

## Moot on post-flood situation

# Speakers term govt's steps for flood victims rehab insufficient

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ISLAMABAD - Civil society organisations on Wednesday urged the government to take concrete measures to reduce vulnerability and hazards, which caused helplessness in the field of economy, politics and development of the country.

The civil society organisations and an NGO, National Humanitarian Network (NHN) Wednesday organised a round table discussion titled "Reviewing Post-Flood situation & Framing Way Forward on Citizens Charter of Demands".

People from every walks of life particularly flood affectees belonging to flood-affected areas of the country participated in the dialogue and highlighted collected grievances and experiences.

Senator Jan Jamali on the occasion said that Irrigation Department of Balochistan was not ready and was not found able to face the riverine flood as they were simply used to handle the hill torrents flood. He categorically rejected the committee led by judges to assess the damages and reasons of flooding in the country. He further pointed out

that Sindh Irrigation department tried to hide its incompetence while closing the six gates of Sukkur Barrage during heavy floodwater in the Barrage. "Kharif crop seems impossible as slow repairing work is continued in Sindh province," Senator Jamali said, adding that after passing six months, people of his area lamented the initiatives to provide immediate relief and early recovery started by the government.

Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lt Gen (Retd) Nadeem Ahmed while speaking on the occasion

said the resilience and philanthropy approach of Pakistanis had reduced the gravity of disaster. He said that 96 per cent flood affectees went back to their homes; roads and railway lines were had been repaired. He said relief work would be continued in some districts of Sindh and Balochistan. He said early recovery would be continued till December then the reconstruction process would be started. He however, categorically said that the donor's funding was not sufficient to meet the challenges. He said 130,000 affectees were still in camps.

Sarwar Bari speaking on the occasion said that decision-making was in the hands of rulers who were not properly aware of the issues and problems faced by the flood affectees. He said vulnerability and hazards badly affected country's economy and the speed of development which led to make the nation helpless. "We must find culprits who issued orders regarding breaches in dykes and protected spurs that played havoc in the country," he said, adding that serious mismanagement of the government increased woes and worries of flood victims.