

President General Pervez Musharraf's address to donors' conference



Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Shaukat Aziz, Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, distinguished delegates, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

Let me start by personally expressing on my own behalf and on the behalf of entire nation, our extreme gratitude to first of all to Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan for the concerns he has always shown, the support he has always given and the involvement that he has always shown in helping Pakistan in our hour of need. We are extremely grateful to you sir. I would also like to extend the nation's gratitude to more than 75 delegations from all over the world and representing various organizations to be here in Pakistan to share our grief and to lend support at this hour of need of Pakistan. I will specially single out representation of India today sitting here, thank you very much. I will also like to take this opportunity to express my extreme gratitude to all the world leaders with whom I spoke and who responded so spontaneously in sending delegations on my request to Pakistan for this occasion. I am extremely grateful to all of them. Let me say ladies and gentlemen that it was in this same spirit of support and of concern that we saw the international community helping us in the first two stages of the earthquake and that is rescue and relief operation stages. The relief operation is continuing even now. The disaster and this calamity that you saw in the films shown to you struck us. And magnitude of this disaster was of indeed heart-rending for any one. 73,000 people died and equal numbers of people have been seriously injured, many disabled for life.

There are 400,000 households affected and this account for about 3.5 million people affected. Children are the main victims because they happened to be in schools at that time. Major front of the casualties has been taken by the children. They say a full generation has been lost. Livelihood of the people in the affected areas has been lost.

Livestock has been killed, the minor business that they were doing in those areas have totally been collapsed. Entire infrastructure in the areas has been destroyed. Roads, the schools, the colleges, the hospitals, all the utilities including electricity, gas, telecommunication facilities stand destroyed at this moment in those areas.

More than that, the survivors of the calamity are facing unbearable human sufferings. Children have orphaned, the women have been rendered destitute and thousands of people have been disabled and suffering from psychological trauma. The overall affected areas, ladies and gentlemen, that you see on maps on right and the left and behind us is plus 28,000 square kilometers. I was comparing this with some countries, it almost equals to Netherlands or Belgium. In all 9 districts have been affected, 5 in NWFP and 4 in Azad Kashmir. This accounts for 25 tehsils. Tehsils are the sub-districts or sub-divisions, there have been two to four tehsils in each district. An overall 4000 village clusters have got affected. I call villages as clusters because villages as you go to mountains where this earthquake has struck, it has a core of about 25 to 50 houses but then it has a surrounding on the mountains of a number of houses dispersed all over the mountains. So therefore, a cluster of about 100 houses on the average forms that village.

Ladies and gentlemen the earthquake struck on 8 October at 08.52 hours.

The response was extremely swift I would say. First by the people of Pakistan. They rose as one, their response was indeed overwhelming and heart warming for any leader of a country. They reached out from the length and breadth of the country for their brethren in distress. They galvanized, they jelled into one and reached out to that areas of Azad Kashmir and NWFP. The army moved fast, the medical assistance of the army in the form of evacuation of the casualties by the evening of 8th October, by 5 O'clock there were helicopters hovering over every hospital in Islamabad and Rawalpindi waiting to land and unload the. On the same day in the evening the engineers of Pakistan army were moved to open the road access to

Muzaffarabad and by about 12 O clock the next day, one of the road accesses via Abbottabad and Garhi Habibullah to Muzaffarabad was opened. This was the greatest achievement which led to faster supplies to the forward areas. By the morning on next day, a brigade which means about 3000 people had reached their locations and within three to four days forty-fifty thousands troops in the form of two divisions reached their locations. This is no mean achievement by any army of the world. The international community, the United Nations, the NGOs all moved fast. They came into Pakistan to help us. My extreme gratitude to each and every one of them.

Ladies and gentlemen, the stage one was the rescue operation. I would like to express deep gratitude to all the teams which came from many countries of the world. Without their help we would have lost many lives. Pakistan lacked the technical expertise of reaching out the casualties and saving people from under the rubble. It was these rescue teams that helped us. My extreme gratitude and extreme gratitude of the whole nation to these rescue teams who saved lives.

The stage two of the operation was the relief operation which still continues. Tremendous support, as I said, is available to this relief operation by the international community, by the people of Pakistan within Pakistan and by the expatriate Pakistanis. The international community, the Pakistani NGOs and the foreign NGOs, the UNO - no words are enough to express our gratitude to all of them.

Mr. Kofi Annan I would like to express special gratitude to you for your concern and your convening the Geneva Donor Conference where financial support was assured to Pakistan for the relief operations. My I also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Mrs. Kofi Annan who is here with us today sharing our grief. The financial support and the supply of relief goods given to us during the relief operation has been massive and the support has helped us in addressing the relief operations problem.

Pakistan government responded swiftly, it established institutions under the President's reconstruction initiative. We established the President's relief fund which is operative now and the people are contributing into it. It is totally transparent and it will remain so. We appointed the Federal Relief Commissioner who is looking after the entire gambit of relief operations.

Then we established Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority which will be responsible for policy formulation and execution of all the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts from now onward. We have also launched a national volunteer movement.

This we thought as essential, because the spirit, the energy that has been generated, the enthusiasm, the patriotism being displayed by the people of Pakistan, specially by the youth of Pakistan in leaving their jobs and reaching out to the people in the destructed areas, we thought this energy needs to be given a direction, to be channelised for the purpose of supporting the earthquake victims. That is why we have launched this national volunteer movement.

I will be addressing the first batch of these volunteers who will then be dispatched into the forward areas to help the earthquake victims in the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts. This was the response of the government on the strategic level. We indeed confronted many problems. I thought I would try to share them with you very briefly. The first problem was delivery of the relief supply to the people. This included a three stages delivery.

Number one from places all over the world and from every nook and corner of Pakistan bringing relief supplies to the main centers of the support of relief operations that is Chaklala in this area of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. This was the problem because Pakistan did not have the aircraft lift capacity. Then the other branch of this forward movement was to take these relief supplies from the main basis in Rawalpindi-Islamabad to the forward basis in the areas of Frontier and Kashmir and in the wake of broken down communication infrastructure lack of helicopter support - this was major problem that we faced. And then the third stage of moving the relief goods from forward bases to the people, with limited communication

infrastructure, few roads reaching out and those roads washed off the only resort was through animal transport and man porters. This was the first problem that confronted us but over the time we have resolved this problem because of international assistance in aircraft lift from foreign countries to Pakistan. By mobilizing the entire railways system of Pakistan and the road transport system to convey goods from within Pakistan to the main basis and then the helicopter fleets that we got from the international community in taking all these goods from the main basis to the forward basis. Then again the helicopter fleets that we have and the animal transport regiment, the mules of the army which took them forward and delivered them to the people. Therefore ladies and gentlemen as the situation now stands, the logistic support now leaning forward.

In that the goods moving from main basis to the forward basis is through the road transport and through the forward basis to the people through helicopters so the helicopters have been moved to the forward basis. The other problem that we face was the provision of shelters and there is a race against time as I have shown to you. We are racing against time because the winters are about to set in. Snows have already fallen on the peaks and I think first December or the middle of December all the peaks it will be snowing in the areas. Although the valleys do not receive snow.

The main issue was provision of shelter and tents to face this winter and may I say again that we had shortage of supply and we appealed the international community and the international community came forward to help us and the entire industry of Pakistan galvanized functioning 24 hours a day and we will meet a target of five hundred thousands tents delivered to the people in those areas by the end of this month. That we feel is sufficient to move them through the winter in an adequately comfortable manner. So therefore the situation of shelters becomes satisfactory. The last point that we faced was that this areas suddenly in a few minutes got de-moneytized. No body had any money with him/her. The patients who were brought to various cities of Pakistan did not have a penny. If you discharge them they could not go back, they do not have money to pay the fair of buses. Therefore we thought the immediate action is to monetize the area and the government has taken very fast action and decided to pump 20 billion rupees which is about 350 million dollars into the areas, giving hundred thousand rupees to each next of kin of a casualty. Fifty thousand and twenty five thousand to serious and less seriously wounded and twenty five thousand to every household with four hundred thousand households.

Therefore these twenty billion rupees when pumping through an area of twenty eight thousand square kilometer, in the forward and remote areas of NWFP and Kashmir - may be the poor areas of Frontier and Kashmir - I think will generate business activity, economic activity and construction activity will itself be generated because of this monetization of the areas. So therefore ladies and gentlemen I would call the relief operation on the whole satisfactory now with your, with world community's assistance we are extremely grateful. We want to sustain this effort for the next year and that is where the funding is required as brought out by the Secretary General also and I will come to it later.

Now ladies and gentlemen, comes the main challenge - the main challenge of reconstruction, the main challenge of rehabilitation. Reconstruction deals with housing for the people, four hundred thousand houses. It deals with social sector infrastructure, health and education infrastructure. It deals with the physical infrastructure, the roads, the bridges the utilities. It also deals with administrative infrastructure, the public sector buildings which have all been collapsed. That is the reconstruction effort, the rehabilitation effort deals with special affectees, giving protection to the special affectees and that is the destitute women, orphaned Children and disabled amputees which the government has undertaken to look after.

The second rehabilitation aspect is to generate economic activity, the small business that the people had. We need to rejuvenate that business activity within those areas in those people and lastly to treat trauma cases and psychological cases. That is the rehabilitation effort that is to be executed in the future from now onwards. These demand, ladies and gentlemen, more resources a better strategization and overarching well conceived strategy to deal with the issue and demands more time in the implementation.

I would like to say that for this we have created the Earthquake Relief and Reconstruction Authority. The strategy has been worked out at the government level, with me and the Prime Minister chairing all the meetings but the execution and implementation is left to this authority and we will keep overseeing very very closely. I will like to take the reconstruction effort first of all.

Ladies and gentlemen, the financial assessment and the cost of reconstruction effort - and I am very glad to say that there is a consensus on these figures, consensus between the United Nations Organizations, the World Bank the Asian Development Bank and the government of Pakistan - and this figure comes to a total of 5.2 billion dollars. Out of this 3.5 billion dollars is for reconstruction, 1.6 billion dollars is to sustain the relief operation for coming one next year and 100 million dollars is for rehabilitation effort.

Pakistan cannot go alone and therefore ladies and gentlemen my request for support from the world community. In this reconstruction, I would like to take on the house construction part. As I said four hundred thousand houses, this figure is also a consensus figure from everyone so there is no difference of opinion on the figure that I am quoting. Ninety percent of these houses are in village clusters in rural areas and only 10 percent in urban areas. We thought of a strategy to implement and to look on this aspect of construction of house and came to the conclusion that this should be owners driven and this is what the experience of tsunami and other catastrophes of earthquakes in Turkey and other countries shows.

We cannot impose a solution on the people, therefore we would like it to be the owners driven. And when I say owner driven, it has been decided to give roughly 3300 dollars which comes to a maximum of two hundred thousand rupees to each affected and that is four hundred thousand people. And then would like to guide them to facilitate them to construct better houses, earthquake proof, meet weather challenges in a much better way than they lived in. We would like to create models of these houses in all those areas and not only that but also send teams forward which would comprise of the military engineers who are already there and divided in the teams of tens and the national volunteer movement which people in thousands will be sent forward to the military battalions areas for their administrative support and from their base fan out, reach out to the people and guide them on how to utilize the money that we are giving in a manner that their houses are better, they are earthquake proof and improve their living standards.

That is what I meant by owners driven and not imposed solution to house construction. I think it would be the fastest method of ensuring house construction. We have decided to move very fast and the fastest that we can do. I believe in setting targets which are tough and we try to achieve them. I personally think it is to be owners driven and we have delivered cash to the people. We are delivering 20 billion rupees by the end of this month and the process is going very well.

If we start this within about six months which is the winter period, we should be able to deliver this money to the people. And we do that, and if we guide the construction and Re-erection of the houses, which should be able to be done in the summer next. Which mean by December-January next year we should be able to complete the construction to a large extent. This is a tall order indeed, I do understand it myself but we will push it to meet this target because we are shifting the people in one stage only, from temporary shelter in the tents to the permanent accommodation, no intermediate step. The problem that may arise, that which we are cognizant of is the availability of the construction material which may not be adequate. But we are cognizant of that we will import from anywhere.

I know that India has promised 25 million dollars and we were thinking of getting corrugated sheets - which is the main say of the accommodation- entire from there. So that is how we will meet the challenge of house construction. Let me come to education infrastructure. This we thought will be based on a need based strategy, when I say need based strategy, we intend universalizing education in Pakistan. So therefore much more than reconstructing whatever has lost, we need to go for what is required by the people there, what they should

be having in the form of education infrastructure, that will be a need based strategy and we are working and calculating based on that.

It may be much more than the reconstruction funds that will be given to us or shared with us because that is based on the infrastructure that we have lost. But we will meet the targets of the need based strategy as I am saying. When this is need based and done by us by the rehabilitation authority that we have formed, it will certainly be modern, it will be modular, it will fast track construction and we are looking into various forms.

Let me share some figures because ultimately when I come to the part of donations and sponsorships these figures will hold handy. The figure that I will come to in the future will be need based. One primary school in every village cluster. One middle school in every four villages, one high school in every 12 villages and one college in every 50 villages. That is three to four colleges in each sub district or a tehsil. Now in accordance with the education in Pakistan, this is very good. So therefore this is the basis of all our calculation that I am going to come later.

Let me come to the health infrastructure, this will again be based on need based strategy. Therefore it will be modern, it will be modular, it will be fast, it will be prefab, earthquake proof, fire proof etc. Again evaluation being done by the authority that we have created. One word of caution, because a lot of people are coming forward to sponsor two hundred and three hundred bed hospitals, we must adhere to the health structure of Pakistan.

We cannot create facilities which are not in sync with our own health structure. Our health structure says that basically there is a basic health unit in a village and we will have a basic health unit in each village of hundred household. We will then have the second structure that is the rural health center and there will be one health center for each four villages. This was the primary level of health care, then we have the secondary level of health care which deals at tehsil level. It is a 75 bed hospital therefore there are 25 such hospitals in each tehsil level.

Then another tier of the health facility is at district level with 150 bed hospital in all the 9 districts. And then there is a major hospital what we have lost in Muzaffarabad, and that is a 200 bed hospital. Therefore, why I highlighted this is, when we request for sponsorship and people come forward, we will make sure that we adhere to this health structure that Pakistan follows because otherwise it will be not in sync with our environment and may be it go waste.

Then is the issue of provision of utilities, we talked about houses, schools, colleges, hospitals. The utilities, I am just going to highlight two aspects here. According to millennium development goals, we have to give safe drinking water to the world by 2015. We have already planed to provide safe drinking water in Pakistan by 2007 and I am personally spearheading this, I and Prime Minister are ensuring that we deliver. We will provide safe drinking water to these quake-hit places, to every village there. The other issue is gas, we are looking at provision of gas there- which has not been there at all- so that deforestation in those areas is stopped which is a very big menace there. On the administrative structure, I want to give you one issue only and that is, obviously all the government infrastructure will be on modern town planning basis. We intend shifting from Muzaffarabad that is the major town affected, major city affected, taking the AJK government out of Muzaffarabad about at 20 minutes drive , we have selected a place.

We are going to take district government to another site and make these modern government structures, planned properly. The space that is left in Muzaffarabad, we will ensure that proper town planning is made on it in a better way and in the future Muzaffarabad is a more attractive place than it is at the moment.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the overall reconstruction plan. This entire plan that I have spoken of, will be on a website, the data will be available to each one to see. We will develop that because that data on the website will be the transparent that we are talking about. Anyone will be able to track any element in the whole area, whether it is a school or a college

or a hospital or a BHU or RHC or a village. So, therefore, the data will have information about what is being created and where it is being created.

I will talk very shortly on the rehabilitation and that is, we are facing the problem of destitute women, we have to look after them and orphan children-I took the secretary general to a rehabilitation center that we have created in Hattian, just about 40 miles from here this we are calling Ashyana which means nest. It is being looked after by the ministry of social welfare- we will hold all the destitute women, orphan children and disabled people in this Ashyana. It is a beautiful place which was lying vacant from the Ghazi Barotha Power Project.

We will subsequently create more Ashyanas or nests in the Frontier and in Azad Kashmir to move these people in their own environment. That will be done in reconstruction stage. Then we have to extend micro finance to generate business and economic activity there. We will take forward the micro finance facilities. We have already the Khushaali Bank of Pakistan been activated. They will move forward to assist the people in generating business activity there. We will also open skill training center and this is where the NGOs, volunteer groups will assist us. So that was for reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I will now come finally to the point of donations and sponsorships. Frankly asking for anything from anyone does not come too easy to me. But for the country and for the sake of the people affected there, I will go to any extent. And I will talk very frankly to you. We have tried to package the total requirement into packages of houses, schools, colleges, hospitals at various levels in an easy to understand form, transparency in sponsoring and suitability to varying pockets, to an individual pocket within Pakistan or an individual Pakistani sponsoring something or an organization or a state. So I tried to packet it in that manner.

I will take on housing first of all. To give you an estimate as I have said there are 400,000 houses, each house will cost a maximum of 3300 dollars or Rs 200,000 (two hundred thousand) - that is all. Any Pakistani can give Rs 200,000 lack rupees and I expect Pakistanis to give Rs 200,000. I expect hundreds of them thousands of them. If anyone wants to build a village cluster of 100 houses it will cost only US \$ 0.33 million which is two crore rupees and we intend naming that village, that cluster on the sponsor not for anything else but for the assistance that the sponsor has given. And if you may be knowing that in Pakistan we still have names like Abbottabad and Jacobabad these are places named after the people who created them. May those places were small villages at the time when they were created. So if these villages are sponsored, they will be named after the sponsors. If anybody wants to take a whole tahsil that is a sub-district that will cost about \$ 50 million and if a whole district is taken-one of the nine districts - the cost will be \$ 150 million. So this is the housing and the assistance required in this and suiting various pockets, this is the requirements. Let me come on to education sector. In this we have three shades of school; I will take each one of them in a fast manner. There are 9500 primary school required; each one costs 1500,000 rupees or 25 thousand dollars. There are 2375 middle schools required; each one of them costs 50 thousand dollars or 3 million rupees. There are 792 high schools required, which cost 83 thousand dollars or 5 million rupees each. There are 190 colleges required which cost 50 million rupees or 830 thousand dollars and finally there is university which has been destroyed. That is the Muzaffarabad University, it will cost two billion rupees or \$ 33.3 million. If we were to convert into a sub-district/ tahsil level the entire education system over a tahsil will cost 24 million dollars and entire education system of a district will cost 65 million dollars and the entire education system of the whole place will cost 614 million dollars. This is 30 percent higher than the assessed value in accordance with reconstruction figures arrived at through consensus, which was 472 million dollars. This is more because we are going through a need based strategy.

Then, let me take the health sector. A BHU, the primary health unit, they are 1140 required, each one costing 0.17 million dollars which is one crore rupees. Rural health centers are 285 each costing 0.33 million dollars 2 crore rupees. Tahsil headquarter hospital which is 75-bed and 25 of these are required. Each one costing 3.3 million dollars or 20 crore rupees. District headquarter hospital with 150-200 beds, nine of them are required costing 4.1 million dollars

or 25 crore rupees each. Muzaffarabad hospital is totally destroyed, 200-bed and it could be bigger which involves an expenditure of 5.8 million dollars or 35 crore rupees. And there is a leprosy hospital which was at Balakot, the totally destroyed area. This leprosy center is destroyed, its going to take 1.1 million dollars to reconstruct this center there. So if you take the whole tahsil in 15 million dollars the entire health structure of the sub-district can be taken on and in 46 million dollars the health structure of the entire district can be taken on. This will cost entirely 412 dollars in reconstructing the health infrastructure in all the nine district and this is 36 percent higher then the assessed value again because we are following the need based strategy. All this data, ladies and gentlemen will be available on the website so that any sponsor, any donor can track it and know where he has donated and he can go and see it on ground. That is the transparency level that we want to create.

Therefore, now ladies and gentlemen, I appeal to all Pakistanis in Pakistan and expatriates to donate to sponsor generously. Those who have been endowed by God, those have much more than their requirements, much more than their need, owe it to the nation, owe it to the people there to sponsor anything that they want, what I have said. I also appeal to the international community to show generosity at this moment to help us. We have even thought of adoption of villages, adoption of tahsil, adoption of districts by other cities. I don't see any reason why the affluent cities of Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad cannot adopt a tahsil. It is within their reach and I would appeal to cities of the world to adopt a sub-district or a district.

May I come to my views or our views on preferred sponsorships. One would prefer sponsoring of health and education facilities rather than houses. Why do I say that, because we have decided that houses to be owner-driven and we are giving two hundred thousands in cash to the person. Now if some donor comes with modern houses, better houses which are costing much more, there will be a disparity and may be those houses are not suiting the people. So therefore let it remain owners driven and that will be when we only guide them what to make and let them make it themselves. I would like to say that cash in the President Relief fund would be better than self construction by any donor. The only thing I can guarantee to anyone here that there will be transparency and there will be total accountability. Why do I say that and that again is for standardization. But however, if at all there is some organization who wants to self construct, they are more than welcome. But the only thing to remain in line with our norms, with our procedure and with our own system. Therefore, a line plan which the reconstruction and rehabilitation authority will have, please coordinate with that line plan so that you create something which is in sync with our own requirements. I said we will assure transparency and accountability and this is our resolve and Prime Minister has also mentioned it. Transparency will be assured through creation of a data on a website available to anyone to see for himself. Accountability will be assured through external auditing, through the tracking by the sponsors, through a very transparent data base that I have set and we are also in process of creating an oversight committee of eminent persons for monitoring or overseeing of all the funds that we are receiving and using. This is maximum we could do. Even on the distribution of cash, which is in very big number, we have ensured that there is a committee of the local government, of the parliamentarians and a military man to ensure that it is delivered to the right person in a transparent manner. That is all for reconstruction and rehabilitation, ladies and gentlemen. But I would like to take this opportunity to switch to a different but very important subject. Knowing very well that an Indian delegate is sitting here. And this is India- Pakistan relations.

Ladies and gentlemen! The earthquake has created a unique feeling of togetherness, of an urge to help each other within the people of Kashmir on both sides of the Line of Control and more than that within the people of India and the people of Pakistan. Therefore I sincerely and genuinely believe that this earthquake, that challenge of this earthquake can be converted into an opportunity of a life time which was never available to India and Pakistan to improve their relations. Therefore I take this opportunity and this forum to appeal to the President and the Prime Minister of India, I appeal also to the entire government of India, I appeal also to the entire opposition in India, I appeal to the people of India at large, I appeal to the business community of India and more than anybody else I appeal to media in India and also in Pakistan, I also appeal to the government of Indian Held Kashmir, I also appeal to the All

Parties Hurriyat Conference and other Kashmiri groups, let us together solve the Kashmir dispute once for all.

Ladies and gentlemen fleeting opportunities do not come every day. If leaders fail to grasp fleeting opportunities, they fail their nation and they fail their people. Therefore let good, let success and let happiness emerge from the ruins of this catastrophe, specially for the devastated people of Kashmir. Let this be the Indian donation to Kashmir. Ladies and gentlemen when talking of donations and assistance to each other I thought it is not a question of haves and have nots. It's not a question of who has more, who has less. We are a world community, living in the common heritage of this global village. It is our love for humanity and feeling for people in distress which motivated us all to support and to donate for Katrina or Tsunami. I on behalf of Pakistan ask for your support now for the quake victims and I would like to conclude with verses from John Donne's, a famous poet and I will read it out:-

'No man is in an Island entire of itself, every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main, any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.'

So therefore ladies and gentlemen, help my people, help the people of Pakistan. I thank you all, ladies and gentlemen.