



The Politics of Electables in Baluchistan: Concerning the Emergence of the Baluchistan Awami Party (BAP)

Sajjad Akhter

Visiting Lecture

Department of Humanities

Comsat University, Vehari Campus

akhterbzu@gmail.com (CA)

Abdul Waheed

Research Scholar

Department of Pakistan Studies

Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan

Qamar Abid Hussain

Senior Teacher

Special Education School, Bahawalpur

Abstract

In this study, the researcher highlights the issues of governance and the politics of electables in Baluchistan. Over the last ten years, the culture of party-switching politics in the province has developed due to electables and their way of politics. The population of the province is mostly comprised of rural areas, and in these areas the influence of the tribal chiefs is strong and their bank of the vote in rural areas of the province. In this study, the researcher also explores the political engineering in Baluchistan because, to remain in power, political leaders compromise their political ideology and form relations with the establishment. The Baluchistan Awami party was introduced a month before the general election of 2018, and it emerged as a majority party in the

province. The research was exploratory and cross-sectional, as well as collecting secondary data.

Introduction

The phrase "electable" may be a more contemporary invention, but the concept has roots in colonial times when the British depended on the rural elite's mediation to form an efficient government. Electability characteristics vary from nation to nation, mostly based on socioeconomic backgrounds and socio-institutional dynamics (the news, 2021).¹

The amount of money a candidate can devote directly or indirectly to funding their election campaign to energize the electorate is the single biggest factor affecting whether they will be elected. When things become very bad, purchasing the votes of the dominant caste in a seat becomes necessary. In many seats, the candidates' willingness to spend money will likely have a significant impact on the outcome. The common person is cut out of running for office due to the expense of mounting a successful campaign in such areas. Consequently, the wealthy elite now profits from campaign expenditures. When they win office, they invest money in their re-election campaigns and search for rewards. This casts serious doubt on the democratic values that have been processed and has resulted in a lack of confidence between the populace and the political authority that has been established. Any elected administration is constantly subject to criticism over its legitimacy.

The Background of Politics in Baluchistan

Beginning on the verge of independence from the British Raj, Baluchistan and the state of Pakistan have had a difficult past. The first Baloch Insurgency began about 1948 or practically right away after Pakistan was established. The issue of the State of Kalat joining Pakistan was the foundation of this insurrection. The development of the second Insurgency resulted from the One-Unit formula in 1955. The third Baloch uprising started in 1973 when Mr. Bhutto, the then-Prime Minister, disbanded the Baluchistan Provincial Assembly. The Baloch uprisings were all short-lived, but this one turned out to be the most destructive and prolonged. Due to the outbreak of the Afghan war against the Soviet Union,

Zia's reign saw another sort of turmoil in Baluchistan (butt & ashraf, 2021).² Center-provincial ties remained largely tranquil throughout the democratic administrations of Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, although the province saw inter-tribal clashes. On October 12, 1999, Musharraf toppled Nawaz Sharif's second administration, opening a new chapter in Baluchistan's history.

Baluchistan's province had very little influence over mainstream political decisions. Even decisions on strictly provincial matters were made at the federal level. Due to a lack of appropriate political representation, important choices affecting the fate of the local population were made by the military brass and the civil bureaucracy in distant Islamabad. Being a tribal community, Baluchistan had a different political culture from the rest of Pakistan, where the importance of tribal leaders is dominating and well acknowledged. They are the actual managers and policymakers in their respective fields. The central government officials are required to contact tribal heads before drafting any policies for the tribal territories because of the substantial role that tribal leaders play in their internal affairs. All of Pakistan's politicians used these tribal chiefs for their ends and never pushed for changes in these sectors. These tribal chiefs established their nations within Pakistan, where only their tribal law was enforced and the federal government had no jurisdiction. Due to the lack of understanding and desire for change among indigenous people, this system appears to endure indefinitely. This province was strategically significant during the British era and remains so even now after Pakistan was created.

Historical background of electable politics in Pakistan

The electoral processes in every state, along with free and fair elections, are crucial to preserving democracy and democratic values (azhar & khan, 2020)³. In actuality, Pakistan's history has had its share of political and developmental ups and downs. Since its inception, Pakistan has had to deal with a collection of leaders who have been mostly self-serving and self-centered. These leaders have been present throughout Pakistan's history and have

mostly succeeded in achieving their objectives. Leaders grew in power and the state eventually weakened as a result of these political games. One may argue that Pakistan's history of democracy is similarly one of democratic institutions being destroyed and of fresh optimism emerging with each setback⁴(javid, 2017). Pakistan's political history since 1947 shows that several politicians there have repeatedly switched parties. They consistently make an effort to maintain ties to the system, which is dominated by civil and military bureaucracy (khan et al, 2020).⁵ In actuality, Pakistan's history has had its share of political and developmental ups and downs. Since its inception, Pakistan has had to deal with a collection of leaders who have been mostly self-serving and self-centered. These leaders have been present throughout Pakistan's history and have mostly succeeded in achieving their objectives. Leaders grew in power and the state eventually weakened as a result of these political games. One may argue that Pakistan's history of democracy is similarly one of democratic institutions being destroyed and of fresh optimism emerging with each setback. Pakistan's political parties have remained weak, dictatorial, and anti-democratic throughout their history. Politics of patronage, in which a select few people and powerful organizations are favored by the politicians instead of advancing the notion of public benefit, is one of the elements of political parties' anti-democratic philosophies (Tariq et al, 2015).⁶

Since its establishment, Pakistan has received the institutional legacy of British India, allowing a number of political parties to win elections and take power. However, Pakistan is also changing from a traditional agrarian to a contemporary industrial nation. Traditional political factors including family, social position and religion continue to play a considerable influence in Pakistani politics due to the impact of the old social structure on the political parties and party systems that arose alongside Pakistan's formation.

Pakistan has highly individualized party politics. The political system suffers because individuals and interest groups have greater clout than organizations and ideals. Electoral politics is simply a new form of personal politics, which makes the parliamentary system even worse (wu & Ali, 2020).⁷ Due to the existence of

politicians who are always looking out for their interests and power above the interests of the people, Pakistan's parliament and its sovereignty frequently stay weak, in contrast to mature parliamentary democracies like England. These politicians undermine parliamentary democracy in a variety of ways. They are unreliable because they switch parties frequently, which undermines the broad support needed for a sovereign parliament (khan et al, 2020).

From 1947 to 1958, several parties emerged as the result of internal conflict among the political leaders of the Muslim League due to the personal interests of these leaders, which bypassed the national interests of the newly born state. as a result of weak institutional form in the country. Furthermore, fewer than two hundred families have held political power in Pakistan since its inception. These politicians worked closely with the military to pursue their hunger for power, which was terrible for our nation. Seven prime ministers serve as witnesses to our country's functional political system throughout its first ten years of independence. The history of the 1950s is replete with instances of Ghulam Muhammad and Sikander Mirza abusing their positions as heads of state to establish or overthrow regimes (javaid, 2017).

Electable's politics in Baluchistan: A Historical perspective

Baluchistan, a federating unit of Pakistan, had been a semiautonomous state and a lost confederacy before the subcontinent's division and Pakistan's independence. Baluchistan holds 44 percent of Pakistan's overall land, owing to its marvelous geostrategic importance and immense undeveloped natural resource potential (oil, gas, gold, copper, and others) (Ahmed & Baluch, 2015). Historically, tribal leaders and tribal sardars had considerable political and economic power in Baluchistan, which features a tribal and semi-tribal social structure. The usual tribal lord's dominance over provincial politics hampered the overall development and evolution of the political process, which might have paved the path for wider political engagement of the general masses. As a result, it is feasible to conclude that the existing

institutional framework is the product of a tiny elite's political and economic dominance. And such elitist political economy has resulted in rent-seeking elite that has consolidated significant economic and political power while steering the provincial economy toward more exclusivity (Ahmed & baloch, 2015).⁸

Baluchistan's politics are distinct from the rest of the country. Individuals who join political parties for personal gain dominate political developments in this region. Some political parties can claim a loyal vote bank, but in most cases, they cannot win without the vote bank of the particular candidate (Aamir, 2021).⁹ Since 1947, Baluchistan was under the situation of uncertainty. Because in the beginning Baluchistan has not the status of province and there's no political institution and direct electoral process till 1970. Most of the leaders of the province were tribal chiefs and nawabs which have strong influence in society as well as in politics. Demographically Baluchistan was in two major parts, Baluch majority areas, and pakhtuns majority areas which create political uncertainty in province. In both areas peoples preferred tribal politics instead of national politics. At the result of many nationalist parties were emerged in Baluchistan. One of the reasons for the formation of new political parties is the feudal lord or sardari system. Many political groups arose in Baluchistan when the sardars perceived that their interests were in jeopardy. If we look at the entire country, political groups are forming nearly on a daily basis, some new and some sections of established parties. It's a conundrum that we don't have a solid idea of how to enhance the institution of political parties, which is causing further polarization among the masses (subhan & kasi, 2018).¹⁰

1970, general election and the begging of electables politics in Baluchistan

Baluchistan's Provincial Assembly was established by Presidential Order on March 30, 1970, following the breakup of one unit and the declaration of Baluchistan as a distinct province. The Baluchistan Provincial Assembly conducted its first election on December 17, 1970, with 21 members elected, 20 regular seats and

one reserved for women. In this general election, NAP and jui got majority of seats and form a coalition government in Baluchistan.

On May 2, 1972, the Baluchistan Assembly convened for the first time, with 21 members, in the Historic Shahi Jirga Hall (Town Hall) in Quetta. Speaker and Deputy Speaker were chosen as Mr. Muhammad Khan Barozai and Molvi Shams-ud-Din, respectively. Sardar Attaullah Mengal was the first chief minister, while Mr. Ghaus Bakhsh Raisani was the Opposition Leader. "Khair Baxsh Marri, Ghaus Bux Bizenjo, and Attaullah Mengal" were among the most well-known opposition figures in Baluchistan at the time. The three were prominent tribal individuals, but the party they led had succeeded in establishing a non-tribal political base as Baluchistan grew. Following the overthrow of the military administration in 1970, the NAP received an overwhelming majority of Baloch ballots. Tribal chiefs and feudalists were brought to power in order to calm tribal regions, which was a disastrous tactic. Because tribal leaders lacked public support, they never worked for the development of the province in general or the people in particular. Sardars, on the other hand, were the province's principal source of backwardness. In Baluchistan, the sardari system is to blame for poverty, illiteracy, a small proportion of the national economy, inaccessibility to clean water, a lack of food and health care, and a lack of educational and other public services.

The federal government's strong backing for the Sardari system influenced Baluchistan's effective administration. He went on to say that nationalist parties' primary motivations are anti-secularism, anti-feudalism, anti-capitalism, anti-tribalism, and anti-lords, whereas pro-central parties act according to their own interests, which include feudalism and landlords. As a result, the tribal-based parties and administration in Baluchistan had no will to strive for Baluchistan's decent governance. They have always operated within the parameters of their own interests and indulged their personal interests rather than working honestly for the benefit of the province as a whole (zareef et al 2021).

History of switching party politics in Baluchistan

As we discuss above that in general election of 1970, NAP and JUI, got majority vote in Baluchistan and form a coalition government. At this time only these two parties were exist in Baluchistan's politics. However, federal government led by zulfikar Bhutto started interference in Baluchistan's politics and de-stabilizes provincial coalition government and dismissed attullah mengal from the office of chief minister. After that ppp government ban NAP. We know that after 1970 general election, both pakhtun leaders and Baluch leaders were unite which was good sign for the future of the people. Unfortunately, after the ban of NAP, there was many regional parties are emerged in Baluchistan especially ethno-nationalist parties which divide Baluchistan's politics on language, culture and area wise.

Major parties are, PKMAP, BNP mengal, jumuharry wattan party, and other regional political parties were emerged in Baluchistan.

Musharra's Politics of Divide and Rule in Baluchistan after general election 2002

The approach of divide and rule had always succeeded in the past, and the Musharraf period was no different; he, too, followed in the footsteps of his predecessors. His government disbanded the partnership of four Baloch parties. The four largest Baloch parties are the NP of Abdul Hayee Baloch, the BNP of Sardar Akhtar Mengal, the JWP of Akbar Bugti, and the BHTparty of Nawab Khair Bakhsh Marri. In Akbar Bugti's life, the JWP separates into many groups. Mir Ghulam Haider Khan Bugti, Akbar Bugti's nephew and a member of the National Assembly, withdrew from JWP activities and backed government development programmes in Baluchistan. The Baluchistan assembly's Hajji Juma Khan JWP leader joined the government-sponsored Jirga to oust Akbar Bugti from party leadership. Members of the JWP who backed the government confessed that they had been paid or coerced/blackmailed into cooperating by state intelligence agents. Intelligence agencies backed Talal Bugti in his role as leader of JWP.

Talal summoned a convention and took over as party leader. Talal stated his intention to attain Baluchistan's autonomy within constitutional parameters. Jamil Bugti opposed Talal's leadership and instead backed his nephew Brahmadagh as a successor to his father's lineage and party command. The BNP secured a majority of seats in the previous provincial elections, posing a danger to the PML-Q and MMA. Akhtar Mengal's BNP is immune to government techniques. While protesting against disappearances, relocation, death, and military activities, Akhtar Mengal and other party members were detained. According to BNP Secretary General Habib Jalib Baloch, we are being persecuted for demonstrating against Punjabi colonization, megaprojects, and cantonments. Dr. Abdul Hayee Baloch's NP also demonstrated a dedication to fighting the dictatorship. The NP, unlike the BNP, did not resign from government positions upon the death of Akbar Bugti. NP believes in the democratic system and the ballot box. Mir Balach Marri is presently the leader of Khair Bakhsh Marri's Baloch Haq Talwar party. Balach Marri has abandoned the parliamentary system and taken up arms against military power (ICG, 2007).¹¹

General Election 2008 and political environment in Baluchistan

In 2002, when army dictator general musharraf introduced Pakistan muslim league (PMLQ). At this time most of politician which belong to regional political parties in Baluchistan were forced to join military supported party, at this time many leaders join PMLQ and ignore the role of politics it means that most of the politicians who join PMLQ are electables and they decided to support military supported party instead of their regional party as well as also bypass the wishes of the people of Baluchistan.

In 2008, when general musharraf resign from the office of president the political environment of Baluchistan are change. And those politicians, who are consistently elected as a member of provincial assembly, saw a new political plat form which is suitable for their personal interest. In 2008, Due to the moving of

electables from PMLQ to PPP. She got a majority and form coalition government with JUI and ANP and other nationalist parties.

In January 2013, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) administration was deposed and Governor's Rule was implemented. The decision was made in the aftermath of twin suicide bombings targeting the downtrodden Hazara Shias, which killed roughly 100 people. In sympathy with the Hazaras, week-long sit-ins in Quetta and other cities sought the ouster of the PPP and JUI-F coalition government, which had failed to protect them from a series of atrocities. Governor's Rule was enforced, and the governor, Nawab Zulfiqar Magsi, took over as Baluchistan's main executive (arqam Ali, 2018).¹²

2013, general election and era of political engineering and switching party politics in Baluchistan's political system

In 2013, the PML (N) gained a majority of seats, created a coalition government, and appointed as chief minister a middle-class Baloch nationalist, Abdul Malik Baloch of the National Party. The top three parties, PML-N, PKMAP, and the National Party (NP), joined together to sign the Murree Agreement, a power-sharing agreement, following the May 2013 Baluchistan Provincial Assembly election. According to this agreement, the PML-N and the NP would alternate holding the office of chief minister for the duration of the national legislature, with each party holding the role for two and a half years.

If not for the opposition to him, the agreement would have been effectively carried out with Abdul Malik Baloch of the NP serving as chief minister from 7 June 2013 to 23 December 2015 before resigning to allow Zehri to assume control from 24 December 2015 until the end of the provincial assembly's term (mishra, 2018).¹³ In 2015, however, Malik had to make way for Zehri. Baloch nationalists were outraged by the polls, and many boycotted them. Even those who did participate, such as Baluchistan National Party chairman Sardar Akhtar Mengal,

condemned the verdict, accusing officials of rigging the vote (joshi, 2018).¹⁴

The province was thrown into disarray after treasury members filed a no-confidence resolution against the chief minister, which was supported by a few former cabinet members, notably Sarfraz Bugti and Sarfraz Domki. The unexpected switching of sides triggered a succession of resignations and dismissals, which the PML-N and its supporters blamed on 'hidden hands' who they said did not want the country's democratic process to succeed (zafar & khan,2018).¹⁵

Sanaullah Khan Zehri resigned as Chief Minister of Baluchistan on January 9, 2018, after discussions with the insurgents; both inside his party, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), and with coalition allies, failed to show fruit. This rescued him and the party's top command from the embarrassment of a no-confidence vote. Following Zehri's resignation, the Baluchistan Provincial Assembly chose Abdul Quddus Bizenjo of the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaide-Azam as Chief Minister and Leader of the House by a vote of 41 out of 65. Before one can comprehend the complications involved in Zehri's removal and the election of Bizenjo as chief minister, one must first comprehend Baluchistan's politics (mishra, 2018).

Many members of PML (N) in Baluchistan assembly move vote of no confidence motion against his own CM. because those members join PPP 2008 general election and enjoy government's power and in 2013 these members join pml (n). generally the politics of Baluchistan depends on the majority of any party in federal government. Just a month before general election 2018, a new political party is emerged in Baluchistan politics named Baluchistan awami party (BAP).

The emergence of the Baluchistan Awami Party (BAP)

National parties have not been very present in Baluchistan politics, which is severely fractured. Politics is dominated more by individuals or electables than by parties, with tribal leaders making up the majority. An even regional group, like the Pakhtun's Party, the PKMAP, or the Baloch Nationalist Party, the BNP (Mengal), or even 27 the National Party (predominantly middle-class), centre on individuals. The repressive security presence in the province, the conflict that has lasted more than ten years, along with the alienation of the Baloch, have made it difficult to hold free and fair elections.

The Baluchistan Awami Party (BAP), a political party created by the military, consists of "electables" from both the Baloch and Pashtun ethnicities. BAP is anticipated to perform well in the province. Following the 2013 elections, the NP and PKMAP, which were linked with the PMLN and established a coalition government, appear to have lost the support of the establishment and, worse still, of their supporters. These two parties could, at most, occupy two or three seats apiece. In several Baloch regions, the BNP-M is aiming to do well and cost the NP two to three members in the National 29 Assembly. One or two seats might be won by the PMLN. In the province, MMA, particularly its JUIF division, has a significant presence and has the potential to outperform PKMAP (sareen, 2018).¹⁶

The formation of a new political party in Pakistan's biggest geographically situated province, Baluchistan, garnered national media interest. The chief minister of the province and rebel members of the PML-N and PML-Q founded the Baluchistan Awami Party (BAP), also known as the "Party of Baluchistan's People," on March 29. Politicians with surnames associated with influence in Baluchistan make up the BAP. They are powerful tribal leaders that govern their regions like monarchs with little regard for the law. Because they crush any political opposition, they consistently win elections.

Every provincial government includes them, and they conveniently switch political parties to stay in power. They formerly participated in provincial branches of national parties like the Pakistan People's

Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League (N), and Pakistan Muslim League to enjoy the benefits and advantages of power (Q). This time, they banded together to create their political party to have more influence over Baluchistan's politics (express tribune, 2018).

Emergence of the BAP: a New era of political engineering in Baluchistan

Baluchistan's politics have been dominated by three categories of parties since the first civilian administration was established there in 1972: tribal nationalist groups, right-wing Islamic parties, and provincial affiliates of national parties active throughout Pakistan. The BAP is a groundbreaking initiative in which politicians who assert that they base their politics on federalist principles have created their provincial party. They assert that they would stand out for Baluchistan's rights without playing the dangerous ethnic nationalist card, which is despised by Pakistan's ultra-right.

Regarding the sudden birth of the BAP, there are two opposing viewpoints. According to one theory, Baluch politicians with federalist as opposed to ethnic nationalist impulses have created a political party for the first time. Others, on the other hand, assert that this is the creation of the powerful Pakistani establishment.

Questions are raised about how the BAP's founding group of lawmakers was able to accomplish so much in such a short amount of time. It is difficult to think that a group of people without any shared ideologies can work together so well in a province like Baluchistan where political discord and individual dominance have a long history. The charges that the Pakistani elite have manipulated Baluchistan politics by utilizing the BAP as a weapon have this background. The claims that the BAP was created by the Pakistani establishment cannot be supported in any manner. There is no hard evidence to support these claims, therefore they will stay just that—claims—and turn into conspiracy theories. However, it's not difficult to comprehend why these charges cannot be proven given Pakistan's political past.

In addition, whoever is behind the BAP, it will not be good for this economically underdeveloped and badly run state of Pakistan. The BAP will likely form a coalition government with other smaller parties after winning at least 20 of the 65 seats in the provincial parliament. As a result, Baluchistan's tribal aristocracy, which has held power since its inception, will continue to do so. This means that the tribal and political elite of Baluchistan would have no political responsibility, which is against the fundamental democratic ideals of preventing power concentration (Aamir, 2018).¹⁷

The Baluchistan Awami Party (BAP) is thought to be the face of political engineering by the army in Baluchistan. The party's founder, Saeed Ahmed Hashmi, is a little guy, but the 69-year-old politician from Quetta, the province capital, is rumoured to have the ability to overthrow regimes. Hashmi established BAP in March 2018 with the help of a group of political figures who, two months earlier, had used a no-confidence motion to topple the PML-provincial N's administration. Hashmi has been involved in the overthrow of a provincial administration three times already (GSO, 2018).¹⁸

Never in Baluchistan's entire parliamentary history has a single party won a two-thirds majority in the provincial legislature. The province has traditionally been governed by coalition administrations that are nonetheless deferential to their political friends' interests (DAWN, 2022).¹⁹

The objective of the Study

- To find out the politics of electables in Baluchistan.
- To explore the role of tribal chiefs in the politics of Baluchistan.
- To explain the objectives behind the emergence of the Baluchistan Awami party.
- To find out the role of regional political parties in Baluchistan.

Significance of the Study

Baluchistan is Pakistan's largest province in terms of land area but it's lowest in terms of population. Since the first general election in 1970, there has been no single largest majority party that forms government in the province. The absence of a majority party in the province creates issues of governance. Tribal chiefs have a strong influence that changes the political dynamics of Baluchistan. Sectarianism and Baluch insurgency, as well as the geo-strategic importance of Gwadar and natural resources, capture the attention of the world. Unfortunately, in the last two decades, party-switching politics has increased in the province, which became the cause of political instability in Baluchistan. In politics the key indicator of Pakistan's power politics is Baluchistan. The political instability that develops in that province typically does not stay there for very long before spreading to other parts of the nation as the first indication of a looming national catastrophe. Therefore, it is not unexpected that certain political occurrences in Baluchistan, though they may seem unimportant at the time, frequently end up serving as the first hint of potential shifts in the general political environment.

Research Question

In this study, the researcher focused to find out what the roles of the establishment in Baluchistan's politics.

What are the key factors of increased party switching politics in the province as compared to other provinces of the country?

Research Methodology

The research is broader to explain the politics of electables in Baluchistan: concerning the BAP party. In this research, the researcher focuses on two particular phenomena, the role of electables and tribal chiefs in the politics of Baluchistan. The research is exploratory cross-sectional research with qualitative. The main purpose of the study is to explain or highlight the politics of electables in Baluchistan: concerning Baluchistan to the Baluchistan Awami party. The universes of the research are Baluchistan and secondary data were used for the study.

Results of the Study

The result of the study is that Baluchistan is geographically the most important province of Pakistan. Sardar and Nawab have a very strong influence on the politics of the province. Because these people are always elected and come to the assembly due to their influence and tribal vote bank and then they keep changing parties for their benefit and bypass the basic requirements and demands of the people of the province. These electables have a close relationship with the establishment to maintain their power. We can be demonstrated in the last ten years, how a party that was formed a month before the 2018 election then became the majority party of the province.

Discussion

In this study, we discussed the political culture and politics of electables in Baluchistan. Because issues of governance were increased in Baluchistan as compared to the other province of the country. Political engineering occurs from time to time and we examine this in 2018 when the ministers and provincial assembly members who belong to N league moved a vote of no confidence against their chief minister. And then recently the members of the BAP party moved a motion of no confidence against jam kamal and removed him from the office of the chief minister.

Conclusion

Long-standing factors in Pakistani party politics include ingrained social institutions, religion, family, and geography. Additionally, understanding Pakistani political history requires knowledge of civil-military interactions. BAP has broken through the deeply ingrained social fabric by using unconventional strategies and carving out space by opposing the dominant political culture. Baluchistan's politics are more complex than those in the rest of Pakistan, nevertheless. Rarely has a party won the majority in the Baluchistan legislature. A coalition government made up of minor factions is constantly in place. The majority of elected officials have their own

"personal" constituency; therefore they essentially never needed the backing of a political party to win the election. On the contrary, these winnable occasionally joined parties for one reason or another. They are quick to change sides. Other political parties in the province, especially Baloch nationalist ones like the Baluchistan National Party (BNP-M) and National Party (NP), whose platform calls for an autonomous Baluchistan within a federal Pakistan to protect the rights of the Baloch population, view the emergence of BAP with suspicion. They view the BAP, also known as the "king's party," as another weapon used by the military to marginalize Baloch nationalists and gain more influence over provincial affairs. The mobilization of state resources during the most recent election produced an unequal playing field favoring the BAP, according to other political parties and observers in Baluchistan.

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