

# Present government is quite alive to the economic challenges

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Secretary General Pakistan People's Party Senator Jehangir Badr has said that the present government is quite alive to the economic challenges and trying to promote regional trade through Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs). The Senator was addressing MoU signing ceremony between the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Institute of Vision and Leadership here at the LCCI on Saturday. LCCI President presented Irfan Qaiser Sheikh the address of Welcome while former LCCI Presidents Iftikhar Ali Malik, Sheikh Mohammad Asif and former Senior Vice President Sohail Lashari also spoke on the occasion. Senator Jehangir Badr said that in today's globalised world, survival of the fittest is the thumb rule therefore both the government and the private sector would have to focus on better handling of socio-economic matters.

He said that neither the politicians alone nor the private sector could do any miracle as far as far as economic turnaround is concerned and there is a dire need to establish institutions to prepare the next generations to cope with economic challenges. He said that the Institute of Vision and Leadership would facilitate and pave way for achieving much needed results.

The Senator said that government is convinced that for the implementation of economic policies in letter and spirit, the consultation with the private sector is a prerequisite as they are the main stakeholders therefore all the government department including the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) had been directed the strengthen its liaison with the business community.

Speaking on the occasion, the LCCI President Irfan Qaiser Sheikh said that the leadership gap in all spheres of life has pushed the country to the wall and the nation as whole has failed to taste the fruit of marvelous potentials, the country owns. He said that the economic situation today would have been quite encouraging if a little attention had been given towards bridging this leadership gap. He said that though the present government was making all out efforts but the challenges were multiplying with every passing day. He said that the country is standing at unique crossroads today. We have unique standing in international community. Our economy has its own strengths and weaknesses. Our geo-strategic positioning is marred by a unique set of challenges and opportunities.

This situation calls for measures to improve our understanding of domestic and world issues. Therefore, as individuals, as Pakistanis and as representatives of the business community we need to promote a systematic debate on all issues that we come across, the LCCI President said.

Irfan Qaiser Sheikh said that the Institute of Vision and Leadership is a timely step to give awareness and possible solutions to all the challenges being faced by the country. He hoped that the Institute of Vision and Leadership will contribute to a great deal in closing the leadership gap through training to potential leaders in areas relating to economic, political, constitutional, legal, geo-strategic and international affairs.

Earlier, before signing of the MoU between Institute of Vision and Leadership, Zulfiqar Ali Badr gave a detailed briefing on the very objectives of the establishment of the Institute.

As per the MoU, LCCI and the Institute of Vision and Leadership will conduct joint training programs for youth and entrepreneurs, political leaders, government officials, managers and company directors, diplomatic staff, technical teams of local and international development organizations, non-governmental and community-based organizations, journalists, and lawyers and any other individual/group/organization seeking specialist social, economic and political knowledge and insights into Pakistan and South Asia.

Both the sides will collaborate to promote leadership qualities among people in all segments of society especially focusing on young and aspiring entrepreneurs that have demonstrable potential to envision a particular role for themselves in their respective sphere of activities and can lead other in the required direction thus contributing to national well-being and development.

The Institute of Vision & Leadership is an organization that aims to provide specialist knowledge, services as a think tank in the field of training and development, socio-economic and political research, policy formulation and reforms while serving as a bridge between government, political leaders, business community and stakeholders from civil society especially including lawyers, journalists, non-governmental and community based organization.