



**CODE OF  
CONDUCT  
FOR  
MINISTERS**

Government of Pakistan  
Cabinet Division  
1986

## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MINISTERS

1. The guiding principle for the conduct of Ministers is embodied in the Oath of Office that pledges them to bear true faith and allegiance to Pakistan, to discharge their duties honestly and faithfully in accordance with the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the law, and in the interest of the sovereignty, integrity, solidarity, well being and prosperity of Pakistan, to strive to preserve the Islamic Ideology which is the basis for the creation of Pakistan, and not to allow personal interest to influence their official decisions. A copy of the Oath is attached to these rules.

2. Ministers are expected to act as a team in carrying out the task of Government, and in accordance with the principle of collective responsibility. Each Minister should, therefore, respect all policy decisions of Government even if he personally disagrees with any particular decision, and should refrain from expressing views contrary to, or inconsistent with, such a decision. He has the option to resign, but in no case, should he try to clear himself of the responsibility for the decision by disassociating himself from it while he continues to be a Minister.

3. In the performance of their duties and functions, the over-riding consideration of the Ministers should be the overall interest of the country, and not of a particular region, or of a particular section of the people.

4. Unless it is necessary to do so in defence of a Government decision, a Minister should confine his public statements to matters relating to the Portfolio under his own charge. Particular care must be taken in respect of statements bearing on foreign affairs or relations with other States.

5. Care must also be taken by a Minister when making a public statement relating to a proposal, a scheme, or a policy, that might be under Government consideration, and on which a final decision is in doubt. Special care is required in respect of statements regarding duties or taxes, and nothing should be said to give the slightest cause for speculation regarding these.

6. Before accepting invitations from private persons or non-official bodies to inaugurate, preside over, or be chief guest at public functions, a Minister is advised to check their antecedents with the local authorities or the appropriate Ministry of the Federal Government.

7. Unless it is necessary for official reasons, a Minister should not accept invitations to social functions held by members of the Diplomatic Corps. As regards official receptions by foreign Missions, it will be for Ministry of Foreign Affairs to request one or more Ministers to attend.

8. When a dignitary from a foreign country or a member of the Diplomatic Corps desires to meet a Minister on official business, the discussion should be confined to questions with which the Ministry concerned is competent to deal. If questions of foreign policy or political relations are raised, directly or by implication, the dignitary or member of the Diplomatic Corps may be advised to take up such questions with Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A copy of the record of discussions with the dignitary or member of the Diplomatic Corps should be furnished to that Ministry. If possible, a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of appropriate status, should be present during such a meeting.

9. In case a member of the Diplomatic Corps takes the initiative in establishing contact with a Minister on private business, information of the fact that he did so, should be sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

10. Ministers should not receive any gifts from their subordinates. If a visiting foreign dignitary presents a gift to a Minister, which becomes embarrassing to decline, it should be reported to the Cabinet Division, indicating whether the Minister would wish to retain it. Cabinet Division will assess the value of the gift, and if it exceeds Rs. 10,000, the Minister will be required to pay the difference worked out in accordance with the instructions in force. If he does not wish to retain it, the gift will be sent to Cabinet Division for keeping in the Toshakhana. This rule will also apply to the wife and dependants of the Minister.

11. Every Minister on assuming office and also subsequently at the time of relinquishing his office will fill in the proforma according to the enclosed format for declaration of assets of his own, his wife's and his near blood relatives. This will be sent in duplicate in a sealed confidential cover to

the Cabinet Secretary. Changes if any, will be intimated on or immediately after occurrence.

12. A Minister should not be associated with any public or private company or partnership, during his tenure of office, except in the following capacities :—

- a. share holder.
- b. sleeping partner.
- c. honorary director of a non-profit-making institution.
- d. *ex-officio* director on behalf of Government, in a company, in which Government has invested from public funds.

13. On assuming office, a Minister may give a power of attorney to anybody of his choice to look after those of his interests in a business undertaking from which he had to disassociate himself under rule 12 above. This also applies to the sole proprietorship firms.

14. A Minister should not speculate in investments, and, for this purpose, habitual purchase and sale of securities of notoriously fluctuating value will be deemed to be speculation in investments. He should also not make, or permit any member of his family to make any investment likely to embarrass or influence him in the discharge of his official duties. Nor should he make any investment the value of which is likely to be affected by some event of which information is available to him as a Minister, and is not equally available to the general public.

15. For undertaking tours abroad on official business, rules or instructions governing such tours, issued by Cabinet Division from time to time should be strictly observed by the Ministers. Notice of the tour, with its details, should be given to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in good time, so that it may make proper arrangements with, or through the Governments of the countries concerned. The Minister should politely decline any offer by a private institution to pay for his expenses during his visit abroad.

16. In respect of administrative matters relating to Ministries/ Divisions under their charge, Ministers may issue general directions or standing instructions, whenever necessary. They should not concern themselves with individual cases, unless a breach of rules, general directions, or standing instructions is duly brought to their notice. In all such cases, Ministers may call for necessary papers and issue suitable directives in order to ensure justice and fairplay, subject to the Rules of Business.

17. Ministers should set an example of simplicity and austerity by their public conduct, and by shunning ostentatious living and lavish entertainment. It is expected that all Ministers will set personal examples, in the performance of Deeni Faraiz, in the use of national dress, and the national language.

18. Finally, the Ministers should heed the advice given by Hazrat Ali to Malik-e-Ashter, Governor of Egypt. "Do not give up those practices and traditions and do not break those rules and regulations, which good Muslims have evolved or introduced before you, which have created unity and amity among the various sections of the society and which have done good to the masses."

General  
(M. Zia-ul-Haq)  
*President*

**OATH OF OFFICE  
FEDERAL MINISTER OR MINISTER OF STATE**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*(In the name of Allah, the most Beneficent, the most Merciful.)*

I,  
do solemnly swear that I will bear true faith and allegiance to Pakistan :

That, as Federal Minister (or Minister of State); I will discharge my duties, and perform my functions, honestly, to the best of my ability, faithfully in accordance with the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the law, and always in the interest of the sovereignty, integrity, solidarity, well-being and prosperity of Pakistan :

That I will strive to preserve the Islamic Ideology which is the basis for the creation of Pakistan :

That I will not allow my personal interest to influence my official conduct or my official decisions :

That I will preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan :

That, in all circumstances, I will do right to all manner of people, according to law, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will :

And that I will not directly or indirectly communicate or reveal to any person any matter which shall be brought under my consideration or shall become known to me as Federal Minister (or Minister of State), except as may be required for the due discharge of my duties as Federal Minister (or Minister of State), or as may be specially permitted by the Prime Minister.

May Allah Almighty help and guide me (A'meen).

**CONFIDENTIAL  
PROFORMA  
(ASSETS AND LIABILITIES)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ son of \_\_\_\_\_ resident of \_\_\_\_\_  
 wife of \_\_\_\_\_

hereby declare assets and liabilities held by me or my dependents at the time of my assumption of office of the Federal Minister/Minister of State.

**PART I  
(Assets and properties)**

Name	In whose name held	District in which immovable property is situated	Particulars of movable property	Particulars of pearls, precious stones, jewellery etc.	Extent of interest in property	Approximate value of property	How acquired whether by purchase, gift or by inheritance	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

**PART II  
(Liabilities)**

Name	In whose name held	Particulars of liabilities	Extent of liability in terms of rupees	REMARKS
1	2	3	4	5

Signature.....

Name (in block letters).....

Place.....

Date .....