challenges and to control the activities of terrorists and other militant groups the Parliament extended the time limit of those Military Courts. Another time of two years had been given

to them till January 2019 for the accomplishment of the targets in National Action Plan. As of early 2017, 274 cases had been referred to the Military courts by Government of Pakistan, after the prosecution, 161 terrorists had been awarded by the punishment of death penalty while 113 offenders had been given various sentences including life imprisonment (Ghouri, 2018).

The 24th amendment & The Election Reforms

The controversy among the major political parties on Panama Leaks could not stop the electoral reforms and mainstream of FATA and commitment among political parties remained same. Although, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had been removed from his post in accordance with Panama Leaks yet enthusiastic development and parliamentary consensus had seemed deeper than expected among the political parties. The 20th constitutional amendment had already paved the way for Care-Taker Government to oversee future polls but it explained the powers and limitation of Care-Taker Government It also provided financial and quasi-judicial powers similar to the powers of High Court to ECP for conducting free fair and transparent elections. The term of ECP member was also raised from three year to five years. The 24th amendment also indorsed the Parliament to mark the constituencies according to the results of Census 2017 (5 years of 13th National Assembly, 2013) (5 years of 13th National Assembly, 2013) (Pakistan's Election Act 2017, 2017) (Rolf Paash, December,2018).

The 25th amendment and FATA Reforms

Since the independence of Pakistan, FATA had been governed by the political agents appointed by the President of Pakistan who had absolute power on their specified tribal areas (Hashim, 2018). President Musharraf took significant steps for the integration of FATA with the rest of the country. The Frontier Crimes Regulations 2011 was also introduced by the PPP government but it was not implemented. Hurdles against the implementation of National Action Plan inspired the major political parties to come on the same point and they allowed the security forces to operate in FATA (Shaping a new peace in Pakistan's tribal areas, 2018; Major Challenges in FATA, 2011). On 18th April 2018, President Mamnoon Hussain asserted the Supreme Court and High Court Act 2018 which extended the jurisdiction of the Superior Court to FATA. On 24th May 2018, the National Assembly passed 25th constitutional amendment bill with complete consensus. The 25th amendment redefined the territory of the state and the allocation of seats in the National as well as provincial assemblies. The FATA was emerged in KPK. The amendment reduced the number of Senate from 104 to 96 and the number of National Assembly members from 342 to 336. The number of KPK assembly was also fixed 145 seats (Shah W. , 2018; Amir, 2018; News G. , 2018).

Reforms in the Senate and National Assembly

Consolidations of democracy requires greater harmony among the institution. The COD 2006 indicated that the two parties will make an effort to end the discrimination among the province (FAFEN, 2013; Rolf Paash, December, 2018, pp. 24-25). It would be possible only by converting the Senate as a powerful legislative body. The Chairman Senate took the responsibility and many significant reforms had been introduced during his chairmanship which were endorsed by both government as well as opposition benches. More than 180 case were pending before different Committees of Senate which were disposed of by using the forum of Senate. A Committee on Delegated Legislation was also established to check the performance of government in the affair of legislation. The Council of Chairs was established in the Senate to implement its decision and to overcome the issue of low attendance of committee members in meetings (Sarmed, April, 2018).

Reforms in the Committee System

For the first time in the parliamentary history, the leader of opposition Chaudhry Nisar Ali had been appointed as chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). The 14th National Assembly followed the tradition of 13th National Assembly and elected leader of opposition Syed Khursheed Ahmad Shah as chairman of PAC. In the provincial assemblies that specific practice was followed up under the recommendations of CoD (2006). During 2008-13, all major parliamentary parties were given an opportunity to chair in the 32 standing committee in the National Assembly. Those included seven from the PML-N, eight from the PML-Q and nine from the PPP (ruling party) (Tasleem, 2013, p. 55). Similarly, in 2015 the Senators of the opposition benches chaired the Standing Committees on the finance, interior, defense, human rights, petroleum, information and broad casting (Waseem, 2018).

The CoD 2006 improved the working of the parliament through influential committee system in policy formulation during 2008-18. The National Security Policy for 2018-23 acknowledged the contribution of various state institutions (National Security Policy 2018-23, p. 3). On 28th July 2016, the Senate adopted the motion to give Senators representation in the PAC which proved a remarkable step toward federation. That allowed the Senate to play a positive role in the Public matters including finance. Consequently, Six Senators became the part of the PAC from the four provinces, Fata and Islamabad (Rolf Paash, December, 2018).

Friendly Opposition

The PPP and PML-N vowed under the recommendations of CoD 2006 that they would respect the mandate of the other parties with an open heart and to support in the administrative affairs of the government. They would play a positive role for

the protection of the national interest and would not involve in any conspiracy to destabilize the democratic government of other party under the influence of undemocratic forces. Although the PML-N and the PPP had diverse outlook on various political issues yet they were committed for strengthening democracy by introducing the Constitutional reforms with complete consensus. The political parties had left the coalition government with the passage of time but they stood vigilantly behind each other to maintain democracy in Pakistan (Rolf Paash, December,2018).

The Punjab government also supported in taking care of Internally Displaced Persons of Swat (IDPS). The PPP had majority in Sindh Assembly and could form its government in the province without the cooperation of the MQM. However, it adopted a new tendency of reconciliation in Pakistani politics and offered the MQM to become a part of Sindh Provincial Government which was welcomed by the MQM. The PPP leaders had a long list of complaints against the Chief Minister of Punjab Mr. Shahbaz Sharif regarding to his schemes but they did not make any serious effort to destabilize his government. During PTI and PAT 'sit in Politics' , the PPP vigilantly stood behind PML-N to secure democratic values (Chawala, Dec 2017). PML-N and PPP expressed adequate maturity for the consolidation of political system and federation of Pakistan through politics of reconciliation (Kanwal, December, 2017). After observing the latest trends, new social and the political realities in the politics of Pakistan, a new political agreement or Charter of Democracy is required among the political parties and the major institutions of the state.

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