

## GOVERNOR'S SPEECH



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<b>Governor</b>	: Mr. Tariq Bajwa
<b>Title</b>	: Dr. Ruth Pfau Commemorative Coin: Remarks by Governor SBP
<b>Date</b>	: May 08, 2018
<b>Event</b>	: Unveiling of Dr. Ruth Pfau Commemorative Coin
<b>Venue</b>	: SBP Head Office, Karachi

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### **Dr. Ruth Pfau Commemorative Coin** **Remarks by Governor SBP**

His Excellency, Mr. Martin Kobler, Ambassador to Pakistan  
Mr. Rainer Schmiedchen, Consul General  
Mr. Mervyn F. Lobo, CEO Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre Karachi and  
Dear Colleagues

Assalam u Alikum and a very Good afternoon.

It is indeed a great pleasure and honor to welcome His Excellency, Mr. Martin Kobler, Ambassador to Pakistan and his colleague in Pakistan in this very important but simple ceremony organized to recognize the services of Dr. Ruth Pfau, one of the greatest social workers of her time. To me, she was the Mother Teresa of Pakistan.

Ms. Ruth Katherina Martha Pfau, a selfless human being, was born in Leipzig, Germany on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1929. She spent her formative years in Germany during which she saw the horrors of World War II. After completing her medical education in 1950, and burning with the desire to do something more purposeful in her life, she decided to dedicate her life in the service of poor people of the world. She had unshakeable faith in the God and eventually became a nun and joined the Catholic order of the “Daughters of Heart of Mary”.

It was by chance that she stopped in Karachi, Pakistan due to her visa problems. During her stay in Karachi, she visited a Leper's colony at McLeod road, now called I.I. Chundrigar Road. The plight of lepers so moved her that she decided to abandon her journey to India and dedicate her life for amelioration of lepers' lot.

She spent next 55 years of her life fighting Leprosy in Pakistan. With her efforts the World Health Organization declared Pakistan the first country in the region to have controlled the disease. Her devoted services to the humanity without any interest of fame or any personal benefit got recognition in her life, both in Germany, Pakistan and abroad. She never sought spotlight for her services to the poor and downtrodden but spent her every working hour in helping the ignored and forgotten of the society. With no amount of awards and recognition can repay her extraordinary services for the poor people of Pakistan, yet in an effort to spread her message of compassion and mercy for the downtrodden of the society, the State Bank of Pakistan has issued the commemorative coin which the prime minister graciously and readily agreed to. It is indeed our great pleasure that His Excellency German Ambassador to Pakistan has graced the occasion to unveil the coin which will be available for public issuance across the country from the counters of SBP Banking Services Corporation.

Thank you very much.

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