

# **ABDUL LATIF NIZAMANI**

## **PRESIDENT**

### **ALL PAKISTAN WAPDA HYDRO ELECTRIC WORKERS UNION C.B.A**

**Respected Chairman & Distinguished Colleagues**

I feel it my great privilege to convey fraternal greetings to all the distinguished colleague of this house and appreciate the efforts of P.S.I. for strengthening the unity and welfare of the workers engaged in the public Sector all over the world and holding this Seminar on important subject and wish it every success in its deliberation.

2. That, our organization was founded as far as back in the year 1936 in undivided India at Jogindernagar by one of the founder of Trade Union Movement Mr. Bashir Ahmed Bakhtiar and its concerted struggle is being carried out by 130,000 work force engaged in the largest national public utility of the nation for decades under the leadership of Veteran Trade Union Leader, Brother Khurshid Ahmed, General Secretary of the Union and former Member I.L.O. Governing Body who represented International Workers Group in this forum for the last 39 years. Our Organization has benefited of his experienced leadership.

3. The Privatization, Neo-liberalism and Free Labour Market phase is being imposed by I.M.F. and the World Bank. The Privatization of the National Public Utilities including electricity has been leading to allow capitalists to earn un-bridled profits rather to work in the public interest. It is for this reason that non-transparent and corrupt practices are employed while carrying out

privatization. One of the example is proposed Privatization of Lakhra Thermal Power Station , Sind while the previous Government led by General Musharaf decided to privatize this Power Station and to hand over its control to one of its blue eyed enterprises without transparent bidding and approval of the Council of Common Interest as required under Article 141 & 142 of the Constitution of Pakistan. Then, Military Government led by General Musharaf put a lot of pressure upon the union to agree with proposed Privatization. The union decided to challenge the proposed un-Constitutional and unjust Privatization of the Power Station in the Supreme Court of Pakistan and got a Stay Order. The said Petition moved by the Union under Article 184(4) was accepted. The Division Bench of Supreme Court of Pakistan accepted the Petition of the Union and declared said proposed Privatization as un-Constitutional, illegal and invalid.

4. **The Government of Pakistan has also privatized Karachi Electric Supply Corporation which is a Generation and Distribution Company. The Government handed over its management to its blue eyed Personals. The Company has neither complied with the covenant to raise its generation and provide security to its workers as agreed with the Government. Instead of that, it has terminated the services 6000 workers and activist and representatives of elected C.B.A. Trade Union and got registered cases against them for pursuing lawful Trade Union activities. On other hand, it has employed new hands on contract basis in order to weaken and discourage lawful trade union activities among the workers.**

5. The Union has filed a complaint before the I.L.O. Committee of Freedom of Association against the violation of this fundamental right Freedom of Association.

6. The previous Government of Pakistan has entered into an agreement with a Turkish Company to supply Electricity through Thermal Power Station installed on Ship and agreed to pay its rent at exorbitant rate even Rs.40 per Electricity Unit which was ordinarily produced by Thermal Power Stations in the Public Sector run by Furnace Oil & Gas @ Rs. 14 & 6 per Electricity Unit respectively. It was further agreed that the distribution run in the public sector was required to pay 60% charges of its capacity of its Generation even not availing its Thermal Power. It imposed a massive financial burden in the public utility since it was selling electricity @ Rs. 8 per Electricity Unit. A Writ Petition was filed in the Supreme Court of Pakistan for getting declared this agreement illegal and against the public interest. The Division Bench of Supreme Court of Pakistan headed by Chief Justice was pleased to accept the Writ Petition and decided this Privatization Agreement with Turkish Company as illegal and non-transparent and against the public interest and ordered to recover the said amount paid to the company.

7. The previous Government has also decided to privatize Public Sector Distribution and Generation Companies. The Union carried out long and arduous struggle by holding rallies and protest marches all over the country and held two mass demonstrations before National Parliament at Islamabad against the proposed Privatization last year. Even, it has observed tool down strike all over the country and threatened to shut down Electricity Supply to V.I.Ps. The

Government was compelled to enter into negotiation at the level of the Federal Minister Water & Power and entered into successful Settlement by getting reversed the decision of proposed Privatization as well as attaining many fringe benefits for 140,000 work force including of up-gradation of Pay Scales and grant of increased Rent at many cities and allocating 12-1/2 Shares of the Company and One Month basic pay as Honoraria Allowance to all the employees. The copy of the said settlement is enclosed.

8. Let me add that newly elected Government has entered into agreement with I.M.F. for receiving 6.5 Billions Dollar Loans with the conditionality's of Privatization of electricity Sector along other State Owned Enterprises.

9. We are preparing for a new battle against the proposed Privatization and take measures for the reform of its management instead of Privatization which will against the public sector.