ERRA Completes over Ten Thousand Projects Earthquake Affected Areas:  Acting Deputy Chairman Abu Bakr Bajwa Briefed the Acting Ambassador KSA: ***Saudi Arabia will always stand by People of Pakistan:  His Excellency Jassim.M.Khaldi.***

Warmly welcomed by the Acting Deputy Chairman ERRA and ERRA officials the Acting Ambassador to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was give a detailed briefing on ERRA progress.  Saudi Arabia has been one of the first respondents to earthquake 2005 and since then has been active development partner in reconstruction and rehabilitation of the earthquake affected areas of AKJ and KP.  Saudi Arabia has funded over 50 projects including grand mosques, health facilities, educational institutions, governance buildings and 8000 shelter/prefab houses for people of affected areas of AJK and KP.

Welcoming the honorable guest Acting Dy Chairman said that Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have a long association and friendship tested by time with Saudi funded projects in earthquake affected areas are a testimony that Saudi Arabia has always been there in time of need.  He said that it was due to international development partners and resolve of the Government of Pakistan that 600,000 housing have been reconstructed making ERRA as the only organization which successfully completed its flagship program above that over 10,000 projects in other sectors, which is well recognized by the world community and awarded UN SASAKAWA Award. He said that on average ERRA has a completion rate of 80 to 100 projects per month, and all building and houses reconstructed by ERRA sustained the 26th October 2016 earthquake which jolted the areas with a magnitude of 8.1, which speaks of high standards of reconstruction followed by ERRA and its partners.  ERRA’s early Recovery Model and the Rural Housing strategy is recommended to be followed as an example internationally, and paying high tributes to SPAPEV, the Saudi Fund for Development completed all projects pledged by the Government of Saudi Arabia, which is sign of love for the people of Pakistan.  He also said that the King Abdullah Mosque will be completed by Dec 2016.

His Excellency Jassim Bin Al-Khalid appreciating the efforts of ERRA said that Pakistan remains a close brotherly country and Saudi Arabia will always stand by Pakistan in time of need.  He said that recently Saudi Arabia has signed 5 grants and one loan with the Government of Pakistan.  He assured of future support in reconstruction of projects in earthquake affected areas and said people of Pakistan are a priority for Saudi Arabia.