

# Media Update

18 August 2015

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## ILO

### PRESS RELEASE

## ILO pledges continued support for the realisation of Decent Work in KP Province

Peshawar, Monday 17 August 2015: The Province of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KP) should give priority to a Youth Employment Strategy to ensure productive engagement of youth and desist them from antisocial activities. This was stated by Mr Francesco d'Ovidio, Country Director ILO Islamabad during a press briefing in KP Province during his final mission to Peshawar where he met with the Secretary Labour KPK, the Secretary, Planning & Development Department (P&DD) KPK and the stakeholders from Government, Employers and Workers – in addition to a media briefing session.

During his meeting with the Secretary Labour KPK, Mr Kifayatullah Khan, matters relating to strengthening labour legislation, improving labour inspection and enhancing employment opportunities for young women and men in KP Province were discussed in detail. The Secretary Labour appreciated ILO's engagement with Labour Department and assured his support in taking forward the labour inspection reform process in the province. Mr Francesco d'Ovidio apprised the Secretary on the process of developing next 'Decent Work Programme (DWCP: 2016-2021) which will identify the prioritized areas for ILO's technical support in next six years.

In another meeting with Secretary P&DD, Mr Zafar Ali Shah, the ongoing support of ILO on Social Protection was discussed at length and it was agreed that the two institutions would continue working together to put in place a coordinated social protection system in the province.

In a separate meeting with media representatives, in the presence of Government, Employers and Workers representatives, Mr d'Ovidio commended the Government of KP in advancing labour legislation and

strengthening labour administration system in the province. He stressed the need for the province to continue working on the elimination of child and bonded labour and engage young women and men to engage in productive activities. The representatives of tripartite constituents appreciated the technical support of ILO in enhancing the labour welfare initiatives and especially the personal efforts of the Country Director in such matters. The Employers' representative, Haji Muhammad Javaid, said that ILO always supported the province during unfortunate events including flood, earthquake and the incidence of TDPs. The Director of Labour Department, Mr Irfanullah Khan said that during last four years, the distance between Government of KP and ILO had been minimized and a good working relationship has been established. The Workers' representative, Mr Raazim Khan thanked ILO for technical support in the area of labour legislation. He also pointed out some concerns on exclusion of 'Private Schools' from the application of 'Payment of Wages Act 2013' and requested for ILO's technical support in its inclusion in the law.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is promoting Decent Work Agenda through its tripartite structure including Government, Employers and Workers. ILO has adopted 189 Conventions since 1919 out of which Pakistan has ratified 36 Conventions – which includes eight fundamental conventions on elimination of child labour, prohibition of Forced Labour, reducing discrimination at work; and promoting freedom of association and collective bargaining. ILO is providing technical support to the Federal and Provincial Governments for effective implementation and reporting on ratified Conventions.

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