

Message by
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'Justice for All' that is affordable and accessible strikes at the heart of the principle of equity for all the citizens of the federation. No society can prosper if the weak and the vulnerable sections of society do not have access to justice.

The Local Government Ordinance 2001 provides under Chapter 11, Sections 102 - 106 for the establishment of Musalihat Anjumans (MAs) at each Union Council.

The Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development (LG&RD) in partnership with four Provincial LG&RD Departments has initiated a unique Project aimed at *promoting and safeguarding the rights and entitlements of women and vulnerable groups by institutionalizing community supported dispute resolution mechanisms*. The specific objectives of the Project are:

- Constitution and mobilization of the Musalihat Anjumans in all Unions Councils in the pilot districts (under Section 102, LGO 2001);
- Musalihat Anjuman's capacity built to dispense gender justice at the community level through Musalihat Anjuman Support Services(MASS);
- Partnerships between judiciary, police and Musalihat Anjuman for accountable, fair and equitable dispensation of justice; and
- Community Advocacy for legal rights of Women and Men's role in ending violence.

The Gender Justice through Musalihat Anjuman Project (GJTMAP) has been co-funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and the Royal Netherlands Embassy (NoRAD).

Evidence has shown that the Musalihat Anjumans provide a cost effective and socially acceptable forum for conflict resolution at the community level. Based on the tangible results and success of the pilot phase, the Project has been up scaled and an agreement to this effect was signed between MoLG&RD & UNDP and endorsed by EAD on July 10, 2006. In the pilot phase, the Project was implemented in eight (08) districts of the country. In the up-scaled phase (2007 – 2011) with a total cost of US \$ 7.440 million (grant funding), the Project would be implemented in twelve (12) additional districts totaling twenty (20) in all.

At a time when the formal judicial system is overburdened with cases, the concept of Musalihat Anjumans provides an efficient and cost effective way to ensure amicable resolution of disputes at the local level for amicable settlement

through mediation and conciliation. The Ministry of LG&RD and all its partners are committed towards achieving the noble objectives of the Projec