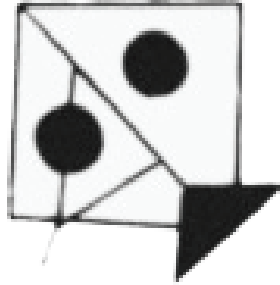


Muttahida Qaumi Movement (Pakistan) Manifesto for 2018



Governance: MQM proposes an increase in the number of provinces in Pakistan to improve administration and governance. It proposes that all new provinces should be created from within the boundaries of existing provinces to preserve cultural identity. The party continues to promise local governments legal safeguards against the whims of the provincial administration, allocation of funds according to the formula used by federal government to allocate funds to the provincial governments, restoring the status of Karachi as a fully Autonomous Metropolitan Corporation and delegation of certain tax collection responsibilities. The party pledges a 30% quota in the National and Provincial Assemblies for Pakistan's youth which would have 1/3 women and a 5% share for minorities. It strictly condemns and promises to eradicate the practice of quota employment system in Sindh whereby educated urban Sindhis were discriminated against.

Police and Judiciary: MQM promises numerous reforms: strict depoliticization of police department, creation of provincial intelligence wings, community policing to be introduced whereby patrolling officers must belong from the same area where they operate, rangers to serve under the provincial government, prison reform and the development of a safe witness protection program.

Education: The party plans to implement 'Ailan-e-Amal', a minimum education reform agenda to empower Pakistan. It promises an increased educational expenditure, incentivizing madrasahs to improve their education standards and upgrading the scale of community vocational and training centers.

Health: On the health front, MQM stresses upon primary and preventative healthcare instead of tertiary healthcare. It pledges to target population planning, ensure full coverage of the Extended Program of Immunization (promises polio eradication), establishing low cost and subsidized healthcare insurance schemes and clamping down upon the organ black market. It again argues for the majority of healthcare duties to be delegated to local bodies to improve responsiveness and needs-based identification.

Economy: To deal with Pakistan's faltering economy, MQM promises strict measures against big businesses engaging in money laundering, sanctioning more loans to private enterprisers than to government, ensuring power supply to industries and lowering non-development expenditure whilst making sure development projects are feasible and completed. It unconventionally proposes that annual budgets should be presented as performance budgets rather than accounting budgets. To increase women's employment in the workforce, it recommends upscaling the cottage industry sector and establishing women-only industrial homes. Lastly, it plans to promote and upgrade the microfinance sector for credit distribution and expedite the creation of special economic zones under CPEC.

Census: The largely Karachi-oriented party vehemently protests that Sindh has been overlooked and not completely targeted by the recent census and thus under-represented in delimitation. It promises to correct the flaws in the census and increase the number of constituencies in Urban Sindh as per the corrected census results.

Energy and Environment: MQM plans to offer remedies to energy crisis which include: reprioritizing the supply of gas to different industries so power plants take precedence, developing gas pipeline agreements with Iran, Central Asian States and Qatar whilst undertaking a major desilting program for all major dams, upgrading thermal power plants and exploring renewable sources of energy. In the face of high levels of pollution, the party vows to establish Combined Affluent Treatment Plants, ban industrial dumping into seas and carrying out mass afforestation.

Foreign Affairs and Terrorism: MQM briefly mentions its foreign policy plans. It encourages solving the Kashmir issue through dialogue and undertaking confidence building measures with other countries to secure political and economic partnerships. It promises to implement the National Action Plan to its fullest in order to alleviate the root causes of terrorism which it identifies as poverty and lack of education. Furthermore, the commitment to a dewatering program as proposed by the party in a National Assembly bill in 2011 was also reiterated.

Social Protection: MQM promises to increase wages in proportion to inflation, subsidize the prices of important crops and guarantee workers welfare, security and benefits. It will carry out a complete ban on all human rights violations across Pakistan (honor killings, revenge rape etc.) to ensure no harm befalls couples who marry out of freewill in rural areas. Forming Old Age Homes in districts, increasing employment and educational opportunities for differently abled people and rehabilitation of juveniles, women prisoners and street children are all the party's agenda.

Agriculture: MQM bases its agricultural policy on its long held goal of abolishing the feudal system and carrying out new land reforms as per its proposed Redistributive Land Reforms Bill 2010. This it hopes will help the party for the elimination of bonded labor and private landowner jails. To prevent the manipulation of records by agents, the party will computerize land records. Furthermore, to ensure hari rights are not violated, it will establish Hari Courts under the Sindh Tenancy Act 1950. Acknowledging that present government policy on wheat is deeply flawed, MQM promises reforms in wheat procurement and subsidy to ensure it is the small farmers and end consumers who benefit instead of middlemen and mill owners. It will try to introduce micro credit finance programs on district level on the blueprint of Bangladesh's Grameen Bank. Salinity and waterlogging need to be controlled, agriculture knowledge dispersal to farmers.

Other Issues: The party will work towards a free and impartial media, introducing smart city concepts across Pakistan, building purpose built IT research universities and implementing E-Governance which would also allow easy online access to government records to the public. Lastly, it will repeal the ban on dual nationality Pakistanis from contesting elections and ensure the voting process for overseas Pakistanis is smooth.