

## Foundation laid for cultural centre: Rs80m generated for literati, performers, says minister

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**SHIKARPUR, March 2: Sindh Minister for Culture Sassui Palijo has said that the government formulated a solid policy and chalked out a number of programmes for preservation of heritage sites, historical monuments, artefacts and other valuable assets of the province.**

Work is under way on many preservation, renovation and rehabilitation schemes while more schemes are being implementation phase-wise.

In her speech at the stone-laying ceremony for the Saami Cultural Centre and later speaking to the media, she said several new museums, cultural centres and libraries had been established during the current term of the Pakistan People's Party government.

She said the culture department also organised various literary and cultural programmes to promote Sindhi culture and the people associated with art and culture in the province.

Ms Palijo said that funds amounting to Rs80 million had been generated by her department for the welfare of writers, poets and artists.

She said that the Saami Culture Centre was being established on the premises of the Shikarpur District Administration Complex with an estimated cost of Rs60 million.

The minister expressed her deep concern over the recent bomb attacks on shrines, Sufis and religious scholars in Shikarpur, Jacobabad and other districts. She said the government was making all-out efforts to curb terrorism, extremism and sectarianism, and hoped that the measures being taken to check such activities would succeed.

"Acts of terrorism across the country is a deep-rooted conspiracy to destabilise the country and the democratic dispensation," she said, adding that the PPP government would foil this conspiracy with public support.

Condemning the recent bomb attack on the shrine of Ghazi Ghulam Shah in Shikarpur, she extended her condolences to the bereaved families and held out the assurance that the culprits would be dealt with sternly.

In reply to a question asked by a journalist, the minister said that the services of contractual employees working in her department would be regularised as soon as the matter was decided by the chief minister.

Responding to another question, she said that the people of Sindh and two other provinces would never favour construction of the Kalabagh dam. All the three provinces had repeatedly rejected the project, she added.

**Reference:**

<http://dawn.com/2013/03/03/foundation-laid-for-cultural-centre-rs80m-generated-for-literati-performers-says-minister/>