



RAWALPINDI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

# E-BUSINESS VISION

APRIL 1-15 2021



رمضان مبارک

# Chief Commissioner of Inland Revenue visits RCCI, assures full support to business community

Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue Dr. Khalid Mahmood Lodhi along with his team paid a visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and addressed the issues faced by the business community. President Mohammad Nasir Mirza, Group leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, members of the executive committee, and members were present on the occasion.

Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue Dr. Khalid Mahmood Lodhi has said that taxpayers are the lifeline of the economy and FBR prime objective is to strengthen the partnership with the business community and address their concerns and problems through negotiations. COVID-19 has suppressed economic activity in the country and FBR acknowledged the business community role and have a great empathy and sympathy towards them.

The Chief Commissioner welcomed RCCI budget proposals, including extension in integration of POS systems, tax audits, updating profiles for Active Tax Payers List (ATL), recovery notices and payments on installments. He lauded the role of the Rawalpindi Chamber in promoting trade activities, resolving tax-related disputes and raising awareness on increasing the tax net and added that a help desk will be established at RCCI for the members and taxpayers facilitation.

He informed that automation is being introduced in FBR so that there will be less involvement of FBR collectors with the taxpayers. E-hearing rooms are being established across the country and Rawalpindi will be taken as model office for E-hearings. FBR is providing all kinds of technical support for the installation of POS systems.

ADRC and integrity management committee are being reactivated to facilitate general public/ taxpayers for filing

complaints against corrupt practices of officers/officials of FBR. FBR is negotiating and in close contacts with Jewelers and traders related to Marble business to address their grievances.

Earlier, RCCI President Mohammad Nasir Mirza, gave a short summary on RCCI current and future programs. He shared key concerns of the members and traders including extension in POS system, recovery notices and infructuous notices to tax-payers under section 176.

RCCI President said that traders related to the Travel, Tour business/Hajj Umra, Schools, Wedding Halls has suffered very badly due to Corona Pandemic and sought relaxations for them.

He suggested that sales tax rate should be brought to single digit and efforts should be made to increase new taxpayers rather than squeezing existing tax-payers.

He also demanded that more incentives should be given to taxpayers and reforms must be introduced in the tax regime to help broadening the tax net and increasing the tax payers numbers.

Group leader Sohail Altaf in his address said that Chamber representatives should be given place in advisory board and Alternate Dispute Resolution Committee (ADRC) should be revived, he demanded.

He also urged to build a strong relationship with FBR. Tax rate for POS should be brought to 5%, as this will help FBR to double its tax collections. Large Scale Manufacturing (LSM) growth is showing good improvement as we saw strong checks on under-invoicing, smuggling and restriction on imports. He also suggested fix tax regime for small traders.

Chairman RCCI tax committee, Shahzad Malik, gave a detailed overview related to anomalies in the FBR tax system and proposed corrective measures in this regard.



# RCCI urges consultation for the upcoming budget 2021-22



The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) that the budget for the next financial year 2021-22 should be prepared in consultation with the stakeholders. The Chamber's recommendations should be included in the budget. In a statement, Muhammad Nasir Mirza, President RCCI said that the Pakistani economy is currently facing many challenges. "We demand that electricity and gas prices be reduced to lower business costs."

He said traders should not be harassed on the account of documentation and registration. Sales tax rate should be reduced to single digit. Point of sale registration should be extended. He demanded that interest free loans on soft terms be provided to business women especially women entrepreneurs and women belonging to cottage industry. A special Covid 19 concession package should also be announced for women, he said.

He referred to RCCI ICS2021 where joint declaration was adopted which urged the government to take immediate steps in addressing the impact of Covid pandemic.

The tourism sector has been severely affected and a package should be announced for this sector too. Corporate tax rate should be reduced to 20%.

Focus on agro-based industries and form a special task force for food security. Cotton production has been affected. A new policy should be formulated regarding seed procurement.

Like the construction package, a concessional package should be announced for other sectors, he added. Nasir Mirza added that for easy business, the FBR should combine all taxes to make filing easier.



# RPO Rawalpindi visits RCCI assures full support to business community



Rawalpindi: Regional Police Officer Imran Ahmer has said that the business community is the backbone of the economy. If there is peace in the city then investors and traders will be able to do business with confidence. The role of the business community is very important in promoting economic activities. The efforts of the Rawalpindi Chamber are commendable in promoting business activities, liaising with the Chamber, and their supportive role for alternative dispute resolution (ADRC).

He passed these remarks during his visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) here on Friday.

President RCCI Mohammad Nasir Mirza, group leader and former president Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, members of the executive Committee and members of the Chamber were also present on the occasion.

He said that the prime role of the police is to provide security to the citizens. 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 the

issues related to the business community. He welcomed the RCCI suggestions on Corona SOPs and shops closure at 6 pm and assured that no harassment will be there from police.

Matters related to traffic congestion, elimination of encroachments, professional beggars, and Safe City were also discussed.

Chamber President Nasir Mirzane briefed the RPO in detail about the ongoing activities of the Chamber and future programs.

He said that the community police system should be promoted and activation of the chamber police coordination committee would reduce the burden of FIR. He said that all possible cooperation would be extended to the police to eradicate crime in the city. He lauded Khuli Kethery initiative of RPO and CPO which is helping in reducing the crime rate.

Group leader Sohail Altaf said that commercial activities are directly related to law and order. The concept of community policing has to be popularized.



# RCCI organized Virtual International Trade Forum (VITF) chapter Europe



The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) organized the Virtual International Trade Forum (VITF) chapter Europe. The purpose of the trade forum was to acquaint the business community in European countries with trade and export opportunities.

The forum was well attended by a large number of participants via video link, this includes, Daniel Clauss, Head of the Political, Trade and Communication Section, from Delegation of European Union to Pakistan, Khawaja Khurram Naeem, Commercial Counsellor in Germany, Ahmad Affan, Trade & Investment in Spain, Khalid Hanifin Italy, Rao Rizwan-ul-Haqin Netherland and Ghulam Mustafa in Sweden.

RCCI President Nasir Mirza, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, Chairman Regional Committee Khurshid Barlas, members of the executive Committee attended the forum while a large number of members participated via video link.

In his keynote address, RCCI President Nasir Mirza said that it was an important opportunity for Pakistani manufacturers to take advantage of GSP Plus and explore export opportunities in new sectors. Undoubtedly, Europe is a big market. Despite

the GSP Plus status, our exports are far below the required volume while the potential is there. He said that the forum would help in tackling the challenges facing Pakistani exports with European countries.

Addressing the forum, Daniel Clauss, Head of Trade and Communication Section of the European Union of Pakistan, said that the European Union has given GSP status to many developing countries, including Pakistan. Pakistan can benefit from zero duty. 75% of exports from Pakistan are from the textiles sector. This is an important opportunity for Pakistan to extend its scope to other sectors as well. Focus on areas such as gems and jewelry, tourism, IT, mining and handicrafts, he added.

Trade and Commercial Counselors also shared key information related to exhibitions, trade fairs and possible investment opportunities through joint ventures.

Speakers emphasized the need to focus on product value addition, registration and certification. Information should be shared with the chambers. Chairman Regional Committee Khurshid Barlas said that branding especially Made in Pakistan brand has to be brought forward.





RCCI President Mohammad Nasir Mirza addressing executive committee at Chamber house Rawalpindi.











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**See Distribution**

Dear Sir,

30 Mar 21

**PAKISTAN NAVY 4<sup>TH</sup> INDUSTRIAL SEMINAR – 2021**

1. Pakistan Navy conducts Industrial Seminar on biennial basis to capitalize opportunity for interaction with local industry reps particularly those which are engaged with production of equipment/ systems for use by Defense Forces in general and Pakistan Navy in particular. In this regard, your esteemed Chamber is invited to participate in subject seminar through presenting paper relevant to the technology, equipment/ systems meant for defence purpose. Paper may be presented by team of 2 to 3 office bearers of the chamber and/ or combination of representatives from various local firms registered with your chamber. The paper would be heard by the high ranked officials from Govt/ Semi-Govt organizations, leading ChamberS of Commerce and Industries, major industrialists, scholars/ researchers from renowned universities and armed forces personnel including Chief of the Naval Staff.
2. In this regard, all firms registered with your Chamber may be shared with information about conduct of 4<sup>th</sup> PN Industrial Seminar, tentatively scheduled to be held in 1<sup>st</sup> week of November this year at Pakistan Navy Engineering College (PNEC) located at Habib Ibrahim Rehmatullah (Karsaz) Road, Karachi. Your Chamber in coordination with willing firms is requested to confirm presentation of paper of approximately 30 minutes duration (2000 words approx.) followed by 30 minutes Question/ Answer session by panel of 3 to 4 speakers. In this regard, you are requested to propose at least 2 or more suitable paper topics alongwith themes (upto 100 words) to this office latest by **23 Apr 21**. Timely input from your Chamber will be highly appreciated.
3. Additionally, any suitable point or proposal from your chamber will also be welcomed, please.
4. Point of contact from this office for any query or further correspondence is Lieutenant Raheel Ahmed PN (Tel No: 021-48508881 Cell No: 0333-7947623).
5. With best regards.

Yours Sincerely

**BURHAN AHMAD**  
Captain Pakistan Navy  
Director Indigenous Technical  
Development (South)



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