

Government of Pakistan

Prime Minister's office

Youth affairs wing

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**Prime Minister Youth Program is free from politics and based on transparency, Special Assistant on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja**

Islamabad: March 1<sup>st</sup>, The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Youth Affairs, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, has stated that the Prime Minister Youth Program is a transparent initiative that is free from politics. The program is aimed at empowering and supporting the youth of Pakistan. The Special Assistant also mentioned that several measures, including the provision of free laptops to eligible and deserving youth, are being taken to achieve this goal. Furthermore, a total of one billion rupees have been distributed among successful applicants under the Prime Minister Youth Loan and Agriculture Loan Program. Technical training will also be provided to 10,000 young people.

Khawaja made these remarks while speaking to journalists on Wednesday. She noted that the Prime Minister Youth Program was launched in 2013 by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, and Maryam Nawaz served as its first chairperson. The Muslim League (N) initiated the program to empower young people.

Khawaja also announced that the Prime Minister Youth Program had completed ten years and that 2023 had been declared as the year of youth. She mentioned that the Commonwealth had also declared this year as the year of youth, and a Youth Week would be celebrated in Commonwealth member countries. Pakistan would mark this event with its own Week of Youth as it is currently the Chairperson of Commonwealth Council of Ministers.

During the Week of Youth, various programs were organized, including competitions in youth start-ups under the title of Future Architects of the Week of Youth, football and volleyball trials under the Prime Minister's Talent Hunt program, and a 10 km marathon race organized with the support of the United Arab Emirates.

Khawaja highlighted that the Prime Minister Youth Program provides traditional and non-traditional skills to young people. It aims to train 10,000 youth in different skills. Green Youth Clubs have also been established in government universities to promote innovative ideas and achieve sustainable development goals. Additionally, National Innovation Awards have been launched.

Khawaja informed the media that the mobile application of the youth program has been launched. It provides all necessary information about the facilities provided, and applications for business and agriculture loans can also be made through the app.

In conclusion, the Special Assistant reiterated that the Prime Minister Youth Program is transparent and apolitical. It aims to support and empower young people and equip them with the necessary skills to succeed in their future endeavors.