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PART I

Acts, Ordinances, President's Orders and Regulations

GILGIT-BALTISTAN ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

Gilgit, the 26th June, 2025

[THE GILGIT-BALTISTAN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION ACT, 2025]

(ACT NO. V OF 2025)

AN

ACT

to provide for the sustainable and green development of power resources of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Preamble.—

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the sustainable and green development of power resources and for the generation, transmission, distribution and regulation of electric power within the Gilgit-Baltistan;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to facilitate investment and participation in the generation transmission distribution and supply of energy resources in public sector, private sector, and on public private partnership basis in the Gilgit-Baltistan;

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AND WHEREAS to achieve the objectives, it is expedient to re-organize the Water & Power Department, Gilgit-Baltistan and corporatize the existing power sector entities, with focus on delivery and cost management and for matters connected therewith and ancillary thereto;

AND WHEREAS it is lawful right of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan to obtain services of electric power and energy services in manner that is transparent, cost effective and competitive;

AND WHEREAS it is prudent to implement sovereign rights vested in Gilgit-Baltistan conferred under Article 60 (2) (c) read with Entry No. 44 (residuary subject to subject of "Electricity and Bulk Water Storage") of Third Schedule (Council Legislative List) of Government of Gilgit-Baltistan Order, 2018 further read with Rules of Business 2009 pursuant to which the subject of electricity is to be administered by the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan (protected through Article 119(2) of the Gilgit-Baltistan Order, 2018);

AND WHEREAS access to energy is the fundamental right of people and the Government is obligated to provide the same and the Government is fully competent to legislate for the wellbeing of its people and subject of energy falls within powers as conferred under Article 60(2)(c) of Government of Gilgit-Baltistan Order, 2018.

NOW THEREFORE it is hereby enacted as follows:-

PART-I

GENERAL

1. **Short title, extent, and commencement.**—(1) This Act may be called the Gilgit-Baltistan Energy Development Organization Act, 2025.

(2) It extends to the whole of Gilgit-Baltistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Definitions.**—In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:—

(a) **"Act"** means the Gilgit-Baltistan Energy Development Organization Act, 2025.

(b) **"Chairperson"** means the head of policy board established under section 5 of this Act.

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(c) **"Chief Executive Officer"** means the Chief Executive officer of the Gilgit-Baltistan Energy Development Organization appointed under section 7 of this Act.

(d) "**Company**" for the purpose of this Act, means a company established by the Gilgit-Baltistan Energy Development Organization under the Companies Act for carrying out one or more of its functions;

(e) "**Companies Act**" means the Companies Act 2017 as adapted by the Gilgit-Baltistan or any successor legislation;

(f) **"Electric Power"** means electrical energy or the capacity for the production of electric power;

(g) "**Electric Power Services**" includes the generation, transmission, distribution, supply, sale or trading of electric power and all other services incidental thereto;

(h) **"Employees"** mean the officers and employees of the Gilgit-Baltistan Energy Development Organization and includes deputationists and regular and contract employees;

(i) **"Energy"** means energy derived from natural, conventional, synthetic, non-renewable and, renewable resources its conversion, storage, transportation, distribution and regulation;

(j) "**Energy Policy**" means the policy, directions and guidance approved by the Government from time to time for the development of energy resources of the territory;

(k) "**Energy Plan**" means the activities approved by the Government from time to time for the development of energy resources of the Gilgit-Baltistan in accordance with the Energy Policy;

(l) **"Executive Committee"** means the Executive Committee of the Gilgit-Baltistan Energy Development Organization;

(m) **"Federal Government"** means the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan;

(n) "**GBEDO**" means the Gilgit-Baltistan Energy Development Organization established under section 3 of the Act;

(o) **"GBEDO Fund"** means the Fund established under Section 17;

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(p) "**Government**" means the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan;

(q) **"Land"** includes benefits to arise out of land, and things attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth;

(r) **"Local body"** means a local council constituted under the Gilgit-Baltistan local Government Act, 2014 as amended from time to time.

(s) **"Officer"** means an Officer of the Organization.

(t) **"Policy Board"** means a Policy Board established under Section 5 of this Act;

(u) "**Power**" means and includes power or electrical energy generated by any means including water, steam, oil, gas, coal, re-gasified liquefied natural gas, wind, solar, bagasse, hydrogen, waste to energy or any other form of power generation notified as such by the Government;

(v) "**Prescribed**" means prescribed by rules or regulations;

(w) "**Projects**" means to build, finance, own, operate and maintain the Energy generation, production, transmission and distribution projects, in the public sector, private sector and or public private partnership basis within the Gilgit Baltistan;

(x) "**Property**" includes any right, title, or interests in property, moveable or immovable, tangible or intangible and in whole or in part;

(y) "**Provincial Government**" means any government of the four provinces of Pakistan;

(z) "**Regulations**" means regulations framed under this Act;

(aa) "**Rules**" means rules made under this Act;

(bb) "**Scheduled Bank**" means a Scheduled Bank licensed by the State Bank of Pakistan; and

(cc) "**Sponsor**" means a person, including consortium from the private or public sector who intends to invest or have already invested in the energy sector.

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3. **Establishment of the Organization.**—(1) There shall be established an Organization to be known as the Gilgit-Baltistan Energy Development Organization.

(2) The GBEDO shall be a body corporate having power to acquire, hold, and sell property, both movable and immovable, shall have perpetual succession and a common seal and shall by the said name sue and be sued.

(3) The head office of the GBEDO shall be at Gilgit.

4. **Functions and Powers of the GBEDO**. —— (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the GBEDO shall have exclusive functions and powers for the development and utilization of the power and energy resources of the Gilgit-Baltistan through public sector, private sector and public private partnership mode.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power the GBEDO shall—

(a) recommend and facilitate development of energy policies and energy plans;

(b) approve and undertake projects of any financial value;

(c) regulate, generate, transmit and distribute the electric power services;

(d) construct, maintain, own, operate, and control the power houses, grids and micro grids, generation stations, transmission and distribution lines through itself, contractors or private parties etc;

(e) conduct feasibility studies, surveys, detailed designs, detailed engineering and researches;

(f) place wires, poles, wall brackets, stays, apparatus and appliances for the transmission or distribution of electricity or for the transmission of telegraphic or telephone communications necessary for the proper execution of a scheme;

(g) approve use of GBEDO Fund, its appropriations and re-appropriations of GBEDO Fund, grant approval for cost revisions, escalations or variations of a project;

(h) undertake any work, incur any expenditure, procure plant, machinery and materials required for its use;

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(i) acquire by purchase, lease, exchange or otherwise and dispose of by sale, lease, exchange or otherwise, any immovable or movable property or any interest in such property;

(j) raise funds through any means considered appropriate in the circumstances including through bonds, sukuk and other forms of finances obtained on the basis of participation term certificate (PTC), musharika certificates, term finance certificates (TFC) or any other financial or debt instruments or securities, as well as on the security of certain assets of GBEDO, hydel power projects or the GBEDO Fund or portion thereof, as may be approved by the Policy Board;

(k) establish one or more companies, with the approval of the Policy Board, under the Companies Act;

(l) raise funds and obtain finance or loans from donor agencies, governmental bodies and financial institutions;

(m) restrict or prohibit by general or special order, the clearing and breaking up of land in the catchment area of any river, canal, tributary or stream;

(n) establish thermal, solar, wind, hydro, waste to energy, oil, gas or other alternate renewable energy based power houses, erect test masts, collect wind and solar data for power generation, lay or cause to be laid, pipelines for supply of fuel, establish fuel supply means, engage in transmission, trading, distribution and sale of energy to industries and domestic consumers, manage demand, issue licenses, cause setting of tariff, recover and collect charges and fees etc;

(o) determine and approve project costs, terms and conditions of financing, termination payments and other payments;

(p) submit petitions for tariff, licensing and other related functions before appropriate authorities and regulatory forums;

(q) acquire land or any interest in land which shall be deemed to be an acquisition for a public purpose within the meaning of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894;

(r) draft, negotiate and enter into security package documents or agreements and guarantee the contractual obligations of entities under the energy policies;

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(s) execute, administer and monitor contracts by it;

(t) prescribe and receive fees and charges for processing applications and deposit and disburse or utilize the same, if required;

(u) obtain from sponsors or contractors, as the case may be, security instruments and en-cash or return them, as deemed appropriate;

(v) open and operate bank accounts in local and foreign currencies as permissible under the laws of Pakistan;

(w) commence, conduct, continue and terminate litigation, arbitration or alternate dispute resolution mechanisms, at whatever levels may be necessary or appropriate and hire and pay for the services of lawyers and other experts therefor;

(x) appoint technical, professional and other advisers, agents and consultants, including accountants, bankers, engineers, lawyers, valuers and other persons;

(y) hire professional and supporting staff and, from time to time, determine the emoluments and terms of their employment, provided always that at no stage shall such emoluments be reduced from such as are agreed in the contracts with such persons;

(z) employ directly or by induction, transfer, deputation or by absorption from Federal Government, Government or other Provincial Governments, semi-autonomous and autonomous bodies, such officers and servants, as it may consider necessary for the efficient performance of its functions, on such terms and conditions as it may deem fit: provided that the terms and conditions of service of any such person as aforesaid shall not be varied by the Policy Board to his disadvantage;

(aa) establish and maintain mechanisms and procedures for effective conservation and efficient use of energy under the Projects in Gilgit-Baltistan and for matters connected therewith;

(bb) employ energy efficient standards, labelling, incentives, fines, and other related requirements to ensure in order to comply with the requirement of sub-clause (aa);

(cc) Survey ,explore, develop, oil and gas resources and produce, store, transmit, refine, market, distribute, oil and gas including importation and exportation thereof;

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(dd) grant, issue, and renew oil and gas licenses and to modify, amend suspend, review, cancel, and reissue or terminate any such license for the undertaking of nay regulated activity and to prescribe requirements to be satisfied by applicants for the grant of such license;

(ee) grant, issue, and renew oil and gas, transmission and distribution licenses and to modify, amend suspend, review, cancel, and reissue or terminate any such license for the undertaking of any regulated activity and to prescribe requirements to be satisfied by applicants for the grant of such license.

(ff) determine the well-head gas prices for the producers in accordance with the relevant agreements or contracts and notify the same in the official Gazette on the first day of July and the first day of January each year;

(gg) Perform any other function or exercise any other power as may be incidental or consequential for the performance of any of its functions or the exercise of any of its powers or as may be entrusted by the Government to meet the objects of this Act; and

(hh) collect, retain, and utilize revenues generated from the sale of electricity or energy related services to consumers, and deposit such revenues into the GBEDO fund.

PART-II

CONSTITUTION OF THE POLICY BOARD AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

5. **Policy Board.**— (1) The Policy Board shall consist of the following:

(a) Chief Minister, Gilgit-Baltistan;	*Chairperson*
(b) Minister for Water & Power Department, Gilgit-Baltistan;	*Vice-Chairperson*
(c) Minister for Law Department, Gilgit-Baltistan;	*Member*
(d) Additional Chief Secretary (Development)	*Member*
(e) Secretary to Government, Finance Department;	*Member*
(f) Secretary to Government, Water & Power Department;	*Member*

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(g) Chief Executive Officer, Executive Committee; and	*Member*
(h) Three (3) private sector professional with respective expertise in law, finance and energy amongst the person having at least 15 years' experience in the relevant field	*Members*

(2) The meetings of the Policy Board shall be presided over by the Chairperson and in his absence; the Vice-Chairperson shall preside over its meetings.

(3) Meetings of the Policy Board shall be held as and when required, but at least once in a quarter, at the time and place as the Chairperson may determine.

(4) Presence of five (05) members of the Policy Board shall constitute the quorum for a meeting.

(5) The decisions of the Policy Board shall be taken by the majority of its members present and, in case of a tie, the Chairperson or in his absence the Vice Chairperson presiding over the meeting, as the case may be, shall have a casting vote. All orders, determinations and decisions of the Policy Board shall be reduced to writing together with a record of the discussions held in the meeting.

(6) No act or proceedings of the Policy Board shall be invalid merely by reason of vacancy in, or defect in the constitution of the Policy Board.

(7) Subject to the pleasure of the Government, the term of office of the members, mentioned at clause(g) of sub-section (1), shall be three (3) years, who may be re-appointed for another term by Government on the recommendation of the Policy Board.

(8) The members, mentioned in clause (g) of subsection (1), may, at any time, by writing under his hand, addressed to the Policy Board, resign his office which shall take effect upon acceptance by the Government.

(9) The Policy Board may co-opt members belonging to the relevant expertise in relation to any matter under consideration of the Policy Board, who may take part in discussion, but shall not be entitled to vote for or against the matter under discussion.

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(10) The Policy Board may appoint a Secretary of the Policy Board, who shall posses qualification and shall be appointed on such terms and conditions of service as may be prescribed.

(11) The Secretary, appointed under sub-section (10), shall assist the Policy Board in the conduct of its business in the manner as may be prescribed.

6. **Functions and Powers of the Policy Board.**—(1) For the purpose of this Act, the Policy Board may issue policy guidelines to the GBEDO, from time to time.

(2) Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Policy Board shall have the power to:

(a) approve energy policy, submitted to it by the Executive Committee, for approval and periodically review progress and implementation thereon;

(b) approve energy plan and periodically review progress and implementation thereon;

(c) appoint and remove the Chair and members of Executive Committee;

(d) approve the annual budget for GBEDO;

(e) review performance of Executive Committee from time to time; and

(f) issue directions and guidelines to the GBEDO from time to time to protect the interests of the Government, Sponsors and public.

7. **Executive Committee.**—(1) The GBEDO shall have an Executive Committee to exercise powers and functions of the GBEDO, subject to the provisions of this Act.

(2) The Executive Committee shall consist of the following:

(a)	Chief Executive Officer, GBEDO;	*Chair*
(b)	A representative of the Water & Power Department, Secretariat, not below the rank of an Additional Secretary;	*Member*

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(c)	Member Finance of GBEDO;	*Member*
(d)	Member Renewable Energy of GBEDO; And	*Member*
(e)	Member Hydro Power of GBEDO	*Member*

(3) The Executive Committee may co-opt any other Government functionary or sectoral expert as a co-opted member of the Executive Committee for a specific meeting as and when need so arises.

(4) The Executive Committee may appoint a Secretary of the Executive Committee, who shall possess such qualification and shall be appointed on such terms and conditions of service as may be prescribed.

(5) The Secretary, appointed under sub-section (4), shall assist the Executive Committee in the conduct of its business in the manner as may be prescribed.

(6) The Executive Committee shall facilitate sponsors, Policy Board and Government in development of the projects in accordance with the energy policy and the energy plan.

(7) No act or proceedings of the Executive Committee shall be invalid by reason only of the existence of a vacancy in or defect in constitution of the Executive Committee.

(8) The Executive Committee may establish sub-committees for discharge of its functions and powers.

8. **Meeting of the Executive Committee.**---(1) The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be presided over by the Chair and in his absence a member designated by the Chair shall preside over its meeting.

(2) At least three (3) members of the Executive Committee, including the Chair, shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee.

(3) The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at such time and place as the Chair of the Executive Committee may, from time to time, determine.

(4) Decisions of the Executive Committee shall be taken by the majority of its members present and in case of a tie, the Chair or the member presiding over the meeting, shall, as the case may be, have a casting vote.

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(5) The meeting of Executive Committee shall be held at least once every month.

(6) Proceedings of the Executive Committee shall be minuted by the Secretary of the Executive Committee with the approval of the Chair, which shall be ratified by Executive Committee, in the next successive meeting.

(7) Decisions of the Executive Committee shall be recorded in writing, reasoned and delivered expeditiously and judiciously.

9. **Appointment of Chief Executive Officer and Members of Executive Committee.**—(1) The Policy Board shall appoint the Chief Executive Officer of the GBEDO from amongst the persons having expertise in the field of energy and power sector on such terms and conditions as the Policy Board may determine.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Policy Board may appoint the Chief Executive Officer (a) from private sector after following the procurement process; and or (b) from amongst the panel of three (3) senior most Chief Engineers of the Water and Power Department, Gilgit Baltistan, who shall hold office for a period of four (4) years which shall be counted from the date of his appointment under this Act:

Provided that till the constitution of the Executive Committee under this Act, the Policy Board shall exercise all the powers of the Executive Committee under this Act.

(3) The Chief Executive Officer shall be the Chief Executive of the GBEDO and shall be responsible for its day-to-day administration and management. He shall also be responsible to carry out and implement the orders and decisions of the Policy Board and the Executive Committee.

(4) The term of office of the Chief Executive Officer shall be three (3) years. On expiry of its term of office, the Chief Executive Officer shall be eligible for re-appointment for a subsequent term or terms or for such shorter term as the Policy Board may determine.

(5) The Chief Executive Officer may, at any time, resign from his office and by virtue of his resignation, he shall cease to be member of the Executive Committee and Policy Board, or if he resigns from the membership of the Executive Committee or Policy Board, he shall cease to be the Chief Executive Officer:

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Provided that his resignation in either case shall not take effect until accepted by Policy Board.

(6) The CEO of the GBEDO shall be the Chair of the Executive Committee and the Members shall be appointed by the Policy Board from amongst the persons having at least fifteen years' experience in the field of energy, engineering, law, administration or finance, in such a manner and on such terms and conditions as the Policy Board may determine.

10. **Employees.**—(1) For the purposes of this Act, Executive Committee may, from time to time. appoint employees on regular basis, hire, engage consultants, lawyers, experts, professionals, advisors, agents, accountants, bankers, engineers and such other staff as may be required, who shall be paid such remuneration and allowances and shall hold their employment on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by regulations:

Provided that the GBEDO, in cases of urgency or public interest, may appoint consultants, lawyers and experts for a period, not exceeding six (6) months, which may be renewed for another period of six (6) months for short term assignments.

(2) The GBEDO may induct the employees of the Federal Government, Government, other Provincial Governments, autonomous or semi-autonomous bodies as it may consider necessary for the efficient performance of its functions, in such a manner and on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

(3) The staff of GBEDO shall be liable to disciplinary action in manner as may be prescribed by regulations.

11. **Removal of the Chief Executive Officer and Members of the Executive Committee.**—(1) The Policy Board may, by notification in the official Gazette, remove the Chief Executive Officer or any Member of the Executive Committee appointed under section9, if he—

(a) refuses, neglects, defaults or fails to discharge, or becomes, in the sole opinion of Policy Board, incapable of discharging his responsibilities, duties or functions under this Act; or

(b) has been declared insolvent; or

(c) has been declared to be disqualified for the employment, or have been dismissed from, the service of Pakistan, or have been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude; or

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(d) has knowingly acquired or continued to hold, without permission, in writing of Policy Board, directly or indirectly through a partner, any share or interest in any contract or employment with, or by on behalf of the Executive Committee or in any land or property which, in his knowledge, is likely to benefit or has benefited as a result of the decision of the Executive Committee; or

(e) fails to attain the required standard as set out in the prescribed key performance indicators:

Provided that prior to removing the Chief Executive Officer or any Member, a personal hearing shall be provided to him by the Policy Board.

PART- III

POWER AND DUTIES OF THE GBEDO

12. **Delegation of Powers.**—The Executive Committee may, by general or special order, delegate to the Chief Executive Officer a member or any officer of the GBEDO any of its powers, duties or functions under this Act, subject to such conditions as it may deem appropriate.

PART- IV

RESTRUCTURING

13. **Ownership.** —Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law for the time being in force, the GBEDO shall—

a. own, operate and control all power houses, generation stations, grids, transmission and distribution lines in the Gilgit-Baltistan constructed by, or transferred to, the GBEDO including ancillary works;

b. own, operate and control all oil and gas fields, well heads, transmission and distribution facilities in the Gilgit-Baltistan constructed by, or transferred to, the GBEDO including ancillary works;

c. through rules and regulations determine and prescribe procedures and standards for determination, modification or revision of licenses, rates, charges and terms and conditions for generation of electric power, transmission, inter-connection, distribution services and power sales to consumers by licensees.

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d. through rules and regulations determine and prescribe procedures and standards for determination, modification or revision of licenses, rates, charges and terms and conditions for exploration, development of, oil and gas resources and production, storage, transmission, refining, marketing, distribution of oil and gas sales to consumers by licensees.

14. **Exclusivity.**—(1) The hydro power project sites and oil and gas concession areas, within the Gilgit Baltistan, are exclusively vested in the Government.

(2) The hydro power project sites and oil and gas concession areas shall be developed by the Government in the public sectors, private sectors and or on public private partnership basis.

(3) The hydro power project sites and oil and gas concession areas may be allocated to the private sector for development with the permission of the Government.

15. **Corporatization.**—The GBEDO may:

(a) undertake any joint venture or work in association with the Federal Government, the Government, Provincial Government, an agency, corporation, company, Board or any person and may subscribe to the equities and acquire such other rights and obligations as may be necessary for such joint venture or association;

(b) promote, form or sponsor any company or companies having objects of installation of thermal, hydel and renewable projects and development and utilization of any resources of energy for generation, transmission and distribution of energy and for survey, investigation, exploitation and utilization of resources of energy for generation, transmission and distribution of energy;

(c) subscribe for, take or otherwise acquire, hold and dispose of shares, bonds, debentures, commercial papers or other securities of any company promoted, formed or sponsored under clause (b) and receive dividends or other payments there from and transfer to it any of its land or any other property, movable or immovable, tangible or intangible, against cash, shares, bonds, debentures, commercial papers or other securities as is desirable or necessary to enable it to privatize or otherwise restructure any operation of the GBEDO;

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(d) enter into any of the following arrangements which may be consistent with its objects, namely:-

(i) provision of services and personnel;

(ii) Provision of goods, appliances, plants, machinery, panels and other materials; and

(iii) Purchasing of electrical capacity and energy from any company.

(e) Enter into any contractor agreement with any company or companies;

(f) Notwithstanding any terms of any contract entered into by the GBEDO for the supply of electricity to any person, transfer such contract to any company or other entity promoted, formed or sponsored by GBEDO.

(g) GBEDO may incorporate and establish companies under the Companies Act to engage in the business of generation, transmission, distribution, sales, supply of, electric power services or, case maybe, oil and gas services and supplies.

PART-V

LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND OFF GRID PROMOTION

16. **Community Based Organizations.**—(1) The GBEDO shall encourage, promote, and execute community based and local bodies centered off-grid power projects based on locally available renewable sources.

(2) The GBEDO shall develop standard protocols, processes and procedures including, but not limited to, entering into contracts, terms of partnership, cost sharing, access to land, right of way, prescription of fees, issue of licenses and determine tariffs and their mode of collection, accounting and usage, handing- over, vesting and post handing over, transfer of operation and management of such off-grid power projects based on locally available renewable sources to the local bodies or rural communities.

(3) The GBEDO shall establish an effective post-completion support and monitoring system to ensure that the completed schemes are efficiently operated and maintained and get timely technical backstopping in case of emergency.

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(4) All such schemes aimed at a local body or a community-based organization shall cover all aspects of development, generation, transmission, distribution, operation and maintenance, regulation and tariffs and the GBEDO may enter into agreements for such purposes.

PART-VI

FINANCE

17. **GBEDO Fund.**—(1) There is hereby established for the purposes of this Act, a fund to be administered and controlled by the GBEDO to be known as GBEDO Fund. The operations of the GBEDO shall be funded from the GBEDO Fund.

(2) The GBEDO Fund shall consist of:

(a) grants made by the Government and the Federal Government including grants provided by the Government for payment of salaries, establishing infrastructure and running day-to-day business of the GBEDO as a single line budget, including the first five consecutive years, annual grant of five hundred million rupees;"

(b) Loans obtained from the Government and the Federal Government;

(c) Loans or funds obtained by the GBEDO from commercial banks or any other source with the prior approval of the Government;

(d) Foreign loans, grants or any other financial assistance obtained with the approval of the Government or the Federal Government;

(e) Proceeds from encashment of security instruments;

(f) Fees and all other sums collected by it as prescribed by rules from time to time;

(g) Returns and profits on the investments; and

(h) all other sums, property, revenues/bills collected from consumers and charges received by or vested in the GBEDO in respect of its powers and functions under this Act.

18. **Expenditure to be charged on the GBEDO's Fund.**—(1) The GBEDO Fund shall be expended for the purposes of:

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a. Paying any expenditure lawfully incurred by the GBEDO, including the remuneration and allowances of the Chief Executive Officer, Members, staff, employees, accountants, advisers, agents, consultants, lawyers, valuers and other experts appointed and employed by GBEDO, including provident fund contributions, superannuating allowances or gratuities and legal fees and costs and other fees and costs, if any;

b. Projects development and operation cost;

c. Paying for expenditure incurred on:

i. Marketing and publicity;

ii. Capacity building, seminars and conferences, and

iii. restructuring.

d. purchasing or hiring equipment, machinery and any other materials, acquiring land and constructing buildings and carrying out any other work and undertakings by GBEDO in the performance of its functions or the exercise of its powers under this Act;

e. re-paying any financial accommodation received or moneys borrowed under or pursuant to or by virtue of this Act and the profit, mark-up or return due thereon: and

f. paying any other expenses, costs or expenditure properly incurred or accepted by the GBEDO in the performance of its functions or the exercise of its powers under this Act.

19. **Investment.**—The Executive Committee may, in so far as its moneys are not required to be expended under this Act, invest amounts in such manner as prescribed by the regulations.

20. **Bank accounts.**—The Executive Committee may open and maintain its accounts in local and foreign currencies in such scheduled banks and other financial institutions, as it may determine from time to time, in accordance with the instruction of the Policy Board in this regard.

21. **Accounts.**—(1) The Executive Committee shall maintain proper accounts and other records relating to its financial affairs and shall, as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year, cause to be prepared for that financial year statements of accounts of the GBEDO, which shall include a balance sheet and an account of income and expenditure.

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(2) The financial year of GBEDO shall be the period of twelve (12) months ending on the 30th June in each year.

22. **Audit.**—The Executive Committee shall require annual audit of the accounts of GBEDO through reputable firm of chartered accountants:

Provided further that the Auditor-General of Gilgit-Baltistan may carry out audit of accounts of GBEDO as and when necessary.

23. **Duties and Taxes.**—The GBEDO is performing the powers and functions of the Government under this Act and therefore shall not, in respect of its property or income, be liable to taxation under any Act of Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly.

PART-VII

RULES AND REGULATIONS

24. **Power to make Rules.**—The Government may either on its own motion or on the recommendation of the GBEDO and by the notification in the official Gazette make rules for matters required to be Prescribed under this Act.

25. **Power to make Regulations.**—The Executive Committee may, with the approval of Policy Board, by notification in the official Gazette, make regulations, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act or the rules, for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

PART-VIII

MISCELLANEOUS

26. **Annual Report.**—The Executive Committee shall submit to the Policy Board within ninety days of the end of every financial year, a report on the conduct of the affairs of the GBEDO for the year.

27. **Information.**—The GBEDO may call for any information required by it for carrying out the purposes of this Act or as is required under contracts entered into by the GBEDO from any person involved, directly or indirectly, in the power and energy sector or any matter incidental or consequential there to and any such person shall provide the required information called by the GBEDO.

28. **Members and staff to be public servants.**—The Chair, members of the Executive Committee, the Chief Executive Officer and Members of the

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GBEDO, officers, servants and other employees of the GBEDO shall, when acting or purporting to act in pursuance of any of the provisions of this Act, be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Pakistan Penal Code 1860.

29. **Indemnity.**—No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Executive Committee, members, its officers, advisors, consultants and other employees, in respect of anything done or intended to be done in good faith under this Act.

30. **Act to override other laws.** ——The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything in consistent contained in any other law for the time being in force.

31. **Common Seal.**—The GBEDO shall have a common seal and such seal shall be kept in the custody of the Secretary of the Executive Committee or such other person as may be authorized by the regulations. Documents required or permitted to be executed under the seal, shall be specified in and authenticated in such manner as shall be authorized by regulations.

32. **Support of the Government & Federal Government.**—The Government, Provincial Government and the Federal Government and all its agencies, particularly the concerned enterprises owned and controlled wholly or partially, directly or indirectly by the Government, Provincial Government and the Federal Government shall render such support to the GBEDO as may be necessary to fulfill its objective and functions under this Act.

33. **Removal of difficulties.**—If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any provision of this Act, the Government may make such order, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear to it to be necessary for the purposes of removing the difficulty.

34. **Repeal and savings.**—(1)(i) Notwithstanding anything contained to the contrary under any other law, any action taken, orders issued, appointments made, notifications issued, etc., by and under the Water and Power Department Gilgit Baltistan, so far not inconsistent with the provisions of the Act, shall be deemed as taken, made, issued under this Act:

(ii) all assets, rights, powers, authorities and privileges and all property, cash and bank balances. reserve funds, pensions, gratuities, provident funds, investment and all other interests and rights in or arising out of such property and all debts, liabilities and obligations of whatever kind of the Water and Power Department Gilgit-Baltistan subsisting immediately before the commencement of this

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Act shall stand transferred to and vest in GBEDO constituted under this Act;

(iii) all financial and cash transactions of the Water & Power Department, Gilgit-Baltistan before the commencement of this Act shall be assigned, transferred and become part of the GBEDO Fund;

(iv) notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force or in any agreement, deed, document, or other instrument all officers, consultants, advisers, auditors and other employees and staff of the Water and Power Department Gilgit-Baltistan shall stand transferred to and be officers, consultants, advisers, auditors and employees and staff of GBEDO;

(v) The persons mentioned in sub-section(iv) of sub-section (1) of section 33 shall be deemed to have been appointed or engaged by GBEDO in accordance with the same terms and conditions of service as were applicable to them, immediately before such continuance in office or transfer under this Act and shall not be entitled to compensation because of such continuance or transfer:

Provided that the civil servants appointed to or working in the Water and Power Department Gilgit-Baltistan shall upon their transfer to the GBEDO continue to be governed by the relevant statute and rules made thereunder.

(vi) all debts and obligations incurred, or contracts entered into, rights acquired, and all matters and things engaged to be done by, with or for the Water and Power Department Gilgit-Baltistan shall be deemed to have been incurred entered into. acquired or engaged to be done by, with or for the GBEDO;

(vii) all suits and other legal proceedings instituted by or against the Water and Power Department Gilgit-Baltistan before its repeal shall be deemed to be suits and proceedings by or against the GBEDO and shall be proceeded or otherwise dealt with accordingly; and

(viii) any reference to the Water and Power Department Gilgit-Baltistan in any statutory instrument or document shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be read and construed as reference to be GBEDO.

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(2) All rules, regulations, notifications, orders or instructions in force pertaining to or in any-way concerned with or affecting the Water and Power Department Gilgit-Baltistan immediately before the commencement of this Act, shall, so far as they are not inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act, continue to be in force until repealed, altered or rescinded by rules or regulations made under this Act.

NAZIR AHMAD,
Speaker
Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly.

SYED MEHDI SHAH,
Governor
Gilgit-Baltistan.

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