

## **Press Release**

### **Clarification about Capacity Building Programme**

Karachi, August 12, 2014: A spokesperson of Reform Support Unit(RSU) Education and Literacy department (ELD) government of Sindh has taken serious note of the news item published in some sections of the media regarding study and training tour to Malaysia and termed it a part of vilification campaign against the education reforms in Sindh.

It's very deplorable that the one section of the media termed it `summer excursions` which could be the innovation of a reporter and it is far from the facts and how it is possible that two different Urdu newspapers have carried the story as their exclusive and the language of both the papers is same, spokesperson questioned.

The purpose of establishment of RSU is, to prepare policy based on best practices in the world improve monitoring, evaluation and feedback mechanism and coordination and communication with the stakeholders to implement reforms in Sindh.

To achieve the above objectives the trainings, workshops, seminars and visits are essential. This is not the first time that the decision makers consisting upon the elected members of Sindh Assembly, high officials of ELD and concerned managers of RSU are visiting any country, he informed. Such similar trainings, study, capacity building and staff exposure tours planned and executed in the past to effectively implement the reforms in education sector of Sindh, he elaborated.

Both the Urdu newspapers have declared Chief Programme Manager CPM as `controversial` and they repeatedly used the word and it seems that the reporters have personal problem with her.

The fact is that whenever any international donor approves any loan or grant, it will earmark funds under the head of Technical Assistance to support and effectively implement the programme. Similarly in this case World bank has marked the funds to train the staff and to build their capacity and such funds only be released for the said purpose, he clarified.

It is clarified that the consultants are engaged to design the policy initiatives under the agreed reforms agenda and their training or transfer of knowledge is also the part of a programme implementation plan and such nominations are made in consultation with the Bank.

So far the inclusion of consultants in training trip to Malaysia is concerned, it has been done as per consultations and guidelines of World Bank and all these consultants have been hired from World Bank Funding.

As per World Bank's guidelines and approval this training, study and exposure trip to Malaysia was planned, because the Malaysia has initiated and successfully implemented the education reforms and emerged as an attractive destination of quality education after US and Europe.

As per the requirements of the department, the management of RSU in consultation with ELD and World Bank have planned and coordinated with Malaysian Government this training trip and formed two groups to send Malaysia, keeping in view the logistic issues, said spokesperson.

It is the fact that a total of 34 officials will visit the Malaysia in two groups headed by Education Minister Nisar Ahmed Khuhro and, additional secretary, Rehan Iqbal Baloch respectively.

A Spokesperson rejected the allegations of nepotism in the selection of the delegates and said the selection of the participants was based on merit and performance. The media should ignore the hue and cry of the ones who failed to get their names on the basis of performance, spokesperson suggested.

This training/study/capacity building and exposure tour will help the participants to understand Malaysia's successful and result oriented reforms and share their experience in Sindh while effectively implement Sindh education reforms programme, spokesperson hoped.

It is further clarified that every donor has introduced strict evaluation and monitoring systems and no disbursement is possible without achieving the set targets in given deadlines, hence no question arises that EU's 39 million Euros fund went in vain.

We welcome to all your queries.

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