

Law and order... out of order

to note

BY VISIONARY

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Law & order

We live in a unique country. The democratically elected leaders aspire to be dictators and the dictators aspire to be democrats. In this process "the crow trying to copy the peacock's gait ends up forgetting his own." And the end result is confusion, chaos, lack of industrial growth, more unemployment and the ultimate breakdown of law & order.

This state of inertia fuels insecurity, whereby even the top echelons of the administrative machinery get infected. This leads to usurpation of power to the level where the chief executive of the province feels in control only when he bypasses the complete chain of command and has the SHOs in his direct control.

The province is infected with daily commission of rape, dacoities, robberies, murders, land-grabbing, car snatching and suicides; yet the administrative machinery has time to take personal interest in illegally detaining teenagers involved in a scuffle at the behest of a monied party. The detaining/harassing inspector openly states that he is doing it at the behest of the top authority. All this while the case is in the court of law? A matter that should have required the concerned parents to thrash the daylight out of the teenagers has reached a proportion whereby the parties concerned are using money and influence to reach the federal level!

Friends in their fifties are migrating to greener pastures mainly to ensure better opportunities for their children and also to escape the unbridled powers of the local machinery, which has left the self respecting middle class completely insecure.

One can recount numerous incidents, present and past, which would make for a chilling thriller and would run the size of complete encyclopaedias and yet not account for even 2% of the injustice and atrocities committed by the law-enforcing agencies and the courts of law.

What a shame! When will we grow up and mature as a nation? When will we be freed from the dual yoke and culture of the *patwari & thaneydari* system? Why don't our rulers and potential rulers realise that when not in power, they are as susceptible to the harrowing situation that a common citizen encounters on a daily basis? Why else would one end up having his elderly father dragged from his office and the other have her spouse bear the indignity of confinement for over seven years at a stretch?

When I talk to some friends in the police or the judiciary and ask them what the way is out of the present predicament, with one voice they all want to have complete independence from, and noninterference on, the part of the politicians and the army, which ever the prevailing case may be.

be legislated? Why is the tax-payers' money being wasted on assemblies when nothing for the betterment of the masses is being legislated. The only time you have a full quorum is when their own perks and privileges are being debated and the motion is passed within the blinking of an eye! No opposition, no debate and no lack of quorum. Weird!

I have always maintained that this system is imploding and it would do so any day now. The choices in front of us are a benevolent dictator or presidential form of government. Whichever it is will have to be implemented pronto. Even Ms Benazir Bhutto, in one of her recent interviews, made a reference that "If I was President"...

Churchill was approached by various members of his cabinet and administration and briefed about the complete breakdown of utilities, administration, law & order, etc. All he asked was if the

following is suggested to achieve some semblance of law and order:

One way out of the predicament is, of course, education.. Education not only of the curriculum but education of the mind, education of the soul, education of values, education of respect, education of tolerance and, last but not least, education of fairplay. Education and knowledge alone will create public awareness, thus leading to public empowerment to affect change. In Karachi we had created CCA "Concerned Citizens Association" which carried out public interest litigation and Defence / Sea View Residents Society and the positive affects of these are open to scrutiny and study for anyone who holds similar interest.

Secondly to immediately adapt a presidential form of government, along with the creation of 30 provinces. If this is adapted and provided, the individuals concerned can rise above petty politics. Then the ideal inner cabinet for the welfare of the country would be. Ms Benazir Bhutto as the Foreign Secretary, Mr Shahbaz Sharif as Secretary Infrastructure Development, Mr Naseerullah Babar as Secretary Interior, Mr Shaukat Aziz as Secretary Finance and due to ground realities and lack of courage in others, we have the fusion of COAS, Head of National Security Council and the President in one body and soul.

Lastly the chiefs of police and the chief justices to be selected through an advertisement in the newspapers like the heads of corporate entities. The selection committee will consist of retired senior citizens of impeccable background drawn from the armed forces, civil bureaucracy, judiciary, journalism, business and agricultural communities.

The selection, committee consisting of not more than seven members, will hold office for a tenure of 5 years, whereas the selected incumbent will be selected for 4 years and will be of an age and service record whereby no extension or second term will be available, thus leaving him completely to concentrate on the job in hand without any fear of promotion, extension, etc. No executive authority in the country would be able to post him or dismiss him. To keep a check on his activities, the selection committee on receiving four complaints with proof of graft or biased decisions would relieve him of the burden of his job. The proof of graft and biased decisions would not only be of his person but of the complete department

agencies and the courts of law.

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Why do the political parties say, "when we get into power we will make this change and that change?" Why can't they be humble enough to say, "when we get a chance to serve our country." Unless their thinking changes, nothing will be able to rid the country of its varied problems.

One can gauge the pettiness of a majority of our politicians from the fact that we have the largest cabinet ever and yet the quorum in the National Assembly is mostly incomplete due to lack of attendance by the treasury members. Each and every member of the treasury wants to be a federal minister or otherwise use his vote to bargain a deal. With a situation like this how can any issue

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Churchill was approached by various members of his cabinet and administration and briefed about the complete breakdown of utilities, administration, law & order, etc. All he asked was if the judiciary was still functioning in a just and fair manner. On receiving a reply in the affirmative, he replied that all would be well! And history is proof of the fact that all did become well.

When I talk to some friends in the police or the judiciary and ask them what the way is out of the present predicament, with one voice they all want to have complete independence from, and noninterference on, the part of the politicians and the army, which ever the prevailing case may be. An excellent suggestion, provided the politicians, the masses and the guardians of the country have faith in their ability to perform justly.

After detailed contemplation on the issue, the

of 5 years, whereas the selected incumbent will be selected for 4 years and will be of an age and service record whereby no extension or second term will be available, thus leaving him completely to concentrate on the job in hand without any fear of promotion, extension, etc. No executive authority in the country would be able to post him or dismiss him. To keep a check on his activities, the selection committee on receiving four complaints with proof of graft or biased decisions would relieve him of the burden of his job. The proof of graft and biased decisions would not only be of his person but of the complete department under him.

To ensure diligent and conscientious execution of their duties their perks and privileges will be such where the need to even think of wrongdoing will not cross their minds. The Singapore example is to be drawn upon here and after all this, if they still pursue the path of wrongdoing, then their fate shall be the hangman's noose.

On the shoulders of these two public offices rests the well being of our nation. Even the Holy Quran reiterates repeatedly and lays emphasis on fighting in defence of truth and right and to those holding public office to embrace righteousness.

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