

Budget will ensure balanced, speedy development: CM

LAHORE: Members of the Punjab Assembly belonging to different districts of the province Monday called on Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif at his assembly chamber.

Talking to the lawmakers, the chief minister said that the budget for fiscal year 2017-18 would ensure balanced and speedy development.

He said that education, health sectors were given priority in the budget. "Record funds have been allocated for rural and under-developed areas of the province, especially southern Punjab."

Giving details about different development projects being launched in southern Punjab, the chief minister told the lawmakers clean drinking water programme would be in 37 tehsils of southern Punjab with a total outlay of Rs 25 billion, while work on Khanewal-Lodhran Road had been started with an amount of Rs.22 billion.

The chief minister Shahbaz Sharif said that Muzaffargarh-Dera Ghazi Khan dual carriageway would be completed this year.

Shahbaz said that allocation of Rs 635 billion for the Annual Development Programme (ADP) would usher in a new era of development and prosperity in the province. He reiterated his claim of elimination of nepotism and corruption in the development projects.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif the journey of selfless public service to the people will continue," he vowed and said several uplift projects had been completed within stipulated time frame despite hurdles.

Taking a swipe at his political opponents, the Punjab chief minister said that some elements tried to disrupt the pace of development through their unnecessary protests and sit-in but they had been miserably failed.

He said that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-) government had set new records and transparency, quality and speed. The chief minister pledged to work with honesty, passion and determination.

He also asked the lawmakers to ensure timely completion of development projects in their respective constituencies and proper utilisation of funds.

"Pakistan is our country and it is our collective responsibility to work hard for its development and prosperity," he said, adding that there was no room for chaos or politics of anarchy in the country and those who obstructed development and prosperity through their negative politics had been exposed. He claimed that the PML-N government would win next elections under the leadership of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Those lawmakers who called on the chief minister included Chaudhry Mohsin Ashraf, Abu Hafis Mohammad Ghausuddin, Rana Munawar Hussain, Sardar Qaiser Abbas Khan Magsi, Chaudhry

Shabir Ahmed Gujjar, Pir Ghulam Farid, Mohammad Ashraf Warraich, Bao Akhtar Ali, Ahmed Khan Baloch and others.

DAILY TIMES

13/6/2017