

# POINT TO PONDER

## By: The Human Security Institute (THSI)



### Roadmap for the Privatization Programme 2024-2029: Strategic or Short-Shifted...?

As Pakistan launches its comprehensive privatization program for 2024-2029, a carefully crafted roadmap is essential to ensure that the process is both economically beneficial and socially responsible. The government aims to divest from several key Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs), intending to reduce fiscal burdens and attract private investment to stimulate economic growth. However, the success of this roadmap hinges on several critical factors, including the selection of PSEs for privatization, transparency in the process, and the mitigation of potential negative impacts, such as job losses and reduced public control over essential services. A list of ongoing privatization programme, issued by Ministry of Privatization, is given below.

#### Ongoing Privatisation Programme

S.no	Name of PSEs
<b>Real Estate</b>	
1	Services International Hotel, Lahore
2	Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad
3	PIA-IL (Roosevelt Hotel NY)
4	Sale of properties owned/ controlled by the Federal Government
<b>Aviation Sector</b>	
5	Pakistan International Airlines Co. Ltd.
<b>Financial Sector</b>	
6	Pakistan Re-Insurance Co. Ltd. (PakRe)
7	State Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (PakRe)

8	House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC)
9	First Women Bank Limited
<b>Industrial Sector</b>	
10	Sindh Engineering Limited (SEL)
11	Pakistan Engineering Company (PECO)
<b>Energy Sector</b>	
12	1223 MW Balloki Power Plant
13	1230 MW Haveli Bahadur Power Plant
14	Guddu Power Plant (747 MW) - Central Power Generation Company Ltd - CPGCL (GENCO - II)
15	Nandipur Power Plant (425 MW) - Northern Power Generation Company Ltd - NPGCL (GENCO - III)
16	Faisalabad Electric Supply Company Limited (FESCO)
17	Islamabad Electric Supply Company Limited (IESCO)
18	Lahore Electric Supply Company Limited (LESCO)
19	Gujranwala Electric Power Company Limited (GEPCO)
20	Multan Electric Power Company Limited (MEPCO)
21	Peshawar Electric Supply Company Limited (PESCO)
22	Hyderabad Electric Supply Company Limited (HESCO)
23	Quetta Electric Supply Company Limited (QESCO)

24	Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO)
25	Tribal Electric Supply Company (TESCO)

### List of 10 State Entities Pakistan Fast-Tracks for Privatization within a Year

1	International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIACL)
2	Roosevelt Hotel (RHC), First Women Bank Limited (FWBL)
3	House Building Finance Company Limited (HBFCL)
4	Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited (ZTBL)
5	Pakistan Engineering Company Limited (PECO)
6	Sindh Engineering Limited (SEL)
7	Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)
8	Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO)
9	Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO)
10	First Women Bank Limited (FWBL)

The decision to prioritize the privatization of these ten entities within a year marks a significant step in Pakistan's broader strategy to streamline its public sector and enhance economic efficiency. From major players like the International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIACL) to key financial institutions such as Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited (ZTBL) and First Women Bank Limited (FWBL), the government's focus on these entities reflects its commitment to reducing the fiscal burden while attracting private investment. Additionally, the inclusion of essential power companies like IESCO, FESCO, and GEPCO underscores the urgency of improving service delivery in critical sectors. As Pakistan moves forward with this ambitious plan, the challenge lies in ensuring that these privatization efforts are conducted transparently and yield benefits that extend beyond immediate financial relief, contributing to sustainable economic growth and improved public services.

The 2024–2029 privatization program must be carefully planned, with clear criteria for selecting public sector enterprises (PSEs), engaging stakeholders, and managing socio-economic impacts. Successful privatization will depend on balancing immediate financial relief with long-term benefits, ensuring transparency, and avoiding potential issues like erosion of public assets, increased economic inequality, and monopolistic practices. This move comes as Pakistan seeks a new loan facility from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), raising concerns about the future control of essential services and their impact on public welfare.

**How should the government ensure that the categorization of strategic SOEs is consistent and justified in the context of national security and public welfare?**  
**What criteria should guide the selection of PSEs for privatization in the 2024–2029 roadmap? What impact will this privatization roadmap have on Pakistan's long-term economic stability and social equity?**