

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LAHORE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
HELD ON 31.7.2023 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 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	Bridle Zone
7.	Mian Jabbar Khalid	EC Member	Feroz Flour & General Mills
8.	Mian Attiq-ur-Rehman	EC Member	Al-Jahan International
9.	Mr Rizwan Haider	EC Member	Excellent Packers (Pvt.) Ltd
10.	Muhammad Riaz-ul-Hassan	EC Member	Ajmair Food (Pvt.) Ltd
11.	Ch Wajid Ali	EC Member	United Plastic Company
12.	Malik Muhammad Nadeem	EC Member	Hafiz Brothers
13.	Mr. Muhammad Usman Malik	EC Member	Usman Tractor House
14.	Mr. Ahmad Ellahi	EC Member	AA Leather (Pvt.) Ltd
15.	Sh. Muhammad Ibrahim	EC Member	Cannon Foam Industries (Pvt.) Ltd
16.	Mr. Khamis Saeed Butt	EC Member	Khamis Papers
17.	Dr Shahid Raza	EC Member	S.R. Labs And Feeds
18.	Mr. Muhammad Ejaz	EC Member	Fair Marketing Pakistan
19.	Mr. Asim Pervaiz Siddiqi	EC Member	Siddiqi & Associates
20.	Muhammad Tauqeer Malik	EC Member	Bin Qutab International (Pvt.) Ltd
21.	Mr Khadim Hussain	EC Member	Hussain Trading Co
22.	Mr Muhammad Waseem Yousaf	EC Member	Quality Vision
23.	Mr. Arjumand Maqsood	EC Member	Mahmood Pharmacy
24.	Raja Hassan Akhtar	EC Member	Waris & Company
25.	Ms Shamim Akhtar	E.C Member	In-Out Trading (Pvt.) Ltd
26.	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;

- Brother of Mr. Shahid Hassan Sheikh, Former President, LCCI
- Brother of Mr. Mohammad Ali Mian, Former President, LCCI
- Uncle of Mr. Waqar Ahmed Mian, Former EC Member, LCCI
- Father of Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Shaukat and Mr. Kamal Mehmood Amjad Mian, Former EC Member, LCCI
- Syed Muhammad Saqlain, Former Secretary-General, LCCI.

2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Leave of absence was granted to the following members:-

1. Mr Mujahid Maqsood Butt EC Member

2. Muhammad Usman Sheikh	EC Member
3. Rana Tariq Mehboob	EC Member
4. Mr Khalid Mehmood	EC Member
5. Mr Momin Ali Malik	EC Member

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE EC MEETING

The Secretary-General sought approval of previous minutes of EC, which was circulated along with notice of the meeting. The House approved the minutes without any amendment and discussion.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION OF THE EC

4.1 With the permission of the Chair, the Secretary-General gave presentations on Lahore Chamber News, production of electricity through Solar System in LCCI and LCCI investments in different banks. He said that LCN is in profit as we received Rs 12.4 million through Chamber Publications Fund along with new membership applications and 4.5 million are collected through advertisement. The printing cost is 6.2 million and dispatch/postage cost Rs 526,000, which leave an amount of 10 million in surplus. Mian Nauman Kabir and Mr Haris Ateeq raised objection on the figures of the profit of LCN and proposed to further elaborate these figures as printing cost is more than the amount received from advertisements.

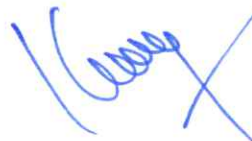
The Chair directed the Secretary General to apprise the House in the next EC meeting with a comparison of last four to five years give a real picture. He also seconded a suggestion to upload the LCN on LCCI Website and sharing in different social media groups as well to maximize its outreach.

4.2 Ms. Shamim Akhtar sought SOPs while making selection news for LCN. The Secretary General replied that it is a newsletter of LCCI wherein all major LCCI events are highlighted.

4.3 Dr. Shahid Raza suggested initiating an E-Newsletter parallel to the LCN.

4.4 On a question of Mian Nauman Kabir that LCN is not in profit as funds collected from advertisement are 4.5 million whereas the expenses including printing cost and dispatch are around 6.7 million, the President asked the Secretary General to clarify if the LCN is in profit or not. Mr. Haris Ateeq also commented that the Publication Fund is meant to be increased every year since the number of members are increasing. But the funds generated through advertisement are supposed to be more than the overall LCN cost which shows that LCN is not in profit.

4.5 While giving a presentation regarding the Solar System installed in LCCI, the Secretary General informed the house that Solar System at LCCI generated one lac 14 thousand units since its installation. It has saved around 6 million rupees if the per unit cost is PKR 55.



- 4.6 About LCCI Investment, the Secretary General apprised the house that Rs 35 million are invested in MCB Islamic Bank, and 25 million in Albarka Islamic Bank. Similarly, our three accounts are in conventional banks; two in Sindh Bank and one in UBL. The Chair, directed the Secretary General to transfer all LCCI investments in Islamic Banking and priority should be given to the bank which offers good profit.
- 4.7 Dr. Shahid Raza pointed out that the point of RUDA and CBD are missing in the minutes. President LCCI also directed the Secretary General to include the points and mention the working of the R&D Roadmap Committee in the next EC Meeting as requested by Dr. Shahid Raza.
- 4.8 Mr. Khadim Hussain appreciated the efforts of President and Secretary General for their support in resolving the issues Ferozepur Road.
- 4.9 Mr. Muhammad Usman Malik complained about not incorporating his minutes since last two meetings and requested the Chair to pass an order for incorporating these. President LCCI directed of the Secretary General to look into the matter.

5. LIST OF ACTIVITIES

The Secretary-General sought approval of the List of Activities, which was circulated along with notice of the meeting. The House approved the List of Activities from May 18, 2023 to July 15th, 2023 presented before the House after detailed discussion on the following issues.

- 5.1 Mr Haris Ateeq pointed out that an important meeting of Executive Committee members and former office-bearers with Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan, held at Governor House Lahore was not mentioned in the activities list. He lodged complaint for not inviting certain EC members including him for this important meeting. He sought clarification of his points. The Chair requested to pass the ruling to include the activity in the list and discuss the point under Any Other Item.
- 5.2 On request of Mr Khamis Saeed, the Chair directed to mention in the minutes that the Permanent Driving License test facility has been restored in LCCI.
- 5.3 Mian Nauman Kabir said that all former Presidents were invited to that meeting with the Prime Minister but he was intentionally not invited. But being an elected EC Member it was his right to be invited in all meetings of LCCI. He quoted that being a President, he always gave importance and respect to all the former Office-Bearers even Sheikh Muhammad Asif, apart from whatever the party, they belong. Mian Nauman Kabir alleged that the meeting was purposefully skipped from the list of activities. The Chair requested that as this meeting was not mentioned in the minute, therefore, we should not discuss it. "We'll discuss it after adding it next time", but if you insist to discuss it, please discuss it in in Any Other Item, he added. While replying to the comments of Mian Nauman Kabir regarding the presentations, the Chair replied that these presentations were not wrong in his point of view, there was a need to further elaborate the figures.

- 5.4 Mr. Muhammad Usman Malik and Mr Haris Ateeq expressed their concern on missing of the important meeting and seconded Mian Nauman Kabir and said that it is not fair as this meeting is not mentioned in the activities of LCCI. The Chair directed the Secretary General to note the point of Mian Nauman Kabir.
- 5.5 The Chair apprised the House that a list of members was sent to the PM Secretariat for that meeting and all the invitations were extended as per the directions received from Prime Minister's Secretariat. However, if there is any objection in this regard, one can verify it from PM office.
- 5.6 Mian Nauman Kabir said that it is confusing that why name of the Former President of LCCI is been struck down by the PM Secretariat and asked to give this in writing. Mr Haris Ateeq asked to share a copy of the email comprising the list of invitees sent by the PM Office. "The hard copies of lists were handed over to the representatives of PM Office", the Chair replied and added that all information cannot be leaked on this floor. Whatever I said, will be mentioned in the next minutes" the Chair concluded. He also directed the Secretary General to share the letters of Mr. Muhammad Usman Malik and Mr. Haris Ateeq with him and respond them after discussion with him.
- 5.7 Malik Muhammad Nadeem asked about the status of a draft regarding Khatm-e-Nabuwat. The Secretary General replied that a letter in this regard has been sent to DGTO office for his instructions. Mr Zafar Mehmood objected that it should have been sent to the DGTO after discussion with Office Bearers and the approval of EC members in the form of agenda. The Chair sought approval from EC and passed a ruling to resend this letter to DGTO after mentioning that this agenda has been approved in the EC meeting by all the EC members.

6. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

The Secretary-General sought approval of the Statement of Accounts for May and June 2023. The House granted approval after a brief discussion based on some clarifications and explanations from the President.

- 6.1 After highlighting an observation recorded by Mr Haris Ateeq regarding deficits in the Budget of receipts & payments of Rs 4 million deficit in Advertisement & Publications, Seminars & Conferences and Mediation deficit of Rs. 2.7 million and bonuses, he was told that the budget is forecasted so there is always a probability of shortage of budget particularly in this time of inflation. He was also told that there is a little deficiency of self-finances in the context of seminars and other events this time. On asking about the rent from the tenants, Mr Haris Ateeq was told that IPO pays the rent in advance. Mr Haris Ateeq questioned the performance of Information department under the supervision of President LCCI as there was less advertisement in Lahore Chamber News. He also expressed his reservation about the deficit in Seminars, Conferences and Mediation amounts.
- 6.2 Mr Muhammad Usman Malik pointed out an amount of five million rupees given to the Hailey College of Commerce and asked about the, how much authority a President LCCI has, in context of issuing funds. The Secretary General clarified that it is 0.5 million extended as grant to the College for donation of needy

students. The Chair directed the Secretary General to correct this amount from 5 million rupees to 0.5 million.

- 6.3 On the query of Mr. Waseem Yousaf, the President LCCI asked the Secretary General to give a full presentation on LCCI's tax-related pending cases from accounts department to Executive Committee. Mr Zafar Mehmood Chaudhry, SVP, commented that our tax related cases are still pending, until the cases are decided, we have to book expenses on accrual basis.
- 6.4 On a comment on the comparison of electricity cost between June 2022 and June 2023 despite Solar Installation, it was told that electricity tariff has gone up manifold, which is the reason.

7. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Minutes of the following Standing Committees were approved in the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 31.7.2023.

It was decided that anything approved in the minutes, which is 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 self-financed basis.

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

SR. #	NAME OF STANDING COMMITTEE	DATE OF MEETING
A.	ADHOC Committee on Cancellation of Sundar Industrial Estate Plots	16.05.2023
B.	Textile Traders & Parts	16.05.2023
C.	Auto Parts Manufacturing & Exports	16.05.2023
D.	Human Rights (Christian Community)	17.05.2023
E.	Restorative Mental Health and Wellness for Industry	22.05.2023
F.	Electric Vehicles	25.05.2023
G.	Business Tourism Culture & Exchange with USA Committee	25.05.2023 & 08.07.2023
H.	Shalamar Hospital	01.06.2023
I.	LCCI Liaison With Cooperative Housing Society (Lahore Cantt)	05.06.2023
J.	Kalabagh Dam	07.06.2023
K.	Singh Business Community Affairs	10.06.2023
L.	Real Estate Affairs (DHA Lahore)	12.06.2023
M.	Research & Development	13.06.2023

N.	Crockery Import	14.06.2023
O.	Cottage Industry Liaison	20.06.2023
P.	Homeo Pharma & Health Care	22.06.2023
Q.	Agri Commodity Export	23.06.2023
R.	Industry Academia Linkage and Bio Technology	26.06.2023
S.	Auto Accessories & Plastic & Rubber Auto Parts Manufacturing	08.07.2023
T.	Packaging Development	12.07.2023
U.	Membership	20.05.2023, 27.05.2023, 03.06.2023, 10.06.2023, 17.06.2023, 24.06.2023, 08.07.2023, 15.07.2023 & 22.07.2023
V.	E-Commerce IT Exports	09.06.2023
W.	International Fairs, Exhibition and Delegations	22.06.2023
X.	Diplomatic, Foreign Mission and Embassies Liaison	20.07.2023

8. ISSUES OF TRADE & INDUSTRY

While opening the debate on issues of trade and industry, the President invited all Executive Committee members to present their view one by one.

- 8.1 Ms. Shamim Akhtar stated that the major issue prevailing in trade and industry is the economic meltdown whether in the form of US dollar fluctuation or the decrease in buying power of the masses. The poor government strategy for generating revenue is adding fuel to the fire. She shared her recent experience that she is importing a product for a couple of years under Chapter 30. The shipment duty was three lac rupees which was increased up to 13 lac rupees by the officers. She requested for active role of LCCI as misuse of authority is creating hurdles for the business sector.

The Chair directed to write a letter to the relevant authorities to stop problematic behavior of officers despite following all procedures by the importers.

- 8.2 Mr. Muhammad Ejaz said that there two alike setups, one is Sundar Industrial Estates and the other is Sundar Small Industrial Estate, both are under the Ministry of Commerce and are entirely different in respect of the system. He requested the LCCI to play its role in upgrading the infrastructure of the Small Industrial Estate by communicating with the authorities. The Chair requested him

to share his proposals in writing to enable the LCCI to play every possible role in this connection.

- 8.3 Mr. Muhammad Tauqeer Malik asked the President to share his agenda being the President LCCI. While commenting on that point, the Chair requested the EC to share their agenda first. On the suggestion of holding an informal EC Meeting the President said that there is no need to hold additional meetings as our doors are open to all Executive Committee members 24/7.
- 8.4 Mr. Muhammad Tauqeer Malik also highlighted the issue of heavy traffic in the city and suggested initiating a project on public-private partnership with any university to suggest them to start their buses. The Chair directed the Secretary General to start working once he submits his proposals.
- 8.5 Mr. Muhammad Usman Malik appreciated the Chair to include the "ISSUES OF TRADE & INDUSTRY" in the EC Agenda. He said that the Executive Committee is the power of President and seconded the suggestion of Mr Muhammad Tauqeer Malik for holding the informal EC meeting on a monthly basis. He drew the attention of the House towards the Banks and LCs related issues being faced by the Auto sector, particularly importers. He suggested inviting the Heads of banks or assigning the duty to each EC to resolve the issue.
- 8.6 Mr. Muhammad Usman Malik also highlighted the complications in the real estate sector and said that 90 percent of remittances come from the overseas and due to technical hitches the inflow of foreign remittances is witnessing declining trends. He said that heavy taxation on the sale of property will discourage overseas Pakistanis. He proposed that the government should announce incentives keeping in view the amount of remittances and requested the Chair to constitute a special committee to look into this matter and negotiate with the government. Mr. Muhammad Usman Malik also stated that the construction industry which consists of several small allied industries, is also suffering as a result of heavy taxation of real estate business. He urged LCCI role for the revival of economic activities in Pakistan.
- 8.7 The President announced a sub-committee under his Convenership and appointed Mr. Muhammad Usman Malik as its Co-Convenership. The Chair asked to ensure all kinds of facilitation and support be given to this committee by R&D and Tax Unit. The Chair also directed the Staff members from R&D and prepare a comprehensive presentation under the supervision of Mr. Muhammad Usman Malik. He apprised the House regarding a seminar on real estate issues and advised Mr. Muhammad Usman Malik to invite people from the sector to attend.
- 8.8 Ch. Wajid Ali said that trade and industry are interconnected as traders are main financiers of these industries. He supported the idea for working on real estate sector for fast recovery of economic activities. He suggested that the duties of commercial and industrial importers should be uniform and asked the LCCI to play its role in this regard. The Chair asked Chaudhry Wajid Ali to be part of the committee for his valuable contribution.



- 8.9 Mr. Waseem Yousaf appreciated the efforts Mr Adnan Khalid Butt, Vice President, LCCI for declaration of paper & board sector, as an industry. He requested that Chamber should help him in this regard. The Chair extended full cooperation to the efforts of Vice President LCCI.
- 8.10 Malik Muhammad Nadeem appreciated the President for raising voice for the solution of issues being faced by trade, industry and particularly the importers. He suggested that the LCCI must play an active role against inflation through print, electronic and social media. He emphasized that a sector which can rescue the economy of Pakistan is E-Commerce. The LCCI should play its proactive role in addressing their payments-related issues by taking up the matter with the government.
- 8.11 Mr. Ahmad Ellahi appreciated the performance of LCCI. He, however, said that APTMA is extra-ordinary active power sector in getting their issues resolved whether they are tariff related or any other, he said. He was of the view that electricity tariff for LCCI members industries is Rs. 40 whereas the tariff for APTMA members industries is Rs 25. The Chair advised forming a committee and preparing a presentation in this regard with the help of R&D so that further action can be taken.
- 8.12 Mian Attiq-ur-Rehman drew the attention of the House to a circular issued on March 31, 2023, regarding delay payments. The President LCCI apprised the house that within a few days, LCCI is organizing a session in which Faisal Iqbal Khawaja will give a comprehensive presentation on amendments announced in Income Tax Ordinance 2001. He requested all the EC members to attend the session. He also directed to extend formal invitations to all EC and said that everybody's queries will be entertained after his presentation.
- 8.13 Mr. Ibrahim Sheikh commented that there is no need to form committees to write letters. He said that Government is establishing five new Economic Zones while a 1.25 per cent fixed turnover tax has been imposed on existing zones which is an unbearable burden for new industries. He said that he already had filed a case in High Court. The President LCCI said that you had the opportunity to raise this question in front of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, we'll also write a letter in this regard, he added. Mr. Ibrahim Sheikh also highlighted the issue of FATA/PATA. He also seconded the opinion of Mr. Muhammad Usman Malik on the issues related to banks and suggested writing a letter to the State Bank of Pakistan. He also highlighted the issue of smuggling through the Iran border.
- 8.14 Mr Muhammad Riaz-ul-Hassan said that earlier, medical test of food handlers was the responsibility of the Punjab Food Authority and they used to charge 1200 rupees for that purpose. Now, they asked the food handlers to go to private labs for the tests and private labs are charging 6000 rupees. He requested to take up the issue for allowing these tests in government hospitals at discounted rates. The Chair apprised the house that the LCCI has already sent a letter in this regard and we'll re-write a letter, prepare a detailed presentation in R&D on the proposals of Muhammad Riaz-ul-Hassan and then he himself will lead a delegation to the concerned department.

- 8.15 Mr Muhammad Riaz-ul-Hassan highlighted the issue of overbilling by LESCO. The Chair directed the Secretary General to invite the head of LESCO to the LCCI.
- 8.16 Mr Muhammad Riaz-ul-Hassan also pointed out LDA coercive measures which are hurting their businesses owners. The Chair assured him that immediate action will be taken. He said a letter has been sent to the LDA on this issue and a reminder letter will be sent soon.
- 8.17 The Chair expressed his willingness to take up all issues of traders, markets or industry but if you'll not highlight them it means that there is no problem or no issue that exists. "If you want that the LCCI should play its role in solving these issues then you all have to bring their issues here first", he added. He clarified that there is not even a single pending letter on his table.
- 8.18 Mr. Khadim Hussain said that a Mineral Summit is going to be held in Islamabad but he was nominated for the event just a day before the event. He requested the Chair to ensure timely nominations as it is quite difficult to change schedule of the business engagements at the eleventh hour. He also requested to constitute ad hoc committee on Mines & Minerals and Dimension Stone. While expressing his concern over the SRO on barter trade with Iran, he said that a strong mechanism should be developed for the implementation of this SRO otherwise smuggling will be stimulated further.
- 8.19 Mr. Haris Ateeq said that SEZs have been announced recently and the President was part of the inauguration ceremony. He requested to share the details with the house. He suggested that the LCCI should propose Special Economic Zone for its members only. He informed the House that a lot of work has already been done for this purpose. He suggested continuing the project comprised of plug-and-play model Special Economic Zones with 5 Marlas to 8 Kanal plots. Mr. Haris Ateeq also seconded the comment of Mr. Ahmad Ellahi regarding lobbying of LCCI for business sector, particularly the textile industry and endorsed that LCCI should work on it. He also requested to know the success stories of this tenure. He requested to share how many suggestions of LCCI were considered by the government. He highlighted the issues of parking, traffic and encroachment in Walled City and suggested to call a meeting of CTO Lahore with the EC members belong to the Walled City.
- 8.20 Mr. Haris Ateeq informed that in a meeting with Mr. Ishaq Dar he stressed upon the need to initiate a Special Incentive Program for the exporters as IMF didn't restrict us to launch a Special Incentive Program. He also suggested that the LCCI Export Desk should prepare proposals for the facilitation of the exporters and assured his cooperation in this regard. He appreciated the SVP's role and assured his maximum facilitation. "It is imperative to enhance the exports of Pakistan with an aim to make Pakistan an economically developed country", he added.
- 8.21 The Chair directed the Secretary General to look into the previous minutes, check the status of that project and resume working under the supervision of the Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, Senior Vice President keeping view the importance and benefits of the project for the trade and industry.

- 8.22 Mian Rehman Aziz Chan while diverting the attention of the House towards the recent initiatives of the Federal Government in collaboration with the Armed Forces, requested to share the initial documents of these initiatives like Green Initiative Pakistan, IT Sector development and revamping of the Board of Investments. He proposed to invite the representatives of this Program at LCCI for a briefing. He said that the valuation of property under Land Revenue (Under FBR at Federal level and DC rate in Punjab) has been exorbitantly increased during the last few years and under Section 236, this valuation is going to be revised again by FBR which will cause adverse effects, he requested the Chair to raise this issue.
- 8.23 Mian Rehman Aziz Chan shared that on his request, three letters were sent to SMEDA, NEPRA and Punjab Food Authority. All letters were acknowledged which shows the respect of LCCI among government departments. He said SMEDA immediately respond to the letter, NEPRA accepted the demands of Cold Storage Owners in a Public Hearing, Punjab Food Authority and PEMRA also responded so well after the letters of President LCCI.
- 8.24 Mian Nauman Kabir appreciated Mr. Zafar Mehmood Chaudhry for working for LCCI with devotion. He said that LCCI has worked a lot for exploiting the potential of Pakistan's Exports to ASEAN countries. He stressed upon enhancing regional trade. He mentioned that in his tenure ASEAN Desk and Indonesia Desk were dedicated to that purpose. Even the Ministry of Commerce and Federation supported LCCI. He requested to ensure continuity of policies in future. He also seconded the suggestion of Malik Muhammad Nadeem for putting efforts for IT sector. He also apprised that during his tenure, the purpose of inviting the leading exporters, such as Mian Muhammad Mansha, Syed Babar Ali, Mian Tariq Saeed Saigol, was to formulate a policy paper with their expert opinions to present to the government.
- 8.25 He also highlighted that the public sector has crowded out the private sector in terms of getting financing from banks. Banks feel secure while giving finance to the public sector. He quoted that it was discussed recently in the Parliament that an interest-free loan of three billion dollars was given to business community, it was questioned that no fruitful results came out of this project. But in actual that financing was given to only certain businessmen and probably no LCCI member could get that. He proposed that LCCI should demand the list of those industrialists who were benefitted from that loan.
- 8.26 Mian Nauman Kabir seconded the comments of Mr. Ahmad Ellahi and said that LCCI represents the trade and industry but other organizations like APTMA and Pakistan Business Council are more influential than all other chambers and trade associations. He recommended that LCCI should enhance liaison with the Government in policy making. He was of the view that in a recently announced investment project in collaboration with Armed forces, no stakeholder and chamber of commerce was taken on board. The Chair apprised the former President that an event is in the pipeline regarding ASEAN, Executive Committee Member Raja Hassan Akhtar is organizing that event and requested to guide him in this event.

- 8.27 Raja Hassan Akhtar said that his Standing Committee is organizing a Trade and Tourism Conference on ASEAN and ambassadors of these countries in Pakistan are invited to participate. He proposed a delegation of LCCI to visit Indonesia and have meeting with Secretary of ASEAN countries at its Head office. Mian Nauman Kabir commented that besides involving the ambassadors of ASEAN countries in Pakistan, Pakistan's Ambassadors in ASEAN countries should also be engaged in the upcoming event.
- 8.28 The President requested Mr. Haris Ateeq to share the proposals that he presented during a meeting with Federal Finance Minister so that LCCI can work in continuity of that proposals.
- 8.29 The Senior Vice President, Mr. Zafar Mehmood Chaudhry commented on some trade issues related queries of the House. He said that the office bearers have already taken up the bank related issues of importers and exporters with the Prime Minister and Federal Finance Minister. He said that he has talked to Governor State Bank and a meeting with him is also scheduled in near future. He said the SBP has allowed L/Cs as per guideline of International Monetary Fund and there are still some hurdles like shortage of funds which will be resolved, the SVP added. While replying on the issue of export payments, the SVP said that particular notification was issued because many exporters stopped converting dollars into rupees that's why State Bank of Pakistan announced a time limit for converting dollars into rupee, which in his opinion was a step in the right direction. He commented on the reservation highlighted by Mr. Khadim Hussain on Barter Trade SRO and said that an alternative of this SRO is coming very soon to curtail smuggling and other issues.
- 8.30 The Senior Vice President also briefed on the Special Investment Facilitation Council and said that this is only for GCC countries. He said that he gathered information in this regard and this project is not for Pakistani community, only government and investors from GCC countries can invest in this project. To ensure continuity of the project in case of changing governments, the Chief of Armed Forces was also involved and it has ten members, including the Prime Minister. The four Provincial Chief Ministers, Finance Minister, Secretary Finance and Secretary Industry are members of the Board and no one from the private sector has been included as the objective is to only government level investment will be facilitated, the SVP added.
- 8.31 He said five sectors are covered under this policy and IT sector is included. If they want to invest in Pakistan's IT sector the assignments will be sent by the government, which will be forwarded to the Boards and Boards will involve private sector in it. He informed that two IT conferences in Islamabad are planned in which only their experts from IT sector were invited along with their Pakistani partners.
- 8.32 The second sector after IT is the Defence. They want to buy Pakistani products as Pakistan is the 7th largest producer of bullets in the world. They can make the investment if they want to. Then, there is agriculture sector where we can attract investments from GCC countries in green agriculture initiative. The government

has approved four countries, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar and UAE. The government is inviting them to invest in minerals and energy sector.

- 8.33 The Senior Vice President also commented on the financing of 3 billion dollars and said that this facility was offered to enhance capacity of the industry that is already exists not for new setups. He said that it was a project based program, no payment has been made but the machinery is imported in exchange. It was investment for the enhancement of Industry, the SVP added. He further stated that the government has closed down the system after audit of those beneficiary companies. The Chambers of Commerce cannot raise any objection on the scheme.
- 8.34 The SVP stated, "As LCCI Office-Bearers, we have had a vision from the beginning to enhance export, but currently our imports came down to 58.6 this year, which basically caused us loss because our food inflation has gone up to 48% and generally it has gone up to 38%. Then we have issues regarding tariff for FATA/PATA. Basically, these issues are rooted with the terms of the IMF, which can be tackled only with enhancement of our exports." He further said that we need to work on increasing our exports. The SVP stated that he'll give his proposals in this regard in next EC meeting.
- 8.35 Mian Nauman Kabir urged the Chair that LCCI should record its protest as Schemes, like Special Investment facilitation for GCC only, it should be initiated for local business community as well. We should encourage and facilitate local businessmen first for investing in the country, he added.
- 8.36 Mr. Zafar Mehmood Chaudhry shared the detailed scenario of Pakistan's trade with ASEAN countries and said that government of Pakistan has already left no stone unturned to sign a FTA between Pakistan and ASEAN. There is India's influence and strong lobbying in ASEAN which is the main bottleneck in enhancing Pakistan's exports to ASEAN in general and in signing FTA in particular whereas India has an FTA with ASEAN countries. He recommended that LCCI should not lead a delegation to meet the Secretaries of ASEAN countries without involving the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also said that there is a huge scope of enhancing the trade volume with the ASEAN countries but there are also some flaws in the duty structure under the agreements that are already signed with certain ASEAN countries which need to be addressed.

9. ANY OTHER ITEM

- 9.1 Ms. Shamim Akhtar, while highlighting the issues regarding banks, said that the State Bank of Pakistan has allocated certain quota of dollars for all commercial banks. The SVP commented that SBP has simple and straightforward law for dollar quota. The banks are allowed to get dollars equal to the export and remittance through their bank.
- 9.2 Ms. Fareeha Younis commented that the environment of the EC meeting was so disappointing and people criticized each other due to personal grudges. She said that everyone should ensure the respect of Chair.

- 9.3 Dr. Shahid Raza appreciated the detailed meeting of LCCI with the Prime Minister of Pakistan and suggested ensuring follow-up of that meeting. He recommended ensuring the representation of LCCI in Lahore Technology Park and requested the Chair to give a clear stance on LCCI election. The President categorically apprised the house that LCCI is for election, letters have already been written to the DGTO on the 4th and 7th of July in this connection. The President requested the Secretary General to share the letters with EC and said that a stay was taken on the 13th of July and regarding this stay, the rumors are that it was for those chambers who plead in High Court. After the stay, an office order was issued from DGTO Office for Secretary FPCCI and all Chambers' Secretaries. Due to this stay order, no chamber of commerce can announce elections. The President informed the house that if any Secretary General or President Calls for a schedule or agenda or announcement of elections, it will be considered as contempt of court and it will be illegal. We are not authorized to announce the election schedule until the DGTO issue orders, he said and added that the dates of announcing the election were 15th of July schedule which have already been passed. He said once he gains clearly he will inform the house and till the suspension of the Office Order of DGTO Office, he or anybody else can't do anything. "I and Secretary General have been told that we are not allowed to do that as it is against the law and could be treated as contempt of court", he stated. He offered everyone, who has objections, to go to file complaints in DGTO Office. He also stated that if anyone assumes that President LCCI is against the election, he must file a complaint against him in DGTO Office. The President said that the seniors of LCCI want elections and the President has already told in a meeting with his seniors that if Secretary General of FPCCI allows, the LCCI will announce elections because the Office Order of DGTO was in his name.
- 9.4 Mr. Muhammad Ejaz requested that an information desk should be established in LCCI regarding the recent initiatives of the Government. While commenting on that suggestion, the President informed the house that he has already sent letters to them to share the details on all five SEZs. He asked the Secretary General to share the letters with the EC and said that he also has invited the Heads of these SEZs at LCCI to give presentations to our members. Mr. Muhammad Ejaz also commented that the R&D Dept. of LCCI is working on generalized assignments and proposed that the R&D should be given some targets such as one report every month.
- 9.5 Mr. Muhammad Tauqeer Malik requested to add another counter in Passport office of LCCI. The President told him that he has already written a letter in this regard.
- 9.6 Mr. Asim Pervaiz Siddiqi requested to share the letters that were written to different government departments and nominations for the boards. The President gave standing instructions to let him have a look at these letters and lists today and don't let him leave the LCCI before that. Mr. Asim Pervaiz Siddiqi also pointed out that the Legal Advisor is still working at LCCI while other six staff members were terminated. The President clarified that he is not an employee of chamber and directed the Secretary General to share the details as per the law of LCCI.
- 9.7 Mr. Muhammad Usman Malik endorsed the stance of Ms. Fareeha Younis that it is the duty of EC members to respect the Chair and requested to maintain the

respect of EC members as well. He stated that the decision of disqualification of Mr. Yousaf Shah was made by Office-Bearers without discussing with the EC which was wrong. He requested to review the decision.

- 9.8 He also requested the Chair that EC members should be allowed to have meetings in the EC room if anyone comes to get his business-related issues resolved. The Senior Vice President commented that he is still on his stance that non-EC should not be allowed in EC room. On SVP's remarks, Mr. Muhammad Usman Malik recorded his protest and said that EC members are power of the Office bearers and a bridge among the office bearers and the traders. He requested the Office-Bearers to treat well, respect and empower the EC members. The President apprised the house that the Senior Vice President and Vice President were not aware of the decision of disqualification of Mr. Yousaf Shah, only the President and the Secretary General knew about that. Mr. Muhammad Usman Malik said that all office bearers and EC should have been taken in loop before taking such decision. Mian Nauman Kabir also commented that such huge decision should not have been taken on the basis of a clerical mistake. Mr. Muhammad Usman Malik requested the Chair to associate a staff member with each EC member for coordination between EC and Office Bearers and Secretary General.
- 9.9 Raja Hassan Akhtar acknowledged the support of the President and the Secretary General and requested the SVP to guide him. He put a suggestion that families come in LCCI for Passports and FRCs, due respect should be given to them. EC should be allowed to serve them Tea. The President seconded the suggestion that EC member should be allowed to meet members in the EC room but he requested the house that let him discuss the issue and decide after consultation with the office bearers collectively. Mian Rehman Aziz Chan objected and said that EC room should be allowed to EC members only as there is a chance that it will be used for business meetings otherwise. The President requested the EC to share their opinion on this matter and then the office-bearers collectively decide the issue.
- 9.10 Ch Wajid Ali requested to dedicate a day for EC members for Passport for their convenience. The President seconded the suggestion and asked to let the office bearers decide the matter.
- 9.11 Mr. Muhammad Waseem Yousaf said that increase the exports has been considered the only solution for economic stability and development, of Pakistan. He said on the one hand, import of raw materials for export sector is banned while on the otherside locally available raw materials are getting expensive day by day. These factors are main the obstacle in enhancing our exports. Similarly, the electricity cost is higher and overbilling of electricity has added fuel to fire. He requested to take up the matter with the relevant bodies and develop an easy mechanism to approach them. The Vice President commented that a focal person of LESCO is already in touch with LCCI. He told the house to share their concerns with him.
- 9.12 Malik Muhammad Nadeem thanked the House for approving his resolution and invited attention towards negative impact of climate change as Pakistan has faced a loss of more than 20 billion dollars due to environmental changes during last one

year while many industrial countries who are causing 98% per cent in the global warming were not worried about our damages. He demanded to raise voice on this issue at highest levels. He said that the greenhouse gases emitting from Auto air conditioning adversely affect the atmosphere. He requested the President to write a letter to Environment Department and suggest them to ensure the training of this sector related people for proper exhaust of these gases as they take funds from environment department to get machinery and tools to properly store these gases. The Chair appreciated his concern and asked him to submit a written proposal.

- 9.13 Malik Muhammad Nadeem also suggested ensuring the representation of LCCI in various Government Boards. He also commented that LCCI is not been regulated by law but by its customs and traditions. The President asked him to take these words back. Malik Muhammad Nadeem sought a clear policy on election schedule. On pointing out to the pictures of sitting Office Bearers placed on walls, the President commented that good traditions should be encouraged.
- 9.14 Mr. Ahmad Ellahi commented on ambiguities in three billion financing scheme and request the Chair to take up these matters with the Government for facts and figures and asked for proper homework in this regard. He suggested that the LCCI to get incentives for its members like APTMA and other sector specific organizations are getting for their members. Mr Kashif Anwar, President LCCI, told that he talked to S.M. Tanveer Sahib regarding new 1253 Power Plant and the minister told me that this Power Plant will provide electricity unit to SMEs of Punjab at a cheaper price of Rs. 20 per unit. The President asked the members to submit their proposals in writing to the R&D Department and LCCI will definitely raise voice on these issues and write letters.
- 9.15 Mian Jabbar Khalid acknowledged and thanked the Office-Bearers, Secretary General, EC members and staff of LCCI for their efforts in organizing such a successful I.T Awards at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. He said that the purpose of this event was not to make money but through the Committee an amount of Rs. 2.7 Million was generated. He proposed to maintain healthy environment to ensure everyone's respect in the House. The President while reacting to the comment said that he has no personal grudge with any of his EC members and it was just a part of political arguments and it happens in board meetings, which is not a big deal. "We are brothers, we are not party in this House and rather we are just EC members of LCCI here. I don't have any personal problem with Mr. Haris Ateeq, Mr. Nauman Kabir, Malik Muhammad Usman or Mr Muhammad Yousaf Shah", the President assured.
- 9.16 Mr Muhammad Riaz ul Hassan raised an issue regarding Quaid-e-Azam Industrial Park and said that they are directed to complete the installation of their industry before October otherwise all the tax benefits and incentives will be withdrawn. He said that it is not possible in this challenging time when the whole economy is badly suffering. The President assured him that the issue will be taken up and requested him submit the written proposal.
- 9.17 Mr. Khadim Hussain congratulated the Office-Bearers for holding a fruitful meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He appreciated the management of LCCI for raising its voice for Taqadus-e-Quran and requested to continue these

efforts. The President endorsed that point and requested the Secretary General to regularly organize such events and seminars. He added that he also got very good feedback from every level in this regard, even the Prime Minister gave the floor to him and he let every EC member deliver his points on that floor. He also acknowledged that Governor Punjab said that the Prime Minister had never handed over the floor to anyone ever before.

9.18 Mr. Haris Ateeq said to Ms. Fareeha Younis that he endorse what she said regarding the decorum of the House. The President asked Mr. Haris Ateeq not to point out anybody and address the Chair. Mr. Haris Ateeq remarked that this is a prestigious forum and we should not make fun of the serious economic issues. He appreciated the EC to contribute in the agenda of Trade and Industry Issues. Mr. Haris Ateeq asked the Secretary General that recently, an Expo was planned for a week but it was held for three days only. He said that MoU with that company is still not shared with him despite the instructions of President. Neither the Senior Vice President & Vice President was not part of that Expo nor did the EC. He questioned on which base MoU was signed with that company as the event was not as per the standard of the LCCI. However, there was no financial implication on the part of LCCI but the name of LCCI deserve a standard, he commented and requested to share the details with the House.

9.19 While referring to an incident in the President's Office, Mr. Haris Ateeq condemned the behavior of President with Mr. Yousaf Shah and said that it is unbearable to disrespect any of the EC members and misuse the media department of LCCI for defamation of certain individuals including him.

9.20 He addressed the Chair and said that you may have the authority to dismiss a member but according to the same law, it is compulsory to take EC in confidence before termination of anyone. He as an EC member and a former Office-Bearer, condemned the decision of Mr. Yousaf Shah's termination as EC member and suggested putting a resolution in EC and take approval from the Executive Committee in this regard. The Chair didn't allow putting any resolution.

Mr. Haris Ateeq said that Mr. Yousaf Shah himself informed the chamber about the issue. He remarked that if someone gets a higher rank, he should be humble. He blamed that the Mr. Kashif Anwar is President LCCI just because of his father. He advised the Chair to leave that autocratic nature of leadership and move on to democratic leadership style. He also asked the SVP and VP to raise their voices (if they want) as they were also not informed on the issue of Mr. Muhammad Yousaf Shah.


9.21 Mr. Haris Ateeq also said that it was decided in previous EC meetings that an audit committee will be established on issues of membership files but no action has been taken in this regard. He requested to be part of that committee once it is constituted. The President remarked that it was not decided but that the point was taken. Mr. Haris Ateeq commented that we are all bond to follow what the law says. On his question regarding the elections, the President said that one should ask this question to DGTO directly, he'll not comment on it.


- 9.22 Mr. Haris Ateeq also referred to the emergent EC meeting that was to be held on July 13th but due to the stay order from Islamabad High Court, the meeting was deferred. The President remarked that the meeting was suspended, not deferred. Mr. Haris Ateeq sought the written decision of DGTO to suspend the meeting. He told that various Chambers including FCCI have announced their schedule. The President said that it is illegal and contempt of the Court. Mr. Haris Ateeq said that it would be more lawful if you announce the election on July 13th and suspend it the next day after the stay order.
- 9.23 On the issue of EC room, Mr. Haris Ateeq disagreed with Mian Rehman Aziz Chan and said that last year, EC room was open for all members and it should be allowed again. He said a separate room is allocated to Ms. Fareeha Younas as well, which is again a desecration. He demanded that members should be allowed to meet EC members in the room allocated for Executive Committee. The Chair clarified that the room is allocated as Women Entrepreneur Lounge, not Ms. Fareeha's office.
- 9.24 Mr. Haris Ateeq said that there is a major role of Sheikh Muhammad Asif Sahib in the appointment of his son as President. The President categorically remarked that he is the President LCCI due to the courtesy of Mr. Almas Hyder not due to Sheikh M. Asif as he refused to present his own son's name as President. Mr Almas Hyder called all the former Presidents. Sheikh Muhammad Asif as a former President LCCI of course voted for him.
- 9.25 Mian Rehman Aziz Chan expressed his views regarding the conduct of the EC and said that it is saddening to see that we have forgotten in which institute we are sitting and which city's businessmen, we are representing. We have engraved in personal agendas and personal grievances, he added and said that we should promote constructive criticism for the progress of this organization and should work for the cause of the business community beyond ourselves. He commented that no constructive point was raised during Agenda of ANY OTHER ITEM. He recommended patience while talking and constructive criticism. He was of the opinion that the respect of everyone relies on the respect he gives to its seniors. Mian Rehman Aziz Chan expressed sorry for what Mian Nauman Kabir had to suffer during the meeting. He remarked that due respect should be ensured for the sitting & former Office-Bearer, EC members and the staff.
- 9.26 Mian Nauman Kabir thanked Mian Rehman Aziz Chan for sharing his sentiments. He said that the DGTO has allowed the former President to attend EC meetings for the purpose to ensure the continuity of policies. He sadly said that he doesn't often visit the LCCI because he was not treated well here. He said that he wants to give guidance as a former President but the President has a discriminatory attitude towards him for don't know which reasons. Whenever he tries approaching the President, never gets respond well probably due to some issues in our parties and this was the reason, he was not called for the meeting with Prime Minister.
- 9.27 He congratulated Malik Muhammad Nadeem for taking the initiative regarding Khatam-e-Nabuwat. He endorsed the spirit of the initiative but also advised to take good care of the rights of minorities as well without discrimination. He also

suggested the EC to protest against the program of 3 billion dollars as this program tarnished the image of businessmen.

- 9.28 The Senior Vice President while addressing Mian Nauman Kabir categorically remarked that it is wrong that he was not been called as an EC member because of their group, it is a misunderstanding. The SVP condemned the incident of 9th May and said that everybody should boycott the people who are against the army or the country. He suggested to unanimously condemned the 9th May incident.
- 9.29 On the issue of Mr. Muhammad Yousaf Shah, he said that everything should be done and decided according to the rules. He said that nobody even the Office Bearers is not above the law. He also commented that this matter should have been discussed in the EC first but there is no use to discuss it now as it has already been taken up with DGTO by Mr. Yousaf Shah, he briefed and assured that LCCI will accept the decision.
- 9.30 He stated that EC had less participation in the agenda of ISSUES OF TRADE & INDUSTRY. He advised the EC to ensure more homework in this regard as spirit of the Executive Committee Meeting is to discuss the trade and industry issues. There is a need to refine the objectives.
- 9.31 Malik Muhammad Nadeem also remarked that the respect of the Chair, sitting Office Bearers and former Office Bearers must be ensured.

The Secretary General invited all the Executive Committee for lunch hosted by Muhammad Riaz-ul-Hassan and Mr. Muhammad Ejaz on their request.


KASHIF ANWAR
President


SHAHID KHALIL
Secretary-General