

Press Release

8th August 2020

Peshawar: Honorable the Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court (PHC), Mr. Waqar Ahmad Seth inaugurated virtually on Saturday, a Child Court in Mohmand, the first of its kind in any NMD and the fourth in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The efforts to establish Child Courts in the Province aim at providing expeditious, child sensitive and fair justice to children in contact or in conflict with law as envisaged in the Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Child Protection and Welfare Act, 2010 and the Constitution of Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Justice said, “Let me remind you that children under 14 years of age constitute almost 35% of our population. It would be thus unjust, if not downright criminal, to ignore the welfare of such a large chunk of society. He stated that, “Cognizant of its responsibility, the Peshawar High Court embarked upon a plan in 2019 to establish a chain of Child Courts throughout the Province beginning with Peshawar, extending next, to the Divisional Headquarters and finally to each district of the Province. This is a big stride forward in juvenile justice system unmatched by any other Province so far.”

He also expressed his resolve to further consolidate the efforts in the direction and effectively alleviate the plight of the children both in contact and in conflict with law by arranging for resolution of their disputes under one and the same roof.

The Peshawar High Court has posted Mr. Wali Muhammad, Additional District and Sessions Judge as Presiding Officer Child Court, Mohmand.

During the press conference that followed the inauguration ceremony, Mr. Khwaja Wajih ud Din, Registrar, Peshawar High Court, shared the commendable performance and the resultant progress registered by the three Child Courts at Peshawar, Mardan and Abbottabad in their early teething phase after their establishment in the recent past. These Courts, he added, had disposed of 1140 cases related to children in conflict and in contact with law, 93% of which were boys and 7% girls. Children in conflict with law tried in pilot Child Courts numbered 512, all being boys. Likewise, 422 accused children were granted bail. Again 202 child victims appeared in the said Courts of which 79% were boys and 21% girls. He also disclosed that the existing Child Courts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa showed remarkable disposal rate of 45% and corresponding average time of 99 days for conclusion of a case. However, for the first time 4 children availed diversion under JJC, all being male.

He also underlined that the primary role of child courts was to ensure the protection of children from maltreatment, violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. The Registrar expressed that under the dynamic leadership of the Chief Justice, the Peshawar High Court was determined to pursue the objective of providing not only speedy, effective and inexpensive justice to the children in contact and in conflict with law but creating a comfortable and congenial environment for them while going through the judicial proceedings at Child Courts. .