

**IN THE HONOURABLE SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN**  
(Original Jurisdiction)

C.M.A. No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 2023

IN

C.P. No. 9 of 2023

**Sardar Kashif Khan**

.....Petitioner

V.

**Federation of Pakistan and others**

.....Respondents

(Negotiations on Holding General Elections to the National Assembly  
and all Provincial Assemblies on the Same Date)

**CONCISE STATEMENT**

It is most respectfully submitted as follows:

1. During the hearing of cases regarding conduct of General Elections to the Punjab and KP Assemblies, it was submitted that political parties should endeavor to resolve political issues through dialogue and this Honourable Court should not enter the political thicket. The coalition partners in the Federal Government began the process to evolve consensus among political parties which are part of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and the Pakistan Peoples' Party (collectively, the Coalition Partners). PML(N) and PPP constituted their respective committees for the purposes of achieving consensus among the Coalition Partners.
2. On 20-04-2023, it was submitted before this Honourable Court that the Coalition Partners were ready to hold dialogue but needed time to evolve internal consensus. Ultimately, the Coalition Partners, barring two, agreed on a dialogue with the PTI to be held in the Senate Secretariat facilitated by its Chairman. Senate, being House of the Federation, was considered the most suitable venue for the purposes of holding political dialogue between the Coalition Partners and the PTI.

3. The instant petition next came up for hearing on 27-04-2023. This Honourable Court was informed that the first meeting, to begin the dialogue between the committees constituted by the Coalition Partners and the PTI, would take place later in the day on 27-04-2023 in the Senate Secretariat.
4. The committee of the Coalition Partners included, Mohammad Ishaq Dar (Minister for Finance & Revenue), Kh. Saad Rafique (Minister for Railways & Aviation), Azam Nazir Tarar (Minister for Law & Justice) representing PML(N), Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani (former Prime Minister of Pakistan), Syed Naveed Qamar (Minister for Trade & Commerce) representing PPP, Tariq Bashir Cheema (Minister for National Food Security & Research) representing PML(Q), Ms. Kishwar Zehra (MNA) representing MQM and Mr. Sanaullah Baloch (MPA) representing BNP (Mengal). While the PTI committee comprised of Shah Mehmood Qureshi (Vice Chairman), Fawad Chaudhry (SVP) and Senator Syed Ali Zafar.
5. Both committees held five (5) formal sessions on 27-04-2023, 28-04-2023 and 02-05-2023, in addition to the informal talks that took place between 29-04-2023 and 01-05-2023. Coalition Partners' committee apprised the PTI committee that the talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and friendly countries are at the most sensitive and crucial stages. In order to avoid any further economic deterioration, it is of utmost necessity that the agreements with the IMF and friendly countries are concluded before the Annual Budget 2023-24 can be presented/approved. The following information was shared with the PTI committee by the undersigned:
  - (i) Pakistani economy declined from being the 24<sup>th</sup> global economy in 2017, and was projected to be part of G 20 economies by 2030, to a dismal 47<sup>th</sup> in 2022;
  - (ii) Public debt rose from PKR 25 Trillion in 2018 to PKR 44 Trillion in 2022 (78% increase);
  - (iii) Public debt and liabilities rose from PKR 30 Trillion in 2018 to PKR 53 Trillion in 2022 (79% increase);

- (iv) In Power Sector, circular debt increased from PKR 1,148 Billion in 2018 to PKR 2,467 Billion in 2022 (115% increase);
- (v) From the best performing emerging stock market in South Asia and 5<sup>th</sup> best globally, it stands down graded to a frontier market;
- (vi) Market capitalization of PSX declined from over USD 100 Billion in 2018 to USD 26 Billion in 2022;
- (vii) Physical and economic losses on account of the devastating floods of 2022 amount to over USD 31 Billion.

In view of the foregoing, the undersigned pointed out that it was absolutely critical to conclude the IMF ninth review, pass the Annual Budget for FY 2023-24 and approve the Trade Policy 2023-24 before dissolving the National Assembly.

6. The PTI committee acknowledged the gravity of economic challenges being faced by Pakistan and agreed to negotiate on holding General Elections to the National and all Provincial Assemblies on the same date. The Coalition Partners also showed flexibility to reach political settlement and considered dissolving the National and two Provincial Assemblies before the end of their constitutionally mandated terms. Neogitations between both committees consequently led to a major break through to end the political impasse, resulting in the following:
  - (i) Consensus amongst all participants that the general elections be held on the same date;
  - (ii) The committees further agreed that the caretaker governments should be in place at both the federal and provincial levels for holding general elctions justly, fairly and in accordance with law and to provide level playing field to the leadership of all political parties to actively participate in the electoralprocess;
  - (iii) There is, however, no agreement on date of dissolution of the National and Provincial Assemblies of Sindh and Balochistan, and both committees had agreed on 02-05-2023 to resume negotiations after getting clearance from their respective leadership.

As is evident from the foregoing, significant progress has been made since the dialogue process began. The Coalition Partners believe that political issues can best be resolved through dialogue and are ready to resume the same in the larger national interest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ishaq Dar', written in a cursive style.

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**Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar**