

PM satisfied with draft of New Aviation Policy

KARACHI (15 March 2019): Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed his satisfaction on the draft of National Aviation Policy 2019 (NAP-2019) and directed Secretary Aviation Shahrukh Nusrat to put it up for the approval of the Federal Cabinet in its next meeting.

Earlier, Secretary Aviation gave a detailed presentation on Thursday at Prime Minister Office on draft NAP-2019 and highlighted its salient features which distinguished it from the previous policy.

Federal Minister for Aviation Mohammadmian Soomro, High officials of PM Secretariat, Aviation Division and Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority were also present on this occasion.

Secretary Aviation informed that the policy has been drafted in line with the vision and directives of the Prime Minister to review the existing policy, rationalize the PCAA charges and to facilitate the aviation sector on whole in Pakistan. He further briefed that it is the first time in the policy-making history of aviation sector that all stakeholders were taken on board at each and every stage while preparing the draft NAP-2019. Moreover, their valuable inputs and suggestions were extensively incorporated in the 2019 policy. He further said that owing to a lengthy consultative process, its draft was made a widely consented document.

He apprised the Prime Minister that in a recently-held final review meeting with all stakeholders, which lasted for more than eight hours, all stakeholders including airlines, general aviation operators, IATA and Aircraft manufacturing industry representatives highly appreciated the draft NAP-2019.

Secretary Aviation informed the PM that the vision of draft NAP-2019 is “To ensure a safe, secure, efficient, sustainable and facilitating aviation sector in Pakistan at par with the best international aviation practices, contributing to national development based upon the organic market growth”.

Enumerating the salient features of the new aviation policy, Shahrukh Nusrat said that it aims at: Reduced cost of doing business, Ease of doing business, promotion of tourism and ensuring regional connectivity, improved/modern facilities and future growth in aviation sector of Pakistan.

He further presented that new aviation policy proposed to enhance the license validity period of commercial airlines and other operators from one year to two years and that of cockpit/cabin crew from one year to five years, which is a glaring example of facilitating aviation business.

Referring to its objective of reduced cost of doing business, he said that all CAA-related charges on domestic flights are being waived off.

He informed the PM that a new type of license has been proposed in new policy namely Tourism Promotion and Regional Integration (TPRI) License, which will also be issued to helicopter commuting services and no CAA charges shall be levied at both ends of the selected socio-economic destinations to promote tourism in Pakistan. He further added that all PCAA airports will be modernized with latest facilities and amenities.

Sharing the outcome of NAP 2019, he said it will improve gender balance in pilots' fraternity because special incentive for training of female pilots is being offered by PCAA. Besides, more domestic airlines are expected due to rationalized CAA-related charges resulting in a competitive environment which ultimately would also lead to reduced air-ticket price/fares. As a result "more job opportunities" is also one of its promising outcomes, he added.

On the whole, the draft of new Aviation Policy is a rationalized and facilitated policy for the operators, pilot, cabin crew and the passengers. The positive impacts of this policy will soon be visible for Pakistan.