

Youth force for peace

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LAHORE - Provincial Minister for Education Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said that youth force for peace comprising 0.5 million youth for coping v constituted at union council level throughout the province.

The students of 9th and 10th class willing to work will be registered while core groups comprising 20 students of each college will be set up during one week.

He stated this during a consultative meeting with office-bearers of non-governmental organisations of youth in the constitution of Punjab Youth Volunteer Force for peace. The minister said that the struggle against terrorism was a continuous war and the living nations fought such wars bravely. He said time had come that the nation should take its decisions and any compromise would tantamount to waste the sacrifices of our children. "The civil defence modules have been prepared for the basic training of youth force for peace in the shape of district groups. Deadline of January 9 still exists for completing security arrangements in educational institutions against possible attacks of terrorists," the minister held.

He said that action would be taken against public and private educational institutions failing to complete security arrangements in accordance with SOPs of Home Department on January 12. He informed that out of 86 thousand public and private educational institutions, security arrangements in 750 schools were still incomplete. He said that these schools would also be brought to the security standards within next three days.

Meanwhile, Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan said that "Youth Caucus" comprising 86 Members of Punjab Assembly aging less than 40 has started working. He announced the office-bearers of Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus during a special meeting with journalists at Lahore Press Club. PML-Q Member Punjab Assembly Sardar Vickas Hassan Mokal has been elected first Chairman of Youth Caucus while PML-N MPA Mary Gill as Vice Chairperson, Mian Irfan Daultana as Secretary and PTI MPA Nabeela Hakim Ali Khan as Treasurer.

PTI MPA Asif Mehmood, PPP MPA Faiza Ahmed Malik and the youngest independent MPA Ahsan Riaz Fatyana have also been elected members of 11-member Executive Committee of this Youth Caucus while remaining 8 members of Executive Committee belong to PML-N which included Makhdoom Hashim Jawan Bakht, Umer Jaffar, Haji Imran Zafar, Mannan Khan, Razaqat Hussain Chaudhry, Iram Hassan Bajwa, Farah Manzoor Baloch and Sardar Ramaish Singh Arora.

Rana Mashhood said that the Youth Caucus has decided to make struggle at parliamentary level for highlighting more than 34 issues of young generation including unemployment and early age marriage and resolving these problems under a collective approach.

He said that participation of young MPAs of opposition in Youth Caucus and their election

at various offices reflects democratic approach. It was told that orientation sessions have also been held by UNFP and a social organisation Bargad for creating awareness among 86 members of Punjab Youth Caucus.