

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind

Daily Outlook

AFGHANISTAN

The Leading Independent Newspaper

December 31, 2014

Perilous Delay in Cabinet Formation!

The delay in the formation and announcement of new cabinet is worsening the conditions of country more than the expected. The lengthy process of elections and deadlock in the formation of a government had created so many threats to the country. The country had come to the verge of absolute destruction. Militancy had increased so much that some of the parts of the country had permanently fallen into the hands of militants and Taliban. The security conditions in the major cities and especially in Kabul was so frightening that people had started losing their trust on our security forces. All the economic transactions came to a complete halt, creating so many problems for the daily wagers who were suffering their daily bread. Due to uncertainty and insecurity, all the local and foreign investments ceased, eating away the overall existence of the economy.

After the long awaited unity government was established, everyone had a sigh of relief. This positive step had its immediate impacts. The economy at once started functioning properly, security conditions improved and fears of the control of some areas by Taliban and militants was averted and in the end, everyone in the country developed a hope that country would once again keep advancing on the path of prosperity and development.

The initial days of the unity government were also pleasing. The active style of government, especially the brisk movements of our president brought a lot of hope to all and it gave birth to an overall air of confidence to all. Soon after his arrival into the presidential palace, the president announced that present ministers, governors, the heads of security and other important officials will work as acting heads until the nomination of new office-holders. In this regard, government announced to announce the new cabinet in the least time possible. However, after almost four months, the government has failed to finalize the names of ministers for the new cabinet.

According to the internal reports, two heads of state have not yet agreed on the names of ministers. The ministers recommended by the President and the Chief Executive have not been liked by them and they are not in mutual agreement on the names. It is a situation which is going to turn out even more harmful than the conditions that prevailed in the country during and after the elections when the country was in a dilemma of electoral deadlock.

It is also a fact that soon after the establishment of the unity government, an intensive series of attacks were carried out in Kabul and large numbers of foreigners residing in the city were targeted. However, it was the part of the plan of militants to destabilize the new government and it was quite normal after they failed to foil the election process and enthusiastic participation by people in this election failed their plans to promote chaos in the country.

However, the present delay in the introduction of new cabinet is also no less dangerous and threatening to the country. Once again, the uncertainties have started circulating in the air and rumors and fears are also again on the move. The situation has been deteriorated by the handover of the security of country by NATO to our security forces.

Due to the delay in the announcement of new cabinet, the wheel of work in all government offices has come to a complete halt. The ministers are no more interested in their responsibilities as they are certain that they are no more going to stay in power for long. Due to this attitude of ministers, all the people working under them are also in the same condition and they are not ready to listen to people who keep knocking on their doors. Due to the failure of work of ministries and important government offices, large numbers of relevant offices or stakeholders are also suffering. The investment has stopped, businesses have come to a halt and overall condition of economy is in bad conditions. Due to this reality, the common person is the most suffering victim. A common man is once again suffering to earn its daily bread and is suffering a lot to get its work done from government offices. In this winter, this uncertainty has also resulted in the shrinking of businesses and the resultant inflation. This inflation of prices has given birth to large number of difficulties to those who earn on daily basis. It is feared that if the conditions persisted, it would help militants when large number of unemployed people might join their lines to earn bread for their families. We are sure that both the heads of state might be equally aware of the situation of common public. They might be aware that delay in the formation of cabinet and ministers is not only going to have bad impacts on people but it would also effect negatively the overall reputation of the government. We are certain that there may be a number of opposing thoughts among them but they need to see the picture in a broader view and prefer the benefits of people. The increased delay in the cabinet announcement would only add to the miseries of people which would not be the desire of any of the heads of government.



False Dreams must be Shattered

By Dilawar Sherzai

The human beings, who have come out of soil and would return to it, have learnt to live in violence, conflicts and wars, and the instability and chaos have become their companions. So, at this moment, it is really important for them to come out of their houses and let the killers and the ones who are being killed know this tragic fact that life treats both the killers and the victims like a step-mother; it blesses someone with soft and comfortable bed while does not bless someone else even with proper cloths to wear, but the death sees everyone with the same eyes, treats everyone equally, hugs everyone in similar fashion and drags everyone to the grave in the same way.

For those who walk proudly on earth a lump of soil from any ground, any field or farm in the light of their hearts and minds would depict that it contains the remains of our forefathers who belonged to ancient times - thousands of years ago. It would contain some pieces of the proud and straight head of an arrogant ruler, a broken peace of the heart of a person who was hit by grief and agony, or may be some pieces of the fingers of a murderer. Some parts of it may also hold the fragrance of a virtuous and righteous person and others may hold the stink of the egotistical leaders. The important question at this stance is, "What is the purpose of this lump of soil with the remains of the days and the people that have passed?" "What does it teach?" This lump of soil should be presented to our leaders and it should be shown to them how the suffering people led their lives and how they went through the tyrannies and various cruelties, which were basically made their fate because of the tyrannical and self-centered policies of the rulers. It should be shown to them how the complete obedience of the masses and their support made the rulers achieve grandeur and write their names in the annals of history. How they were able to establish their great kingdoms on the shoulders of the soldiers, workers and laborers and they never realized those favors. Every time they were dodged, utilized and deceived by the rulers so as to achieve the objectives and interests that were totally alien to the common people.

The same is happening today - promises are being made and the people are shown the ways to heaven and peace. However, none of the promises by the leaders are turned into realities. The so-called democratic processes are used to gather the favor of the people and get their votes but their destinies are not altered and they remain pitiful and deprived.

Today again the stage has been set for a transition period and the country is becoming ready for a journey towards a 'peaceful future'. Once again, people are being shown the dreams of peace and justice. They are being promised that they would be given their basic rights and their society would enjoy corruption free and honest rule. All the promising and beautiful words, all the mesmerizing

dreams, have been shown to the common people several times; they have been told that they would enjoy the streams of milk and honey and that their self-respect would return. And, the common people, like the previous times, are ready to believe them and hope that they would not be disheartened this time. Nevertheless, they need to wake up and start living in reality. The dreams are dreams and they can only become reality when there is determination and honest intentions. But, the history has shown that all these two factors are lacking among our rulers.

The common masses must be vigilant and must have a vigorous participation in the affairs of the country. They must not be dumb, deaf and imbecile subjects as in that way their rights would be easily violated. There are many evidences in history that show that the rulers are basically the people who gain authority in order to defend their own interests. They are not always interested in what the common masses need and get; rather their attentions are preoccupied by their economic benefits. So, the masses must be vigilant to identify the policies of the government that are not intended to fetch prosperity for them. They have the right to fight for their rights politically and must make sure that their rights are not violated in any way. In that manner they would be able to stop the rulers from using the authority only for their personal benefits. As Maya Angelou suggested, "Those of us who submitted or surrendered our ideas and dreams and identities to the 'leaders' must take back our rights, our identities, our responsibilities".

At the same time, masses must also develop political consciousness so as to understand the developments and the changes in the political system. Through such awareness they would also be able to measure the policies of the government as per the political demands. In addition, they would add the aptitude of strengthening the political institutions and augment the political culture with democratic and constructive essentials. In unison, they would be able to exert for positive political changes through their voting power, the propensity to change, participation in political affairs and, at most, through democratic demonstrations and protests. Unfortunately, the common masses in Afghanistan have not been able to gain the attentions they deserve. They still lack rudimentary requirements of life and suffer from lack of awareness and consciousness. Therefore, their roles are very restricted in Afghan society and mostly the rulers rule the country as per their interests. Even if the rulers have the policies that are harmful for Afghan people and Afghan society and are clashing with the wellbeing of the masses, they do not face much resistance as the masses are not capable of identifying them and they never insist on the changes through political means.

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Slogans against Corruption Protect Corrupt System

By Farman Nawaz

Today when media, politicians and everyone is talking about corruption then we must think what kind of corruption Pakistan is facing. Is it financial corruption? Political corruption? Administrative corruption? Social corruption? Or this is just a slogan which only protects the corrupt system. It is a reality that people of this country are not happy. They don't have enough money to meet their daily needs. They don't have the opportunity of proper education. They don't have job security. The laws of the country are not only discriminative but also not practicable.

So in this scenario when the common people see shining vehicles on the roads and other expensive articles then definitely it is natural they will think of corruption. But is it the corruption that is destroying our future or the slogan of corruption is a tool of the opposition parties to target the sitting government?

In English language the meaning of corruption is very vast. Corruption is not limited to only accumulation of wealth by unfair means. In Pakistan, corruption is the outcome of the system. Even this system is corrupt. And the ugliest aspect of this system is that we are not ready to comprehend the complexity of the problem.

So far we have not informed our people that what is the capacity of our economy? What are the realities of our neighboring economies? What are our total resources and where these resources are consumed? What are the hard realities of our politics and economy? What is the relationship between social and political system? What is the relationship between political system and economic system?

We have not told our people that the problem is not the corruption in the system but rather there is no system at all. We think that Slogans are policies. But the fact is that slogans can only create utopia. It is not the solution. Have we ever informed our people what are our defense, foreign relations, trade, and agricultural, educational and industrial policies? Sorry to say but every year we announce only Haj policy. We always hear that corruption must be eradicated and there must be transparency. But for this we need a liable government. Do we believe in a liable government? If yes then why we always welcome martial laws? Transparency and accountability are continuous processes. It is not a button of light that you switch on and the light starts glowing. For transparency and accountability we need continuity of the political process. And continuity of political process is only possible in democracy. It is not possible that we dream of transparency on western



standards but at the same time we love to establish a conservative government that has been discarded centuries ago. Accountability and transparency depend upon ethics. But the dilemma is that we are trying to relate accountability and transparency with morality. That is the reason that so far we are not able to achieve the goals of accountability, transparency and eradication of corruption.

If we want to eradicate corruption then the need is to think about the system which is standing upside down. The dilemma is that we only favour the slogans against corruption. It only benefits the political parties to overthrow the sitting government. The need is to think seriously about the system and its atrocities. Instead of celebrating anti-corruption day, the need is to celebrate anti-system day. The slogan of anti-corruption is no more than a deception that only gives protection to the system. Only the eradication of the contemporary system can solve our problems. And the real corruption is that we are not telling the people that the entire system is corrupt.

The latest example of corruption is the recent row of anger against the Taliban. People who once supported Taliban are chanting slogans against this cruelty of Taliban in Army School Peshawar.

But here again the common people are kept ignorant that Taliban are the outcome of this hypocrite system where fundamentalism, extremism, fanaticism and sectarianism are always supported. Today if Taliban loses the support from the public then this system has the capability to collect support for the newly established Islamic State (IS). We must keep in mind that in Islamic History "Khawarij" were having the same mentality from which today we are combating but it is also a fact that even after the elimination of Khawarij, fundamentalism, extremism, fanaticism and sectarianism could not be eradicated from Muslim society. That is the reality and now it is our duty to eliminate this type of corruption from our society.

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