

# Bar councils produce voters not lawyers

I would like to sit in Lahore High Court Bar with my friends and colleagues and/or the historical bar & tree, Sucas 18 House sits in one corner of Capital Lahore whereas M&B (Muhammad Bashir) sits in Old Lahore among a cluster of other historical friends and trees. It is a matter of joy to see our past and memories in others. The members in this group of Bar are known as history, whereas the other group of lawyers like to sit in Karachi Lounge, I am fully to have friends both the groups.

During those evenings I heard some very interesting stories originating from barbers, lawyers and others who are particularly after the judges' nomination movement and ouring elections of Bars.

These stories have compelled me to write this article. When I consulted with my friends regarding the subject of this column, they suggested my self should not write it because of the history of Lahore Bar Council, a little bit of credit or discredit of the Bar Council is the concern of its head and with long break for penning who took water in his head while bending towards the fire in which Pragnanandhaa was thrown by Hindus. The fellow itself puts a question to himself as to where he was going. On hearing the reply that it was because he was writing a column and not a book, he responded by saying that on the line of judgment he himself was writing those rules attempted to extinguish the fire in which messages of God were being burnt, and not saving those who lit that fire. On this analogy, I myself would say that Bar Councils are like a bunch of monkeys who have no cause among them who made an attempt at removing the monkey.

In our society corruption is rampant for the sake of love is polluting our society. It is lamentable that the lawyers' constituency that should have served as a bulwark against the civil service is turning to narcissistic and self centric. We should, the Police forces, lawyers led a paraplegic silent power around the



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It is common knowledge that the total of president of the District Bar and High Court Bar cost 7.3 to 10 million and 10 to 20 million rupees, respectively to an average candidate needed to become a member of that specific branch of lawyers, who is actually an eligible graduate, namely B.A. and LL.B. have established the previous groups in the names of Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad, Northern Lahore, Southern Lahore Groups. Similarly, we also cast votes in the names of Rawalpindi, Lahore, Sialkot and Multan, which is a clear sign that the Bar Councils are not able to run their own law courts, while criminal lawyers and professional advocates spouse some of the candidates for Bar Councils just to achieve their goals in courts through their favored elected candidates.

The Bar Councils in reality failed to act upon the provisions of the Bar Council Act 1973 in the election and regulations, especially regarding the manner of posters displayed by candidates upon walls and in open places. Additionally, it is nitric against the Bar Act that the fellow lawyers write the name of their elected peers outside their private offices, which is being done. These instances are not limited to one or two cases that the lawyers display posters and write on the exterior walls about abiding and upholding of the rule of law. Another instance of disregard for the rule of law is the rampant spending on fixtures in the Bar Rooms by the lawyers despite the law forbidding spending for the sake of a vote as income member of Pakistan Bar Council.

## The Bar Councils miserably failed to act upon the provisions of Bar Council Act, 1973 for Election Rules and Regulations.

section in their Black book during Judges' Testimonies, however, it was highly appreciated and highly fought in the national and international media.

The Bar Councils are statutory bodies responsible for safeguarding the rights, interests and privileges of practicing lawyers by maintaining the conduct and helping the administration of justice. As constituted, the Bar Councils are the highest administrative and professional bodies of the legal profession and Bar Council Act, 1973, the important role assigned to Bar Councils is to promote the legal education and ethics in newly registered advocates, and particularly to issue the licenses for the practice of law strictly on merit. It is also primary duty of the Councils to maintain high standards of ethics and reputation that can last the life time.

Now there are two types in our mixed bodies. I want to share with readers: 1. Whether the bodies (who are law graduates) cast their votes according to the general principle of demonstrating favor of those candidates who those large parties with manipulative power and influence are supporting? 2. Whether by corruption, coercion and conditio? 2. Whether the elected representatives of lawyers play their roles admirably and do not resort to blackmailing the lower judiciary? 3. Whether Bar Councils representing their electors strictly in accordance with the laws of the land, particularly when it comes to the election from law graduate? 4. And, whether the honorable judges in the judicial system, including High and Supreme courts, are being treated as mere and their judgments are disregarded?

In the year of 1982, I became member of Lahore High Court Bar Council and was elected as a member of the Bar Council. I was asked to be a member of the Bar Council by Dr. Shahid Bashir, Arifat Wahab, Hafeez Khan, Kausar Khan, Dr. Khalil Butt, Arifat Wahab, Hafeez Khan, Aslam Ali and Latif Moosa, etc., and it was known as professional group. Whereas the members of other group of lawyers were A. Karim Haq, Manzoor Ahmed, Farid A. Javed and Muhsin Ahmad Qaqas, etc., and it was known as a social group.

In the year of 1982, the elected office of law were considered offices of honor and not offices of profits. The Bar Councils were playing their role accurately. Just lawyers never sat on the honor table in the meetings and they never used the titles either senior lawyer entered to the courtroom. Lawyers used to call their wives as their constituents. In the year of 1982, the members of Bar Councils were law and honorable by nearly all applying conditions.

some of the candidates are offering millions of rupees to newly elected members of Punjab Bar Council, \_\_\_\_ the electoral body, \_\_\_\_ against their terms.

There among more or less these political lawyers, the judges of High Courts are selected, and I am afraid if we fail to cast our votes in right person it is likely like such individuals will be delivering less justice and more corruption. During times of emergency, such judges are unlikely to come up to the markable judicial conduct.

If Bar fails to produce good judges in the future, than our judicial history, which is already facing lot of problems like inefficiency, power corruption, racism, kidnapping, killing of lawyers and journalists, and other such acts. We as a member of Bar and to maintain honorable respectable judges like Mr Justice Asif Saad, Shafiq Nisar and Syed Mansoor Ali Shah are still delivering good judgments with innovation.

Today I offer that till there is a majority of professionals in the Bar Councils, they should remain in the Bar, but they should come forward against these elected members of lawyers who launch assault on public officials and on members of general public in country instead of adopting legal remedies against them; and thereby in this way they defend their lawyers' Constituents. Dr. Shahid Bashir was a law citizen of Lahore Bar, All India, and every Punjab Bar Council, and I put him a question regarding his ethics and behavior, he said that he is a law graduate. He reacted to my question and responded. We are producing voters, not lawyers. He explained that when a candidate entered into the ranks of Bar Council, he has to be concerned. Moreover, he put another question. Where are you from? It came as he uttered the place, then next question is to be put. Do you know Mr. and Dr. [candidate] shake his head in affirmation, the Member presents the bill and submits the point and continues to shake his head and bring up-of-the-floor for the sake of the Bar and subsequently he signs his name giving him the title.

In the end, I really endorse a senior Lawyer, Mrs. Anna Jhangiani who expressed recently that millions of rupees investment as honor money is being distributed in order to win a seat in Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) during the present elections.

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