

**THE AZAD GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF JAMMU &
KASHMIR, LAW & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
SECRETARIAT, MUZAFFARABAD**

Dated the 7th February, 1981.

No./ /SL/81. The following Ordinance made by the President on the 7th day of February, 1981, is hereby published for general information:-

(ORDINANCE XXVIII OF 1981)

AN

ORDINANCE

to provide for law relating to the constitution of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Shariat Court

WHEREAS in pursuance of Section 31 sub-section (5) of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution Act, 1974, the existing laws are to be brought in conformity with Quran and Sunnah:

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for law relating to the Constitution of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Shariat Court, in the manner hereinafter appearing;

AND WHEREAS the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 41 of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution Act, 1974, the President is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance:-

1. **Short title, Extent and Commencement.**- (1) This Ordinance may be called the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Shariat Court Ordinance, 1981.
 - (2) It extends to the whole of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.
 - (3) It shall come into force at once.
2. **Definitions.**- In this Ordinance, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:-
 - (a) 'Council' means the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council;
 - (b) 'Chairman' means Chairman or the Court;
 - (c) 'Court' means the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Shariat Court constituted under this Ordinance;

- (d) 'Government' means the Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir;
- (e) 'High Court' means the Azad Jammu and Kashmir High Court;
- (f) 'Judge' in relation to the Supreme Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir or the High Court includes the Chief Justice of Supreme Court or as the case may be High Court and also includes Additional Judge of the High Court;
- (g) 'Law' includes any custom or usage having the force of law but for the purpose of exercising jurisdiction under Section 4 does not include the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution Act, 1974, Muslim Personal Law, any law relating to the procedure of any Court or Tribunal or, until the expiration of three years from the commencement of this Ordinance any fiscal law or any law relating to the levy and collection of taxes and fees or banking or insurance practice and procedure;
- (h) 'Member' means member of the Court;
- (i) 'State Subject' means the State Subject as defined in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution Act, 1974; and
- (j) 'Supreme Court' means the Supreme Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

3. **The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Shariat Court.**- (1) There shall be constituted for the purposes of this Ordinance a Court to be called the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Shariat Court.

(2) The Court shall consist of two members, including the Chairman, to be appointed by the President.

(3) The Chairman shall be a person who is, or has been or is qualified to be a Judge of the Supreme Court and a member shall be a person who is, or has been or is qualified to be a Judge of a High Court.

(4) The Chairman and a member shall hold office for a period not exceeding three years:

Provided that a retired Judge appointed as Chairman or member shall not hold office later than three years from the date of his retirement.

- (5) The principal seat of the Court shall be at Muzaffarabad.
- (6) Before entering upon office, the Chairman and a member shall make before the President or a person nominated by him oath in the form set out in the Schedule.
- (7) At any time when the Chairman or a member is absent or is unable to perform the functions of his office, the President shall appoint another person qualified for the purpose to act as Chairman or, as the case may be, the member.
- (8)
 - (i) A Chairman who is not a Judge of the Supreme Court shall be entitled to the same salary, allowances and privileges as are admissible to a Judge of the Supreme Court and a member who is not a Judge of a High Court shall be entitled to the same salary, allowances and privileges as are admissible to a Judge of a High Court.
 - (ii) A sitting Judge if appointed as Chairman or member of the Shariat Court shall be entitled to the same salary, allowances, privileges as are admissible to such Judge, before appointment as Chairman or as the case may be, the member in the Shariat Court.

4. **Powers, jurisdiction and functions of the Court.-** (1) The Court may, on the petition of a citizen of Azad Jammu and Kashmir or the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government, examine and decide the question whether or not any law or provision of law is repugnant to the Injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet, hereinafter referred to as the Injunctions of Islam.

- (2) If the Court decides that any law or provision of law is repugnant to the Injunction of Islam, it shall set out in its decision:-
 - (a) the reasons for its holding that opinion; and
 - (b) the Extent to which such law or provision is so repugnant and specify the day on which the decision shall take effect.
- (3) If any law or provision of law is held by the Court to be repugnant to the Injunctions of Islam,-
 - (a) the President in the case of a law with respect to a matter not enumerated in Council List, shall take steps to

amend the Law so as to bring such law or provision into conformity with the Injunctions of Islam; and

(b) such law or provision shall, to the extent to which it is held to be so repugnant, cease to have effect on the day on which the decision of the Court takes effect.

(4) In deciding the cause or a matter pending before the Shariat Court in case of difference of opinion the view of Chairman shall prevail.

5. **Powers and procedure of the Court.** (1) For the purposes of the performance of its functions, the Court shall have the powers as are vested in the High Court while exercising original civil jurisdiction.

(2) All directions and orders passed or process issued by the Court shall be enforceable and executed in Azad Jammu and Kashmir as if it has been issued by the High Court.

(3) The Court shall have power to conduct its proceedings and regulate its procedure in all respects as it deems fit.

(4) The Court shall have the power of a High Court to punish its own contempt.

(5) A party to any proceedings before the Court under the Ordinance may be represented by a legal practitioner who is a Muslim and has been enrolled as an advocate of a High Court for a period of not less than five years or as an advocate of the Supreme Court or by a jurisconsult selected by the party from out of a panel of jurisconsults maintained by the Court for the purpose.

(6) For being eligible to have his name borne on the panel of jurisconsults referred to in clause (5), a person shall be a 'aalim' who in the opinion of the Court, is well-versed Shariat.

(7) A legal practitioner or jurisconsult representing a party before the Court shall not plead for the party but shall state, expound and interpret the Injunctions of Islam relevant to the proceedings so far as may be known to him and submit to the Court a written statement of his interpretation of such Injunctions of Islam.

(8) The Court may invite any person in Azad Jammu and Kashmir or abroad whom the Court considers to be well-versed in Islamic law to appear before it and render such assistance as may be required of him.

(9) No Court-fee shall be payable in respect of any petition or application to the Court under this Ordinance.

6. **Bar or Jurisdiction.-** Save as provided under this Ordinance no Court or tribunal, including the Supreme Court and a High Court shall entertain any proceedings or exercise any power or jurisdiction in any matter when the Shariat Court has the power to adjudicate and determine.

7. **Pending proceedings to continue, etc.-** (1) Subject to subsection (2) nothing in this Ordinance shall be deemed to require any proceedings pending in any Court or tribunal immediately before the commencement of this Ordinance or initiated after such commencement, to be adjourned or stayed by reason only of a petition having been made to the Court for a decision as to whether or not a law or provision of law relevant to the decision of the point in issue in such proceedings is repugnant to the Injunctions of Islam; and all such proceedings shall continue, and the point in issue therein shall be decided, in accordance with the law for the time being in force.

(2) All proceedings pending before any High Court, Shariat Bench or in the Appellate Shariat Bench immediately before the commencement of this Ordinance shall stand transferred to the Court and shall be dealt with by the Court from the stage from which they are so transferred.

(3) The Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction under this Ordinance shall not grant an injunction or make any interim order in relation to any proceedings pending in any other Court or Tribunal.

8. **Administrative Arrangements, etc.-** The Government shall make all such administrative arrangements, and make available to the Court the services of such officers and experts, as it may consider necessary for the convenient performance of the functions of the Court.

9. **Power to make rules.-** (1) The Court may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may make provision in respect of all or any of the following matters, namely:-

(a) the scale of payment of honoraria to be made to jurisconsults, experts and witnesses summoned by the Court to defray the expenses, if any, incurred by them in

attending for the purposes of the proceedings before the Court; and

(b) the form of oath to be made by a jurisconsult, expert or witness appearing before the Court.

(3) Until rules are made under sub-section (1) of this Section the Shariat Benches of Superior Courts Rules, 1980, shall, with the necessary modifications and so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance, continue in force.

10. The Chairman or member shall take oath as prescribed in the Schedule.

11. **Repeal.-** The Constitution of Shariat Benches or Superior Courts Ordinance (Ordinance CII of 1980) is hereby repealed.

SCHEDULE

'Chairman or member of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Shariat Court, under Section 3 of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Shariat Court Ordinance, 1980.'

I,, do solemnly swear that, as the Chairman (or a member) of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Shariat Court, I will discharge my duties, and perform my functions honestly to the best of my ability and faithfully in accordance with law;

And that I will not allow my personal interest to influence my official conduct or my official decisions.

(Muhammad Hayat Khan)
President,
Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

Sd/- (Syed Muhammad Akram Shah)
Secretary Law.