

DAWN PESHAWAR, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3, 20

'Tribesmen should also be allowed access to information'

PESHAWAR, Nov 2: A non-governmental organisation has demanded of the government to also give right of access to information to the people of Federally Administered Tribal Areas through a presidential order so that they could also benefit from the Right to Information Act (RIA) 2013 passed by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government.

The demand was raised by the Development, Environment, Legal Aid, Technical Support and Advocacy Association, president Nazlee Sardar while submitting certain recommendations to the provincial government for further improvement of the RIA.

Briefing a consultative meeting at the Officers Mess here on Saturday, Ms Nazlee said that as per Article 19-A of the Constitution of Pakistan, it was the fundamental right of all citizens to have access to information at the federal and provincial levels. She said that the KP government's newly promulgated RIA was a bold attempt to bring transparency in the province.

She said that the recommendations had been submitted to Information Minister Shah Farman, who was supportive of the association's

effort and consented to incorporate these concerns in the bill, to be tabled in near future.

The information act, she said, needed to be replicated at the federal level. "The media is in the forefront in highlighting issues concerning corruption. Hence a member from the media should also be included in the information commission alongside other members," she said.

Ms Nazlee suggested that the lower courts as well as the high courts should not be exempted from application of the law.

"It is necessary that the judiciary is also made accountable as per international practice. Hence, an information cell should be created within the courts to provide information through an information officer deputed to the cell by the government emulating the structure at the district level," she said.

She said that this cell could be housed at the Human Rights Directorate established by the chief justice at the high court level. She added that the information could be sought from the relevant forum, which should be clarified in the content of the law/rules pertaining to it.

—Bureau Report

BUSINESS RECORDER

Islamabad, Monday 4 November 2013, 29 Zilhij 1434

Delta demands RTI Act's extension to Fata

RECORDER REPORT

PESHAWAR: Delta, (Development, Environment, Legal Aid, Technical Support and Advocacy Association), has called for the provision of provided under the Right to Information (RTI) Act to Fata and notification in this regard should be issued by the President.

The demand was made in a meeting of the Media Forum Consultation of association held here. Delta is an NGO that aims to improve engagement between citizens and government in order to promote good governance in Pakistan. The association, under a grant from the Citizens Voice Project has conducted several consultations on the Right to Information as well as broadcasted radio programmes on FM101.

It said that as per Article 19-A

of the Constitution, it is the fundamental right of all citizens to have access to information at both federal and provincial levels. The passage of RTI Act from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly is bold attempt to bring transparency to the province.

It said that the information sought may not only be provided to a natural person, but also to a legal person and lower courts as well as high courts should not be exempted from application of the law. It is necessary that the judiciary, instead of treating it as a 'sacred cow' is also made accountable as per international practice. An information cell should be created within the courts to provide information through an information officer deputed to the cell by the government emulating the structure at the district level.

The proposed cell could be housed at the Human Rights Directorate established by the Chief Justice at High Court level. Institutionally the cell could be renamed as the Human Rights and Information Directorate, with placement of Information Office, which would not put extra financial burden on the government/courts and cannot be resorted to as an excuse for not establishing the information cell urgently.

Furthermore, Information pertaining to monetary matters of the judiciary cannot be sought from the courts, but from the department of law/Ministry of Law at federal level instead of the Supreme Court. This information should be sought from the relevant forum which should be clarified in the content of the law/rules pertaining to it.

DAILY EXPRESS



پاکستان کے 11 شہروں سے یک وقت شائع ہونے والا واحد اخبار

جلد 12 شمارہ 36 | پیر 29 ذوالحجہ 1434ھ 4 نومبر 2013ء صفحات 12 قیمت 12 روپے

معلومات تک رسائی قانون کا دائرہ اختیار فائنا تک بڑھایا جائے ڈیلیٹا

عدالتوں میں عوام کو معلومات تک رسائی سے متعلق انفارمیشن سیل قائم کئے جائیں

پشاور (ایکسپریس نیوز) ترقی، ماحول، قانونی امداد فی تعاون اور معاونت سے متعلق تنظیم ڈیلیٹا نے صوبائی حکومت سے مطالبہ کیا ہے کہ معلومات تک رسائی قانون آر ٹی آئی کا دائرہ اختیار فائنا تک بڑھایا جائے، ضلعی سطح پر عدالتوں میں عوام کو معلومات تک رسائی سے متعلق انفارمیشن سیل قائم کئے جائے جو انفارمیشن آفیسر کی زیر نگرانی حکومتی ہدایات کے تحت عوام کو معلومات دے سکیں اس کے علاوہ ہیومن رائٹس ڈائریکٹوریٹ میں (باقی صفحہ 4 نمبر 37)

ڈیلیٹا

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بھی انفارمیشن سیل قائم کیا جائے اور اس ادارے کا نام ہیومن رائٹس اینڈ انفارمیشن ڈائریکٹوریٹ رکھ کر یہاں انفارمیشن آفیسر کی تقرری کی جائے اس اقدام سے حکومت خزانے اور عدالتوں پر اضافی مالی بوجھ نہیں پڑے گا۔