

**Government of Pakistan
Benazir Income Support Programme**

Press Release

Dated: Sep 16, 2011

Philippines Government offers partnership with State Life for BISP's Health Insurance Programme;

Philippines Legislators applaud Pakistan Government for launching BISP; Urge ASEAN and other Asian Countries to follow

Madame Farzana Raja holds important meetings in Manila

The health of marginalized segment of society is a prime concern of the developing countries. In the realization of the same phenomenon, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has launched exclusive measures aiming to cater the health related needs of the poor in the country. Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP, Madame Farzana Raja said this while talking with President PhilHealth



Manila: Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Madame Farzana Raja receiving a memento from high level officials of Philippines Government. Pakistan's Ambassador in Philippines Mr. Mohsin Razi also present on the occasion (Dated: Sep 16, 2011)

(a health concern of public sector of Philippines) Dr. Rey B. Aquino here in Manila

In another high level meeting with Madame Farzana Raja, the Philippines' legislators applauded the efforts of the Government of Pakistan for launching a great endeavor in the form of BISP and were of the view that the programme should be replicated as an ideal social safety net in ASEAN and other South East Asian countries.

The Philippines' Government officials expressed their desire to adopt the modern and innovative systems of BISP which has turned it into a successful social safety net programme.

It should be noted also that various Asian and other developing countries have shown their interest in BISP due to its modern technology based systems for which negotiations are underway between Chairperson BISP, its management and the governments of those countries.

Another highlight was that the Philippines Government had offered to partnership with State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan for a comprehensive health insurance scheme for BISP.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Muhammad Sher Khan, Secretary BISP, Mr. Mohsin Razi, Pakistan's Ambassador in Philippines, Mr. Al Francis DC. Bichara, Chairperson of Foreign Affairs Committee (House of Representatives, Philippines), Mr. Victor F. Ortega, Member Interparliamentary Relations and Diplomacy (House of Representatives, Philippines), Mr. Siraj Shamsuddin, Alternate Executive Director, ADB, Ms. Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro, Assistant Secretary (Asia Pacific), Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jose S. Alejandro, Vice President Philippines' Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Earlier, Chairperson BISP was given a detailed presentation on the operations of the Philhealth. The Chairperson observed that Philhealth is a very comprehensive social health protection programme and specifically lauded its free health coverage for the marginalized segment of the society.

During discussion Madame Farzana Raja informed the President and top management of PhilHealth about Waseela-e-Sehet initiative of BISP which aims at providing not only the health insurance to millions of beneficiary families but also provides life insurance to them.

President Philhealth was impressed by the measures taken by BISP to ensure transparency in the Programme and appreciated the progress made by BISP so far.

Chairperson invited the President and his team to visit Pakistan and explore the avenues where Philhealth can be of useful in implementation of the health insurance facility for BISP beneficiaries.

At the end, Madame Farzana Raja thanked the Philippines's Government and people for their cordial hospitality and termed her visit as memorable experience of her life. She said that BISP is ready to share experiences with the world and especially Asian countries like Philippines. She assured of enhanced bilateral cooperation between the two countries for poverty alleviation, provision of health & education facilities with an improved standard of life for all