

August 2009

**Benazir Income Support Programme is transparent Public Program
President World Bank Robert. B. Zoellick**

President World Bank, Robert B. Zoellick declared Benazir Income Support Program as a transparent public program that is non-partisan and is designed for reducing poverty across Pakistan. He appreciated that the programme is receiving praise and recognition in the international community. He said this in a meeting with Federal Minister and Chairperson, Benazir Income Support Programme, Ms. Farzana Raja in Washington. The Federal Minister was accompanied by President Think Tank International, Dr. Ammar Turabi.



Washington: President World Bank Robert. B. Zoellick with Federal Minister/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Farzana Raja and President Think Tank International, Dr. Ammar Turabi.

President World Bank declared BISP a social revolution in Pakistan and appreciated the statement of Secretary General Ban-Ki-Moon that BISP is an example for other countries to follow. He emphasized the need for introducing Health and Accident Insurance and Vocational Training schemes under BISP for which a delegation of World Bank would visit Pakistan soon. He assured his full support to Benazir Income Support Program.

On this occasion President World Bank thanked President Think Tank International Dr. Ammar Turabi for his commendable efforts in mobilizing Think Tank International and Corporate sector for the support of BISP.

In the meeting which lasted for more than an hour. The President World Bank said that BISP is a source of relief for the poor people in Pakistan during the War Against Terror, and BISP is providing relief at their door step without hurting their self esteem.

He said that the important feature of this program is that it carries full support of opposition parties, coalition parties and the Pakistan Army as well. He congratulated the Federal Minister for successfully taking this program forward.

President World Bank appreciated the efforts of BISP member ministries – Economic Affairs, Finance, Information & Broadcasting and Planning Commission and expressed the World Bank's continued support for BISP. President World Bank specially appreciated the efforts of Government of Pakistan and the role of Armed forces for the relief and rehabilitation of Swat/Malakand IDP's.

He appreciated the efforts of President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani. Chairperson, Farzana Raja invited President World Bank Mr. Robert B Zoellick to visit Pakistan, which he accepted.