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PM Shehbaz Calls Population Growth Alarming, Urges National Strategy

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Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has described Pakistan's 2.55% annual population growth rate as a serious national concern, calling for immediate and coordinated action to address its economic and social impacts. Speaking at a high-level meeting on August 7, 2025, Sharif stressed that rapid population growth is placing mounting pressure on resources such as healthcare, education, housing, and job creation. With the national population now exceeding 240 million, projections suggest it could reach nearly 386 million by 2050 if current trends continue.

Sharif emphasized that while population growth poses challenges, it also presents opportunities, particularly given that over 65% of Pakistan's population is under the age of 30. He urged that this youthful demographic be transformed into a productive

economic force through skill development, job creation, and entrepreneurship programs. According to the prime minister, harnessing the potential of young people is vital for achieving sustainable growth and reducing poverty.

He also highlighted the importance of women's economic participation, directing relevant authorities to create more employment and business opportunities for women. He noted that women's inclusion in the workforce is essential for broadening the country's economic base and improving household well-being.

To address the issue in a structured manner, Sharif announced the formation of a committee tasked with developing a comprehensive national population policy. This committee will work in close coordination with provincial governments to ensure that policies and initiatives are harmonized across all regions. Sharif underscored that a unified national approach is necessary to manage demographic change effectively and to align population growth with economic development goals.

The prime minister also called for a nationwide awareness campaign to educate the public about the economic and social consequences of unchecked population growth. He noted that public understanding and cooperation are critical to the success of any policy measures, and he stressed the need for integrating population planning into the country's sustainable development strategies.

The meeting brought together senior government officials, including ministers responsible for planning, education, and health. Discussions focused on proposals to expand educational opportunities, improve healthcare access, and promote family planning services. Participants also addressed the need to reduce the number of out-of-school children, which currently stands at over 25 million, as part of broader efforts to equip the next generation with the skills needed for a competitive economy.