

**Umar-led body to take briefing on IMF bailout, FATF challenge**

ISLAMABAD: After being elected as chairman, Asad Umar has convened the meeting of the National Assembly Finance Committee on May 22 to take briefing from the Finance Division on agreement signed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and update on Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

On Monday, the committee unanimously elected Asad Umar as new chairman of the finance committee, while members one after another expected that he would make the committee more effective by making bureaucracy accountable before it.

He said once the details of the agreement with the IMF are made public, he would also share with the committee what the difference was between the terms and condition negotiated by him and what were accepted by the new team.

Umar said he was on record stating that agreement with the IMF must be brought before the committee and decided to convene the first meeting as chairman on the IMF and FATF because both are very critical issues for the country.

The meeting was told that outgoing chairman of the committee chaired 15 meetings of the committee to take up various issues. Nafeesa Shah as well as Hina Rabbani Khar asked the new chairman to let the committee know whether terms and conditions discussed by him (Umar) were harsh or those agreed upon by the present economic team.

The special secretary National Assembly Secretariat welcomed the members and briefed them about the procedure for election of the chairman and requested Syed Naveed Qamar to propose the name of the next chairman. Qamar proposed the name of Asad Umar as chairman of the committee while Sardar Nasrullah Khan Dreshak seconded his candidature. Thus Asad Umar, MNA, was unanimously elected as chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs.

The special secretary, National Assembly Secretariat, congratulated the newly elected chairman on behalf of the speaker and secretary National Assembly and assured him full support from the secretariat for effective and efficient functioning of the committee.

Asad Umar also expressed his gratitude to the members and assured them that he would run the business of the committee with consensus. The members while appreciating views of the chairman assured him their fullest support in the process of legislation.

The meeting was attended by MNAs Raza Nasrullah, Faiz Ullah, Makhdoom Syed Sami-ul-Hassan Gillani, Sardar Nasrullah Khan Dreshak, Faheem Khan, Aftab Hussain Siddique, Muhammad Israr Tareen, Ali Pervaiz, Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha, Nafisa Shah, Syed Naveed Qamar and Hina Rabbani Khar, besides the senior officers of the National Assembly Secretariat.

**ZAHEER ABBASI**