

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LAHORE  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
HELD ON 30.3.2023 AT 11HOURS  
IN AMIN HALL, LCCI BUILDING**

<u>S.No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Name of Member Organization</u>
1.	Mr Kashif Anwar	President (In Chair)	A.M.K Engineering (Pvt) Ltd.
2.	Mr Zafar Mehmood	Senior Vice President	Naeem Zafar Industries.
3.	Mr. Adnan Khalid Butt	Vice President	New Kings Packages (Pvt) Ltd.
4.	Mian Nauman Kabir	EC Member	NSM Marketing.
5.	Mian Rehman Aziz Chan	EC Member	M-R Law Chambers (Pvt) Ltd.
6.	Mr Haris Ateeq	EC Member	Bridal Zone.
7.	Mian Jabbar Khalid	EC Member	Feroz Flour & General Mills.
8.	Mian Attiq-ur-Rehman	EC Member	Al-Jahan International.
9.	Mr Khalid Mehmood	EC Member	The Fuelers (Pvt) Ltd.
10.	Mr. Rizwan Haider	EC Member	Excellent Packers (Pvt.) Ltd.
11.	Muhammad Riaz-ul-Hassan	EC Member	Ajmair Food (Pvt.) Ltd.
12.	Mr Muhammad Yousaf Shah	EC Member	Al-Yousaf Enterprises.
13.	Mr Momin Ali Malik	EC Member	Euro Guard (Pvt) Ltd.
14.	Ch. Wajid Ali	EC Member	United Plastic Company.
15.	Malik Muhammad Nadeem	EC Member	Hafiz Brothers.
16.	Muhammad Usman	EC Member	Usman Tractor House.
17.	Sh. Muhammad Ibrahim	EC Member	Cannon Foam Industries (Pvt.) Ltd.
18.	Mr Muhamamd Usman Sheikh	EC Member	Marhaba Laboratories (Pvt.) Ltd.
19.	Dr Shahid Raza	EC Member	S.R. Labs And Feeds.
20.	Mr. Muhammad Ejaz	EC Member	Fair Marketing Pakistan.
21.	Mr Muhammad Tauqeer Malik	EC Member	Bin Qutab International (Pvt.) Ltd
22.	Mr Asim Pervaiz Siddiqi	EC Member	Siddiqi & Associates.
23.	Mr Khamis Saeed	EC Member	Khamis Papers.
24.	Mr Khadim Hussain	EC Member	Hussain Trading Co.
25.	Mr Muhammad Waseem Yousaf	EC Member	Quality Vision.
26.	Mr Mujahid Maqsood Butt	EC Member	Mujahid Maqsood Butt.
27.	Mr Arjumand Maqsood	EC Member	Mahmood Pharmacy.
28.	Mr Raja Hassan Akhtar	EC Member	Waris & Company.
29.	Ms Shamim Akhtar	E.C Member	In-Out Trading (Pvt.) Ltd.
30.	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 of Mr Yousaf Shah, EC Member LCCI.
- Uncle of Mian.Tariq Misbah, Former President LCCI.
- Father-in-Law of Mr Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigal, Former Vice President LCCI.

## 2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Leave of absence was granted to the following Members:-

- |                     |           |                        |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 1. Mr Tariq Mehboob | EC Member | Rana Trading Co.       |
| 2. Mr Ahmed Ellahi  | EC Member | AA Leather (Pvt.) Ltd. |

## 3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES OF THE EC MEETING

- 3.1 The Secretary-General requested the House to consider and formally approve the minutes of the previous EC meetings as all points received from worthy EC members had already been incorporated. The Chair announced the approval of the minutes after a brief discussion;
- 3.2 Mr Muhammad Yousaf Shah asked the reason for a delayed Executive Committee Meeting as it is mandatory to hold a meeting within two months. He suggested holding EC meetings on monthly basis.
- 3.3 The Secretary-General informed the House that the meeting was delayed because the President was out of the country.
- 3.4 Mr Haris Ateeq said that it has never happened in LCCI that any of the EC agenda is passed through circulation. He said that in the previous meeting, it was unanimously approved that a voice recording of the minutes will be sent to EC members. But at the eleventh hour, the minutes were forwarded to the EC members for their observation. He said that although his observations had been incorporated but the due procedure should be followed for approval of the minutes.
- 3.5 Malik Muhammad Nadeem asked about the status of the employees who were hired a few months back. He asked about the status of the Legal Advisor. He also questioned the mentioning of names the SVP and the VP in the meeting of the HR Committee while they did not attend it. He also asked about the status of decisions taken in that meeting.
- 3.6 The Secretary-General told the House that the services of all those employees had been terminated while the Legal Advisor does not fall in that category. Regarding the matter of the HR Committee decision, the Secretary-General explained that SVP and VP were requested to attend the meeting, but they couldn't. Then the decision was taken on the basis of quorum with the signatures of the majority of the members.



- 3.7 Malik Muhammad Nadeem asked many questions to establish his point of view. He sought the number of employees hired, terminated and currently working in LCCI, the decision of the Human Resource Committee, participation of the Senior Vice President and Vice President in HR Committee meetings, the legal position of salaries paid to the terminated employees and secret hand involved in hiring of these employees without taking SVP and VP into confidence. He also demanded to constitute a fact-finding committee to ascertain the facts behind this episode.
- 3.8 The Secretary-General replied that the decision of hiring those employees was taken by the Human Resource Committee convened under the Chairmanship of the President LCCI in which both SVP and VP were invited to participate. It is a norm that all decisions in such meetings are taken with a majority of vote and the same pattern was adopted in the HR Committee meeting where all the participants approved the appointments of the employees, he clarified.
- 3.9 Replying to the question of Mr Muhammad Nadeem Malik, Mr Zafar Mehmood Chaudhry, Senior Vice President requested not to discuss this topic any further as they have already been terminated.
- 3.10 Mr Adnan Khalid Butt, Vice President LCCI said that neither we were part of nor we were informed about the decision of hiring.
- 3.11 Mian Rehman Aziz Chan requested the House to focus on the agenda points. He said that the matter of staff hiring should be discussed in the relevant agenda and must be resolved and closed today. In this agenda, just approval of previous minutes should be focused on. He voted in favour of the approval of both minutes circulated along with notice of the meeting.
- 3.12 Mr Kashif Anwar, President, LCCI also requested to focus on the agenda item.
- 3.13 Mr Muhammad Usman Malik complained that his observations were not incorporated in the minutes and urged the Secretary-General to incorporate them. He said that it was the duty of the Secretary-General to record minutes correctly. Whatever is being said in the meetings, should be recorded. He also termed it a waste of time if members' input is not incorporated in minutes. He was critical of the one-man show in House and seconded Mr Haris Ateeq's viewpoint that traditional procedure should be adopted for minutes' approval.
- 3.14 The Secretary-General informed the House that the observations of Mr Muhammad Usman Malik could not be incorporated for being irrelevant to trade and industry. He said it is also a matter of record that the Chair authenticates the minutes. It is also a requirement of LCCI Articles and



Memorandum and in line with the latest DGTO directions. He said that Mr Haris Ateeq is also aware of all these things.

- 3.15 Mr Haris Ateeq endorsed approving the minutes in-house as per the previous procedure. He appreciated the act of sharing minutes before the EC meeting and proposed allowing more time for the feedback from members. He suggested five working days' time after sending the draft to members of the Executive Committee. He acknowledged that the present minutes are well-written and better than the previous draft presented to EC for approval. He supported Mr Muhammad Usman Malik on the proper recording of members' views.
- 3.16 The Secretary-General told the House that the next draft of the minutes will be shared with the EC within seven to eight working days after the EC Meeting. The Chair directed the Secretary-General to ensure that the draft minutes are shared with the EC within the given time.
- 3.17 Dr Shahid Raza asked to find a way forward and requested not to be stuck on tiny issues. He said that we are all human beings, who are bound to make mistakes, so being representatives of more than 32 thousand members of the business community, we should let the house move forward.
- 3.18 Sheikh Muhammad Ibrahim voted in favour of the approval of the minutes presented before the House and emphasized the need for adopting due procedure to get the approval of the minutes from the House.
- 3.19 Mian Ateeq-ur-Rehman appreciated the performance of current management under the leadership of Mr Kashif Anwar and said that all office-bearers are performing exceptionally well and everything is functioning as per Trade Organizations Rules 2013 and the LCCI Memorandum and Articles of Association. While clarifying the impression of missing points in the minutes, he said minutes are recorded in special writing style not as we speak in the House. He expressed that we all are sitting here with a vote and support of the PIAF-Founder Alliance and warned that everyone should be careful while speaking about leadership in the House.
- 3.20 Mr Khalid Mahmood said that we are discussing in this agenda item whether the minutes are recorded properly or not. Why implementation of the decision is not discussed in this agenda? In the matter of terminated employees, the decision of termination is not mentioned in this agenda so where will you discuss it? The Secretary-General replied that we can discuss it in the next agenda, which is regarding the implementation of the minutes.
- 3.21 Mr Khadim Hussain said that it was his idea in the previous meeting to circulate the minutes among EC members for their feedback before the next meeting and



corrections could be made in case any point was found missing in the draft minutes. He appreciated the proper recording of the minutes and expressed his consent in favour of the approval of the previous minutes.

#### **4 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION OF THE EC**

4.1 Mr Asim Pervaiz Siddiqui acknowledged the receipt of the list of nominations sent to different boards and departments. He, however, made it clear that he wanted all the letters sent to various government departments in this regard from time to time. The Chair directed the Secretary-General to show the letters and nominations to Mr Asim Pervaiz Siddiqui.

Mr Muhammad Yousaf Shah complained that copy of the list of nomination was not circulated among the EC members and asked to share it.

4.2 Mr Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, SVP LCCI, clarified that LCCI writes too many letters to different government departments on various issues and topics. He further said that all the nominations sought by the various government departments are time bound therefore cannot be discussed in the EC meetings. He said that all the nominations are made purely on merit without any discrimination or favour keeping in view the ability of members. The Chair asked to focus on Agenda.

4.3 Mian Rehman Aziz Chan remarked that in the first emergent meeting, the House had empowered the President regarding the nominations, so it is the discretion of the President LCCI to nominate any suitable person for any advisory committee but he appreciated the goodwill gesture of the President allowing sharing the information. He suggested not to discuss this point further.

4.4 Mr Khalid Mehmood asked why the point of implementation of the decision of termination of particular employees is not mentioned in this agenda. Why their status is not updated and mentioned under the title of Implementation of EC Decisions? The Secretary-General assured to include the implementation as per his desire. The Chair also directed the Secretary-General to share the termination letters with EC members.

4.5 Dr Shahid Raza highlighted point number 7.12, 8.9, 8.13, 8.14 and 8.16, which were missed in the current implementation report of the EC meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023. He requested to include them in the next Implementation Report.

4.6 Ms Shamim Akhter pointed out weakness of the LCCI system regarding timely circulation of information and their follow-up. She said that it seems that our system has failed to give desired results when government departments ask for nominations or circulation of some particular trade opportunities among the LCCI members. She shared her experience relating to the nomination procedure



of the Chamber in the recent past. She was critical towards delayed responses while nominating the focal person when asked by some external agencies and departments. She said the system of correspondence between the LCCI and the government departments and organizations needs to be reviewed and made efficient. The Chair directed the Secretary-General to look into the matter and ensure a timely response.

- 4.7 Mr Haris Ateeq complained that the letter circulated to EC members on economic challenges being faced by trade and industry was not received by him. Sheikh Ibrahim said that he also didn't receive this letter either.
- 4.8 Malik Nadeem asked about the status of the 7<sup>th</sup> employee the Legal Advisor hired by the LCCI, why didn't he terminate yet?
- 4.9 On the request of the Chair, Mian Rehman Aziz Chan replied to Malik Muhammad Nadeem's question that the Legal Advisor is not a permanent employee of LCCI and was hired to fulfill the requirements of SECP and DGTO being the registered trade organization under Trade Organizations Act 2013. "It is our statutory requirement and the legal advisor cannot be treated at par with the other six terminated employees", he added. He further said that the appointment of other employees was made in October 2022 whereas Mr Khurram Abbas Sheikh was appointed in December 2022 on a retainer. Dr Shahid Raza said that the Legal Advisor was hired on retainer; hence the LCCI Service Rules do not apply to him.
- 4.11 Mr Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, SVP LCCI, while commenting on the point of Mian Rehman Aziz Chan said that the appointment of the legal advisor was decided in the HR Committee as an employee. Either it was a mistake or what so ever, we should have removed him along with other employees. And after that, his appointment could be made again with the approval of EC in true spirit.
- 4.12 Mian Rehman Aziz Chan clarified that the appointment of the legal advisor was a separate matter from other employees. He also said that the even termination of those employees was not necessary from his point of view.
- 4.13 Mian Nauman Kabir said that the President of LCCI has discretionary power to appoint a Legal Advisor for LCCI. He should take house in confidence but it is no big deal. Dr Shahid Raza asked the Secretary-General about the legal requirement and procedure for hiring a Legal Advisor.
- 4.14 The Secretary-General clarified that DGTO and SECP had already been intimated and notified about the appointment of a new LCCI Legal Advisor. He said that the appointment of a Legal Advisor has nothing to do with the HR Committee and as the custodian he is authorized to appoint legal advisor with

the consent of the President. He also told that the legal advisor does not fall in the category of terminated employees.

- 4.15 Sheikh Muhammad Ibrahim while giving reference to the previous meeting said that the decision of termination was withdrawn in that meeting and it was decided that the Office-Bearers will consult each other on this matter. He requested to approve the appointment of the Mr. Khurram Abbas as Legal Advisor.
- 4.16 Mr Muhammad Yousaf Shah asked the Secretary-General to fulfill the legal procedure for appointing the Legal Advisor.
- 4.17 Mian Rehman Aziz Chan emphasized that the appointment of a Legal Advisor has nothing to do with the HR Committee and as the custodian the Secretary-General is authorized to appoint him with the consent of the President.
- 4.18 The Chair directed the Secretary-General to again ensure fulfillment of the legal procedure for appointment of Mr. Khurram Abbas as Legal Advisor and share the information with him.
- 4.19 Muhammad Usman Malik said that The President, the SVP and the VP are also EC members like other EC members in the House. We have given them the power to preside over the meetings.  
The Secretary-General clarified it is not the matter of power to preside over the meetings only but the Office-Bearers are elected representatives and were elected through a process of election in the House under the law, which elevates them from the status of an Executive Committee member to the President, the Senior Vice President and the Vice President.
- 4.20 Mr Yousaf Shah strongly reacted for ignoring him and not allowing him to speak despite his repeated requests. He showed concerns about the Chair for biased treatment with EC members.
- 4.21 Mr Momin Ali Malik strongly reacted to the remarks of Mr Yousaf Shah about the President LCCI and said that there could be difference of opinion as we all belong to different political groups but the respect of the Chair must be ensured. "It has never ever happened in the EC meeting that someone misbehaves with the President", he added. He said that criticism is a healthy activity but some members are teasing the President, which is not acceptable.
- 4.22 Mr Arjumand Maqsood supported Mr Momin Ali Malik that respect of the Office-Bearers must be ensured. While talking about the termination of the employees, he said no matter what the procedure of recruitment was, those



employees should not have been terminated. He further said all that had happened seemed just a matter of ego.

- 4.23 Mr Malik Muhammad Nadeem said that this is not something to handle emotionally. We are custodians of the public money and all decisions should be taken on merit.
- 4.24 The Chair announced the approval of the agenda point and after offering the inclusion of any missing point relevant to the current agenda.

5. **LIST OF ACTIVITIES**

The Chair announced the approval of the agenda point. Some members expressed their views which are recorded below:

- 5.1 Mr Haris Ateeq asked for details of awards given to different bureaucrats in the 2nd Friends of LCCI Awards. He sought details about the list of nominees, the list of invitees, award holders other than government officers and people who participated in the event. He objected to awarding a few government officials who were recently joined their new assignments after the change of government. Mr Haris Ateeq also asked for details of awards and criteria for selection of award holders in the "Women's Day 2023" event held on March 8, 2023 at The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

6 **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT**

- 6.1 Dr Shahid Raza asked about the amount shown under the Heads of Security of the Visa Recommendation Letter and Election Expenses, which was clarified by the Head of Finance and Accounts that the security amount is refundable and returned to applicants on their return to Pakistan after foreign visit whereas the figures are shown against Elections was budgeted in anticipation of LCCI annual elections but it was not consumed as no elections were held in September 2022.
- 6.2 Mr Haris Ateeq complained that he requested for the details of the expenses mentioned under the Titles In-house meetings and repair & maintenance from the Finance and Accounts Department, but it was not provided to him. The Chair directed the Head of the Finance and Accounts Department to provide the needed details to Mr Haris Ateeq.
- 6.3 Mr Malik Nadeem asked about the abrupt increase in the expenses shown under two heads i.e. Administrative & Legal Expenses and Seminars & Conferences. He also asked about the benefits achieved for the business community and the Chamber. While replying to the questions it was informed that this increase was due to a balance payment of Rs 1.6 million to M/s Andrabi & Gabriel,



Advocates, Solicitors and Attorneys, the company dealing with LCCI Income Tax Cases in the High Court.

- 6.4 The Chair appreciated and acknowledged the initiative under the leadership of Mian Nauman Kabir for sorting out the outstanding tax-related issues of LCCI with the help of a renowned advocacy firm. The House applauded the services of Main Nauman Kabir, Senior Vice President & Vice President.
- 6.5 Mr Rizwan Haider sought reasons for the increase in Head of Salaries & Allowances as compared to the previous year and asked for the details of expenses under Seminars and Conferences. He was told that in the last year's figures annual increments were not included but in the current year's statement salary increased in September 2022 and annual increment in February 2023 are included, which depicts as increased amount in this head.
- 6.6 Mr Khalid Mahmood sought clarification about the method of increase in staff salary every year, whether it is time-bound or linked with performance or based on the rate of inflation in the country. He also asked about any proposed change keeping in view the high rate of inflation in the country or whether we still follow the old formula while dealing with staff salaries. He emphasized awarding special increase to those who performed better than others.
- 6.7 The Secretary-General replied that as per the LCCI Service Rules, a six per cent annual increment for employees with more than a year of service is mandatory, while the growing inflation has not been considered as a factor of salary enhancement as yet. He explained the procedure of performance-based increments, which are usually awarded in September by the outgoing President.
- 6.8 Mr Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry seconded the explanation of the Secretary-General and added that special and performance-based increments are the discretion of office-bearers and it is always considered by them at the end of their tenure.
- 6.8 Mr Muhammad Usman Malik asked about the comparison of expenses incurred under the head of Legal and Professional charges during the current and the last years. He also inquired about the remuneration of the legal advisor recently hired by the LCCI. The Chair asked to discuss it in "Any Other Item" and announced the approval of the agenda point.
- 7 **MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
- 7.1 Dr Shahid Raza expressed serious concern over the minutes of the Standing Committee on Dairy and Livestock and proposed to defer them keeping in view the gravity of the unjustified demands by the Committee. He was of the opinion that any proposal sent to government departments like FBR, DRAP and State



Bank of Pakistan from the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry must be crosschecked by experts as our letters carry great significance and weightage in these departments. He said we should be very careful while making demands to import any product into Pakistan. Dr Shahid Raza criticized the proposals of a number of delegations from standing committees and suggested inviting DIG Traffic instead of the CTO under the Law and Order Standing Committee.

- 7.2 Mr Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry while explaining the points highlighted by Dr Shahid Raza said that it was mentioned in the implementation that all proposed delegations should be routed through the standing committee on delegation. And if minutes involve any financial approval would be considered as not approved.
- 7.3 The Chair directed to defer the minutes with the instructions to the Convener Standing Committee on Dairy and Livestock to consult Dr Shahid Raza before finalizing the minutes and always consider the negative impact on the health of the people of Pakistan and local manufacturers.
- 7.2 Ms Shamim Akhter calls for an active role of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry towards the protection of the people of Pakistan as it has a corporate social responsibility to promote environmental protection measures and food safety issues. She seconded the views of Dr Shahid Raza while allowing the import of food and livestock-related products and said that GMO food is not good for human health. She stressed the need for LCCI must play its role in these sensitive issues.
- 7.4 Sheikh Muhammad Ibrahim disclosed that the venue for the Ambassadors' Dinner has been changed and is now shifted to Islamabad instead of Lahore. He also shared the findings of his meetings with the Deans of Ambassadors in Islamabad. All the Ambassadors we met expressed their concerns about the way of handling the guests and the protocols extended to them during the function. They asked about the criteria for extending invitations to the guests and sitting arrangements during the function keeping in view the protocols of Ambassadors. Sheikh Muhammad Ibrahim informed the House that there is a need to prepare new SOPs for guests, issue of invitation cards system and their sitting arrangements so that the image of LCCI could be improved. Talking about his plan for invitation cards, he said the Committee will issue a form to all Executive Committee members with a request to provide a complete profile of the guests, and business interests before issuance of invitation cards and finalize sitting arrangements keeping in view the portfolios of the guests. The Chair directed the Secretary-General to ensure the preparation of relevant SOPs to improve the image of LCCI among the diplomatic community.



7.5 Ms Fareeha Younis criticized the discussion on non-productive matters in the meeting. She said the termination of employees gives no comfort to anyone and seems that it was just for the sake of ego. Replying to points highlighted by Mr Haris Ateeq, she said that on the Women's Day awards were given for appreciation from LCCI to the women prominently working in the field of fashion, business and many others. No money was involved or received from the award holders. She also requested for creation of a proper Women's Desk in LCCI to provide a comfortable space for women entrepreneurs visiting Chamber. The Chair appreciated the efforts and contribution of Ms Fareeha Younis for organizing the event on a self-finance basis.

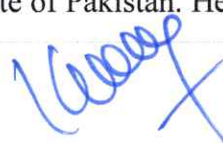
8. **ANY OTHER ITEM**

8.1 Sheikh Muhammad Ibrahim congratulated Mr Kashif Anwar, President LCCI, for addressing a session of the Senate of Pakistan on behalf of LCCI during the celebrations organized on the completion of 50 years of the Constitution of Pakistan. He said under the ADRC Committee proceedings regarding a dispute many weaknesses in the documentation were exposed in membership files. He suggested avoiding any bad names or action from the regulatory authority like the Regulator of Trade Organizations like one initiated against the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the LCCI should perform a basic audit of membership files and update its record. The Chair directed Secretary-General to ensure that all membership files be updated as per the Trade Organizations Rules 2013 and the rules and regulations framed by the LCCI Executive Committee.

8.2 Raja Hassan Akhtar was critical towards the attitude and behavior of some of the Executive Committee while interacting with President during the meeting. He said, unfortunately, we are ignoring the norms and Islamic teachings while talking to the head of this prestigious House. He quoted a Hadith to highlight the importance and respect of the leader.

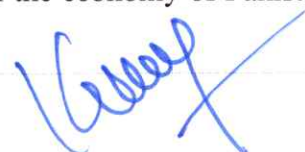
He requested to leave the grudges aside and focus on the cause of trade and industry and try to appreciate the good work done by the office-bearers as well. He acknowledged the speech of Mr Kashif Anwar for highlighting the issues of the business community and representing the LCCI in the true sense in The Senate of Pakistan. He appreciated the efforts of the office-bearers, the Secretary-General and Ms Fareeha Younus for organizing the event on Women's Day in LCCI without any financial burden on LCCI. He gives full credit to the Chair for inviting the US Ambassador to LCCI after a lapse of more than 15 years. He stressed the need to resume open-door policy of the President for the benefit of LCCI members.

8.3 Mian Jabbar Khalid congratulated the Chair for being the first LCCI President who represented the business community in the Senate of Pakistan. He applauds



Ms Fareeha Younus and her team for organizing such a successful Women's Day event in LCCI. He strongly condemned leg pulling and unrealistic criticism in LCCI and requested to end the debate on HR minutes and hiring of staff. Mian Jabbar Khalid informed that due to the current policy of the provincial government, a severe shortage of Atta is expected in Punjab and requested to take up the issue with decision-makers in the Punjab government. The Chair offered to have a meeting with representatives of the Flour Mills Association in a couple of days and promised to take all necessary actions in this regard.

- 8.4 The Secretary General informed the house that the minutes of Mr. Tauqeer Malik inadvertently could not be included in the draft of the minutes sent to EC members and sought permission from Chair for amendment, to which Chair granted approval.
- 8.5 Mr. Ejaz Tanveer sought the details of the upcoming event of the shopping festival. Secretary General briefed that a company named Brand Hub requested the collaboration of LCCI for the event and offered a 20% share on each stall without any expenses. After legal consultations, the President signed MoU with the company.
- 8.6 Mr Khadim Hussain while criticizing the debate in EC requested to convert the discussion towards trade and industry-related issues including taxation, imports, containers, parking, encroachment, market and association-related issues etc. He requested to appoint a focal person to resolve the issues of drug addicts, parking and encroachment on the Ferozepur Road area. He called for the implementation of his written proposals through LCCI and forward them to the relevant departments for action. The Chair directed the Secretary-General to look into the matter and take necessary action on the proposals of Mr Khadim Hussain.
- 8.7 Ms Fareeha Younus thanked everyone for the credit for the Women's Day event. She said that EC should talk about seeking solutions to economic concerns. She said that after being nominated as a focal person of LCCI for the shopping festival, she has arranged five sponsors for the event and for the good reputation of LCCI. She especially thanked the President LCCI for reposing confidence in her abilities and the good work done during her tenure as a member Executive Committee.
- 8.8 Mr. Rizwan Haider was of the view that the recent visits of diplomats from the UK, USA and India to the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry carry great importance for the business community of Lahore. He termed the discussion with Indian Deputy High Commissioner very progressive and stressed taking practical steps for the improvement of the economy of Pakistan.



He suggested inviting more diplomats to the Lahore Chamber for solid working relations with other foreign diplomats as well.

- 8.9 Mr. Usman Malik said that the LCCI is a democratic institution and our criticism should not be taken as negative or personal. He seconded the views of Mr Khadim Hussain and congratulated Mr Kashif Anwar for the speech in the Senate of Pakistan. Keeping in view the current economic situation in the country, he suggested constituting three members sector wise committee and the formation of a think tank to identify and solution of the problems being faced by the business community. He suggested that cut short discussions on other points of the agenda and every EC member should be given time to talk about his market or sector-related concerns under the agenda item "Any Other Item". The Chair welcomed the suggestion and assured to allocate more time for discussion on trade and industry.
- 8.10 Mr Muhammad Ejaz suggested that in this era of digitization paperless working should be promoted despite hard copies distribution among the EC members.
- 8.11 Mr Haris Ateeq commented on the whole discussion that pre-meeting homework is necessary to overcome these tiny conflicts. He requested the Office Bearers to work together with mutual harmony in decision-making so that things can be better handled. He endorsed the suggestion of Sheikh Muhammad Ibrahim of constituting a committee for screening the missing documents in memberships especially copies of income tax returns. He also suggested forming a committee including a legal advisor, IT expert and EC members to look into the matter.

He also commented on the point of Ms Fareeha Younus and said that Lahore Chamber is a brand, and giving the logo of LCCI is a big investment from our side. He requested to share the MoU with him. He also recorded his observation that he just asked to share the award holders of the Women's Day event. He suggested working on what will be or what should be the way forward if Pakistan cannot get the IMF program.

He asked to share the list of economists who visited LCCI with the minutes of that meetings. He suggested arranging meetings with government officials and EC members to the issues highlighted by Mr Khadim Hussain. He said that the export enhancement must be an agenda of LCCI which is the only solution for economic growth. He appreciated the observation of Dr Shahid Raza regarding the dairy Sector and asked for any success story of the President LCCI during the last six months as the President is regarded the tax matters specialist. Mr Harris Ateeq expressed his desire to know a success story regarding tax matters, reforms or any suggestion given by LCCI which has been adopted by the government.

He said that the interest rate under Export Re-Finance Scheme has increased to double digit which is a big concern for exporters. He requested to work on bringing it back to less than 5% as exporters cannot compete in the global economy. He also endorsed the idea of Market specific committees for firsthand information.

- 8.12 Dr Shahid Raza said that Lahore Chamber is doing very well compared to the other institutions. He appreciated the President's visit to Iraq and events organized in LCCI. He said that in the last 75 years history of Lahore, there have been only two megaprojects have started, i.e. Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) and Central Business District (CBD). While sharing his observations during the study of standing committees minutes he found that most of the concerns of standing committees are linked to RUDA, especially the relocation of industries. He requested to invite the representatives of RUDA and CBD in LCCI and share these concerns with them. He also suggested that there is a need to conduct a study on the IT sector keeping in view the potential of export in this sector. He said though a significant increase in exports of the IT sector is observed we are still far behind India's export of 147 billion dollars equal to Saudi Arabia oil exports.
- 8.13 Haji Riaz ul Hassan said that retail business is suffering from numerous problems and sometimes, LCCI statements create more problems for the retail sector. He quoted the example of when the country is facing an electricity shortage or environmental issues, everyone starts saying close the shops by following Europe and other developed countries. He said that the systems of Europe cannot be implemented here so stop giving examples of Europe. He said that the biggest issue in Pakistan is mismanagement, which results in overregulation. He said the trade and industry have to deal with 29 government departments and overlapping of authority is creating complications for the businesses. He proposed to allow more time for shops during the Holy Month of Ramadan. He stressed the need for proper management of issues instead of closing the shops.
- 8.14 The Chair apprised the House about his meeting at the Chief Minister House with the Secretary Environment in which he discussed the sealing of factories and shops on non-compliance. He said during the discussion with Chief Minister Punjab and the Chief Secretary Punjab, he demanded not to close factories or shops on minor issues. "I have proposed to formulate standard operating procedures (SOPs) for businesses and the LCCI will ensure the implementation of SOPs as the closure of factories is not a solution which creates unemployment and unrest among the business community". The Chair also shared that the World Bank has given three million dollars to implement Clean Punjab Program and there is going to be a free plantation drive in Punjab.


The Chair asked the House to share proposals relating to trade and industry issues in written form so that these could be taken up with the concerned ministries.

- 8.15 Mr Arjumand Maqsood asked about the Pioneer Businessman Group (PBG) status in Executive Committee. The Chair replied that here we represent Corporate and Associate Classes with an objective to resolve the issues of the business community because there is no concept of political groups or parties in the Memorandum and Articles of Association. He further added that he is President of the Chamber representing 32,000 members, so there should not be any politics in this regard.
- 8.16 Mr Rehman Aziz Chan also highlighted the issue of market timings during the Holy Month of Ramadan. He proposed to move the court otherwise there will be a huge loss for the retail sector during Ramadan and requested LCCI to facilitate the litigation for this purpose and overcome the situation. He also endorsed the point of Sheikh Muhammad Ibrahim regarding the membership issues and proposed a membership review audit in the supervision of all EC members with twice-a-week meetings.
- He also requested to invite the Federal Finance Minister to the LCCI as there are a lot of issues pertaining to the Ministry that need to be discussed including issues of LCs, and deindustrialization as production of the steel sector has been minimized to only 10 industrial units from 74 units. He also apprised the House that the Government is going to introduce an Amnesty Scheme and expects revenue of up to 7 to 8 billion dollars. He asked to extend support to the government for the formulation of indigenous policies. The Chair said that all proposals will be given due consideration after checking the legalities and technicalities.
- 8.17 Mr Muhammad Usman Malik seconded the point of renewal of membership on the basis of complete documentation and appreciated that on his proposals, the number of membership renewal desks was increased. He also requested to take permission for flexible market timings during the Holy Month of Ramadan. He said that points regarding groups should also be allowed in meetings as LCCI is a democratic organization.
- 8.18 Mr Waseem Yousaf also endorsed the point of Muhammad Ibrahim Sheikh regarding Alternate Dispute Resolution Center (ADRC) and said that there was a perception that LCCI has all previous membership records of its members but in actuality, only 3 years of record is kept in LCCI. The case is from 2005 and the party is ready to approach DGTO. He requested to maintain records in the form of PDFs. The Chair clarified that most of the files have already been scanned.

- 8.19 Mr Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, SVP LCCI apprised the house that he is going to initiate Africa Show this year. He said that a huge export activity will be generated and that African and other ambassadors will attend the event. He also emphasized establishing the Think Tank Committee. He said that the interest rate in Pakistan is 20% while there is a country with a negative 10% interest rate in the world. He said even in Sri Lanka even after default the interest rate is 15.5%. He was of the view that this is the right time to raise our voices with priority for the cause of trade and industry in Pakistan. He also said that there is no policy for the last 12 years, and we have to play a crucial role to stop deindustrialization in the country. He proposed that the LCCI should formulate a working paper in this regard. The Chair appreciated the proposal and nominated Senior Vice President to work on this agenda.
- 8.20 Malik Muhammad Nadeem appreciated the President's Senate Speech and Women's Day event. He expressed concern over the Canton Fair invitations, which were not issued for LCCI members. He expressed displeasure over the performance of staff and said that with a staff of 150 people and a big salary bill, the performance is not good. The Chair directed Secretary-General to share all developments relating to Canton Fair with Malik Muhammad Nadeem.
- 8.21 The Secretary-General clarified that the LCCI secretariat contacted the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Islamabad and also contacted a focal person of the Canton Fair in China. They showed their inability to extend formal invitations to LCCI members for April fair.

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Mr Adnan Khalid Butt, Vice President, LCCI.

  
**KASHIF ANWAR**  
President

  
**SHAHID KHALIL**  
Secretary General