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## Audit Uncovers Wasteful Spending in Pakistan's Law Enforcement Budget

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A recent audit has exposed alarming financial mismanagement within Pakistan's civil law enforcement agencies, revealing that billions of rupees were squandered on questionable purchases such as jogger shoes, ice, and socks during the 2023–24 fiscal year. The report, which investigated departments operating under the Ministry of Interior, highlights a pattern of unchecked procurement practices, with payments made in advance for items never delivered and purchases processed without proper documentation or oversight.

According to *The News International*, the audit uncovers how items like winter clothing, footwear, and even ice seemingly routine requisites became vehicles for excessive and unjustified spending. In some instances, payments were authorised for boats that were never delivered, directly violating government procurement regulations. Other cases included bulk purchases of consumables at inflated prices or without usage logs. The glaring lack of accountability suggests systemic weaknesses in financial governance, and raises serious concerns about the Interior Ministry's capacity to manage taxpayer funds responsibly.

This revelation is particularly troubling at a time when Pakistan faces fiscal constraints and mounting debt obligations. The audit's findings not only reflect bureaucratic negligence but expose a deeper issue of entrenched inefficiency within civil institutions, many of which remain bloated and unreformed. For a nation struggling to meet its IMF (International Monetary Fund) obligations and implement fiscal discipline, such rampant misuse of public funds undermines both economic recovery and public confidence in state machinery. A centre-right perspective underscores that fiscal prudence is not optional but essential for national security and effective governance.



What's most disconcerting is the absence of consequences for those responsible for these irregularities. There has been little in the way of disciplinary action or transparent investigations. For reform to be meaningful, the government must demonstrate zero tolerance for wasteful expenditure and tighten audit controls. If the country is to strengthen internal security while staying on course for economic stability, restoring integrity in law enforcement financing must be a top priority. It's time to end the culture of unchecked spending and start treating public money with the seriousness it deserves.