

January 3, 2013

- **BISP takes another step towards upholding transparency**
- **BISP takes Transparency International onboard to further strengthen transparency**
BISP signs MoU with Transparency International
- **BISP is like an open book and this agreement will further strengthen people's confidence in BISP. Farzana Raja**

Islamabad, 3 January 2013: In its efforts to further strengthen its accountability mechanisms and adopt best practices of procurement, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has signed an MoU with Transparency International Pakistan. According to the agreement Transparency International will provide oversight and expertise for BISP's procurement processes to ensure integration of international standards and compliance with rules of Government of Pakistan. Transparency International will also ensure Redressal of grievances and complaints regarding BISP procurement.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary BISP Mohammad Sher Khan and Sohail Muzaffar of Transparency International, Pakistan signing MOU in the presence of Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP, Madame Farzana Raja, at BISP Secretariat. (Dated: January 3, 2013)

The MoU was signed by Mr. Sohail Muzaffar, Chairman, Transparency International Pakistan and Mr. Muhamamd Sher Khan, Secretary, BISP in the presence of Madame Farzana Raja, Federal Minister and Chairperson, BISP. Mr. Sohail Muzaffar welcomed BISP's decision and said "We are grateful to the Chairperson of BISP for taking us onboard. It shows government's commitment for transparent systems. I hope that BISP will continue to work for the betterment of the people of Pakistan."

Speaking on the occasion, Madame Farzana Raja said "During past four years of serving the poor, BISP has maintained and ensured transparency and accountability on every level. To further enhance the integrity, BISP is taking a credible institution like Transparency International on board as an autonomous monitor of BISP's procurement processes. BISP is like an open book and this agreement will further strengthen people's confidence in BISP. BISP already has transparent system in place which include technology based solutions, internal and external accountability mechanisms and third party evaluations. BIS has already attained international recognition for its efficiency, corporate style of governance and transparency. To add to these systems, BISP is taking Transparency International on board to reinforce its transparency"

She further said "BISP has completed poverty census in five agencies of FATA including Muhammad Agency, Khyber Agency, Bajor Agency, Kurram Agency and Orakzai Agency. More than 170,000 families are benefitting from BISP interventions in FATA. Also for the first time in Pakistan, BISP has launched health insurance programme for poor. Initially 90,000 families have been included in health insurance programme in Faisalabad in the pilot phase. The programme will soon be rolled out nationwide.