

## PAKISTAN POLITICAL SCENE

### AN UNBIASED OPINION ON HOW PARTIES RATE AGAINST EACH OTHER

#### PAKISTAN TODAY

Pakistan today is in the midst of international and media onslaught, which is designed to create panic and uncertainty about Pakistan's future among its people. Some of it is directed by foreign power and largely it is the media, which has created this negative hype.

India appears to have been propped up to become the regional super power with its economy projected to become bigger than China. What does that mean for Pakistan? It all augurs well. As opposed to a wrong perception created by the vested interest that India will bring Pakistan down to its knees and create its hegemony over Pakistan, India will have to ensure a stable and vibrant Pakistan on its western fringes. Unstable and poor neighbor is always a nuisance and a threat, if it is a nuclear power. India will have to mellow its stance towards Pakistan to avoid trouble from the Western borders. A recent example is a complete silence from India on Baluchistan when the media, some Baluchi leaders suggested an independent Baluchistan. Among other reasons, an independent Baluchistan or for that matter Sind could trigger break up of India, hence such movement/ attempts is not likely to get India's support. Breaking Pakistan is in nobody's interest and therefore it is here to stay.

With regards to the economic prosperity, it will come sooner or later. In fact, as opposed to what the recorded economy suggests, the people are more prosperous. Our unrecorded GDP and business growth would be much higher (if our tax base is 30%, then the multiplier would be 3 times. If the recorded GDP growth is 4% and the tax base is 30% of the business and personal income then the multiplier would be at least 2, if not three, which will give GDP growth at 8%). In any case, Pakistan's unrecorded economy is much more vibrant and strong than the recorded one. There are more and better cars and more motorbikes on the road there is also more spending/ consumption etc. In fact the consumption is outpacing the availability of resources in the energy sector causing a strain on the business and society.

So Pakistan is here to stay, and its economy is prodding along. To further prove Pakistan's resilience one will have to look through the history. Since independence, Pakistan has fought more wars than any other nation after US. It has had most natural calamities in the recent past. It is practically under a civil war in the north for the last ten years. It has had no real governance for most part of its history – By governance I mean governments that would build institutions, strengthen, judiciary, civil order, plan and develop infrastructure. Yet Pakistan has prodded along. Media, political parties and the civil society should strengthen this view and let the events take their own course. Unfortunately, we screen Pakistan through Zardari. If Zardari/ government are corrupt, the Pakistan is bad. We must not look at Pakistan from this perspective. We must differentiate between the good and bad and work towards promoting good over bad.

Now coming on to corruption – a hot subject that is being discussed in media, civil society and political parties. You hear tall claims by some political leaders that they will end corruption in a matter of days and not months. This will not happen. The erosion of corruption can only happen by strengthening checks and balance and an ability of system to prove that corruption cases. The corruption is known to all, but the system has not been able to prove it in a court of law. This is because of the inability (deliberate or otherwise) of Pakistan's investigative agencies, police and other institutions that bring credible evidence to the court of law. They have either done a poor job of collecting evidence or have been bought by the criminals to thwart the effort to bring them to justice. Having said that, some improvement is being seen in one aspect of corruption with the recovery of some money. But we have a long way to go and the corruption will not end in a matter of days or months, it will take years to strengthen the system to stop/ reduce corruption.

## **FLAVOR OF POLITICAL PARTIES WHO HAVE RULED THE COUNTRY OR PROVINCES**

### **PPP**

Successive rules of PPP have brought anxiety in the society, non obedience to judiciary. Good time for its leaders and rampant corruption. Under their rule "All is Well" with a blind eye to the problems faced by the people. They stake their claim to the government on Shaheeds and not performance. They institutionalized corruption and seem to do it with arrogance. PPP has broken all laws and constitution through its arrogance. It has bought and sold loyalties with money. It has no agenda and the top leadership is tainted and busy making money. It lacks talent and has brought inflation, hardships to common man.

### **MQM**

A party with a narrow agenda; serve its own people and its leader and remain in the government. MQM extort's whatever it can from the government through blackmail and civil society to fill coffers of its leader and party. MQM is also a party that has the most divisive agenda. Their so called support from people stems from extortion and it is to be seen how they will fare under neutral conditions. MQM condemns feudalism, although their tactics (extortion and coercion) are same and at a much larger scale that of a feudal lord. A feudal lord's sphere of influence is his own constituency, where as MQM's sphere of extortion and coercion is in large urban areas of Sind.

MQM, however developed / completed road network in Karachi only, but their contribution in Sind is negligible.

### **ANP**

ANP is similar to MQM. Wants to be in power and make money with no real economic social and political agenda. ANP thrives on extortion and Baacha Khan's legacy, which is weakening.

### **PML-Q**

PML Q a Party of Chaudhary brothers. Opportunists and back stabbers. No economic and political agenda, except to remain in power to protect the ill gotten wealth. Like their forefathers, their loyalty is to themselves and with no love for country or Punjab. The part is fragmented.

### **PML N**

PML N is a party that appears to be most sincere to the cause of Pakistan. Its rules have been upbeat in terms of vision and have demonstrated abilities to take Pakistan to the next level of development. Its development work is seen by all (motorway, airports, yellow cab etc.). The Punjab CM, is the only Chief Minister among others, who is busy doing work. He has the slimmest of ministries and he has plans for development for which he also seeks foreign collaboration. PML demonstrated a strong desire to change even to the extent of taking on powerful army to change.

### **JUI F**

They are same as MQM and ANP. The leadership is busy making money by going in and out of the government. Leadership is not trust worthy.

### **PTI**

Though have not been in the government and cannot be judged on track record, PTI doesn't seem to have an agenda. Its talks about change, but doesn't know what kind of change? The leader flip flops and has a tainted past (Sita White) and can be easily blackmailed. He is another Sarkosy.

### **JI**

Though in power through coalition and with Zia ul Haq, JI has not bring about a significant impact/ flavor to the government. Well organized and un-tainted leadership.

With the above synopsis, that broadly discusses the flavor of their governments I have a used a rating system to judge who is best suited to run the country. This is my objective opinion. You do your own score before you vote

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