

PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT (PUBLIC)
PRESS WING

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Islamabad, Jan 16, (APP): President Mamnoon Hussain on **Tuesday** said the national counter-terrorism narrative would help eradicate terrorism and prove instrumental in reforming the people who lost their path due to negative propaganda of aberrant elements.

Addressing the launch of national counter-terrorism narrative 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, he said the decree prepared by religious scholars and Wafaqul Madaris after thorough consultations was a step in right direction reiterating that Pakistan was an Islamic state believing in peace, tolerance, justice and love.

The President said the launch of national narrative on counter-terrorism manifested that the whole nation was extremely serious on the issue and would be successful in achieving its objectives through unity.

"I believe that this decree, prepared in the light of true teachings of Islam, will transform their hearts and pave the way for their salvation in the hereinafter."

He said according to Islamic teachings, extremism, bloodshed and suicide-bombing were categorized as spreading evil on earth (Fasaad-fil-Ard), which was categorically prohibited and unjustified.

He said the decree would not only promote positive image of the Islamic teachings and Pakistani society in the world but would also help in overcoming the menace of extremism.

He expressed satisfaction that under the Paigham-e-Pakistan, different religious schools of thought had unanimously prepared an impressive document in light of the teachings of Quran and Sunnah whereby rationale behind sectarianism and use of religion for spreading evil on earth stood rebutted and the true face of Islam was revealed.

The President pointed out that the state and its institutions to a certain extent fell short of discharging their responsibilities during 1970s to 1990s which resulted in several complexities.

He said the nation sacrificed 70,000 precious lives and suffered huge financial loss due to terrorism and urged all segments of the nation to make a resolve not to repeat such mistakes.

He said the roots of extremism and militancy lied in intolerance and in not appreciating different points of views, which fostered sectarianism by eliminating moderation. He mentioned that renunciation of research, dogmatism and intolerance resulted in dreadful forms of sectarianism.

The President said it was imperative that religious scholars, intellectuals and all institutions of the state must be vigilant and apart from individual efforts, should collectively work with mutual consensus to safeguard the nation against divisiveness.

He said the country's Constitution provided a strong foundation for national unity and communal harmony, and was the fundamental narrative based on the teachings of Quran and Sunnah and on the sagacity of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

He regarded the Constitution as the essence of Charter of Medina and the agreement between the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) and the Christian tribe of Najran. "It is our foremost responsibility that we must hold this foundation (Constitution). It is the base which will provide us the strength to achieve a dignified place amongst the comity of nations and enable us to meet the challenges at national level," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that academic revolution in knocking at the door of the world. Muslim societies should listen to it and they must ensure peace and stability by working in the right direction as their future depends on this, he added. Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif hoped that may this narrative become a part our national identity. He emphasized that there is no place in the country for those who support terrorists while Islam and terrorism are incompatible with each other. Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman said that the demand of the implementation of Sharia on gunpoint is not right and we have

singled out those who want the enforcement of Sharia by force. Our true identity is Islam not the schools of thought, he added. Raja Zafar ul Haq stated that this narrative is an endeavour in the right direction which will help in achieving the objective.

A huge number of people from different walks of life were also present in the ceremony.
