

PM urges people to declare assets by June 30

Prime Minister Imran Khan urged citizens to declare their benami assets and bank accounts under the government's Assets Declaration Scheme by June 30 in order to avoid legal action. In a video message released on Thursday, the prime minister said that the scheme was a "chance for [the people] to declare their benami properties and bank accounts" so they can become a part of the tax net.

He said that only one per cent of the population pays taxes. "One per cent Pakistanis are bearing the burden of 220 million people. This is impossible," he said. "No country can serve its people if the citizens don't pay taxes."

He cautioned that government institutions were gathering data regarding undeclared assets and wealth at home and abroad that are owned by Pakistanis. "It is better that you serve Pakistan and declare your wealth," the premier said. "This would [enable] us to create a better future for our children, make our country self-reliant and uplift poor people. Most importantly, [by declaring your assets] you would be able to sleep peacefully. You would not have to worry about institutions coming after you. If you declare your assets, it will benefit everyone."

"This will also pull our country out of these difficult times we are facing," Prime Minister Imran added. "I guarantee that your tax money will be spent on you and this country. I also guarantee that I will not allow [anyone] to steal your money," he promised.

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