

LCCI raises objections to CCP bill

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) while expressing grave concern over the controversy arisen in respect of the Competition Commission Ordinance, has said that it is a provincial subject and the Federal Legislature should not transgress onto the Provincial domain. In a statement issued here Friday, the LCCI President Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry, Senior Vice President Ejaz A Mumtaz and Vice President Faisal Iqbal Sheikh said that the LCCI has studied the contents of the proposed Bill and is greatly concerned as it appears that the subject of competition and framing of laws thereon, are a Provincial subject and care should be taken that the Federal Legislature does not transgress onto the Provincial domain.

They said that it also appears that the proposed law provides only a direct appeal before the Honourable Supreme Court against its decisions, by passing the High Courts which is clearly a violation of the Constitution which provides that appeals against orders of such Commissions must first be preferred before the High Courts prior to moving the Supreme Court. They said that the LCCI is also concerned at the verbal tirade launched by the Competition Commission's functionaries against the business community even in matters which are subjudice and highly personalized attacks are being made by the Commission against business groups referring to them in unparliamentary terms such as "Mafias". This does not create a business friendly environment which the country can ill afford in these troubled times. The CCP may become a tool of persecution and blackmail if the provisions allowing forcible entry into business premises and seizure of records without judicial due process is permitted to become law.

The LCCI office-bearers said that it is sincerely hoped that the members of Parliament, as well as, Government will act in a constructive manner regarding this piece of proposed legislation which is wholly unfair in its present shape.