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### **The missing Accountability and Transparency**

Sindh has bravely endured poor governance and wastage of state resources for over a decade. This was made possible by ineffectiveness of at least 2 important pillars of transparency and accountability – the 'Right to Information' and the 'Office of the Ombudsman'.

The Sindh government has been conspicuous by its lack of response on issues raised under the Right to Information Act. Passed in 2017, the government defanged the Act by not appointing the mandatory Information Commission which ought to have been established in first 100 days. Finally a paper version of an Information Commission was established after 14 months in May 2018. However, the public till today has no way of knowing who, where and how to contact this invisible and lifeless Information Commission.

Appointed in 2008, on an apparently 'cradle to grave' contract, the Sindh Provincial Ombudsman continues to occupy his seat till today. The Sindh Ombudsman Act 1991 clearly stipulates that the Ombudsman shall hold office for a period of four years and shall not be eligible for any extension under any circumstances. However at the end of his first 4 year term in 2012, the law was maliciously modified to give a second 4 year extension. A third extension for another four years was gifted in 2016. Appointed through questionable and unending extensions, such an Ombudsman can hardly be expected to prefer complainants over those who have kept him alive on the ventilator for more than 10 years.

Please allow me to request you Sir, to correct these two anomalies - resurrect the Information Commission and appoint a fresh Ombudsmen whose term will not be extended beyond 4 years.

Naeem Sadiq