

TOP-PRIORITY
PERSONAL ATTENTION



No.SO(GOODS)44-4/2022-23
GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Dated Lahore, the: 18th November, 2022.

To,

1. The Chairman, Planning & Development Board, Punjab.
2. The Senior Member, Board of Revenue, Punjab.
3. The Secretary to Governor, Punjab, Lahore.
4. The Secretary to Chief Minister, Punjab, Lahore.
5. All Administrative Secretaries to Government of the Punjab.
6. The Secretary to Provincial Assembly, Punjab, Lahore.
7. The Secretary, Punjab Public Service Commission, Lahore.
8. All Divisional Commissioners in the Punjab.
9. All Deputy Commissioners in the Punjab.
10. The Chief Pilot, VIP Flight, Lahore.
11. The Chief Inspector of Treasuries, Punjab, Lahore.
12. The Provincial Director, Local Fund Audit, Punjab, Lahore.
13. All Heads of Attached Departments in the Punjab.
14. All Heads of Autonomous Bodies / Corporations / Public Sector Companies in the Punjab.

Subject: - **AUSTERITY / ECONOMY MEASURES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23.**

I am directed to refer to the subject noted above and to state that the Provincial Government has decided to observe utmost austerity in usage of public money through prudent financial management, observance of financial discipline, judicious reduction of the expenditures without compromising the essential and core organizational functions/activities. Expenditures shall be required to be realigned with the organizational goals to make them target-based, cost-effective and efficient.

2. In pursuance of approval of Provincial Cabinet in its 3rd meeting held on 04.11.2022, Austerity Committee for the current financial year 2022-23 is hereby constituted as under:

Sr. No.	Name	Status
1.	Finance Minister	Chairman
2.	Finance Secretary	Member
3.	Secretary P&D Board	Member
4.	Special Secretary Finance (E&CF)	Member
5.	Representative of Administrative Department (Not below BS-19)	Member
6.	Additional Finance Secretary (LGF/G)	Secretary
7.	Any co-opted member (s), if required	


Section Officer (Goods/Law)
Government of the Punjab
Finance Department

3. Furthermore, the following austerity / economy measures during the current financial year 2022-23 shall be applicable on all **Government Departments, Local Governments, Public Sector Companies & Authorities, Autonomous Bodies, Attached Departments and Special Institutions** with immediate effect:

- i. **Purchase of New Vehicles:** There shall be a complete ban on procurement of new vehicles, except the following: -
 - Purpose built / service delivery related operational vehicles of Health, Punjab Emergency Services, Education, Police (APC, Prison van, Tow Truck, Fork Lifter), LG&CD, Agriculture, Livestock, PHAs, WASAs, PDMA, and Solid Waste Management Companies.
 - Motorcycles to the extent of sanctioned strength approved by Finance Department in terms of Sr. No.11 Note-2 of the Delegation of Financial Power Rules, 2016.
 - Vehicles mentioned in PC-I of the development schemes approved by PDWP and higher forum.
- ii. **Contingent Paid Staff:** Contingent Paid staff can be hired only in extremely emergent cases according to powers specified in Delegation of Financial Powers Rules, 2016 and in the light of notification No. SO(FRB)5-44/2019/WC-DW-Policy dated 29.01.2021 of Regulation Wing, S&GAD. However, departments shall remain within the budgetary allocations for the purpose, under object head "A01277-Contingent Paid Staff". Moreover, no additional funds as Supplementary Grant shall be provided for this head during current financial year 2022-23 and no re-appropriation shall be allowed/made without recommendations of the Austerity Committee.
- iii. **Purchase of Air Conditioners:** Purchase of Air Conditioners exceeding the aggregate amount of **Rs.1.000 million** in current financial year 2022-23 shall not be allowed, except with the prior concurrence / approval of the Austerity Committee.
- iv. **Treatment Abroad:** There shall be a complete ban on treatment abroad at Government's expense. However, under inevitable situations, approval of the Chief Minister will be solicited for treatment abroad on Government's expense.
- v. **Air Travel:** There shall be a complete ban on foreign visits of Government Officers / Officials through Government funding. Whenever required, cases for foreign visits shall be placed before the Austerity Committee for its approval. However, all Civil Servants, while undertaking foreign official tours if required, shall travel as per their


Section Officer (Goods/Law)
Government of the Punjab
Finance Department

entitlement on international flights. Moreover, the following foreign visits shall be exempted from the purview of Austerity Committee.

- The officers / officials proceeding on short term / long term foreign trainings, on scholarships for Foreign Masters / PhD degrees and foreign visits in connection with the Scheme titled "*Institutional Strengthening of P&D Board and Capacity Building of Public Sector Employees*" under ADP of Government of the Punjab and duly recommended / approved by the Program Steering Committee of the scheme.


vi. **Workshops/Seminars:** There shall be a complete ban on holding workshops / seminars / conferences / meetings / any kind of official events in private restaurants / hotels out of public funds.

vii. **Ban on Up-gradation of Posts:** There shall be a complete ban on all types of up-gradation of posts except the powers delegated under Delegation of Financial Powers Rules, 2016.

4. Strict compliance of the aforesaid austerity measures shall be ensured by all concerned for the Financial Year 2022-23. For examining austerity related cases, necessary documents / information shall be provided by the concerned Administrative Department or Attached Department.

5. It is advised that austerity related procurement / purchase procedure may not be started without getting approval / recommendation of the Austerity Committee.

6. The above instructions / guidelines supersede the ones earlier issued on this subject vide this Department's letter No.FD.SO(GOODS)44-4/2021-22 dated 25.03.2022.


(NAEEM AKHTAR)
SECTION OFFICER (GOODS/LAW)

No. & Date Even:

A copy is forwarded for information & necessary action to: -

1. The Accountant General, Punjab Lahore.
2. All District Accounts Officers in the Punjab / TO, Lahore
3. All Officers in the Finance Department.


Section Officer (Goods/Law)
Government of the Punjab
Finance Department


(NAEEM AKHTAR)
SECTION OFFICER (GOODS/LAW)