



Centre for Peace and
Development Initiatives

November 2016

CPDI Right to Information Watch

Editorial:

Greetings from the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives, (CPDI).

If you have been holding your breath in anticipation of a good federal RTI law, you can breathe now. After kicking can on the road for close to four years with regard to legislation on right to information, federal government has finally come up with Right of Access to Information Bill 2016. The bill reveals paper thin understanding of our representatives about the significance of effective RTI legislation. Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives, (CPDI) analyzed this law on the [yardstick of standards of effective RTI legislation](#) and found it wanting on many counts. Coalition on Right to Information, a consortium of 48 civil society organizations and CPNE has rightly expressed their concerns about this bill. It is hoped that federal government will adopt Right to Information Bill 2016 unanimously approved by Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, and drop this bill prepared by federal bureaucracy with no public consultation. Civil society groups and media should keep pushing the envelope till federal government comes up with an effective right to information law to facilitate citizens in the exercise of their constitutional right of access to information.

RTI Legislative Landscape

Federal RTI Bill: Structurally Flawed and Ineffective

There has been consensus in the country that Federal Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002 is structurally flawed and ineffective. That is why both PPP and PMLN promised in the Charter of Democracy that this ordinance will be repealed and a new law would be enacted. What is mind boggling is that federal cabinet has approved a bill which is modelled on the structurally flawed ordinance it seeks to repeal. That is why all stakeholders have outrightly rejected this bill. Senator Farhat Ullah Babar has said that Senate might [reject](#) this bill. CPNE has expressed its [concerns](#). CRTI, a consortium of 48 civil society organizations has [rejected](#) this bill. Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives, (CPDI) has found it wanting on the yardstick of standards of RTI legislation and has urged government to adopt Right to Information Bill 2016 approved by Senate Committee on Information and Broadcasting.

RTI in Action

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa gets new Chief Information Commissioner

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has [appointed](#) Mr. Azmat Haneef Orakzai as 2nd Chief Information Commissioner after Sahibzada Khalid reached the age of superannuation. It is a welcome development as Mr. Orakzai is a dynamic civil servant and has deep understanding of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Information Act 2013 as he was Secretary, Information Department when this law was enacted.

Transparency and Right to Information Program

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