

Reforms^{21/11/2007} and public apprehensions

Police reforms will be implemented from the next Independence Day, the government showing seriousness in making the police a public friendly institution as is evident from the proposed formation of Public Safety Commissions and separation of prosecution from investigation.

Whatever measures are being undertaken to reform the rotten police structure that symbolizes terror and intimidation, the department being generally identified by the public as a tool of oppression in the hands of governments with tyrannical leanings.

Musharraf regime would be doing a great service to the citizens, especially the posterity by reforming the police department but all the reformatory measures adopted by the government in any sector appear to be marked with feelings of excitement, enthusiasm and idealism. It seems as if the government wants total revolution in the things as they stand in their most deteriorated form today. This is exactly what is the desire of the commoners but can one expect the materialization of reforms about to be implemented by the government? Has the government formulated these plans after studying and analyzing the ground realities? For instance, can the government make the police a really public friendly organization with the existing rotten lot still continuing to man this organization whose majority of personnel are used to coercive methods of investigation and handling of public. Doesn't the government still remember the bitter experience of police inspectors directly recruited through public service commission misbehaving with the public and even physically

Public Safety Commissions are probably being formed to take stock of this situation and provide protection to the victimized public and punish the wrongdoers among police functionaries. The only question that still remains unanswered is that are the reforms going to benefit the masses in the real sense. This apprehension is not spontaneous or totally unfounded. It has a deep background of mistrust in government pledges. Even the powerful regimes equipped with extraordinary powers proved to be a total failure in providing protection to the citizenry from the high-handedness and corruption of police besides the excesses perpetrated on them by other government functionaries. The common man has continued to suffer, his sufferings escalating despite ambitious reforms carried off and on by different governments. The salvation lies in keeping a vigil over the reforms implementation process and immediate removal of discrepancies if and when found in the system after implementation.

Musharraf regime has adopted a difficult path. It must understand this fact and accordingly start taking things with the same seriousness as is required for handling gigantic tasks like the ones announced and undertaken by the government.

having with the public and even physically bashing and bullying them with greater frequency as compared with the ranker category of cops despised for their cruelties.

There is no denying the fact that police personnel have become symbols of terror and intimidation. The tragedy is that police officials involved in criminal activities like burglaries, physical torture and killing of persons in custody and other forms of crime are protected by their seniors. These senior officials simply take refuge behind the old excuse that if all the officials are penalized, no one would be left behind to obey them and implement their decisions and do the policing job.