

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LAHORE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
HELD ON 15.7.2024 AT 11:30 HOURS
IN AMIN HALL, LCCI BUILDING**

<u>S. No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Member Organization</u>
1.	Mr Kashif Anwar	President (In Chair)	A.M.K Engineering (Pvt) Ltd
2.	Mr Zafar Mehmood Ch	Senior Vice President	Naeem Zafar Industries
3.	Mr Adnan Khalid Butt	Vice President	New Kings Packages (Pvt) Ltd
4.	Mian Rehman Aziz Chan	EC Member	M-R Law Chambers (Pvt.) Ltd
5.	Malik Muhammad Nadeem	EC Member	Hafiz Brothers
6.	Mr. Ahmad Ellahi	EC Member	AA Leather (Pvt.) Ltd
7.	Dr. Shahid Raza	EC Member	S.R Laboratories (Pvt.) Ltd
8.	Mr Khadim Hussain	EC Member	Hussain Trading Co
9.	Sh. Muhammad Ibrahim	EC Member	Cannon Foam Industries (Pvt.) Ltd
10.	Muhammad Tauqeer Malik	EC Member	Bin Qutab International (Pvt.) Ltd
11.	Raja Hassan Akhtar	EC Member	Waris & Company
12.	Mr Rizwan Haider	EC Member	Excellent Packers (Pvt.) Ltd
13.	Mr Khamis Saeed Butt	EC Member	Khamis Papers
14.	Mr Muhammad Usman Malik	EC Member	Usman Tractor House
15.	Ch Wajid Ali	EC Member	United Plastic Company
16.	Mr Muhammad Yousaf Shah	EC Member	Al-Yousaf Enterprises
17.	Mr Arjumand Maqsood	EC Member	Mahmood Pharmacy
18.	Mr Muhammad Waseem Yousaf	EC Member	Quality Vision
19.	Mr. Muhammad Ejaz	EC Member	Fair Marketing Pakistan
20.	Ms Fareeha Younas	EC Member	FSN Travels & Tours
21.	Ms Shamim Akhter	EC Member	In-Out Trading (Pvt) Ltd

Mr. Shahid Khalil Secretary-General LCCI

1. RECITATION FROM THE HOLY QURAN

The Meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran. And following the tradition, the House offered *Fateha* for the *Eesal-e-Sawab* of;

- Mother of Mr. Shahid Khalil, Secretary-General LCCI

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE EC MEETING

Leave of absence was granted to the following members:-

1.	Mian Nauman Kabir	EC Member	NSM Marketing
2.	Rana Tariq Mehboob	EC Member	Rana Trading Co
3.	Mr. Mujahid Maqsood Butt	EC Member	Mujahid Maqsood Butt
4.	Muhammad Riaz-ul-Hassan	EC Member	Ajmair Food (Pvt.) Ltd
5.	Mian Jabbar Khalid	EC Member	Feroz Flour & General Mills

[Handwritten Signature]

6. Mian Attiq-ur-Rehman	EC Member	Al-Jahan International
7. Mr. Haris Ateeq	EC Member	Bridel Zone
8. Mr Khalid Mehmood	EC Member	The Fuelers (Pvt.) Ltd
9. Muhammad Usman Sheikh	EC Member	Marhaba Laboratories (Pvt.) Ltd
10. Mr Momin Ali Malik	EC Member	Euro Guard (Pvt.) Ltd
11. Mr. Asim Pervaiz Siddiqi	EC Member	Siddiqi & Associates

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE EC MEETING

3.1 The Secretary-General sought approval of the previous minutes. The House approved the minutes without any amendment.

4. LIST OF ACTIVITIES

4.1 The House approved the agenda item.

5. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

5.1 The Secretary-General congratulated the President, the Senior Vice President, the Vice President and the Executive Committee on achieving the status of Non-Profit Organization under Section 236 of the Income Tax Ordinance, effective from 2018 to 2026.

5.2 Non-Profit Organization status will yield significant benefits including;

1. Income Tax Exemption: Under Section 100(C) of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001.
2. Sales Tax Exemption: Under Section 13 of the Sales Tax Act, 1990.
3. Withholding Tax Exemption: On bank interest, dividend income, and capital gains.

5.3 The President expressed his appreciation for the collective efforts of the Executive Committee and Office Bearers in achieving this milestone.

5.4 The Secretary-General informed the house about some notable achievements of LCCI in the context of finance. He reported that the short-term investments of LCCI have increased significantly, from Rs. 130 million in the previous year to Rs. 280 million in the current year, resulting in a surplus of Rs. 150 million. Furthermore, the profit from these investments has also shown a substantial increase, rising from Rs. 14 million to Rs. 35 million this year, with an impressive increase of Rs. 21 million.

5.5 In response to a question raised by Mr. Nadeem Malik, the Secretary-General clarified that all of LCCI investments are made in Islamic mode of Banking. The President added that following discussions in previous EC meetings, LCCI had shifted all its investments from conventional to Islamic banking.



6. **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

The Minutes of the following Standing Committees were approved in the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 15.07.2024, with some observations recorded below:

- *It was decided that anything approved in the minutes, contrary to Chamber policy or LCCI Articles or having financial implications, will be considered "not approved." Moreover, all functions of the standing committees will be organized on a self-financed basis.*
- **All Delegations would be as per LCCI SOPs through Delegation Department.**

SR. #	NAME OF STANDING COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE
A.	Enhancing Facilitation for SME Sector	23.5.2024
B.	Culture & Heritage	24.5.2024
C.	Issues of Industrial Bearings Import	27.5.2024
D.	Cottage Industry Liaison	4.6.2024
E.	Digital Marketing	4.6.2024
F.	CPEC	5.6.2024
G.	Cold Storages	7.6.2024
H.	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	8.6.2024 & 5.7.2024
I.	Kala Bagh Dam	11.6.2024
J.	Heritage & Religious Tourism in Pakistan	13.6.2024 & 29.6.2024
K.	Pakistan-Iran Business Promotion	21.6.2024
L.	Legal Education	24.6.2024
M.	Student Liaison	24.6.2024
N.	Issues of Steel & Electrical Engineering	29.6.2024
O.	Small Gems, Jewellery & Tools	29.6.2024
P.	Health & OTC Products	1.7.2024
Q.	Tourism Potential in Pakistan	2.7.2024
R.	Shalamar Hospital	3.7.2024
S.	ECO	8.7.2024
T.	Membership	1.6.2024,8.6.2024,15.6.2024, 29.6.2024, & 6.7.2024

7. LCCI ELECTION SCHEDULE

- 7.1 After a thorough and detailed discussion, the House approved the election schedule.
- 7.2 Dr. Shahid Raza proposed to reschedule the key events like; the Final List, previously scheduled for August 27th, be rescheduled to September 3rd.
- 7.4 The Senior Vice President supported the proposal of Dr Shahid Raza. However, Mr. Rehman Aziz Chan advised that the proposed changes be thoroughly reviewed to ensure compliance with relevant legal requirements, specifically regarding the mandatory timeframe between election events.
- 7.5 The President directed the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive review of the proposed revised schedule.
- 7.6 Malik Usman expressed his concern that the election schedule should have been finalized by the first half of July, as per the rules. He noted that the meeting was being held on the last day of the specified timeframe, and suggested that it would have been more prudent to hold the meeting earlier, rather than discussing the matter at the eleventh hour.
- 7.8 He further pointed out that, according to the rules, the process of submitting nomination papers can be extended to four days, which would help avoid a rush on a single day, particularly as the proposed day is a Saturday. He requested that the process be extended to at least three days, commencing from August 28th.
- 7.10 Following a thorough discussion, the Senior Vice President stated that there is no objection to revise the dates as discussed.
- 7.11 The President assured the House that if authorized by law, the period for submitting nomination papers will be extended to facilitate a smoother process.
- 7.12 The President delivered a verdict to the House, stating that all suggestions and proposals regarding the Election Schedule will be accommodated, provided there are no legal constraints or impediments. This assurance was given to ensure that the election process is conducted in a fair, transparent, and inclusive manner.
- 7.13 Mr. Nadeem Malik suggested that, timing of the voting process should be extended to accommodate all voters.
- 7.14 The House Increased the voting time from 9am to 8pm.
- 7.15 The Senior Vice President added that voters already present on the LCCI premises will be allowed to cast their votes even after the designated timing.

- 7.16 Malik Usman pointed out that, according to the law, a trade organization has the option to hold the election even outside its premises.
- 7.17 The President assured the House that the LCCI has sufficient space within its premises to manage the expected crowd and that all aspects have been thoroughly analyzed.

8. APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION COMMISSION

8.1 The Chair sought the consent of the members of the Executive Committee (EC) regarding the nomination of Mr. Nasrullah Mughal, Mr. Almas Hyder and Shahzad Azam Khan as the Election Commission for the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry Election 2024. Upon receiving approval from the majority of the EC members, the Chair formally announced the approval of their names as the Election Commission required under Rule 18 of the Trade Organizations Rules 2013. This announcement officially constituted the Election Commission, tasked with overseeing and conducting the LCCI election 2024 in a fair and transparent manner.

8.2 The House Approved the names with majority of vote.

9. ANYOTHER ITEM

9.1 Mr. Khadim Hussain expressed his gratitude to the House for a productive and comprehensive meeting. He brought to the attention of the members his concerns regarding the Italian Embassy, specifically the lack of response to the requests from the LCCI. He highlighted that several institutions with whom the LCCI had signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) are not adequately addressing the needs of LCCI members. The President tasked the Senior Vice President to look into the matter. Mr. Khadim Hussain also requested to share copies of the MOUs signed with various institutions.

9.2 Mr. Rizwan Haider informed the House that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) already had representation in the Social Welfare Department. He reported that the Department has recognized the LCCI's contributions to support special persons and has appointed the LCCI as Chair of a special committee focused on employment and skill development for this group. Additionally, Mr. Haider shared that the Government has solicited the LCCI's input on reforms to the Punjab Labour Act, and the Research and Development Department has prepared suggestions, which will be submitted to the Government after ensuring legal compliance.

9.3 Muhammad Nadeem Malik brought to the attention of the House an incident involving his wife, also a member of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), who received treatment at Nabila's Saloon. He expressed concern that the saloon's staff demonstrated unprofessional behavior, neglecting basic hygiene and health standards, with no apparent Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place. This incident was previously referred to the LCCI's Mediation Committee, chaired by Mr. Ibrahim Sheikh, but he felt that the issue was not adequately addressed. The Chair instructed the Secretary-General to share

the case details and forward letters to the relevant Ombudsman, ensuring the matter receives proper attention and action.

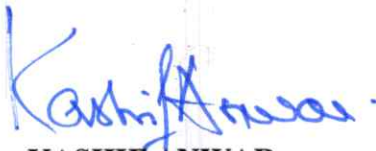
- 9.4 Mr. Muhammad Waseem Yousaf drew attention to the pressing issues of exorbitant electricity charges and taxes, urging the Chair to take up this matter with the government. He observed that the current situation is promoting a culture of corruption. Furthermore, He emphasized that while taxes continue to rise, the government must ensure 100% tax collection. He stressed that this issue requires immediate attention and resolution to prevent further complications.
- 9.5 Malik Usman noted that a large number of the standing committees are underperforming. He highlighted that, despite repeated suggestions, no focal persons have been appointed to liaise with key government departments, such as the Health Department and Police Department.
- 9.6 Mr. Yousaf Shah said that the LCCI did not notify Executive Committee (EC) members about a significant meeting held at FBR. He referenced Section 16B of the ordinance, which requires a written request for member nominations to the Election Commission.
- 9.7 Ch Wajid seconded Mr. Khadim Hussain regarding the issues pertaining to the embassies and said that this issue should be addressed.
- 9.8 He commented that it is the second last meeting of this Executive Committee. He expressed concerns over high electricity bills as per unit rate for commercial meters have reached to 81 rupees while for industry it is 65 rupees per unit. He said that the industry is not being able to work at this highest-ever electricity tariff. He stated that the LCCI is not raising its voice against this important issue at all. He suggested taking up this matter aggressively.
- 9.9 Dr. Shahid Raza extended congratulations to the Office bearers and the entire Executive Committee (EC) on completing their two-year tenure and successfully establishing the Election Commission. He proposed that the President consider implementing paperless and eco-friendly reforms during the remaining tenure, aligning with global trends. This initiative could significantly reduce budget expenditures, he noted, suggesting a phased approach, including holding the final EC meeting via Zoom.
- 9.10 He recommended compiling all research conducted during this period into a comprehensive PDF book and uploading it to the LCCI website, ensuring members have access to these resources. He emphasized that this practice is widely adopted globally, and would enhance member benefits.
- 9.11 Mr. Arjumand Maqsood brought to the attention of the House a distressing incident of robbery at his pharmacy, which tragically resulted in the murder of a security guard. He urged the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) to utilize its platform to strongly advocate for improved law and order in Lahore, emphasizing the need for collective action to address this critical issue.

- 9.12 Ms. Shamim Akhtar extended congratulations to the Office Bearers on completing their two-year tenure and also expressed appreciation for the recent tax exemption granted to the LCCI. She requested that the LCCI address the challenges posed by the new sales tax rules, which are causing difficulties for individuals and businesses. Specifically, she highlighted the impact of the 18% sales tax on the pharmaceutical industry, noting that it will increase the cost of medicines and ultimately affect consumers.
- 9.13 She encouraged the members to not only speak out against human rights violations in Gaza but also to raise awareness about human rights issues within Pakistan, promoting a more comprehensive approach to advocating for human rights.
- 9.14 Raja Hassan Akhtar commended the President and Office Bearers of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) for their stance on the budget. He praised the Office Bearers for their vigorous advocacy on behalf of the business community, actively raising their concerns at various national platforms and demonstrating unwavering commitment to their interests.
- 9.15 Mr. Muhammad Nadeem Malik brought to attention a concern regarding Customs, specifically an incident on July 4th, 2024, where Customs Intelligence seized four consignments of Asia Cargo, affecting over 180 traders. He noted that this action contradicts the understanding that Customs Intelligence would no longer conduct raids. Mr. Muhammad Nadeem Malik expressed gratitude to the Secretary-General for his efforts in facilitating the resolution of this issue. He also mentioned his visit to the Customs House, where he met with Deputy Director Mr. Yawar and submitted necessary documentation. He emphasized the need for prompt facilitation of businessmen who meet all documentation requirements, without unnecessary delays.
- 9.16 Dr. Shahid Raza responded by highlighting the existence of an Integrity Committee in Customs, where LCCI has representation. He suggested that LCCI members can approach this committee in situations like the one described by Mr. Malik Nadeem, to seek assistance and resolution.
- 9.17 Mr. Yousaf Shah inquired about the status of an Executive Committee (EC) member who retires from the company during his/her tenure. The Secretary-General clarified that the individual would remain an EC member, as his/her selection is for a two-year term.
- 9.18 The Senior Vice President emphasized the importance of addressing members' queries and provided a response to Malik Usman's question regarding LCCI delegations over the past two years. He explained that delegations were organized with the support of TDAP, offering discounts, and EC members were duly informed about these opportunities. However, none of the EC members show interest in participating. The Senior Vice President noted that LCCI should not be held responsible for the lack of participation.
- 9.19 Regarding the issue of electricity bills, the SVP highlighted that 52% of Pakistan's budget is allocated towards interest payments, which is expected to increase in the future, making it unlikely for taxes to be reduced. He assured that the office bearers have vigorously raised

their voice against the issues faced by the business community, making concerted efforts to address their concerns.

- 9.20 The Senior Vice President responded to Dr. Shahid Raza's point regarding research initiatives at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), stating that several crucial research projects have been undertaken during the current tenure, which are nearing completion. He announced that these research findings will be launched soon at a ceremony, featuring a prominent national-level personality as the guest of honor.
- 9.21 He requested that the next Executive Committee meeting, being the last of the current regime, be conducted in a positive and constructive manner. Additionally, he asked EC members to submit written proposals for the incoming regime, outlining initiatives that could not be accomplished during the current tenure.

The meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks by the Vice President.


KASHIF ANWAR
President


SHAHID KHALIL
Secretary-General