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Mail
No. FC-I (23)/2023
Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Water Resources
O/O the Chief Engineering Adviser/
Chairman Federal Flood Commission

6-Ataturk Avenue, G-5/1, Islamabad
February 21, 2024

Sub: **REMOVAL OF ENCROACHMENTS FROM FLOOD PLAINS BEFORE MONSOON SEASON-2024**

Dear Sir

As you are aware that Pakistan is among the top ten (10) countries which are most vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change. It has been manifested in the recent past in the form of heatwaves, GLOF events, Arabian Sea cyclones, unprecedented above normal rains during Monsoon 2022 & subsequent pluvial flooding and floods in Sutlej River during Monsoon 2023.

2. We are approaching 2024 Monsoon Season and in order to ascertain the state of preparedness of all relevant stakeholders, 1st Monsoon 2024 preparatory meeting is being organized by this office on March 04, 2024. For Monsoon 2024 preparations, certain areas require a greater focus and attention by the respective Provincial Government and District Administrations, which inter alia include removal of encroachments in the flood plains of the rivers/ streams/ nullahs.

3. The importance of removal of encroachments from flood plains of the rivers/ streams/ nullahs cannot be overemphasized. This issue was also discussed in the 16th Quarterly Progress Review meeting of FFC held on 24th January 2024 in Office of CEA/CFFC, Islamabad on Honourable Supreme Court of Pakistan's Directions related to Constitution Petition No. 62 of 2010, filed by Miss Marvi Memon versus Federation of Pakistan on 2010 floods. In the said meeting, necessary directions were given to all related stakeholders including Irrigation Department Gilgit-Baltistan for the removal of encroachments from floodplains/ waterways along major and other rivers/ nullahs in the jurisdiction of Gilgit-Baltistan. In order to avoid any eventuality, the concerned provincial departments are required to remove all such encroachments well before the onset of Monsoon 2024, using the available legal framework in Gilgit-Baltistan.

4. In view of the above, I would solicit your personal intervention to issue necessary directions to all concerned/ District Administrations for the removal of existing settlements in river flood plains/ waterways and placing restrictions on future encroachments, before the onset of Monsoon Season 2024.

5. Your personal solicitation as per above shall pave the way towards effective flood management and protection of vulnerable communities in the larger national interest please.

With profound regards,

Sincerely Yours,

(Ahmed Kamal)

Mr. Abrar Ahmad Mirza
Chief Secretary,
Government of Gilgit-Baltistan
Gilgit

Copy for information to:

1. Secretary, Irrigation & Water Management Department, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, Gilgit.
2. Director General, Gilgit-Baltistan, Disaster Management Authority, Gilgit.
3. P.S to Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Islamabad.
4. P.S to Secretary Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Islamabad.
5. P.S to Chairman NDMA, Islamabad.
6. P.S to CEA/CFFC, Islamabad.
7. P.S to Chairman WAPDA, WAPDA House, Lahore.
8. P.S to D.G Engineers, Engineers Directorate, GHQ, Rawalpindi.
9. P.S to Chairman, SUPARCO, Islamabad.
10. P.S to CEO, NDRMF, Islamabad.