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# UNITE TO REBUILD PAKISTAN



**SPEECH AT SANGHAR BY  
MR. ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO**

*President of Pakistan*

MARCH 31, 1972

**LET  
ALL LANGUAGES  
GROW**

I promise and solemnly pledge to the people of Punjab, Baluchistan, Frontier and others that full justice will be done to them and their rights and culture will be fully protected. There is no harm in letting all the languages grow on healthy lines. People of Sind know Sindhi and also Urdu. They are large-hearted people. I often speak in English. When I speak in English or Urdu, does it mean that Sindhi culture is in danger? Never! The more languages we know the better it is.



Sayed Muzaffar Ali Shah.

Attar Hussain  
Abbasi.

Syed Muzaffar Ali Shah

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*The following is the English translation of a speech delivered by the President of Pakistan, Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, at a public meeting in Sanghar, on March 31, 1972*

I have come to Sanghar after a long time in fulfilment of the promise I made to the people of Sanghar two years ago. It was on this day two years ago that I came here to address the people but was prevented from doing so by a handful of nefarious individuals. The Pakistan People's Party had launched its election campaign after restrictions on political activities were withdrawn by the then Government. We had undertaken a campaign to meet the people so that they may become fully aware of the political conditions obtaining in the country, and with the sole aim of creating better political understanding of the various problems facing them. In those days there was no ban on political activity and, like other parties, we were free to propagate our point of view before the

*Campaign to meet  
the people*

people. We went to all parts of the country. I took my colleagues to Punjab, NWFP, East Pakistan, Sind and Baluchistan. All parties had the right to tell their viewpoint to the people. With that end in view, I addressed public meetings.

I and my colleagues in the Pakistan People's Party addressed meetings and went to various places. On the fourth of January, I addressed a public meeting at Karachi. I said then that we will struggle afresh for building up Pakistan. I enunciated three cardinal principles of our Party. Firstly, I said Islam is our religion. We will sacrifice all for Islam and its glory. We want to uphold and follow the noble principles of our religion. The second principle of our Party is that democracy is our objective; and the third is that Islamic social justice will be made available to every citizen of this country. The people are the sole masters of their future. They are the sole arbiters of their destiny. These are our Party's principles and these are enshrined in our Manifesto. We charted these principles in our Manifesto from the very beginning, and we continue to stick to them. This has given power to the Party which has endeared itself to the people. These are the principles of equality, good humane behaviour and humanitarianism, where there is no place for injustice. We accepted these principles for the good of the poor people. Our political struggle started with this message and went to all corners of the country. I and my colleagues went to NWFP and Punjab, East Pakistan, Baluchistan and Sind. We went to each and every part of Sind. I went to every district, taluka, every village and every *tapa*. We have to keep contact with our people who are our friends, who are our masters. We cannot shut our eyes to them. As fragrance cannot be detached from a flower, as fish cannot remain out of water, in the same way I can say that Bhutto cannot be detached from the people.

I started our political campaign in Sind from Thatta.

*Democracy is our  
objective*



People listened to us intently and considered us their real friends from Thatta to Kotri, and then to Hyderabad, Badin, Matli, Tandobago, Mirpurkhas, Tando Adam and Shahdadpur. You all know what I said in Shahdadpur. I said we are friends of all the poor people. We are against all kinds of exploitation. I have no antagonism against any person or party. I stand for the people, and that I have said repeatedly. Those who are against the poor people and the common man, are our enemy. With that message I proceeded to Sanghar from Shahdadpur two years ago this day. Just outside this city, near a petrol pump on the road side, we were stopped by the Deputy Commissioner and the S. P. who told us that people are hidden in the bushes with lethal weapons and there was risk of my life. But I told the officers that I am from the people and people are with us. I will not be frightened by threats from a handful of disgruntled elements. I said that we are people's friends and people cannot be against us.

*We are people's  
friends*

Nevertheless, when I was about to enter the town of Sanghar there was a rain of bullets from a bus. I got out of my car and shouted at the people who were firing the bullets not to kill the innocent people but to shoot me instead. My supporters surrounded me, and in that unfortunate incident my friend and ardent supporter, Mohammed Ibrahim, was killed. Our poor friend went all-out to protect me. Mohammed Ibrahim gave his life to save me. I salute that brave man. I have asked the Governor of Sind to give Rs. 10,000 to the family of Mohammed Ibrahim. He stood for principles. It is sad that people have been neglected for centuries and time has now come when the chains of slavery will be broken; injustice in any form will be undone. Our Party has stood by the poor people and it will continue to do so. You know for certain that we want to serve the people and want their betterment. There should not be any fight between Pun-



jabis and Sindhis, Sindhis and Pathans and Sindhis and Muhajirs. The fight should be directed against exploitation. We will fight against capitalists. How have I reached this office? It is the people who have brought me to this position. We will build Pakistan into a strong country so that the world envies us. This sweet land will be rebuilt. There will be greenery all round. Injustice will be wiped out from Pakistan which Quaid-i-Azam cherished and will be made to blossom. There was a lot of opposition to our Party in the past but we are not narrow-minded. We will not take revenge. All the provinces will get their legitimate rights. Sind will get its due share and there should be no apprehension in this regard. Education is being made free upto Matric. We want to see that the meritorious students get due recognition. We would not distinguish between an influential person's son and a poor man's son.

*This sweet land  
will be rebuilt*

Workers' betterment is our aim. Haris should know that we are taking revolutionary steps to bring about a happy change in their lives. Land Reforms will bring about prosperity to the haris. I have formulated a principle for the tillers of the soil. You should fully value the land which will be given to you, and try to make the maximum use of it. The Land Reforms of Ayub Regime brought negligible benefits to the haris. In those reforms the land price was to be charged. Many haris could not buy land, and the *vaderas* got back the land for themselves. The Land Reforms brought about by the people's Government envisage free distribution of land to the haris. The poor haris will be given land gratis, and no compensation will be paid to the landowners. You should duly consider this, and take full advantage of this opportunity to maximise production. The land is a trust from God, and it is the trust of the people as well. You should put both hands to the soil. The whole nation is looking up to you. It is not only for your good alone,

*Free distribution  
of land to haris*



it will benefit the whole country. Put in hard work. Plough your fields four times and you will get enough return to buy good clothes for your children. You should pay respect to your mothers and bow before them. Thereby you can earn their gratitude and also earn blessings from God and help build your country. I am standing on the soil of Sind and I am the son of a landlord of Sind, rather the biggest landlord of Sind. Nevertheless, we must all sacrifice for the country.

Sind is inhabited by many people; there are Sindhis, Punjabis, Muhajirs, Baluchis and others. You must look into your history. I cannot understand why young people of Sind are feeling perturbed. Sind's history is 5,000 years old. Sind is not a new province. There is no danger to Sindhi language. The culture of Sind and noble traditions of this province will not be harmed or allowed to be jeopardised by any means. I promise and solemnly pledge to the people of Punjab, Baluchistan, Frontier and others that full justice will be done to them and their rights and culture will be fully protected. There is no harm in letting all the languages grow on healthy lines. People of Sind know Sindhi and also Urdu. They are large-hearted people. I often speak in English. When I speak in English or Urdu, does it mean that Sindhi culture is in danger? Never! The more languages we know the better it is. Sindhis speak many languages. Theirs is a rich language, there is no danger to their language. It has lived through centuries. Urdu papers' burning will not solve any problem. Urdu papers should not be burnt. I will never speak lies to the people. This is my solemn pledge to the people living in all provinces of Pakistan. If you have any grievances, my young friends, you can come to us. Have I ever betrayed you? Never shall I betray you. Some people say that law and order situation has gone out of hand. We

*Let all languages  
grow*



can take severe action. We can very well take care of this. I do not want to take baton into my hand against my people. They shout slogans of 'Jeeay Sind'. I am not against it. Does that mean that, along with shouting this slogan we should try to burn newspapers or destroy valuable things? I would also ask our Muhajir brethren to accept Sind as their own province. They can continue to talk in Urdu but they should merge with locals and become one with them. They can rest assured that we are not against Muhajirs but they should also be reasonable and live like brothers. You must unite and I will do justice to Sindhis, Punjabis and others and treat them equally. After all India has many provinces. United States of America has fifty provinces. We have only four provinces. Why can we not live happily and unitedly? They talk of Bangla Desh. What are the conditions there? Rice is being sold at 90 rupees per maund. 'Bangla Desh' rice is going to India; jute is going to India; tea is going to India. Have patience and you will see what happens there. I say to them: if you get away from Pakistan and break off ties with us, I am sure you will not go in for a paradise or create conditions like paradise for yourselves. After all, why did you become an independent country? Was it not all a farce? Why did you accept the Quaid-i-Azam as your leader in 1947? All the resources of 'Bangla Desh' are now going to Calcutta. All motors, air-conditioning machines, etc. have gone to Calcutta! Whatever defects are in us, we were prepared to accept them. You do not obtain any good by separation. It is always unfortunate. Farakka Barrage is in India and will India give water to 'Bangla Desh'? What will you get?

I am with you, young men of Sind. You can come to us and talk about your problems and I will solve them. Sindhis and Muhajirs should sit together and forget about all differences. This whole issue has been raised by some self-seeking

*Forget about all  
differences*



politicians who want to become big men. I have talked to Sindhi leaders and Muhajir leaders. We should all try to learn a lesson from the past and give up narrow-mindedness. You should have a large heart. The language issue, I have already said, will be decided by the elected representatives of the people in the National Assembly. I cannot decide it. If the National Assembly wants one language, it is alright for me. If it wants 10 languages, I have absolutely no objection. Do not be parochial. Nothing can be achieved by fighting and being petty-minded. Everybody has become 'Sheikhchilli'.

What happened in Hyderabad a few days ago is deplorable. Why should some people take out knives? How can Urdu get respect through knives? The world is laughing at us. If our Government is anti-people, then you can have grievances. But this is your own government and we guarantee your protection. There is no need of fighting or unruly demonstrations. On 15th March there was a demonstration at my house in Karachi. It is not my responsibility alone to build the country. You must lend your support to me to rebuild this country and create peaceful conditions. My friends from Punjab, Sarhad and Baluchistan have come to attend this meeting and I ask them to join hands in building this country into a big Islamic state. The National Assembly is to meet on the 14th of the next month (April 1972). We have reached an accord with the NAP and JUI. I stand by it fully. I hope that the other two parties will also abide by it. It is for the good of everybody. If God forbid, some party flouts the accord, then we should not be held responsible. We pledge to abide by the accord word by word. If they flout the gentlemen's agreement, then the blame will lie with them. The political struggle will be won by the just and reasonable party, devoted to the good of the people. This is our firm conviction.

*Create peaceful  
conditions*



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