

June 15, 2011

**Philippines' Ambassador says BISP is a commendable initiative to curb poverty
Chairperson BISP Ms. Farzana Raja briefed the Ambassador regarding various pro-poor
initiatives of BISP; Says both countries can learn from each other's experiences**

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is a commendable programme in social sector and a step in right direction for poverty alleviation. Philippines also have a social safety net initiative to curb poverty and women and children have been focused by this initiative. Pakistan and Philippines may share their experiences regarding these initiatives aiming to provide relief to poor segments of society. Mr. Jesus I. Yabes, Ambassador of Philippines designated in Pakistan, said this while talking to Ms. Farzana Raja, Chairperson BISP here at BISP Secretariat Wednesday. Mr. Jesus Yabes informed chairperson BISP about conditional cash grant linked with education that has been



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Ms. Farzana Raja talking to H. E. Mr. Jesus I. Yabes, Ambassador of Philippines in Pakistan, in a meeting held here at BISP Secretariat. (Dated: June 15, 2011)

launched in Philippines. Ms. Farzana Raja, on the occasion, presented details of various initiatives of BISP aiming at poverty alleviation as well as women empowerment in society. She also informed the visiting ambassador that poverty survey, a transparent and effective mechanism has also been initiated by BISP to identify deserving poor families.

Ms. Farzana Raja said that conditional cash transfer initiative is also in pipeline and would be introduced in near future. She said that to make the delivery mechanism of BISP more effective and transparent,

state of the art technology i.e. Benazir Smart Cards and Mobile Phone Banking has also been introduced successfully.

Mr. Yabes also extended an invitation to Chairperson BISP to pay a visit to Philippines which she accepted and said that she is eager to share the experiences of BISP with Philippines' friends and vice versa.