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COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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PRESS RELEASE

PESHAWAR (PR) August 24, 2019: The Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE) has welcomed the decision of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan and Provincial Information Minister Shaukat Yousafzai for having directed the Information & PRs department to carry out necessary amendments to exempt newspapers from the 5% KPRA tax, annual registration fee, ensure monthly payment of Govt. advertisements and immediate payment of outstanding dues of newspapers against Govt. advertisements and sizable increase in the quantum of Govt. advertisements in order to fulfill the long standing demands of CPNE.

In a joint Press statement CPNE vice president Dr. Hafiz Sanaullah Khan, CPNE KP committee chairman and joint secretary Tahir Farooq on behalf of the CPNE members, have lauded the prompt action taken by the KP govt to resolve the newspapers problems after CPNE delegation meeting with the provincial information minister Shaukat Yousafzai.

They said that this would pave the way to bring the KP Govt. and Press more closer in the larger interest of the province.

A day earlier a delegation of CPNE Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa led by its vice president Dr. Hafiz Sanaullah Khan and CPNE KPK Committee chairman, Tahir Farooq, met the Provincial Information Minister Shaukat Yousafzai and discussed with him the issues of newspapers regarding 5% tax levied by Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Revenue Authority, Rs 20 thousand annual registration fee imposed on newspapers which was never introduced in any province of the country, expansion of quantum of advertisements after merger of Fata with Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, shifting of information directorate to a suitable approachable building to facilitate journalists and improve working of the information staff.

The delegation also urged to introduce more housing schemes for the journalists of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa. The information minister Shaukat Yousafzai who himself is a senior journalist and enriched with vast journalistic experience, held out assurance to the delegation to resolve their problems on emergency basis.

Shaukat Yousafzai met the Chief Minister Mahmood Khan immediately after the meeting and got approval of the fulfillment of the long standing demands of the CPNE including payment of outstanding dues to the newspaper.

Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Mahmood Khan has directed that feasibility of state lands, for establishment of Media Colonies for Journalists, should be undertaken at Kohat Road, Peshawar and Babuzai area of District Swat for facilitation of Journalists.

The Chief Minister has further directed the Information & PRs department to carry out necessary amendments in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Newspapers, News Agencies and book registration act, 2013 as per the demands of CPNE.

While Chairing a high level meeting on the issues of Journalists and the Information Department, the Chief Minister stated that proper projection of people friendly policies and reforms initiatives is paramount not only to create awareness in masses but also to strengthen the state-citizen relationship.

**Released by:
Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE)**