

Government of Pakistan  
Ministry of Investment  
(Media Section)

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PRESS RELEASE

**SUBJECT: US AMBASSADOR CALLS ON MR. SALEEM H. MANDVIWALLA, MINISTER OF STATE / CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF INVESTMENT**



**(Islamabad, 24th March, 2009)** The US Ambassador to Pakistan Anne W. Patterson called on the Minister of State for Investment, Chairman Board of Investment, Mr. Saleem H. Mandviwalla in his office today to discuss implementation and other important aspects of the bill related to the Reconstruction Opportunity Zones for NWFP.

The US Ambassador informed that this measure has been introduced in the U.S. Congress to authorize a preferential trade program through establishment of Reconstruction Opportunity Zones in Pakistan and Afghanistan, which would give the people in impoverished areas a new economic hope as a way to curb violent extremism.

Moreover, the US Ambassador and the Minister expressed satisfaction over the steps taken by the NWFP government for the restoration of peace in Swat. The Minister further assured the Ambassador that the federal government would fully support the region's socio-economic welfare and early rehabilitation of internally displaced persons in the valley.

Referring to reconstruction opportunity zones, the Minister said the passage of this bill would expedite socio-economic development in FATA. However the Minister of State also urged upon the US Government to build and liaison directly with the people and business community in the province of NWFP for expediting their financial support. He further said that economic development of people will be vital in rooting out the menace of violent extremism in the region through a holistic approach, including other components as well.

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