



Political Role and Services of Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan: An Appraisal

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Abstract:

Pakistan as a land is very rich in producing great leaders and renowned politicians. Galiyat region in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa is no exception. A small mountainous region which is very rich in its history and culture and has been a fertile land of leaders. Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob is one of the sons of soil. He hailed from the region and spent his entire life for the social, political and economic wellbeing his tribesmen. This paper aims to elucidate the political career and services of Sardar Muahhmad Yaqoob Khan for the socio-economic development of the people of his area. This study utilized qualitative research method and historical and descriptive techniques. Both primary and secondary sources were used to gather data. The primary sources mainly included the interviews of the family members and close friends of Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan. It was found that he was able to achieve so much in short span of time ranging from social, cultural, educational and economic aspects due to his strategic foresight, unflinching resolve, and untiring efforts.

Keywords: Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan, Galiyat, Pakistan Muslim League, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, political role, services, political acumen

INTRODUCTION

Creation of Pakistan as a state brought many opportunities for the inhabitants of the country. Those masses who were under the utter rule of British and their accomplices in the region, had very limited opportunities for peace and progress. Hazara was one of the regions which was quite underdeveloped despite being at a strategic junction of plains of Punjab, Kashmir and Northern Areas. The lush green area had very limited options for progress for its inhabitants. Literacy rate was very low. People economic outlook was quite bleak. Access to the basic necessities of the life

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was limited. Life style of the people was very basic in nature. There was a dire need of revolution in the life of people. Creation of Pakistan as a state created that opportunity and same was translated by the able leaders of the area. Over the period of last seventy-five years, Hazara has developed by leaps and bounds. It is one of the regions in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) which has the high literacy rate. Although the economic opportunities are still limited but the able men of the region have transcended all walks of life. Hazara has the due representation in all walks of life. It has produced numerous regional and national leaders which include Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan.

Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob is one of the prominent leaders of the area who not only remained on the regional canvass but is renowned at national and international level. He spent his entire life for the progress and well-being of people of his area. His political career is spanned over thirty long years. His political services are numerous in nature and the article is an effort in this regard to offer due recognition to his services for his homeland.

The aim of this paper is to highlight the political career and role of Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob who served as a Deputy Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan. It deals with his biography and socio-political contributions for the people of his area and the country at large. The study is significant in a manner that it provides an insight into the contribution of Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob in politics both at regional and national level. Study is also significant in a manner that it will be first written record of the services of Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob and will be foundation for further research on his contributions and template for the services of other leaders of the area.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Indeed, great leaders are not shaped but are born great. Success, progress and prosperity of a society is attributed to the Great Leader. However, recording of the personal and public history and services of the political leaders is not a norm in Pakistan. Pakistan is probably one of the few countries worldwide where the political biographies of leaders is given very limited attention (Jalal, 2014). It is more so in case of political leaders and great personalities of Hazara region of Pakistan. In fact, there is a dearth of literature available on the life of political leaders of Hazara region.

A few scholarly works are available on the role of political leadership of Hazara region during Pakistan movement. For instance, Bano, Amir, and Ayaz (2020) in their article Life-history of the unsung hero of Hazara: Khan Muhammad Jalal-Ud-Din highlighted the role of services of political leadership of Hazara region, especially of Khan Muhammad Jalal-Ud-Din, popularly known as Jalal Baba, in popularizing All India Muslim League (AIML) in the area. Jalal Baba and other leaders put their utmost to spread the message of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the leader of AIML in every hook and corner of Hazara and made the region a stronghold of the party. Their role was very significant in victory of AIML in 1945 elections and also in referendum of 1947 due to which people of North West Frontier Province (NWFP), now renamed as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) gave a landslide verdict in favour of joining Pakistan. Shah, Ahmed, & Ilyas (2021) in their article titled *The role of Khan Khudadad Khan in Pakistan movement, 1938-1947: An appraisal*, elucidated the life history and contribution of Khan Khudadad Khan, a prominent political leader of District Mansehra of Hazara division, in Pakistan movement. Khan like Jalal Baba played highly important role in organizing and popularizing AIML in Hazara that helped the party to win 1945 elections and the 1947 referendum.

Besides the leaders of Pakistan movement, a few work is also available on other political leaders and prominent leaders of the area. For instance, Ali, & Naazer (2019) surveyed the life history, political role and services of Sardar Abdur Rehman Khan, a leading tribal leader of Galiyat area of District Abbottabad. Born in 1863, he led his tribe from 1901 to 1953 which includes the most crucial time for making of Pakistan. He too played very active role in the Pakistan movement by instilling and fortifying the desire among his tribesmen for an independent Muslim state. His role in maintaining peace and order in the mountainous area and harmony among the various tribes and people of different faiths especially Muslims and Sikh was noteworthy. Ali, Naazer, and Ali (2020) in another work highlighted the role and services of Sardar Abdur Rehman, a leading tribal personality of Galiyat region, for social, and economic development, cultural growth of his tribesmen and promotion of true religious values and teaching of Islam in the area. Gul, and Rizwan (2022) surveyed the life history, political role of Sardar Haider Zaman Khan, popularly known as Baba Haider Zaman. His political career spanned over 50 years during which he served as an elected leader at various level including District Nazim and provincial minister. The study especially illumined especially his contribution towards popularizing the demand and organizing the movement for creation of Hazara province in KP. He emerged a voice of the people of the region and a stanch supporter of the demand of creation of new provinces on administrative grounds in different parts of the country.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research is qualitative in nature and has been conducted by using historical and descriptive methods to elucidate the Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob's political role and contribution. The information has been extracted from the available materials including newspapers, articles, speeches and interviews in written or electronic forms (Audio/Video) with primary research conducted through interviews being the main area of focus. Most of the information and data for the article has been extracted through interviews from the acquaintances of the leader. His political and social contributions have been extracted from the public domain articles, magazines, interviews, dialogues and discussions. The data collected from primary and secondary sources was scrutinized and analyzed through thematic analysis method.

POLITICAL ROLE AND SERVICES OF SARDAR MUHAMMAD YAQOOB

The study has been organized in three sections, excluding introduction, literature review and conclusion. Early life of Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob, political career and services, social services and political legacy of Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob are the major areas of emphasis in the study.

Early Life of Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob

Mr. Sardar Yaqoob was born on 17 Feb 1941 in the small village Nerian, Union Council Nagri Bala, District Abbottabad. His father Sardar Mir Hayinat was a farmer by profession. He was the third among seven siblings. He got married at the age of twenty. He has four sons. His first son namely Sardar Naseem Ahmed (Late) contested the Local Bodies election in 2005 and was elected Nazim Union Council Nagribala. He graduated from the University of Peshawar. He spent most of his life in social welfare activities (Sardar Shabbir Ahmed, Personal Communication, October 15, 2022). He died on May 22, 2021 due to Cardiac Arrest ("NA former deputy speaker," 2022). His second

son is Lt. Col. (Retd) Sardar Shabbir Ahmed. He did his L.L.B and MA in International Relations from the University of Peshawar. He joined Pakistan Army as a Commissioned officer in 1985, and retired as "Lieutenant Colonel" in 2012. He joined politics after demise of his father and remained the District Nazim, Abbottabad. The third son, Sardar Zaheer Ahmed, is a government contractor. He assisted his father in his construction business. His youngest son is Sardar Naseer Ahmed who mostly looks after family affairs (Sardar Shabbir Ahmed, Personal Communication, October 15, 2022).

Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob did his matriculation from Government Higher Secondary School Nathia Gali and did his F.Sc. from Government Post Graduate College Number 1 Abbottabad. He was a brilliant student and did best in his studies. He was truly a self-made person as he had very limited resources at his disposal for his studies. He did B.Sc. in Mathematics and later joined teaching profession as a Subject Specialist in Mathematics. After two years he resigned from teaching and joined Survey of Pakistan as Survey Engineer. He served in Survey of Pakistan from 1964 to 1974. Later in the 1976 he proceeded to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) as a Survey Engineer with Sheikh Mubark's Engineering Company. His famous projects in KSA included construction of Jeddah International Airport. He served in KSA for a decade and came back to Pakistan in 1985. He constituted his own construction company in collaboration with his best friend Munawar Hussain at Lahore as in the name of MYCO (Munawar Yaqoob Company). The company had the unique honor of surveying M1 Motorway from Islamabad to Peshawar (Sardar Shabbir Ahmed, Personal Communication, October 15, 2022).

Political Career of Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob

Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob joined politics in 1987 when he contested his first election for the local bodies polls. He contested the district council election which he won by 86 votes and was elected as a member of District Council Abbottabad. His tenure was completed in 1991. He could not get a worthwhile public office till year 2001. By the end of 2001, he went through serious health issues and got an angioplasty from Armed Forces Institute of Cardiology (AFIC), Rawalpindi. In 2001, Musharraf Regime announced local bodies election under its much celebrated Devolution of Powers plan. Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob contested election for the Nazim of Union Council, Nagribala, Abbottabad. However, he lost the contest with a narrow margin. In fact, a huge triumph was waiting for him behind this defeat.

Musharraf government announced general elections in the country in 2002. Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob joined Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid-e-Azam (PML-Q), as District General Secretary. The government at the same time announced that those having at least BA/BSc. graduates could participate in general elections (Khan. A, 2011). His financial situation did not permit him to contest such a big election but with the support of Sardar Haider Zaman and other friends he was able to do so. He won the elections by 36500 votes against Murtaza Javed Abbasi.

Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob was appointed on the coveted post of Deputy Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan. He was nominated to contest for the position of Deputy Speaker by PML-Q leader Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain. In the polls in national assembly he grabbed 163 votes to be elected as a Deputy Speaker. In the election he defeated Hafiz Hussein Ahmed of Mutahidda Majlis-e-Ammal (MMA) and Nabeel Gabol of Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarian (PPPP) who secured

86, and 70 votes, respectively (Haider, 2002; Mirza, & Wagha, 2009).

Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob joined Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in 2010, on the personal request from chairman PTI, Imran Khan. Sardar got the ticket from PTI and contested the election of the National Assembly of Pakistan. He lost the general elections of 2013 against his opponent Murtaza Javed Abbasi (Lashari & Mirza, 2013). In General Elections 2018 he contested election as an independent candidate as Party chief Imran Khan had preferred his personal friend Ali Asghar Khan over him as a party candidate from his native constituency of Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob. However, due to division among his supporters he lost the election. He remained active on the political canvass till his departure from this world on 21 October 2021.

Services of Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob

Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob has immense number of social, political and economic services for the people of Hazara in general and of his constituency in district Abbottabad in particular. Since he was the son of the soil, he knew the hardships, and problems of the area, after coming to the helm of affairs he attributed all of his energies for the progress and prosperity of his region. He is without any doubt the one of the leaders of the area who worked on all spheres of life. He did his best for improvement of the education in the area. He brought the revolution in the communication infrastructure of the area. He brought various cellular companies to the area and resolved erstwhile communication issues of the area. He also managed to bring boom in the tourism in the area which brought economic boost in the lives of locals. Water scarcity had been a lasting issue in the area. He managed to get the water supply schemes approved which brought peace and ease in the lives of the people. Few of his major contributions for the social well-being of Galiyat region are enumerated in the following paragraphs.

Political Partnership for Progress and Social Development

Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan was well aware of the unlimited problems of people of his constituency and the limited resources and powers he had as a member and deputy speaker of National Assembly. New knew that a number of issues and problem faced by his people could not be addressed by him as they fell in the purview of the provincial government or district administration. It necessitated that he must have close partnership and coordination with the respective members of provincial assembly from areas of his constituency. He, therefore, built a close political partnership with Sardar Muhammad Idrees, a member of provincial assembly as well as minister of local bodies and rural development in the NWFP government. Sardar Muhammad Idrees belonged to his own (Karlal) tribe as well as the native area, i.e. Galiyat. Both of them were visionary persons who despite having different political affiliation and sitting in governments of two different parties decided to coordinate and cooperate for the socio-economic development and progress of their area.

They agreed to use influence of Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob to carry out projects related to the subjects under the federal government and that of Sardar Muhammad Idrees for the projects related to provincial subjects. If there was dearth of funds from both the federal and provincial governments, they agreed to contact and seek assistance from other sources, such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other national or international donor agencies. They also coordinated with the district administration and elected representatives of local bodies which were

empowered and provided huge funds after devolution of powers plan introduced by the Musharraf regime in 2002.

After local government elections of 2005, Sardar Haider Zaman Khan had been elected as the District Nazim Abbottabad. Khan's election as the District Nazim further strengthened the political partnership for progress of the backward areas of Abbottabad, especially those falling in the constituency of Sardar Muhammad Yaqoo (Sardar Gohar Rehman, personal communication, November 10, 2022). Thus, Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan was able, mainly due to this political partnership, to contribute to development of roads and communication networks, educational and health facilities, provision of clean drinking water, electricity and modern telecommunication facilities, besides other. His contribution to various sectors is discussed in the following paragraphs.

Improvement of Road Infrastructure

Developed roads are akin to the progress in the area. Galiyat being a mountainous region suffered badly from the lack of roads infrastructure. There was only one major road in the area and it was Abbottabad – Murree Road. All link roads to the area were broken and narrow. He laid special emphasis on the development of the roads in the area and ensured that during his tenure as Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly all roads are freshly carpeted and improved. There is long list of roads and tracks to his credit which cannot be enumerated due to obvious reasons. During his tenure every nook and corner of his constituency was connected with well-constructed roads and tracks. Development of roads and tracks in the tenure of Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob is unprecedented in the history of Galiyat region and he will be remembered for his services in this regard.

Health Care

Health sector was always the prime priority of Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob. He was proponent of the notion that only healthy population can transform into a vibrant and progressive society. He discussed with the Minister of Health and Inspector General Civil Hospital for the betterment of healthcare units in the Hazara region. He said "We have to create a strong nation and strengthen its interests. It can only be done when every possible step would be taken for the health care of the people." During his tenure he ensured many upgradations in Ayub Teaching Hospital Abbottabad, Benazir Bhutto Hospital Abbottabad, Women and Children Hospital Abbottabad. He also led to establishment of numerous Basic Health Unit across the region and ensured provision of medicine and medical staff.

Education Sector

Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob was a very well read person. He had great love for the education and was well aware of the fact that without education no society can progress. He had made up his mind to bring in revolution in education sector of the region. He had a phenomenal role in establishment of the Havelian campus of the Hazara University which later on became Abbottabad University of Science and Technology (AUST). He also played significant role in establishment of Comsats University Abbottabad campus. He had also contributed positively in upgradation of Girls Degree College Abbotabad and Postgraduate College Abbottabad No 2. He convinced many of his acquaintances to establish Medical and Engineering Colleges in Abbottabad. He also contributed

immensely in upgradation various government schools to Higher Secondary Schools. The establishment of number of degree colleges to his credit. He also helped in provision of staff and accessories in government primary / secondary schools. He was also a staunch believer of girls' education and always appreciated the girls' education. He has numerous accounts to his credit in this regard.

Water Supply Schemes

The people of Galiyat region were faced with scarcity of water since long. No government paid attention to this basic issue for the long time. Those water supply schemes initiated in past outlived their utility and now the masses were suffering on daily basis. Since Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob was deeply connected to his hometown and people he had this issue in mind. He paid special attention to the issue and initiated numerous water supply schemes in the area. Few of the water supply schemes were initiated by the government and most of them he got initiated with the help of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and international donors. As of now the water supply schemes initiated by Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob are spread across the length and breadth of the region. Water supply to the famous tourist resort of Nathia Gali and Donga Gali were initiated during his tenure and now both the places have adequate supply of water. Every household in the constituency is indebted to Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob for his tireless efforts for provision of clean drinking water at their door step.

Electricity Projects

Electricity was one of the major concerns of the region. Most of the time electricity was not available. On availability it was much below the requirement of the people. Electric breakdowns were the routine affairs. Electric load shedding had further complicated the issue and life of the people due to lack of electricity was miserable. In most of the areas electric schemes had been approved by the previous governments but had not been materialized due to the political reasons. Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob took this issue as a challenge and ensured that electricity is provided to every household in his constituency without any political or social prejudice. He made a master plan of provision of electricity to every household in his constituency. He ensured establishment of new Grid Stations in the area and provision of continuous supply of electricity to every household. He also materialized the already approved electricity schemes without any political prejudice. His concerns for his people ensured provision of electricity across the whole region despite being most difficult and rugged terrain. Establishment of Sherwan Grid Station was his unforgettable service for the people of Abbottabad. Two-phase unlimited transformers were provided to the masses that significantly improved supply of electricity in all weather conditions (Sardar Liaqat Ali, personal communication, Septer 15, 2022).

Services During Earthquake 2005

Mega Earthquake of 2005 devastated the entire Galiyat region (Durrani & Mahsud, 2005). Major infrastructure was damaged and people had immense losses in men and material. Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob reached every nook and corner of his constituency and carried out detailed assessment of the damages. He chalked out a plan with the help of local notables to help the poor masses. He ensured provision of rations, tents, water and other necessary supplies to the needy

people. He also ensured the transparent distribution of financial assistance to the poor and deserving people.

He remained very active in the rehabilitation efforts. He supervised most the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in the area and ensured quality and timely construction of the projects. Reconstruction of roads, tracks, schools, colleges, households, health centers, water supply schemes and other social structures in record time with due emphasis on quality is hall mark of the Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob. He with his personal influence approached NGOs and international donor agencies such as United Nations Development Fund, OXFAM, United Nations Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United States Aid Agency (USAID), World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) to contribute in the rehabilitation and reconstruction effort in the area (Sardar Shabbir Ahmed, personal communication, October 15, 2022). Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob with his professional acumen and devotion to the cause turned a calamity into an opportunity for his people. His services during the testing times are immense and for that he will live long in the hearts of his people.

Revolution in Telecommunication

Communication is always a vital issue in the mountainous region. Problem is further accentuated where the population is scarce and telecommunication companies are averse due to less dividend. Galiyat region has lofty mountains with scarce population. Due to the obvious reason communication remained a sore issue. Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob paid a special attention to resolve this issue. Before the advent of the cellular companies, he ensured provision of landline communication to most of the households with the help of Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL). After the advent of cellular companies in Pakistan in 2003, onwards a revolution in telecommunication sector occurred in the area (Jahanzeb & Jabeen, 2007). Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob with his personal relations / efforts convinced the higher up of Telenor Pakistan and Ufone to establish their communication towers in the area. Within a span of five years every part of the region had the cellular communication. Communication lit up of the area introduced boom in the opportunities in economic sector. Digitization drive in Pakistan can be attributed to performance of telecommunication sector. His services in telecommunication are unforgettable, he purposed the idea of the telephone exchange in Abbottabad and advancement in the field by providing connections to the foremost areas (Sardar Shabbir, personal communication, October 15, 2022).

Tehreek-e-Sooba Hazara

Political struggle for separate province of Hazara can be traced back to the “Hazara Qaumi Mahaz” founded by Malik Asif Advocate in late 1987. In order to gain political mileage, the coalition government of Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) and Awami National Party (ANP), in April 2010, announced to change the name of erstwhile North West Frontier Province (NWFP) as “Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.” Changing of the name of province on the ethnic basis was not received very well across the province specially Hazara Division (“Protests over NWFP renaming,” 2010). Political protests were held in Abbottabad under the able leadership of Sardar Haider Zaman. During the police crackdown, several persons died, and more than two hundred were injured. Complete shutter down strike was observed in entire Hazara Division on 2 May 2010, for establishment of separate Province (Ahmar, 2013). The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on 21 March 2014 passed a resolution demanding the creation of the Hazara province but there has been no worthwhile

progress so far.

Tehreek-e-Soba-Hazara (TSH) was started in 2010. It comprised 120 members and led by Sardar Haider Zaman with his companions Sardar Yaqoob, Amman Ullah Khan Jadoon, Azhar Jadoon and Mushtaq Ghani (Hafeez, 2014). Due to the participation of the renowned leaders from the Hazara the movement is still alive and is part of the agenda of major political parties of the country. Day is not far when Hazara will become a separate province, truly attributed to the services of the great leaders like Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob and Sardar Hider Zaman.

Political and Social Awareness

Before stepping into the politics, he had established himself as a successful Surveyor Engineer. He had established an engineering company and had earned handsome amount of money, with which he could have spent his rest of life in peace and prosperity. He was a noble man with a golden heart. He wanted to contribute positively for the welfare of his fellows. He wanted to selflessly contribute towards the peace and prosperity of his population. He not only entered into politics but with the passage of time he became the focal point of the learned youth of the region. Due to his intellect and foresight he was able to convince people to his cause. Soon he attained a place of prominence among his colleagues. He was an honest person so he was trusted by the masses. He created a social awareness among the people and they were enlightened to their rights and duties towards the state. He was a binding force for the youth and the people aspiring for the progress of their society and region. He never had political, cultural, regional or linguistic prejudices, therefore, he had immense acceptance across the fabric of the society. The love and affection which he enjoyed over a period of time none of his contemporaries could enjoy. His social work and love for his society is the emblem of his political career and has left a lasting imprint on the history of the region. He was a people friendly political leader and wanted to uplift and develop the backward areas of his constituency (Sardar Gohar Rehman, personal communication, November 10, 2022).

Sardar Muhammad yaqoob highlighted problems of people of his area at every forum in the government and tried to address the grievances of masses through playing a mediating role between common people and the government department including the then prime minister of Pakistan. He believed that it was a better way to prevent people from protesting on the roads and minimizing problems for others ("Government want uplift," 2003).

Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob was well aware of the importance of water availability for the economy of the country especially agriculture sector. He advocated that construction of new water reservoirs was vital for production of cheap electricity as well continuous supply of water for the agriculture sector which is the backbone of country's economy. He said that new dams were not built after 1976 due to which the country was going to face water scarcity in the coming decades. He also supported the construction of Kalabagh dam after reaching national consensus among all four provinces of Pakistan ("Reservoirs to provide," 2006).

Political Legacy of Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob

Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob was a visionary leader. His supreme quality was his foresight for the future. He knew that education and development will open doors of political peace and prosperity in the area. He strived hard to provide best education to his people. He also opened the gates of

progress and development for his people. He laid the foundation of political process in the society. The progress and development which he introduced in the region is unprecedented. He revolutionized every walk of life of his tribesmen. The political prowess with which he served his fellow no one could ever do before him. Opening of the society for progress led to fabulous development of the area. Despite being mountainous area it has all basic amenities of the life including water, electricity, schools, hospitals, mosques, roads, markets and host of other things. Entire Galiyat region is indebted to his political services which are foundation block of the progress and development of the region. His political wisdom, unflinching resolve and love of his people will remain beacon of light for the leaders to follow. Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan was famous for promoting "truthfulness and self-righteousness throughout his political career." Instead of playing the role of traditional politicians, he preferred morality, justice and merit over favoritism that made him a distinct personality ("Condolence reference held," 2021).

CONCLUSION

Progress and development in any society can only be attributed to the selfless, dedicated, devoted and staunch leaders. Masses are organized into a society by the great leaders only and due to their selfless personalities they live long in the hearts of their follower. Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob is one of the local leaders of the Hazara region who earned a lasting respect and esteem from his followers due to his immense services during his political career. He is one of the very few leaders who had the vision to transform their societies into a progressive and developed society. He not only addressed the basic necessities of the population but also jelled them into progressive and vibrant society. He displayed the remarkable abilities of a modern leader who can influence by his character and displayed performance. During the course of his political career, he faced numerous challenges but due to his unflinching resolve he surmounted all. He is an emblem of hard work, devotion, self-sacrifice and sincerity of efforts. He is also among very few leaders who had the vision which cross cuts all walks of life. He transformed all walks of life including education, health, social sector, basic amenities of life, social welfare, unity and political awareness. His social and political services are immense and cannot be accounted for. He is truly a people's leader, lived his life a leader of common men and will be remembered as such. Sad demise of Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob left a vacuum in the political arena of Hazara region which will take a long time to fill in.

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