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Date: ___/___/20___

Making New provinces in Pakistan: Challenges and Prospects:

1- Introduction:

Thesis statement:- The creation of new provinces is a complex issue with various challenges. but overcoming these obstacle through a collaborative effort from all stakeholders can lead to national integration, economic development and a well governed federation, which are essential for the country's socio-economic growth and progress.

2- Why more provinces are essential?

3- Demand of new province in Pakistan.

4- Challenges in the way of the making new provinces in Pakistan:

(1) Complex constitutional procedure.

(2) Major political parties are against the formation of new provinces.

(3) Forces of centralization do not favour a decentralized

Date: / / 20

system in the country.

(4) Contentious redistribution of assets further exacerbate by making new provinces.

(5) Economic consideration of new provinces.

5- Prospects of new Provinces in Pakistan

(1) Improve governance and local administration:

(2) Economic development in the country.

(3) The smaller the provinces, the stronger will be federation.

(4) National cohesion will increase in Pakistan by making new provinces

(5) Making of new provinces will prevent larger provinces to exploit smaller one.

6 Suggestion to overcome the impediments in the making of new provinces in Pakistan.

(1) Changes/Amendment in the constitution.

(2) Formation of a national commission

7 Conclusion -

3

MON TUE WED THS FRI SAT
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Date: ___/___/20___

The division of a country into smaller provinces, constituent units, regions and states is crucial for a nation's smooth and uninterrupted socio-economic development. Many countries have formed new units in order to meet ^{their} people's growing demands and advance their administrative structure. For instance, Austria with a population of 8.8 million and almost equal to size of Khyber Pakhtunkwa, has nine provinces and a GDP per capita income of \$ 50000. In contrast, with a population of 240 million, Pakistan has only four provinces, impeding the country's socio-economic growth. In fact, creating new provinces in Pakistan is a complex and multifaceted issue involving political, economic, cultural and administrative considerations. Several constitutional impediments, vested interests

(4)

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
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Date: / / 20

of political parties and economic implications of new provinces pose challenge to their formation. Nevertheless, creating new provinces would promote socio-economic and political development in the country. It would lead to economic development of underdeveloped areas, national integration, and a robust and a well governed federation, which are crucial for the country's progress. Overcoming the obstacles to forming new provinces requires serious consideration of the issue and initiatives to counter impediments.

A collaborative efforts from all stakeholders, including the government, political parties and civil society, is imperative to successfully forming new provinces.

Before discussing the issue of new provinces in Pakistan, it is pertinent to comprehend

3

Date: ___/___/20___

MON TUE WED THS FRI SAT
○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

the purpose and importance of new administrative units of new provinces. These are very necessary to run the affair of a state. For this purposes the state is divided into different administrative units like province, divisions, districts, tehsil, and Union council. This division is vital for better administration and good governance in a country. In this system, power is decentralized from higher to lower level and governments works for the welfare of the people through this system. Over a few decades, many countries around a globe have increased their administrative units; for example, the number of provinces in Nigeria has increased from 4 to 17. Thus these administrative units are tools of good governance and administration.

The demand for more provinces re-emerged

6

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
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Date: ___/___/20__

With the coming of the "18th constitutional amendment". The creation of new provinces is a persistent demand from some circles in Pakistan. However, it has the potential of both opportunities and challenges; it could address the long lasting issues of good governance and administration, it could explore economic potential and so on. On the other hand, it could give rise to violence and ethnic movements.

Moreover, expenditure of new provinces could increase manifolds. Therefore, deliberate measures should be taken keeping in view all perspectives of making new provinces.

Nonetheless, there are many challenges to form new provinces in the country. For example, the complex constitutional impediment is the primary factor. This impediment undermines the creation of new provinces.

7

Date: ___/___/20___

MON TUE WED THS FRI SAT
○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Because, under Article 237 of Constitution, the constitutional procedure for making new provinces requires an amendment bill to be formed in both houses of Parliament, which a two-thirds majority of both houses must approve. In addition, the assent of the ^{respective} provincial assembly is also essential to change the boundaries of the concerned province. Thus, these constitutional requirements complicate making new provinces, especially in coalition government.

The second major obstacle in the way of making new provinces is the "will" of major political parties. They exploit aggrieved peoples' issues for their political scoring and increase their vote bank; they are against of creating more provinces because it affects their vote bank. For instance,

9

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
○○○○○○

Date: / / 20

Dividing Sindh into more provinces would result in Pakistan's People Party (PPP) losing its vote bank and the same is the case with the Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) which has ^{its} stronghold in Punjab. This demonstrates that the vested interests of major political parties have always impeded the formation of new provinces.

The third element that stands in the way of creating new provinces is the "forces of centralization". These forces of centralization do not favour a decentralized ^{system} in a country. Because, doing so would shift the political and economic powers to the lower level. It will lead to weaken the Federation. That's why, these forces are against of ^{making} new provinces. They ^{still} want to make a country a unitary or central state. These forces threaten the form

(9)

Date: ___/___/20___

MON TUE WED THS FRI SAT
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bifurcation of new provinces.

Most of the revenues are collected by the centre and then redistributed among province. This redistribution has been a bone of contention between the federation and provinces. As provinces are demanding larger share in resources and income. For instance, there has been disagreement over National Finance Commission (NFC) awards and Indus River System Authority (ISRA) i.e. river water distribution.

In case of bifurcation of Punjab the greatest challenge would be distribution of vast network of canals. This challenge also hindersⁱⁿ the way of making new provinces.

Moreover, making of new provinces could increase manifold. If new provinces are

(10)

Date: / / 20

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
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are created, there would be a significant increase in the non-development expenditure. This put an additional burden on the treasury. For instance, NWFP name change to cost treasury Rs 8 billion. The stakeholders of the four provinces are already eyeballing each other on dividing the funds in National Finance Commission awards (NFC) and claiming it is a unbiased decision of the state runner. Keeping in view, the country faces, the economic repercussions of new provinces are also not negligible. The economic considerations for making new provinces are creating hurdles in the way of forming new provinces.

However, forming new provinces will yield numerous benefits for the country. First, small provinces

(11)

Date: ___/___/20___

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
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can lead to more efficient governance by bringing administrative control closer to people.

This proximity can enhance local responsiveness to local needs and it also reduce bureaucratic delays. Pakistan can learn from which has improved its governance by forming new provinces. Moreover, the ineffectiveness of local government system can be improved by creating more provinces in a country, as it allows for greater autonomy, more target resources allocation.

For instance, Papua New Guinea (PNG) improved its local governance by forming new provinces like Bougainville. This illustrates that creation of new provinces improves administrative and local governance in a country.

Second, the creation of smaller units may result in economic development of the and

12

Date: ___/___/20___

MON TUE WED THS FRI SAT
○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

backward region of the country. These units will have their financial plans and will be able to mobilize additional funds for the backward zones that have been unprivileged for their due share. This would result in the emergence of new economic zones in the country. For instance, South Punjab may have large cotton textile units, and KPK may advance hydropower plans with its water resources, eventually leading to the economic development of these regions. In addition, the deprived areas would get larger share of resources from the national exchequer. To illustrate, instead of spending much money on Lahore alone, some of it would be allocated to Dara Gazi Khan, Bhakkar, Bahawalpur, and adjoining regions. Undoubtedly, more new provinces would increase the economic development prospects of the country's underdeveloped regions.

Third, it is a well-established fact that the smaller the provinces, the stronger will be the federation. The smaller provinces would not be in a position to demand separation from Pakistan. Therefore, smaller units cannot muster resistance against the state. In this way, nationalist forces can be prevented from emerging. For example, Belgium is divided into three regions, this division has given more control over their regions. In this way, Belgium has successfully managed nationalist tension by creating more administrative units. This demonstrates that more administrative units make the federation more stronger.

Fourth, new provinces would promote national cohesion in the country. By providing,

Date: ___/___/20__

services and making comprehensive economic policies, these units would give rise to a sense of political and economic inclusiveness in the people living in the marginalized regions. To illustrate, Switzerland is known for its Federal structure, with 26 cantons (Provinces); each having a high degree of autonomy. The country has maintained strong national cohesion through a system where the power is highly decentralized to the lower levels and ethnic and cultural diversities are respected. In the same way, new provinces in Pakistan can strengthen national integration.

Moreover, making of new provinces will prevent larger provinces to exploit smaller one. By doing so, it might address the long-lasting grievances of ethnic and regional minorities. This leads

(15)

Date: ___/___/20___

MON TUE WED THS FRI SAT
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to mitigate ethnic issues. Because decentralization of powers allows new administrative units to deliver in essential services, such as health, education and sanitation. When funds allocated to new provinces. This will prevent larger units to exploit smaller one. In this way, symmetrical development will take place in the country, country will witness progress and prosperity.

All the prospects above testify to the importance of new provinces in Pakistan. For this purpose, there is a need to avert the challenges to their formation. This can be done by taking specific bold steps. For instance, there is a need to amend the existing constitutional procedure that complicate the creation of

(16)

Date: ___/___/20___

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
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new provinces. To illustrate, sub-section four of Article 237 should be amended to change the resolution's approval condition for new provinces by a two-thirds majority. Moreover, Article 1 of the constitution, which identifies four federal units, need to be amended. These changes in the constitution would make the formation of provinces easier.

In addition, a national Commission can be formed to form new provinces. For this purpose the constitution should require a Constitutional Commission every ten to twenty years to investigate the need for new provinces. Besides this, the government should take the issue so that past disputes over problem do not arise. In this regard, the reasons behind forming new provinces should be considered. These reasons should neither be political nor ethno-linguistic. Instead, providing timely services to

(17)

Date: ___/___/20___

MON TUE WED THS FRI SAT
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to the citizen should be the driving force behind creating new administrative units.

In a nutshell, the formation of new provinces is encountering several challenges. One of the major obstacles is the complicated constitutional requirements in this regards. Apart from constitutional challenge, lack of political will, centralized forces and poor economic conditions obstruct the creation of new provinces.

Once these are formed, the country will perform better in socio-economic spheres; the country would improve in all governance indicators. Moreover, new provinces may lead to economic development and societal well-being. Without taking pragmatic measures, the government cannot achieve

(18)

MON TUE WED THS FRI SAT
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Date: ___/___/20___

this can be done by amending the constitution and forming a national commission