

By Fax/ Special Messenger

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Water Resources
Office of the Chief Engineering Adviser/
Chairman, Federal Flood Commission

No. FC-1(23) 2023

6-Attaturk Avenue, G-5/1,
Islamabad, the July 11, 2023

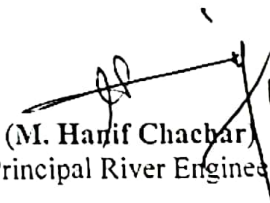
The CND Section
Press Information Department,
Islamabad.

Subject: 58TH ANNUAL MEETING OF FEDERAL FLOOD COMMISSION ON
MONSOON SEASON 2023, HELD ON 11TH JULY 2023

I am directed to enclose herewith a press release for 58th Annual Meeting of Federal Flood Commission to review the status of preparedness for Monsoon Season 2023, Chaired by the Honourable Federal Minister for Water Resources, on 11th July 2023 in Parliament House, Islamabad.

2. It is stated that necessary arrangement may be made for the said press release publishing in all newspapers & electronic media please.

Encl: As above


(M. Hanif Chachar)
Principal River Engineer

PRESS RELEASE (July 11, 2023)

Government Organizations to be very watchful during Monsoon: Minister for Water Resources.

Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah, the Federal Minister for Water Resources, has stated that all concerned Government Organizations must be very watchful and ensure improved level of coordination in disseminating real time monsoon rains and floods related information during the 2023 Monsoon Season commenced from July 01, 2023 while chairing the 58th Annual meeting of Federal Flood Commission on 11th July 2023.

The meeting was organized to review arrangements made by the Provinces and Federal Line Agencies for safe passage of Monsoon Season 2023. He highlighted that as per PMD's Seasonal Outlook for Monsoon season 2023, most of the regions of Pakistan are expected to get **Normal rainfall** with upper Punjab, AJ&K and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa **about 5% above normal rainfall** and Sindh and Southwestern parts of Balochistan are expected to receive **slightly below normal rainfall** during the season. However, the possibility of erratic monsoonal behavior and the resultant extreme hydrological events cannot be ruled out which may result into flash flooding/ urban flooding.

In view of forecast of rains and expected urban flooding, provinces were advised to be vigilant and ensure timely clearance of the storm drains in all major and other cities. He asked the relevant authorities to remove the encroachments, and clear the waterways of Barrages & NHA/ Pak. Railways Bridges, which may restrict free flood flows of rivers and may result in floods. De-silting and removal of encroachments from Nullahs passing through urban areas (Peshawar, Quetta, Karachi, Hyderabad, Rawalpindi, Multan, Sialkot, Lahore and Faisalabad etc.) was also stressed.

The Chief Engineering Advisor/ Chairman Federal Flood Commission shared the Pre-Monsoon Season actions taken by FFC for holistic flood management activities in case of any eventuality. All the stakeholders briefed the meeting on their respective pre-emptive measures taken to ensure safety of irrigation, drainage and flood protection infrastructure, round-the-clock monitoring of critical river locations and relevant arrangements made for flood fighting, fault free functioning of Weather Radars and Automatic Weather Stations of PMD and Flood Telemetry System of WAPDA.

The preparedness measures taken by NDMA & PDMAs/ GBDMA/ SDMA were also discussed. The Chair directed them to remain vigilant throughout the Monsoon Season and further improve upon the already made arrangements. The representative of Engineers Directorate, GHQ Rawalpindi apprised that they were ready and vigilant for operating breaching sections on rivers Indus, Chenab and Ravi in case of requirement of any emergency situation and rescue operations in case of flood emergency situation.

The Dam Management Authorities of Tarbela, & Mangla Dam Projects shared the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of Mangla and Tarbela Dams and arrangements made for flood discharge regulation, in case of high flood flows during the ensuing Monsoon Season. Representative of WAPDA informed that all existing Flood Telemetry Stations were fully operational.

The representatives of Provincial Irrigation Departments, and Federal Line Agencies informed that all urgent nature O&M works were substantially completed. The Chair directed the representatives of Provinces and Federally Administered Areas to make utmost efforts in completion of under-construction flood protection and river training works so as to make them safe against 2023-floods and ensure protection of adjoining settlements, private and public property. At the end, the Chair directed all provincial stakeholders for their utmost coordination to combat any situation on ground as that of last year's particularly in the context of drainage issues in Sindh.
