



## ***CALL FOR PAPERS***

### **TWO DAY'S NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON**

### **MAINSTREAMING TRIBAL AREAS IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES**

**Organised by**

**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar.**

#### **THE CONCEPT**

Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) merger with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP henceforth) under FATA Interim Governance Regulation, 2018 will usher in a new era for bringing the tribal people into mainstream and providing them with opportunities to harness the benefits of socio-economic development. Since long, people of the tribal areas had been deprived of their constitutional and political rights, and other socio-economic opportunities existing in the mainland Pakistan. In the wake of September 11, and the subsequent 'War on Terror', FATA turned into an epicenter of militancy and extremism, particularly people of FATA have been on the front line in the 'War on Terror' and major victims of this prolonged conflict. Addressing the grievances of the tribal people and defusing this epicenter of militancy, therefore, has been a central concern for the strategic community and policy makers of the country. Against this backdrop, FATA Interim Governance Regulation, 2018 is a step in the right direction; it has repealed the British-era Frontier Crimes Regulation, also known as *Kala Qanoon* (Black Law) among the residents of FATA. The Interim Regulation retitles the seven agencies, as 'tribal districts' and six Frontier Regions as sub-

divisions, provides tribal areas representation in the National Assembly and KP Provincial Assembly.

FATA merger with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will necessitate the reconstruction of infrastructure, rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), establishment of elected local government system, putting in place a modern policing mechanism and extension of the criminal justice system to the tribal districts and sub-divisions. The merger entails a robust socio-economic uplift programme for the region to help eliminate the sense of alienation and exclusion among the tribesmen regarding public services delivery.

Despite FATA merger with KP, mainstreaming tribal districts seems to be a long, and intricate journey. KP and FATA are often said to be as ‘congenital twins’; their law and order and economy is intertwined, however, unlike tribal areas, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has a defined and functional constitutional, political, legal and administrative system. How this defined and functional system would be extended to tribal districts will be a daunting task for policy makers with many challenges to overcome. These challenges include security threats from militant organizations, implementation of criminal-judicial reforms, strengthening of law enforcement agencies, breaking militant-criminal nexus, introduction of effective local bodies system, socio-economic development, financial assistance and participation of women in the reform processes for successful mainstreaming of tribal districts and sub-divisions. Most importantly, bureaucratic hurdles, and the vested interests of some status quo powers may cause hindrance in much needed reforms for the region as the merger is to take place in stages, thereby adversely impacting on the political and security landscape of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

In order to gain a nuanced understanding of these evolving dynamics of FATA merger with KP, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar, is organizing a two days’ national conference to deliberate upon the prospects and challenges of mainstreaming tribal districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF CONFERENCE:**

The main objective of the Conference is to deliberate upon the legal, constitutional, socio-cultural, economic, political and security dimensions of tribal areas merger with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and its implications for KP, Pakistan and the region. The conference is basically aimed at gathering

the most relevant scholars and intellectuals from academia, media and civil society to share knowledge through novel approaches in policy decision making and implementation of merger with KP and to discuss the issues, prospects and challenges of mainstreaming tribal areas. In this context, the conference broadly aims at achieving the following objectives:

- To discuss the socio-cultural, economic and political opportunities that are created for the tribal people.
- To debate and discuss the security, political, economic advantages that would be derived from the merger for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in particular and for Pakistan and the region in general.
- To deliberate upon the constraints and challenges which may hamper the mainstreaming of tribal districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa smoothly. At the same time, the conference aims at formulating recommendations/suggestions for overcoming these challenges.

## **NATIONAL CONFERENCE SUB-THEMES**

The conference invites papers on, but not limited to the following sub-themes:

### **1. Socio-Cultural Issues**

#### Sub Themes

- Cultural issues and mainstreaming of tribal districts
- Participation of women in reform and development process
- Role of International donors / NGOs
- Repatriation and Rehabilitation of IDPs

### **2. Political and Administrative Issues**

#### Sub Themes

- Implementation of criminal-judicial reforms
- Representation in National and KP Assembly
- Local governance in tribal areas
- Financial issues related to mainstreaming

- Political parties and public opinion on mainstreaming tribal districts in KP

### **3. Security Issues**

#### Sub Themes

- Militancy and terrorism
- Counterinsurgency operations and Conflict management
- National Action Plan and tribal districts
- Deradicalization of youth
- Militant-criminal nexus
- Strengthening Law Enforcement Agencies
- Issue of border management and mainstreaming
- Mainstreaming tribal districts in KP: regional security issues and dynamics
- Mainstreaming of tribal districts and implications for Pakistan's foreign policy

### **4. Economic Opportunities and Challenges**

#### Sub Themes

- Health, Education, infrastructure development and capacity building
- Industrial Zone / Special Economic Zones under CPEC
- Sustainable Development and Environment
- Alleviating poverty and inequalities
- Prospects for employment / Livelihood Development / Revenue generation
- Skill development / Human Capital Development
- Trade prospects, entrepreneurship and business opportunities
- Role of private sector in economic development
- New cities as engines of growth
- Agriculture development
- Tourism development
- Water resource development and management
- Energy infrastructure
- Minerals exploration and development

#### **Specifications of Abstracts and Research Papers:**

Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar, invite proposals for two days National Conference to be held in Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar, on 24<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) and 25<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) October 2018.

Abstracts of **150-300** words clearly indicating title, objectives or research questions, methodology and theoretical framework, results or possible outcome along with a brief CV should be sent to via e-mail: **tdkp2018@sbbwu.edu.pk**

After being reviewed by the conference organizing committee, the selected paper presenters will be contacted by 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018. The final date for the submission of complete papers is 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

- Researcher adheres to conditions of scientific research; originality, methodology, documentation, quality of language and style.
- The paper should not previously published or submitted for publication.
- Content of the paper should have a minimum of 4000 words and a maximum of 6000 words.
- The Research paper should follow Chicago-Manual citation style.

- **Important Dates**

- Abstract Submission Deadline 13 August 2018
- Intimation of Acceptance of Abstract 20 August 2018
- Deadline for the Submission of Final Paper 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

**Note: TA / DA will be paid as per rules along with accommodation and nominal honorarium.**

**Patron in-Chief**

- Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana, Vice Chancellor, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar.

**Conference Organizing Committee**

**Organizing Committee Members**

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