



RAWALPINDI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

E-BUSINESS VISION

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RCCI NEW TEAM

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I am grateful to the business community for the trust and affection extended to me. I express my dedication to the Mission, Vision and Values of Rawalpindi Chamber.

Throughout the history of RCCI, we have transitioned to serve the business community in benefitting manner. Today, we are once again transforming and adapting to the changing business environment and are strengthening our roles as the voice of the business community in Rawalpindi and acknowledging the value of our members.

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Muhammad Nasir Mirza
President RCCI



RCCI New President Vows to Focus on Resolving key issues of Traders

The COVID-19 has hampered trade activities in the region and pushed the economy on contraction. It also has set new rules changing the dimensions of business strategies. Information technology now plays a vital role and I must appreciate my successors who have made the best use of technology in order to continue the chamber's efforts for the business community.

This was stated by Mohammad Nasir Mirza, newly elected president of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) at the oath taking ceremony of newly elected office bearers of RCCI at Chamber building. Group leader and former president Sohail Altaf administered the oath to office bearers of RCCI which was attended by former presidents, executive members, representatives of trade associations and RCCI

members.

Nasir Mirza said that RCCI prime objective was to explore the existing trade potential of all viable sectors and to dig out new avenues of growth and progress for the region. He said that RCCI will approach ministries, government departments, FBR and others for early resolution of the issues faced by the business community. He demanded the government that the business community should be taken on board in the policy making process. The government should provide a conducive environment for boosting trade and industry and economic stability can be earned by removing bottlenecks. An agile effort is required to thumb down negative indicators.

Nasir Mirza also thanked group leaders, Former Presidents and

traders for showing their confidence in him and vowed that he and his team would take every possible step to fulfill the confidence and trust of the seniors and no stone will be left unturned for the betterment of the business community of the region.

Newly elected Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf and Vice President Shahraiz A Malik also expressed the same feelings and vowed that they will work as a team.

Outgoing President Saboor Malik congratulated the new office bearers and expressed hope that the new team will continue the policies and carry the RCCI's values.

Business Community of the region is hopeful that Mohammad Nasir Mirza will continue to explore new avenues for promotion of business and industrial activities in the region.



Briefing on Rawalpindi Ring Road Project



The Rawalpindi Ring Road project would be a game changer for Rawalpindi as the proposed industrial zones can turn Rawalpindi into a hub of trade activities. The stakeholders should be taken on board while finalizing the allocation and demarcation of Industrial Zones.

This was stated by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Mohammad Nasir Mirza while addressing a briefing session on the Ring Road project at Chamber house Rawalpindi.

The briefing session was attended by a large number of representatives of trade associations of the city and officials, office bearers of RCCI and members of the Chamber of Commerce.

M Abdullah, Deputy Project Director, Punjab Management Unit (PMU) gave a detailed presentation. He was accompanied

by environment specialist, Adeel Pervez and financial expert Zeeshan Amin.

RCCI president emphasized that this is an important project for the development of Rawalpindi and should be completed as soon as possible. The government and the Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) should purchase land for the proposed industrial zones. He said that the main objective of the project was to shift markets, easing traffic congestion and promote Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The Ring Road project will boost commercial activities, he added.

Group leader and former president Sohail Altaf said the project should be given full government patronage. Investors should not be left at the mercy of the land mafia. A committee should be formed on the platform of the Chamber of Commerce to liaise with the RDA and the Commissioner's Office and

implement the suggestions of the stakeholders to remove obstacles to the completion of the project.

Deputy Project Director M Abdullah in a detailed presentation said that the Ring Road project is a 65 km project and Rs6.5 billion has been released for the purchase of land for the road. The proposed project includes construction of industrial zones as well as health city, dry port, bus and truck terminals and theme parks.

A proposal for rapid rail transit is also under consideration in the Ring Road project. He assured that the suggestions of the stakeholders would be shared with the project director so that they could be made a part of the project.

Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, former presidents, representatives of Anjuman-e-Tajiran, members of the executive committee and members were also present on the occasion.



RCCI OBSERVES WORLD EGG DAY

The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has organized an awareness seminar in connection with World Egg day at Chamber House Rawalpindi.

Dr. Hassan Sarosh, former Chairman Pakistan Poultry Association (PPA) who was chief guest on the occasion in his address said that the poultry industry was playing a crucial role in ensuring food security in the country and emphasized that use of poultry products should be further promoted in order to end the problem of stunted growth in growing children.

Earlier, addressing the seminar RCCI President Mohammad Nasir Mirza said that concrete steps must be taken to promote and uplifting the Poultry sector as it contributes 40% of the total meat consumption. The poultry sector generates employment and provides source

of income to more than 1.5 million people of Pakistan directly & indirectly, he added.

To promote poultry sector being vital segment of Livestock the Government must reduce taxes in import of revision of import duties, additional import taxes, and sales



tax on poultry feed ingredients, plant and machinery etc, he demanded.

Nasir Mirza, while referring to recent nutrition survey results from World Bank said that Pakistan is included in countries where severe stunting (44%) in young children is found and is at alarming level and

increased consumption of eggs can help overcome this issue.

The participants were informed that the Pakistan's poultry industry is producing more than 17,500 million table eggs per annum against per capita consumption of 88 eggs annually. The developed countries consume 300 eggs per capita per annum.

More awareness and information must be spread among the masses with respect to nutritional value of eggs and its importance for human health, he added.

A large number of members, representatives from PPA, Academia and civil society attended the session.

Later, chief guest distributed certificates among the winners of cooking competition in connection with World Egg Day.







RCCI SHOWS CONCERN ON GROWING POLITICAL & ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY

The Business community of Rawalpindi city has shown strong concern on growing political uncertainty which ultimately affect the economy of the country and urged the government to resolve issues amicably.

The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Mohammad Nasir Mirza while talking to different trade delegations at chamber house said that the business community has grave concerns on growing political and economic uncertainty as both are interlinked with each other. The stock market hit badly and dropped more than 1000 points in a single day and on a bearish trend. Investors, especially foreign investors can only be attracted once we have political stability and continuation of economic policies.

After Corona, business activities have resumed with enormous difficulty. In such a situation, the recent political

turmoil is detrimental to the country's economy. The Prime Minister should take immediate notice here, he suggested.

He said that issues should be resolved amicably and political parties must show political tolerance, maturity and demonstrate the wisdom.

The trade delegates shared their issues including traffic congestion, tax notices, encroachment and parking.

The chamber's platform will always be available in raising its voice to solve the problems of the traders, whether it is a matter of facilities or tax reforms, the chamber has always played its due role, he assured.

No harassment by Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA) and other agencies under the guise of tax notices, tax collection and registration, he demanded. Stakeholders should also be

consulted on the issue of Point of Sales (POS). Group leader Sohail Altaf said that the business community has gone through a lot of hardships. Recent political instability will have a negative impact on business and investment and urged the government to address the given situation immediately.

Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz Malik, former president Saboor Malik, members of the executive committee and large number of traders from different markets, Cantonment Sadar, Anjuman Arrtyian, Dalgran Bazar, Naswari Bazar, Chaudhry Bazar and Ghandam bazar were also present on the occasion.

RCCI Delegation Calls on RPO Rawalpindi

A delegation of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) led by President Nasir Mirza called on Regional Police Officer Imran Ahmar. The delegation included group leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, former president Saboo Malik and Chaudhry Pervez Ahmed Warraich. The meeting discussed in detail the law and order situation in the city, community police, promotion of business activities in the city and making the police chamber liaison more effective.

RPO Imran Ahmar said that the business community is the backbone of the economy. The first duty of the police is to protect the citizens. The role of the business community is very important in promoting economic activities. We strive to control street crime in the city, especially in the markets, so that customers can shop with their ease. All steps

will be taken to address issues related to the business community. Databases are being built on modern lines to control crime. Everyone must play their part in eradicating crime from society. Suggestions for installation of CCTV cameras, control rooms and better communication in the markets will be implemented.

Chamber President Nasir Mirza said that Muharram and Chehlum passed very peacefully. The Police Department deserves congratulations. The community police system should be activated. The activation of the Chamber Police Coordination Committee will reduce the burden of FIRs. He also invited the RPO to visit the chamber. He said that all possible cooperation would be extended to the police to eradicate crime in the city. And useful suggestions will be given.





RCCI Delegation Meeting with DC Rawalpindi

The delegation led by President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Moammad Nasir Mirza called on Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Captain (retd) Anwarul Haq.

Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Usman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz Malik and former President Saboor Malik were also present on the occasion. The meeting discussed in details the Ring Road project, rise in encroachments in the city, traffic problems, inflation and price control committees, Corona epidemic SOPs and ongoing

development projects in the city.

Talking to the delegation, Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Anwar-ul-Haq said that the second wave of Corona is expected and urged that citizens should follow SOPs. The Deputy Commissioner assured the delegation that the district administration would provide all facilities for the promotion of business activities, as well as consult with the business community and the Chamber of Commerce regarding the development projects of the city especially Ring Road.

On this occasion, the President of

the Chamber Mohammad Nasir Mirza appreciated the steps taken by the district administration for the control of Corona in the city and assured that the Chamber would continue its support in all possible ways. "The city is full of encroachments," he said. A comprehensive policy should be adopted to solve the traffic problems. Business is affected due to cricket matches in Pindi Stadium. A permanent solution should be found in consultation.



DIPLOMATIC CORNER



Meeting with Sri Lanka High Commission H.E. Vice Admiral Mohan Wijewickrama



Top executives of RCCI lead by Mr. Mohammad Nasir Mirza visited the embassy of Spain and discussed the opportunities of bilateral trade with Acting Ambassador and Charge de affairs H.E Ms Elena Gomez Aoiz.



Top executives of RCCI lead by Mr. Mohammad Nasir Mirza visited the embassy of Iran and discussed the opportunities of bilateral trade with His Excellency Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini.

Sudan Charge d' Affaires visits RCCI



Sudan's Charge d' Affaires Muhammad Bashir paid a visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI). He was accompanied by Trade and Commercial Counselors M. Nooruddin and Abu Bakr Hussain.

While talking to President RCCI Mohammad Nasir Mirza, the Charge d' Affaires said Sudan offers promising investment opportunities and Pakistani businessmen should explore Sudan for making direct investment and joint ventures to earn attractive returns.

Muhammad Bashir said that there are very close friendly relations between Pakistan and Sudan. The exchange of delegations is needed for the promotion of bilateral trade. There are

many opportunities to explore trade in agriculture and minerals sectors, he added. He said that this was his first visit to any chamber. He appreciated the role of the Rawalpindi Chamber in promoting trade and business activities. He also invited RCCI to attend the International Trade Fair Khartoum which will be held in January 2021.

On this occasion, the President of the Chamber Mohammad Nasir Mirza said that the Chamber is ready for all kinds of cooperation for the exchange of delegations and holding of bilateral business conferences.

There is a huge opportunity for joint ventures in different sectors mainly, agriculture, IT and pharmaceuticals, he added.

The trade relations between the two countries need to be strengthened at the level of the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has also launched a series of webinars to promote trade with African countries through the Business Africa Forum, despite the Corona epidemic. Nasir Mirza further added that the ease of doing business ranking of Pakistan has improved. Sudanese investors can take advantage of investment opportunities in Pakistan, he added.

Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, members of the executive committee and members were also present on the occasion.





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