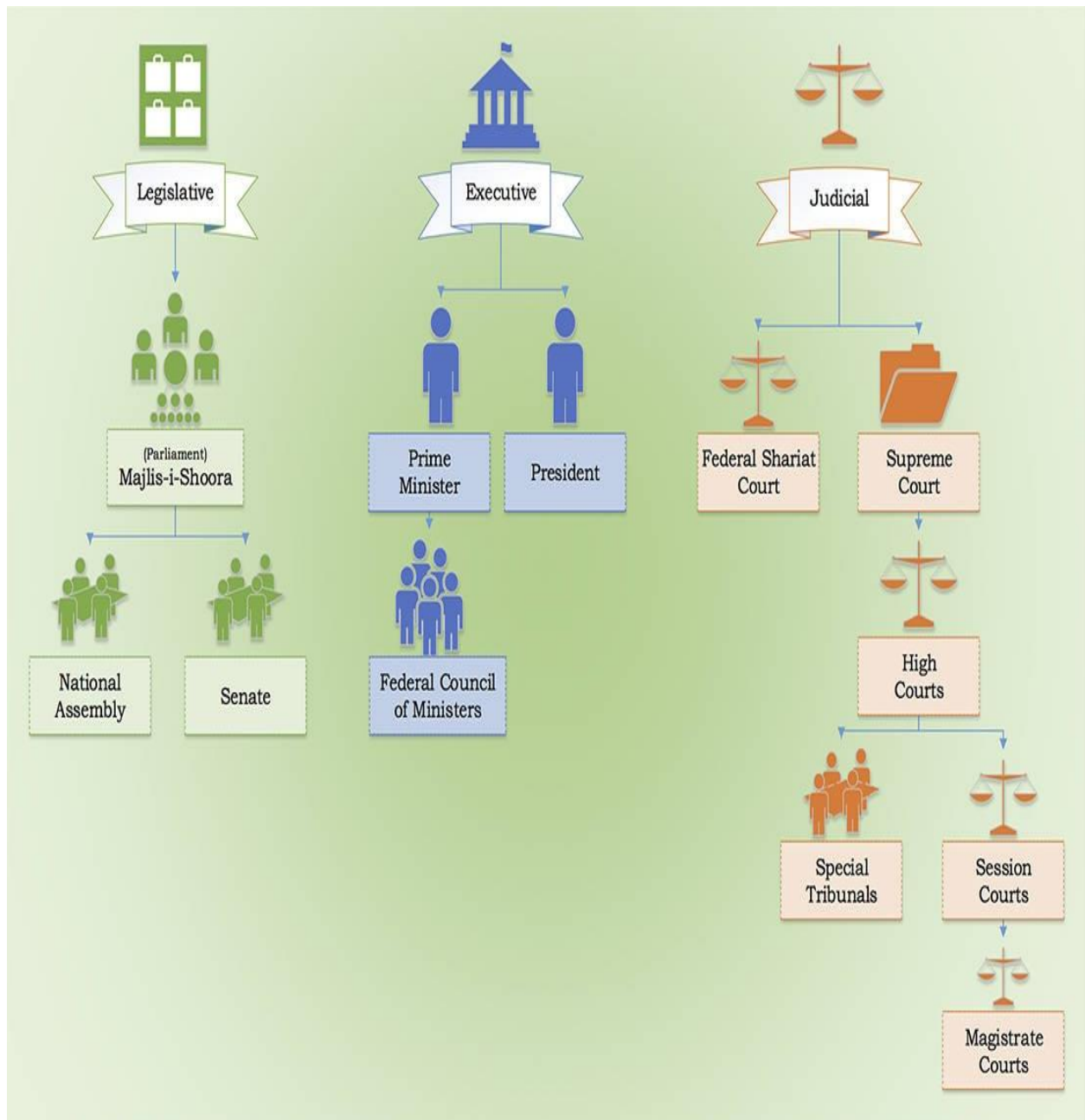


## Structure of Pakistan Government.

The government is characterized as a parliamentary democratic republic, a category they share with many nations, including Germany, Ireland, and Switzerland. The government is established by the Constitution of Pakistan and, like the U.S. Government, is composed of three branches: Executive, Legislative and Judicial. In addition to the federal government, Pakistan also employs provincial governments for each of its four provinces.

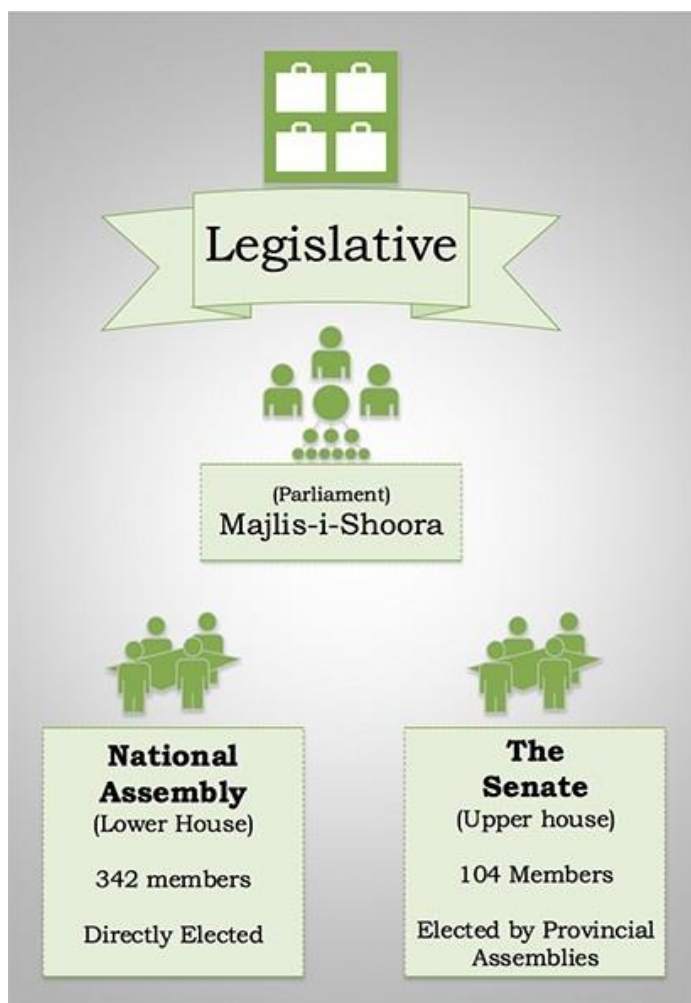


## The Legislative Branch:

Pakistan's legislative branch is a bicameral Parliament, officially termed Majlis-i-Shoora. The first of Parliament's two houses is the National Assembly (also known as the lower house) and has 342 members, including 60 seats that are reserved for women and 10 that are reserved for non-Muslims.

The Senate (also known as the upper house) is made up of 104 members with seventeen seats reserved for women and four for non-Muslims.

The seats for both houses are split between the four provinces, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), and Federal Capital. The National Assembly is divided according to population, while the Senate offers a set number of seats for each group for each: 23 per province, eight for the FATA, and four for the Federal Capital. National Assembly members are elected by voters 18 years of age or older, and Senate members are elected by their respective provincial assemblies.



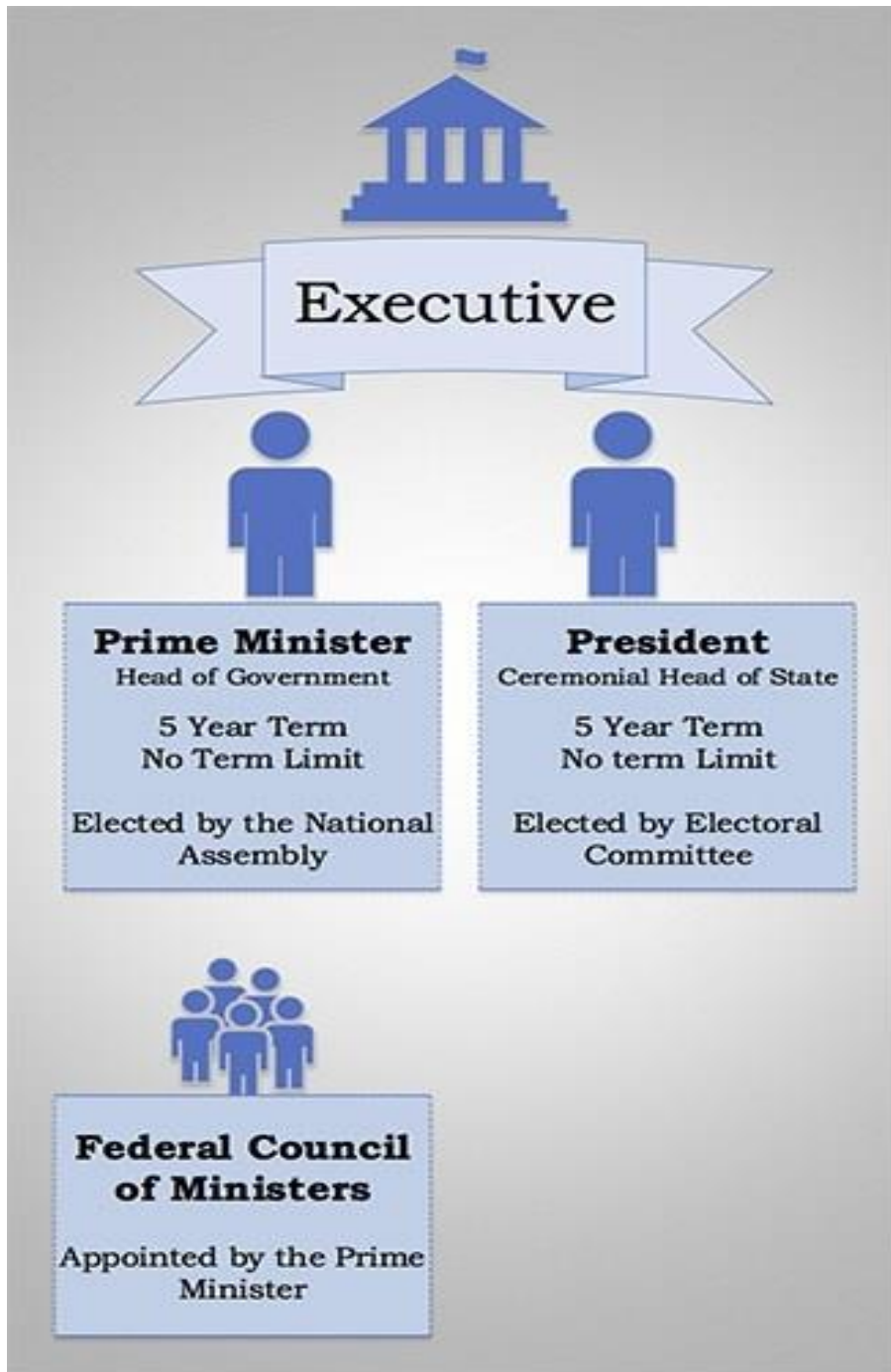
### **The Executive Branch:**

The executive branch in Pakistan is made up of the Prime Minister and the President. The Prime Minister is the head of government in Pakistan. The President, on the other hand, is a ceremonial head of state with fewer responsibilities.

The Prime Minister is elected by members of the National Assembly, not long after those members are elected by the Pakistani people. The candidates are members of the Assembly and are nominated by fellow Assembly members. While there are many political parties in Pakistan, and many of them hold Assembly seats, they do not all have candidates in the Prime Minister elections. Even in elections where there are many nominees, generally only one or two, typically those from larger parties, hold a chance of winning the election. Once elected, the Prime Minister serves a five-year term. The Prime Minister can be re-elected, and there is no limit on how many times one can hold this position.

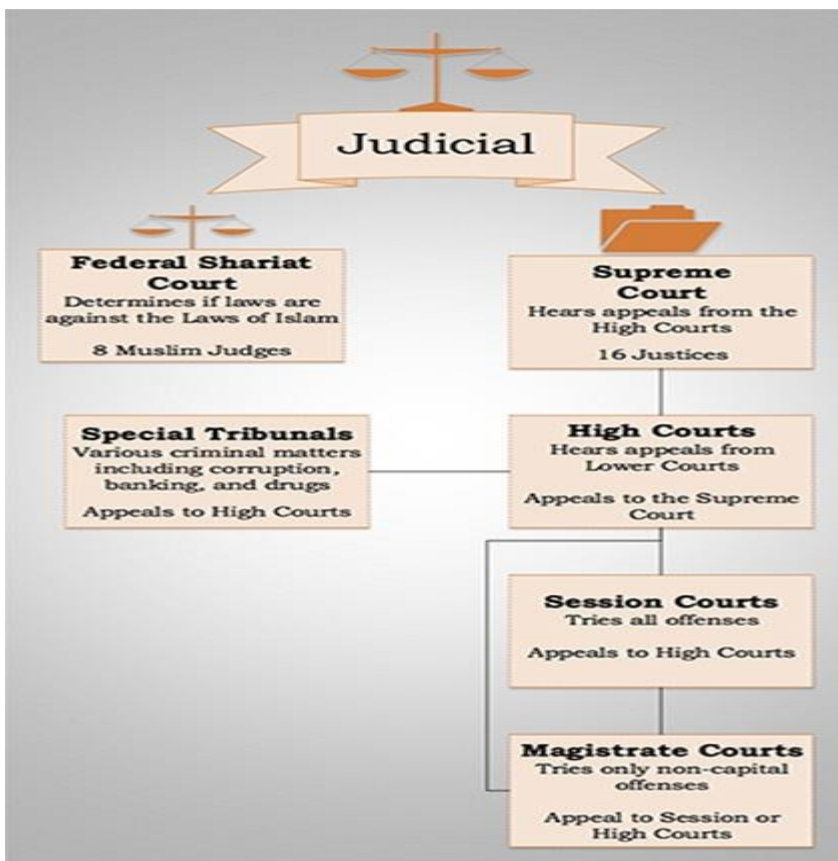
Once elected, the Prime Minister is tasked with appointing a federal Council of Ministers. These positions can be filled by both National Assembly members and Senate members. There are ministers for a number of functions, including water and power, science and technology, petroleum and natural resources, railways and more. These ministers play an important role in Pakistan's government, assisting the Prime Minister throughout his or her term.

The President is elected a couple months after the Prime Minister by an electoral college consisting of members of the Senate, the National Assembly and the Provincial Assemblies. The President must be a Muslim and at least 45 years old. The President serves a five-year term and can be re-elected, though nobody can hold the position for more than two consecutive terms. Though President is mostly a ceremonial position, it does have its responsibilities, including appointing the chief justice and remaining judges of the Supreme Court. However, most of the president's actions follow advice from the Prime Minister.



## The Judicial Branch:

Pakistan’s judicial system includes a Supreme Court, Provincial High Courts, Session Courts, Magistrate Courts and other special courts and tribunals. Additionally, there is a Federal Shariat Court in Pakistan. The Magistrate Courts try all non-capital offenses, and their verdicts can be appealed to the Session Courts or the High Courts, depending on the circumstances. Sessions Courts try all offenses, including capital cases, and hear appeals from the Magistrate Courts. Session Court verdicts can be appealed to the High Courts. Special courts and tribunals exist for various criminal matters, including corruption, banking offenses and drugs. Those convicted can appeal to the high courts. The High Courts hear various appeals from the lower courts, and the Supreme Court, consisting of 16 justices, hears appeals on criminal matters from the High Courts. The Federal Shariat Court, consisting of eight Muslim judges, decides if any law is against the laws of Islam.



(19 Mar, 2020)

“Expect the best, prepare for the worst.”

**Barrister Sir Muhammad Ali Jinnah**

Father of The Nation.