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Pakistan to Distribute 116,000 Electric Bikes

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The federal government has announced plans to provide 116,000 electric bikes through a two-year installment scheme under the upcoming National Electric Vehicle (NEV) Policy 2025 to 2030. The initiative, aimed at promoting clean and cost-effective transport, is being developed in collaboration with the State Bank of Pakistan and the Pakistan Banking Association. The official launch of the policy is expected on Independence Day, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif likely to unveil the details.

The NEV Policy 2025 to 2030 is being framed to accelerate Pakistan's shift toward environmentally sustainable transportation. The electric bike distribution is one of its core

components, designed to reduce urban air pollution, cut fuel costs, and lessen dependency on imported oil. The provision of e-bikes through an accessible installment plan reflects a strategic attempt to encourage public adoption, particularly among students, low-income workers, and daily commuters. Financing support from banks will make ownership feasible, even for those without traditional access to credit.

While the idea of electric mobility is not new, the sheer scale of this proposed rollout marks a significant shift in government thinking. Critics, however, are cautious about implementation. Without effective infrastructure for charging and maintenance, the success of such a program may face hurdles. The policy's alignment with existing fiscal pressures also raises questions about long-term affordability and accountability. Nonetheless, the involvement of the central bank and key financial institutions provides a layer of structure and monitoring that could make the initiative more viable than previous efforts.

If implemented with transparency and efficiency, the distribution of electric bikes can contribute meaningfully to Pakistan's energy transition goals while easing urban mobility challenges. The NEV Policy's success, however, will depend not just on distribution, but also on how the government supports the broader ecosystem charging stations, after-sales service, and public awareness. As the country prepares to mark its Independence Day, the proposed policy presents an opportunity to take a step toward modern and responsible transportation, provided that ambition is matched by execution.