

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LAHORE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
HELD ON 3.6.2024 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.	Mr Khalid Mehmood	EC Member	The Fuelers (Pvt.) Ltd
6.	Rana Tariq Mehboob	EC Member	Rana Trading Co
7.	Malik Muhammad Nadeem	EC Member	Hafiz Brothers
8.	Mian Jabbar Khalid	EC Member	Feroz Flour & General Mills
9.	Mr. Ahmad Ellahi	EC Member	AA Leather (Pvt.) Ltd
10.	Sh. Muhammad Ibrahim	EC Member	Cannon Foam Industries (Pvt.) Ltd
11.	Muhammad Usman Sheikh	EC Member	Marhaba Laboratories (Pvt.) Ltd
12.	Dr. Shahid Raza	EC Member	S.R Laboratories (Pvt.) Ltd
13.	Mr Khadim Hussain	EC Member	Hussain Trading Co
14.	Muhammad Tauqeer Malik	EC Member	Bin Qutab International (Pvt.) Ltd
15.	Raja Hassan Akhtar	EC Member	Waris & Company
16.	Mian Attiq-ur-Rehman	EC Member	Al-Jahan International
17.	Mr Rizwan Haider	EC Member	Excellent Packers (Pvt.) Ltd
18.	Mr Muhammad Usman Malik	EC Member	Usman Tractor House
19.	Muhammad Riaz-ul-Hassan	EC Member	Ajmair Food (Pvt.) Ltd
20.	Ch Wajid Ali	EC Member	United Plastic Company
21.	Mr. Asim Pervaiz Siddiqi	EC Member	Siddiqi & Associates
22.	Mr Muhammad Yousaf Shah	EC Member	Al-Yousaf Enterprises
23.	Mr Muhammad Waseem Yousaf	EC Member	Quality Vision
24.	Mr. Muhammad Ejaz	EC Member	Fair Marketing Pakistan
25.	Ms Fareeha Younas	EC Member	FSN Travels & Tours

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;

- Father in law of Mian Nauman Kabir, Former President LCCI
- Son-in-Law of Mr. Khamis Saeed Butt, EC Member LCCI

16/6/24

- Cousin of Mr. Yousaf Shah, EC Member LCCI
- Daughter of Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Malik, Former EC Member LCCI
- Younger Brother of Engr. Khalid Usman, Former EC Member LCCI
- President of Islamic Republic of Iran Ibrahim Rashi

2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Leave of absence was granted to the following members:-

1.	Mian Nauman Kabir	EC Member	NSM Marketing
2.	Mr Haris Ateeq	EC Member	Bridle Zone
3.	Mr Mujahid Maqsood Butt	EC Member	Mujahid Maqsood Butt
4.	Mr Arjumand Maqsood	EC Member	Mahmood Pharmacy
5.	Mr Khamis Saeed Butt	EC Member	Khamis Papers
6.	Mr Momin Ali Malik	EC Member	Euro Guard (Pvt.) Ltd
7.	Ms Shamim Akhter	EC Member	In-Out Trading (Pvt) Ltd

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE EC MEETING

Dr. Shahid Raza pointed out that his name was missing from the list of attendees of last EC Meeting and that the meeting minutes included false remarks regarding his directorship on the PIE Board. He requested to expunge the remarks. The Chair directed that Dr. Raza's name be added to the list of attendees of the previous meeting and that the remarks be expunged. The House approved the agenda after brief discussion.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE EC

The agenda was approved by the House without any further discussion or amendments.

5. LIST OF ACTIVITIES

The Secretary General presented the list of activities and sought the House's endorsement, which was granted without objection.

6. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

This agenda was approved by the House with discussion noted below;

(Signature)

6.1 Mr. Khadim Hussain acknowledged the outstanding services of the office-bearers, achieving a remarkable milestone for LCCI. He, however, sought clarification about March 2024 profit figures on LCCI investments. The Chair explained the withdrawal of invested from the bank because of the threat of bank attachment by the FBR then afterward, the withheld amount was reinvested. The Secretary General complemented the Chair's remarks, disclosing that the LCCI has successfully obtained an Exemption Certificate from the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for the next three years 2024-26. Additionally, he highlighted the instrumental role of Mr. Kashif Anwar, President of LCCI, in effectively pursuing these cases he expressed gratitude to former office-bearers for their efforts on long-standing tax-related issues.

7. **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 3.6.2024

It was decided that anything approved in the minutes, which is contrary to the Chamber Policy or LCCI Articles or having financial implications, will be considered "not approved". Moreover, all functions of Standing Committees will be organized on self-financed basis.

All Delegations would be as per LCCI SOPs through Delegation Department.

SR. #	NAME OF STANDING COMMITTEE	DATE OF MEETING
A.	Health & OTC Products	26.3.2024 & 24.4.2024
B.	CPEC	28.3.2024
C.	Kalabagh Dam	17.4.2024
D.	Awareness on Hong Kong Trade	23.4.2024
E.	Joint Meeting of the S/Cs on Enchroachment (Abid Market and Allied Areas) and Local Trade & Market Affairs (Anarkali Lahore)	25.4.2024
F.	Issues of Steel and Electrical Engineering	29.4.2024
G.	Issues of Cage Birds Exporters	2.5.2024

H.	Pakistan-CIS Trade Relations	2.5.2024
I.	Student Liaison	2.5.2024
J.	Promotion of Handicrafts Sector	3.5.2024
K.	Crockery Import	4.5.2024
L.	Joint Meeting of S/Cs on Textile Machinery Parts & Traders and Small Business Harmonization	4.5.2024
M.	LDA Affairs	7.5.2024
N.	Industry-Academia Linkage & Bio Technology	11.5.2024
O.	Tools & Hardware/HVACR	13.5.2024
P.	LCCI Liaison with Cooperative Housing Societies (Lahore Cantt)	15.5.2024
Q.	Legal Education	17.5.2024
R.	Membership	30.3.2024, 6.4.2024, 20.4.2024, 27.4.2024, 4.5.2024, 11.5.2024, 18.5.2024 & 25.5.2024

8. ISSUES OF TRADE & INDUSTRY & ANY OTHER ITEM

8.1 Ms. Fareeha Younas expressed gratitude and appreciation for the efforts and support of the President of LCCI in promoting women empowerment. She quoted the statement of former President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi, acknowledging the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry's endeavors to enhance the role of women entrepreneurs. She expressed her optimism that the next regime of LCCI would continue to build on this progress, further contributing to the advancement of women in society and business.

8.2 Mr. Rizwan Haider highlighted the efforts of LCCI office bearers in addressing the concerns of the business community related to taxation and Customs authorities' raids in

Handwritten signature

markets. He noted that since LCCI took up these issues, the frequency of raids has significantly decreased, and traders now feel secure in their business transactions. He also shared the very positive comments made by the provincial minister during a recent meeting at the social welfare department, indicating the minister's willingness to visit LCCI and strengthen ties with its leadership.

8.3 The Chair expressed his appreciation, attributing the success to the Executive Committee members who took the lead in addressing market issues. He extended an invitation to all EC members to come forward and bring sector-specific and market-specific issues to LCCI for discussion and resolution. The Chair acknowledged the efforts of Mr. Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, Senior Vice President LCCI, in resolving the issues faced by the plastic industry. Mr. Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry shared the details of his meetings with the Director General Environment, resulting in the resolution of almost all the issues faced by the plastic industry.

8.4 Rana Tariq Mehboob requested that the notification regarding plastic packaging sectors, issued after the discussion between Chamber representatives and the Director General Environment, be shared to educate traders and shopkeepers. He alleged that government officials visit markets to collect bribes rather than ensuring compliance with rules and regulations.

8.5 Mr. Muhammad Riaz-ul-Hassan said that the Govt functionaries are misusing their authority as far as shop closure timings, PFA charges are concerned and they always seek irrelevant business information. He believed that many questions asked by the authorities were beyond the scope of the Punjab Food Authority. He requested that LCCI must take up these issues with the relevant government quarters.

8.6 Mian Rehman Aziz Chan, in response to the concerns raised by Mr. Muhammad Riaz-ul-Hassan, proposed drafting a bill to address the issues of shop closure timings and the



abuse of authority by the Punjab Food Authority. He suggested submitting the bill to the Speaker of the Punjab Assembly for legislation.

- 8.7 The Chair intervened and requested written proposals from the members, outlining the issues affecting trade and industry in their daily operations. Specifically, he directed the Secretary General to reach out to all Executive Committee members for their input and recommendations on the way forward, with a deadline of one week for their response.
- 8.8 Dr. Shahid Raza suggested using technology to enhance participation of members in meetings, noting that various facilities are now available to facilitate remote engagement. He proposed providing Zoom access to Executive Committee members who are unable to attend meetings in person. The Chair instructed the Secretary General to verify the legal implications of this proposal before implementation. Mr. Rehman Aziz Chan stated that there are no legal restrictions on allowing participation via Zoom, while Rana Tariq Mehboob shared that his Association via zoom successfully conduct all their meetings.
- 8.9 Chaudhry Wajid Ali expressed his apprehensions about the stringent taxation measures anticipated in the upcoming national budget, as dictated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He lamented that the frequent hikes in electricity tariffs, overbilling in monthly electricity bills, and the focus on already registered taxpayers have severely impacted trade and industry in Pakistan. He urged the Chair to devise a strategy to address the forthcoming challenges facing our economy, seeking a proactive approach to mitigate the adverse effects of these measures.
- 8.10 Raja Hassan Akhtar commended the office bearers, Secretary General, and their team for their outstanding efforts in promoting trade and industry. He praised the President as a genuine representative of trade & industry. He said that the "Friends of China" award bestowed upon Mr. Kashif Anwar by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China is an acknowledgement of his efforts towards promotion of Pak-China bilateral relations.



Raja Hassan Akhtar also acknowledged the certificate issued by Dr. Arif Alvi, the then President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and his wife, Ms. Samina Alvi, recognizing LCCI's services to the people of Pakistan under its corporate social responsibilities. He expressed his confidence in the leadership of Mr. Kashif Anwar, highlighting the significant growth shown in the financial statement, which he believed would continue to grow further.

8.11 Mr. Muhammad Waseem Yousaf endorsed the remarks of Raja Hassan Akhtar about the President LCCI. He highlighted the issues faced by trade and industry, specifically the tax calculation method, which results in a higher taxation rate, imposing an extra burden on businesses. He termed the compound rate of tax unfair and a "crime" against businesses, demanding that the issue be taken up with the relevant authorities. He pointed out that the FBR and other government departments, both at provincial and federal levels, are creating an environment of harassment, causing huge losses to the national exchequer and victimizing the business community. He also expressed concern over unfair policies of the government, which have resulted in poor export performance by the industry.

8.12 The Chair wholeheartedly supported Mr. Muhammad Waseem Yousaf's viewpoint and promised to take up the matter to the highest level, just as he had done previously regarding the exchange rate of the dollar in the open market and interbank rate of exchange with Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir. He instructed the Secretary General to write a letter to the FBR, requesting assessment and calculation of customs duty, sales tax, regulatory duty, and withholding tax based on the actual value of consignments. Furthermore, he directed that this issue be included in LCCI's budget proposals, acknowledging it as a valid and crucial point raised by Mr. Muhammad Waseem Yousaf.

8.13 Muhammad Tauqeer Malik said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan has recognized warehousing as an industry, but the official notification is still pending. He also



highlighted the issue of service sector members who receiving notices for recovery of workers' welfare funds, which he believed would significantly burden their businesses in the presence of 2% turnover tax. He also proposed organizing an awards ceremony to recognize members who have demonstrated excellence in corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). However, Mr. Kashif Anwar, President of LCCI, promptly rejected the proposal, citing opposition from some Executive Committee members and former office bearers who had spoken against the awards organized by Ms. Fareeha Younas. The Chair suggested consulting the Tax Clinic, which operates in LCCI with the support of ACCA, for a second opinion on the workers' welfare funds' issue, to explore possible solution.

- 8.14** Mr. Muhammad Usman Malik brought attention to the issue of severe traffic congestion on main roads surrounding major markets, particularly the Auto Market Badami Bagh. He criticized the Tax officials for harassing businessmen by serving recovery notices of large amounts. Mr. Malik also questioned the performance of key standing committees over the past few months, seeking to evaluate their usefulness. Furthermore, he condemned the illegal actions against factories without consulting stakeholders, demanding protection of their rights and an end to unjust actions.
- 8.15** He requested the nomination of a focal person if and when the Secretary General is unavailable. He sought LCCI's assistance in dealing with Lahore Police to address unfair treatment of businessmen by police officials. He cited a recent incident where police raided a businessman's house and detaining family members. Additionally, he proposed issuing new membership certificates within 15 days, reducing the current 40-day wait, and requested sharing voters' data with members. The Chair assured full support on Tax issues, traffic jams, and Police-related issues. The SVP endorsed the President's views, ensuring office bearers' availability to serve and assist whenever needed.
- 8.16** Mr. Muhammad Yousaf Shah expressed concern that rejection numerous visa applications for China despite the issuance of visa recommendation letters and guarantee



letters by LCCI, which he perceived as a disregard for the Chamber's recommendations. He stressed the need to address the issue of container detention by authorities, resulting in significant losses for importers due to detention and demurrage charges. He also criticized the statement of former Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, about tax-evasion by traders and businessmen operating in cities other than Karachi. Additionally, Mr. Shah proposed organizing a condolence reference for Mian Muzaffar Ali, former President of LCCI. The Chair assured the EC that LCCI would extend its full support to resolve all genuine issues faced by the business community. He also clarified that the condolence reference for being Mian Muzaffar Ali, former President of LCCI, was not arranged as the family did not agree to hold the event.

8.17 Regarding the issue of visa rejection, the Chair explained that it was discussed with the Consul General of China and the visa section of the Embassy in Islamabad. The visa office clarified that multiple factors are being scrutinized, including the authenticity of invitation letters from Chinese companies, the financial standing and business relevance of both the applicant and the Chinese company. The Secretary General added that this situation arose due to a group of individuals who illegally entered Hong Kong on visas obtained through guarantee letters from a Pakistani Chamber of Commerce, which has led to increased scrutiny and rejection of visas.

8.18 Mr. Khalid Mehmood drew the House's attention to the alarming rise of drug abuse among teenagers in schools and colleges. He proposed collaborating with the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) to raise awareness among students and protect the youth from addiction. Additionally, Mr. Khalid requested the President to invite the Minister for Petroleum, Chairman of Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), and Director General of Customs Intelligence to discuss the issues faced by the business community. The Chair appreciated the suggestion and asked him to submit concrete proposals, in consultation with the Research and Development Department, before extending any invitations.



- 8.19** Mr. Muhammad Nadeem Malik proposed tabling a resolution to express solidarity with Palestine and condemned the killings of innocent people by Israeli forces. He expressed concern about potential abuse of authority by government departments in the follow-up phase of the Tajir Dost Scheme and suggested publishing the details of officials responsible for implementing the scheme. He requested the LCCI to address the issues faced by the business community due to harassment by teams serving notices for Professional Tax and Sign Board tax payments. Mr. Malik commended the President LCCI for achieving a record of 300 million rupees in the LCCI's accounts and urged utilization of this amount on beneficial projects. Additionally, he requested the LCCI to contact the China Embassy's visa section to secure one-year multiple-entry visas for Executive Committee members.
- 8.20** The Chair, in response to Mr. Nadeem Malik's points, confirmed that the LCCI is already in contact with the Visa Office at the Chinese Embassy to secure one-year multiple-entry visas for Executive Committee members. The Chair reiterated the request for written proposals to ensure effective follow-up by the LCCI. Regarding the utilization of LCCI funds, the Chair again solicited suggestions from EC members for identifying investment opportunities to optimally utilize the available resources."
- 8.21** Mian Jabbar Khalid proposed the installation of a water purification plant to meet the drinking water needs within LCCI and requested expert advice on expanding the parking facility in the LCCI building. The Chair expressed appreciation for the proposals and promised to carefully consider them in the best interest of LCCI.
- 8.22** Sheikh Muhammad Ibrahim, endorsing on Mian Jabbar Khalid's proposal, noted that the parking project in LCCI has been under discussion since his first term as an Executive



Committee member in 2015. He stated that the project's cost was deemed too high and its benefits didn't align with the parking needs, rendering it unfeasible.

8.23 Mr. Khadim Hussain appreciated the President, Senior Vice President, and Vice President for their dedication and efforts during their tenure as LCCI office-bearers. He expressed disappointment with the government's Tajir Dost Scheme, citing its flawed structure and unfriendliness to the business community as reasons for its failure. Mr. Hussain highlighted the urgent need to address the escalating drug addiction in Lahore, particularly in areas like Ferozpur Road and Muslim Town near the FC College bridge. While appreciating LCCI's successful intervention in resolving the board tax issue with Punjab Horticulture Authority (PHA), he urged the LCCI to revisit the matter and persuade PHA to address the ongoing board tax issue, as the contractor is employing unfair tactics to collect taxes from shopkeepers in various Lahore markets.

8.24 Mr. Muhammad Ejaz emphasized that a conducive business environment is crucial for the progress of industry in Punjab. However, government departments established to support local industry have ironically become obstacles, discouraging entrepreneurs. He identified three departments with anti-industry policies: Punjab Food Authority, Environment Protection Agency, and LESCO. Mr. Ejaz proposed that the Chamber, as a representative of trade and industry, should advocate for legislative changes in the Punjab Food Authority laws through a proactive approach in the provincial assembly. He highlighted three major issues: overbilling by LESCO, which has severely impacted local industry; the Environment Protection Agency's counterproductive policies; and the punitive approach of these departments, which was intended to guide and educate industry to meet international standards, but instead has been suffocating it.

8.25 Rana Tariq Mehboob advocated for a comprehensive dialogue among stakeholders to address the challenges of the current era, where environmental compliance is crucial for business activities at both local and international levels. He urged LCCI to adopt a




realistic approach through technical data analysis and facts. He emphasized the need for strategic thinking among all sections of the business community, including traders, industrialists, and retailers, rather than opposing each other's policies. He criticized the government's perception that Pakistanis are involved in tax evasion and not contributing to the national exchequer, stressing that the business community should work together to address this misconception.

8.26 The Chair expressed sincere appreciation for Rana Tariq Mehboob's insightful views.

8.27 Mr. Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, the Senior Vice President, called for reaching out to the business community for feedback and proposals on the challenges they face. He announced plans for interactive sessions with market representatives to better understand their concerns. The Senior Vice President reaffirmed LCCI's commitment to strong advocacy for the business community. He updated the audience on the status of recent trade delegations and regretfully announced the cancellation of industrial plots by Punjab Industrial Estates. However, he offered support to affected members and shared his efforts to liaise with authorities to resolve the issue.

8.28 Mr. Adnan Khalid Butt, Vice President of LCCI, expressed his gratitude to the members for their valuable suggestions and feedback on various issues. He invited the EC Members to join the lunch hosted by Mr. Jabbar Khalid and Ms. Fareeha Younas.


KASHIF ANWAR
President


SHAHID KHALIL
Secretary-General