

INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

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Centre urged to deal more justly with Balochistan

Islamabad

Participants of a roundtable on Balochistan Rights Package and the state of Balochistan economy have demanded that the centre should deal more justly with the miserably under-developed Balochistan so that the long held disenchantment among Balochs could be better redressed.

The forum was jointly organised by ActionAid (Pakistan) and Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) here. Speakers including Dr Rehana Siddiqui, Director Centre of Environmental Economics and Climate Change at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Faisal Nadeem from SDPI, Mahrukh Khan of Institute of Strategic Studies asked the federal government to ensure the just distribution of local resources in Balochistan, so that Baloch people could take ownership of their land and resources.

Participating in the discussion, PPP leader Syeda Abida Hussain said that there can be no progress and prosperity in Balochistan without political stability. She was of the view that it is the political and bureaucratic issue, which are holding back the province.

Gorchani enumerating reasons for its economic backwardness said that so far the centre had not owned Balochistan as a proper federating unit and consequently its economic resources were exploited mercilessly at the cost of local peoples under-development in almost every sphere of social and economic life. He demanded of the government to share Baloch resources more generously with the local people of the province.

Dr Siddiqui drew the attention to indigenous causes of prevalent under-development in the province. She said that one cannot ignore the treatment of Baloch sardars with their own people who are equally responsible for the current miserable state of affairs in Balochistan.

Mahrukh Khan proposed that local people of Balochistan should step in to harness their true potentials not for subversion and violence but for the betterment of its province.

She said that only active local participation can change the current equation and status quo in Balochistan.

Roundtable discusses situation in neglected province

Speakers say Baloch chieftains are also a source of miserable state of affairs

ISLAMABAD - Speakers at a roundtable on Tuesday asked the Centre should to deal with the miserably underdeveloped Balochistan in a justifiable manner, so that the persistent disenchantment prevailing among the Baloch people could be addressed.

The gathering titled 'Balochistan Rights' Package and the State of Balochistan Economy', jointly organised by ActionAid Pakistan (AAPK) and Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), discussed the issues related to current state of economy in Balochistan, status and impact of 'Balochistan Rights Package' and the way forward out of the prevailing entangle in detail.

Dr Rehana Siddiqui, the director of recently-established Centre of Environmental Economics and Climate Change (CEECC) at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics Islamabad, advocacy coordinator at Islamabad-based Sustainable Development Policy Institute Faisal Nadeem Gorchani and Mahrukh Khan of Institute of Strategic Studies said the federal government should ensure a just distribution of local resources to enable the Baloch people taking ownership of their land and assets.

Gorchani highlighted the importance of Balochistan and narrated the reasons for its economic backwardness. He said the Centre had not owned Balochistan so far as a proper federating unit and consequently its economic resources were exploited mercilessly at the cost of local people in almost every sphere of social and economic life.

He added that the government should share the resources more generously with the local people of the province.

On the contrary, Dr Siddiqui said, "We are caught up in bewilderment and only discussing the outcomes of injustices to Balochistan, while neglecting the indigenous causes of prevalent underdevelopment in the province."

She said one could not ignore the treatment by the Baloch chieftains of their own people and, in a way, they (tribal chiefs) were also equally responsible for the current miserable state of affairs.

Mahrukh Khan, while summing up the discussion, proposed that the locals in Balochistan should step in to harness their true potentials not for subversion and violence, rather for the betterment of Balochistan. She said that only their active participation could change the current equation and status quo situation in Balochistan.

Participating in the discussion, PPP leader Syeda Abida Hussain said that there can be no progress and prosperity in Balochistan without political stability. She was of the view that it is the political and bureaucratic issues which are holding back the province.

Conference on Balochistan asks government to be more just

Local sardars, mismanagement of resources cited as main reasons for backwardness

ISLAMABAD - Speakers at a roundtable discussion forum on Tuesday demanded that the centre should be more just in its dealings with the underdeveloped Balochistan so that the long-held disenchantment among Balochs is addressed. In a roundtable discussion forum “Balochistan Rights’ Package and the State of Balochistan Economy” jointly organised by ActionAid Pakistan (AAPK) and Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), issues related to current state of Balochistan economy, status and impact of ‘Balochistan Rights Package’ on it were discussed. Speakers including Dr Rehana Siddiqui, director of recently established Centre of Environmental Economics and Climate Change (CEECC) at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad, Faisal Nadeem Gorchani, advocacy coordinator at Islamabad based Sustainable Development Policy Institute, and Mahrukh Khan of Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad said that the federal government should ensure the just distribution of local resources in Balochistan, so that Baloch people could take ownership of their land and resources. Gorchani highlighted the importance of Balochistan and narrated the reasons for its economic backwardness. He said so far the centre had not owned Balochistan as a proper federating unit and consequently its economic resources were exploited mercilessly at the cost of local peoples’ under-development in almost every sphere of social and economic life. He added that the government of Pakistan should share Baloch resources more generously with the local people of the province. On the contrary, Dr Rehana said the people were caught in bewilderment and were only discussing the outcomes of injustices to Balochistan, while neglecting the indigenous causes of prevalent under-development in the province. She said one cannot ignore the treatment of Baloch sardars with their own people and in a way they (sardars) were also equally responsible for the current miserable state of affairs in Balochistan. Marukh, summing up the discussion, proposed that local people of Balochistan should step in to harness their true potentials not for subversion and violence but for the betterment of Balochistan. She said only active local peoples’ participation can change the current equation. Participating in the discussion, PPP leader Syeda Abida Hussain said that there can be no progress and prosperity in Balochistan without political stability. She was of the view that the political and bureaucratic issues were holding the province back.