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**Asif Ali Zardari**

**President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan**

*Message on the occasion of the 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Pakistan i.e., 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024*

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I felicitate the entire Pakistani nation on the 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Pakistan. This day marks the culmination of the historic political struggle of the Muslims of India for their right to self-determination. The creation of Pakistan through a peaceful and democratic struggle marks an unprecedented and unparalleled chapter in history. On this day, we pay homage to leaders and workers of the Pakistan movement as well as our forefathers who rendered innumerable sacrifices for Pakistan.

Today, we need to set aside our differences and work committedly for the unity, integrity, and economic stability of the country in the face of current challenges. Our country has been blessed with abundant human and natural resources and it is our responsibility to utilize these for the welfare of our people. We need to uphold the rule of law, strengthen democratic institutions, and work wholeheartedly in the public interest. Our nation has great hopes from us, and we must strive to meet their expectations.

We need to draw inspiration from the words of our Quaid when he said "If we want to make this great State of Pakistan happy and prosperous, we should wholly and solely concentrate on the well-being of the people, especially of the masses and the poor". It is time to invest in our youth and women, improve service delivery, and create a business-friendly environment to make Pakistan a great nation.

As we celebrate our freedom, let us also remember our Kashmiri and Palestinian brethren, who have been struggling for over seven decades for their freedom and right to self-determination. Pakistan reaffirms its support to the people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine for their legitimate rights.

Let's pledge to work for the uplift of our people and make Pakistan a prosperous country. May Allah be with us all. Amen!

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## **Message of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on the 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Pakistan**

On the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day, I extend heartfelt felicitations to the people of Pakistan at home and abroad. We pay homage to the immense sacrifices of our forefathers and countless unsung heroes of the Pakistan Movement, who fought tirelessly for an independent country for millions in South Asia, where they could live according to their beliefs and values. As envisioned by Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Pakistan emerged as an independent and sovereign state on the map of the world on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1947 through the unwavering and steadfast leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and unmatched sacrifices of our ancestors.

Through the selfless and continuous struggle of our founding fathers, Pakistan was able to cope with the monumental challenges it faced in the formative phase. Over the decades, Pakistan has achieved significant milestones. The resilience of our people has been tested through natural disasters and economic and social challenges, yet the spirit of determination and unity has always prevailed.

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I acknowledge the key role of our Overseas Pakistanis in the progress and prosperity of Pakistan. Though you may be thousands of miles away from your homes in Pakistan, you are an integral part of this country. We are proud of your hard work and achievements and consider you as true Ambassadors of Pakistan to project its positive image to the world wherever you are.

On this occasion, I express my gratitude to our armed forces, who safeguard our borders and protect our sovereignty. Their sacrifices and dedication deserve our utmost respect and appreciation.

While we celebrate our freedom, we also remember the brave people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine who have been fighting for their right to self-determination for over seven decades and are facing the worst form of state atrocities. Pakistan shall continue to extend moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of IIOJK until they achieve their universal right to self-determination. Our support for the oppressed Palestinians shall also continue for their legitimate rights.

Pakistan stands at a crossroads today. While the common values, rich cultural heritage and diverse traditions continue to bind us together, our economy continues to face significant challenges in the shape of inflation, high-energy costs, unemployment and a growing debt burden.

Since assuming power after the February 2024 elections, our consistent focus is on creating the right conditions for economic growth and stability. Pakistan's rich natural resources and a youthful workforce are our true assets. We are taking steps to attract investments to take full advantage of these resources that will create job opportunities, speed the pace of industrialization, and bring economic prosperity. The government's focus is also on education

and skill development that will further empower our youth and equip them with the tools needed in the competitive global economy. I am personally supervising the national drive to digitize the entire ecosystem and broaden the tax base so that we can provide relief to those already paying taxes.

In a short span, our efforts have started yielding positive results. The economy is on its path to stability. The high inflation of 38% has come down to 11.1% (July) and shall be brought down to single digit soon Inshallah. We are working hard to bring down the prices of electricity and the nation will see the results soon.

I am confident that together we will continue our journey with the spirit of independence for the benefit and welfare of our citizens. Through collaborative efforts, we will work for an inclusive and prosperous Pakistan, for us, and for our future generations, as envisioned by our founders.

Happy Independence Day!

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**Message from Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, On the Occasion of the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan (14 August 2024)**

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On the occasion of 78th Independence Day of Pakistan, I extend my sincerest felicitations to all my fellow citizens.

The creation of Pakistan was a result of the commitment and sacrifices of our founding fathers who dreamt of an independent and sovereign state free from colonial domination. Today, we pay homage to their contributions and celebrate their vision, resolve and fortitude. Every successive generation has drawn inspiration from them.

Every year, we renew our faith in the idea of Pakistan and recommit ourselves to serve Pakistan to the best of our abilities. This year, we are celebrating the Independence Day around the theme “AzmeIstehkam: Resolve for Growth & Stability”. It is a reflection of our national commitment to grow and prosper as a progressive and modern state.

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Despite facing multiple odds and challenges, Pakistanis have proven themselves as a strong and resilient nation. We stand firm against the forces of terror, extremism and division. We must unite and work together with a singular focus for a peaceful, tolerant and progressive society.

On this Independence Day, I extend special greetings to overseas Pakistanis who have always stood for Pakistan’s progress and development. Wherever they are, their hearts beat for Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan and all our Missions abroad will always endeavour to serve them and their families.

As we celebrate our independence, let us not forget the people of Palestine and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) who remain under colonial occupation. Their sufferings remind us how blessed are we to enjoy the gift of freedom. Today we reiterate our steadfast political, diplomatic and moral support to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their just struggle for the right to self-determination.

At the international stage, Pakistan will continue to be a voice for the defenceless people facing oppression and foreign occupation. Our foreign policy will always be guided by the values and principles espoused by Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Let us pledge to work together for a promising future for our country and move forward on a path of peace, democracy and Constitutional supremacy.