

Preparing for local government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

D.I.Khan May 25, 2015: It is for the first time in the history of Pakistan that a political government is holding local government elections. This was stated by Deputy Commissioner D. I. Khan, Mr. Nisar Ahmed at a sensitization seminar on Local government Act 2013 organized by the Local Government Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) with the support of Sub- National Governance Programme, here today.

The session was widely participated by ex. nazims, local government functionaries, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and community representatives.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that local government will have around 174 local bodies, with 10-15 members each, in D. I. Khan alone. After the implementation of the Local Government Act, people would have more opportunity for feedback and participation about the infrastructure and development planning as 30% of budget for the provincial Annual Development Programme will be devolved to the district government, he added.

Appreciating the organizers for arranging the seminar , the Deputy Commissioner said that in view of up- coming local elections, such initiatives provide a good opportunity that both the district government functionaries and members of civil society organization to get a better understanding and implications of Local Government Act 2013.

Other speakers at the seminar stressed that fiscal decentralization will result in efficient and effective decision making at the grass root level and reducing service delivery gaps. They further said that local bodies are more in tune with the local issues and are considered nurseries of the democracy.

Local Government Department has held a series of such district level orientation seminars with the support DFID funded Sub-National Governance Programme of government of KP which were attended by district officials, ex-Nazims and CSOs from Lakki Marwatt , Karak Haripur, Nowshera and Buner and Haripur.

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