

THE SIALKOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
Minutes of Meeting of the Executive Committee
Held on May 31, 2024

01. A Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry was held on May 31, 2024 at 02:30 pm at Sheikh Muhammad Shafi Hall of the Sialkot Chamber.

02. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry presided over the meeting. He thanked the members for attending the meeting.

03. The proceedings of the meeting started with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Choudhry Jahangir Rashid.

04. The following members attended the meeting:

• Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik	President
• Mr. Wahub Jahangir	Senior Vice President
• Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh	Vice President
• Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan	-Member-
• Mr. Awais Ahmed	-do-
• Mr. Choudhry Jahangir Rashid	-do-
• Mr. Jawad Hussain	-do-
• Ms. Lubna Tubsim	-do-
• Mr. Matloob Ahmed Qureshi	-do-
• Mian Fiaz Ahmed	-do-
• Mian Imran Akbar	-do-
• Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz	-do-
• Mr. Naeem Yousaf	-do-
• Mr. Saleem Akhtar Bhutta	-do-
• Mr. Toheed Nasir	-do-

05. Leave of Absence

• Mr. Adnan Yousaf	-Member-
• Mrs. Gulzaib Waqas Awan	-do-
• Mr. Peeter John	-do-
• Mr. Saqib Ashfaq	-do-
• Mr. Shoaib Imtiaz	-do-
• Mr. Zain Ul Abideen	-do-

Mr. Wahub Jahangir discussed about the request of leave of absence received from EC Members. He said that number of EC Members did not attend the EC Meetings but send their leave of absence request. He suggested that rule be made on this issue to penalize them so that members should attend meetings.

The President replied that Mr. Peeter John and Mr. Zain Ul Abideen had gone on a visit to Morocco.

Mr. Wahib Jahangir said that he had discussed about those members who did not attend meetings, regularly, for the last four to five months and had sent leave of absences.

Mr. Jawad Hussain suggested that members who were on foreign tours should be allowed to join meeting through zoom.

Mr. President asked the Secretary General regarding legal opinion in this regard.

The Secretary General replied that it could be allowed, if the house approved.

Choudhry Jahangir Rashid suggested that it could be allowed only if the members had solid reason.

Mr. Amir Majeed Sheikh said that if any member was out of country or any other personal engagement could be allowed to join meeting through zoom, otherwise the members should confirm their participation in the meeting.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz suggested that the members should send their leave of absence, in writing, instead of sending message in EC WhatsApp Group.

The Secretary General replied that the members submitted their leave of application in the Secretariat.

Mian Imran Akbar said that issue should not be created on it keeping in view the rules, if the quorum of the house was completed, then the meeting should carry on.

06. Members who could not attend the meeting

- Mr. Afzaal Bhatti -Member-

07. Special Invitees

- Mr. Qaiser Baig, Chairman Departmental Committee on Fair & Exhibition

08. The Committee offered Fateha for departed souls and passed condolence resolution on the sad demise of the following: -

- Sh. Ikram Ullah of M/s. Revenue Sports
- Mr. Naseem Ul Ghani of M/s. Mehboob Brothers
- Mr. M.Asif Harry M/s. Mac Hardware
- Daughter in Law of Mr. Ch. M. Qasim Late of M/s Allen Surgical Co.
- Khawaja Pervaiz Akhtar of M/s. BJ Sports
- Haji Sh. M. Ashraf father of Mr. Sh. M. Umer
- Niece of Mr. Shoaib Imtiaz of M/s. Mid East Manufacturers

09. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Executive Committee held on April 29, 2024.
Approval	Approved.

10. Point discussed.	Approval of Statement of Accounts for the month of April 2024.
<u>Discussion:</u>	
<p>Mr. Awais Ahmed asked about the high expense in the head of Printing & Stationery of Rs. 900,766/- and Rs. 861,531/- during the month of March & April.</p> <p>Mr. Amer Rashid replied that the details of expense was mentioned on page 8-21. He said that the main expense was made of purchase of Membership Certificate Books having cost of Rs.15000/- per book issued to new/renewal of members.</p> <p>Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh said that every month 800-900 new applications for grant of membership were received to whom Provisional and Original Membership Certificates were issued.</p> <p>Mr. Awais Ahmed inquired about the procedure to approve the request of donations received from different institutions because last month Rs. 293,073/- while this month Rs. 1,462,500/- were paid. The said amount was mentioned as miscellaneous expense. He said that an amount of Rs. 500,000/- was issued to Pakistan Volley Ball Federation.</p> <p>The President replied that Mr. Sohail Khawar Mir as President Pakistan Volley Ball Federation had requested for the donation to publish a page of this Chamber in their book. The matter was also shared with the Leadership. After that Rs. 500,000/- was issued to publish half page of this Chamber in their book.</p> <p>Miss Lubna Tubsim said that donation was also issued to Sialkot Medical Complex but its condition was very miserable. She suggested that there was also need to check whether the donation was being used properly or not.</p>	
Participants	The President, Mr. Awais Ahmed, Ms. Lubna Tubsim and Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne.
Approval	Approved.

11. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of Pre-Departure Meetings of Trade Delegation to Jordan 2024 held on May 04, 2024 and Pre-Departure Meeting of Trade Delegation to USA 2024 held on May 11, 2024.
<u>Discussion:</u>	
<p>The President congratulated Mr. Qaiser Baig on performing Umrah.</p> <p>Mr. Qaiser Baig informed the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The USA delegation was sent on May 18, which had now returned. • Trade Delegation to Morocco was sent on May 25, 2024. 	

- Trade Delegation to Jordan was sent on May 30, 2024.
- Trade Delegation to the USA would arrive in Houston on June 2, 2024.
- A Trade Delegation for Brazil was in the process which would hopefully be sent in the month of July 2024. The Office of the TDAP had confirmed about it.
- Japan's self-financed delegation, which was pending for a long time, would also be sent in the month of July, as Pakistan Ambassador to Japan had been appointed.

The house appreciated Mr. Qaiser Baig on his performance.

The President shared that the TDAP Chairman had promised with the Ethiopian's Ambassador for single country exhibition which would be organized in the month of October-November in Ethiopia.

Participants	The President and Mr. Qaiser Baig.
Approval	Approved.

12. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of a meeting of the Departmental Committee on Post Office/Telecommunication held on May 16, 2024.
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Discussion:

Mian Imran Akbar said that minutes of eight different Committees Meetings were placed on table. He said that it was very difficult to read or comment on such a large number of minutes which were placed on the table.

Mr. Secretary General replied that these meetings were held during the last dates of the month.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir said that Minutes of Meeting which he had Chaired were also sent to him 2-3 days before Executive Committee. He said that if the concerned Secretaries of the Committee would send minutes of meetings very late to the Chairmen for approval, the Chairmen got less time to read. He suggested that there was need to ensure that the concerned Secretaries should send Minutes to their Chairmen well in time.

Mian Imran Akbar said that meeting was held on May 16, 2024.

The President said that it was decided that the minutes would be circulated a week before the meeting.

Mr. Mian Imran Akbar said that the minutes of the meeting which was held with RPO and DPO were not included in the agenda.

The Secretary General replied that the meeting was not notified.

The President said that Office of the DPO had informed this Chamber about the meeting two days ago but the Chamber did not notify it. He said that when the DPO & RPO came to the Chamber, another meeting was going on regarding in the Hall but he left that meeting and attended meeting with RPO. The main

purpose of their visit and meeting was to arrange Armed Van for Chinese Nationals to strengthen their security during visit to Sialkot. The DPO said that the Chinese Nationals must be provided with an armored van from the airport and all their movements would be on it. The President said that he replied that it was impossible for the members of this Chamber. The DPO said that they had been given an order, therefore, they had no other choice except to implement it. Mr. Riaz-ud-Din Sheikh, Dr. Nouman Idris Butt, Mr. Majid Raza Bhutta, Mr. Fazal Jillani and some other senior members were present in the meeting and all agreed that they had no other choice, so armed van had to be arranged. A letter had been written to Ministry of Interior, in this regard mentioning that safety and security of Chinese and other foreign visitors was responsibility of law enforcement agencies. However, the matter was also discussed with Khawaja Masud Akhtar who confirmed that Forward Sports would arrange a vehicle and likewise a vehicle would be arranged by the Sialkot Chamber.

Mr. Saleem Akhtar Butta said that as Chairman of Post Office Committee he got approval of following: -

- Post Office desk was launched in SBCC building.
- The Post Office in Cantonment was renovated.
- The Post Office Disk which had been set up in Sialkot Chamber was also included in his efforts for which Mr. Sheikh Faisal wanted to take credit.

Mr. Saleem Akhtar Bhutta requested that the efforts done by him should have been acknowledged and information shared with Seniors.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf said that the main issue was the high courier charges of Pakistan Post Office as compared to other Private Courier Companies. Pakistan Post Office would not get good business until they would keep a check & balance.

The President said that the matter of the prices was also discussed to which the concerned of Post Office replied that they would hold another meeting for briefing about the services which were useful and cheaper than other courier companies Moreover, they had also admitted about the high rates in some services because they also got services from DHL and Fedex for international courier.

Participants	The President, Mr. Wahub Jahangir, Mian Imran Akbar, Mr. Naeem Yousaf, Mr. Saleem Akhtar Bhutta and the Secretary General.
Approval	Approved.

13. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Education held on May 21, 2024.
Approval	Approved.

14. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting on Visit of Mr. Qaisar Rasheed, Additional Secretary School Education Department Punjab held on April 27, 2024.
Discussion:	

Mian Imran Akbar that said that Al-Suffa Free Tuition Program initiated by the Committee was very good, but what would be the future of the children after completion of their Intermediate. He suggested that this program should be started from elementary level. He said that the Committee should visit China to see their skill programs that how they promoted the skill of children through their skill programs instead of spending so much money in the form of tuition. He said that program could be initiated through CSDO's Schools. Mian Imran Akbar suggested that the Committees should work to formulate a comprehensive program at the Sialkot level which could later be replicated across the country like the previous projects of Sialkot.

Miss Lubna Tubsim said that it was true that there was lack of skilled labour in Pakistan. The idea of skilled training could be implemented in those schools which would be funded by the Education Committee to promote to give skill training to the children, which could be beneficial for the industry in order to solve the issue of skilled labor in industries.

Mr. President said that the issue of skilled labor had become very serious for the whole world. He said that President Xi of China raised the issue of skilled labor in a high-level meeting. They had planned to change the education system by including skilled education in their curriculum. The President endorsed the proposal of Mian Imran Akbar and requested Mr. Abdul Rauf, Secretary Education Committee to share the view points of EC Members with Chairman of Education Committee. He also added that he was not in the favour to give money to students but this practice had been adopted for the last 20 years so he could not do anything about it.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that under the law, every private school/educational institution was bound to provide free education to 10% of its total number of children which was not implemented properly. He said that there was a need to implement it. The matter was also discussed in the meeting with Secretary Education but he replied that the institutions provided them list of such 10% children. Mr. Shehbaz Sahib said that if rule of 10% was implemented in schools, then there would be no need to give donations/funding.

Mr. Amir Majeed Sheikh said that he preferred to send children to Poly Technical College instead of getting simple FA or BA degree so that they could acquire technical skills to get employment. He added that in a meeting with management of Poly Technical College, he suggested them to change the status of their Diploma with Degree so that more students could get admission. In this regard, 4 years course could be launched.

Mr. Jawad Hussain suggested to invite Chairman TEVTA to discuss about it.

Mr. Saleem Akhtar Butta suggested that Government should make it easier to issue welfare funds.,

Participants	The President, Mian Imran Akbar, Mr. Saleem Akhtar Butta, Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim, Mr. Jawad Hussain and Miss Lubna
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	Tubsim.
Approval	Approved.

15. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting with Mr. Muhammad Naeem Ghaus, Secretary Labor & Human Resource Department Punjab held on May 07, 2024.
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Discussion:

Mr. Mian Imran Akbar said that the implementation of minimum wages was discussed in the minutes. He said that according to his opinion, the Chamber could not convey a message on this matter or discuss by any other reason. He said that the Secretariat should ask them in the next meeting under which mechanism they set the minimum wages. The Political Leaders announced to increase minimum wages for the political point scoring. They did not take on board SMEs or export sector, in this regard. He added that there were only two models of the economy in the world, one was controlled economy and the other was open market and if there was open market then it should decide on the basis of supply and demand and in case of controlled economy all the things should be controlled by the Government. He suggested that a clear message should be sent to the Government, in this regard, because it was quite possible that in next budget the wages rates would be further increased. Mian Imran Akbar also discussed the matter of worker welfare contribution. He said that a mechanism of Worker Welfare Contribution should also be set with the Department because the businesses of the companies were not same every year. He said that the worker welfare contribution could be set according to the export figure of the companies and Department could get details of export from State Bank of Pakistan.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir said that a detailed discussion was held on issues relating to the Labour Department. It was decided that SCCI might constitute Special Task Committee and instructions should be issued to Deputy Director Labour Welfare Sialkot to participate in the meetings as departmental representative. The meeting of the Committee would be held once in a month. The issues of the labour, as well as, the industries employer concerns would be discussed in the Committee to resolve mutually. Mr. Wahub assured Mian Imran Akbar that the points he had mentioned would be forwarded to Special Task Committee.

Miss Lubna Tubsim informed that a letter was received from the Commercial Division, Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC wherein salient points of the US Presidential Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments – Workers Rights, Empowerment and High Labour Standards Abroad were mentioned. As per the letter, the Secretary of the State, in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies, would explore enhanced protection mechanisms for labor rights defenders and would keep a check that how the industries were facilitating the labor. She said that the letter was discussed in the Departmental Committee on Employers & Workers/Vendors Disputes. She said that the industries should take it seriously because through Washington DC, State would play its role to protect the Labour Rights in Industries. Miss Lubna Tubsim said that she had also suggested that

the members who could not understand the Labour Laws or Industrial Act could join her Committee for getting explanation. She said that the Government would increase the wages of the labour in next budget and would implement forcefully. She said that there was a need to make amendment in the Industrial Act to protect the rights of the employers.

Mian Imran Akbar said that the Punjab Revenue Authority was issuing notices to the industries regarding the Worker Welfare Fund, a similar notice was also being issued from the Federal Government. He said that there was a need to check why similar tax notices were being issued from Federal Government and Punjab Government.

Mr. Jahangir asked the Secretariat to check the matter and if necessary, a letter should be issued to the concerned departments.

Mr. Amir Majeed Sheikh said that notices of sale tax of one billion rupees were issued to all the freight forwarders of Sialkot.

Participants	Mr. Wahub Jahangir, Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh, Mian Imran Akbar, Miss Lubna Tubsim
Approval	Approved.

16. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting with Mr. Muhammad Zulqarnain, Deputy Commissioner Sialkot held on May 08, 2024.
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Discussion:

Mian Imran Akbar said that he had read the minutes and observed that many points were not discussed with the DC.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir replied that DC had some other engagements due to which all the points could not be discussed and meeting had to be closed. He informed that DC had made a commitment that he would come to the Chamber on another day in the evening, so that all members could be invited to discuss all points.

Mian Imran Akbar said that five Deputy Commissioners were posted & transferred in Sialkot during his tenure and the issues were highlighted in meetings with everyone but still the same problems exist as of his tenure.

Participants	Mr. Wahub Jahangir and Mian Imran Akbar.
Approval	Approved.

17. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Work Wear held on May 14, 2024.
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Approval	Approved.
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18. Point discussed.	Approval of Report of a Training Session on Medical Devices Regulation (MDR) held on May 14, 2024.
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Discussion:

Mr. Naeem Yousaf said that it was very important and informative training session on Medical Devices Regulation. A large number of members participated in the session. He said that the session was conducted in the follow-up of the meeting of Mr. Ikram Ul Haq held at Medica. The TDAP Officials were also present in the meeting. Mr. Ikram Ul Haq did his best efforts to conduct the session. Mr. Naeem Yousaf said that May 26, 2024 was the deadline for submission of technical files to the notified body for Reusable surgical Instruments category.

Mr. Mian Imran Akbar said that an issue of Certification on Surgical Instruments was also raised during his tenure but that was related to the importers. He asked whether this matter was the same or another.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf replied that MDR was a different chapter. He said that it had different clauses and the industry had to get certified according to the instruments. He said that May 26, 2024 was the deadline for submission of technical files.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir asked about the status to nominate a European Designated Consultants in Pakistan, which Ikram-ul-Haq was trying to arrange.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf replied that it had been finalized. A zoom meeting was held in this regard.

Miss Lubna Tubsim inquired about the complaints that may arise as per the ruling of MDR guidelines, whether the complaint would be dealt with in the UK, or in the sector where the case would arise.

Mr. Naeem Yousaf said that the Departmental Committee had introduced the Consultant from European Origin and Notifying body to members related to Surgical Instruments Industry of Sialkot.

Participants	Mr. Wahub Jahangir, Mian Imran Akbar, Mr. Naeem Yousad, Miss Lubna Tubsim.
Approval	Approved.

19. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Beauty Instruments & Personal Care Industry held on May 15, 2024.
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Participants:

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that the Chairman Committee should make sure of the maximum participation of the members in the Committee otherwise postpone it, instead of conducting the meeting with few members or in such case the meeting should be held in Mini Meeting Room instead of Main Hall. He said that Beauty Instruments & Personal Care was a big industry in which lot of members were registered.

Discussion	Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim.
Approval	Approved.

20. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Industrial Safety & Risk Management held on May 16, 2024.
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Participants:

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that the Committee had decided as follows:-

- Formed an Action Committee for the task to be completed on the approved funds regarding the safety measures of SCCI Building.
- Discussed on regular mock exercises in Industrial Units. The Committee recommended that regular Mock Exercises should be planned with the factories for workers so that workers could know how to handle panic situations in case of fire.
- Recommended to establish of Tank Filling Station for Rescue 1122 at Pasrur Road. It was decided that a letter would be written to Deputy Commissioner Sialkot in which a request would be made to generate funds for the establishment of Tank Filling stations for the Rescue 1122. Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that the said issue was also discussed by him with Deputy Commissioner during his visit to the Sialkot Chamber.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that a request for financial support for preliminary arrangement for flood or other exercises was made by Rescue 1122 but was not approved. He suggested that the request of such well-known institutions who helped the industries regarding safety should be approved.

Choudhry Jahangir Rashid endorsed the proposal of Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz for installation of Tank Filling Station for Rescue 1122 at Pasrur Road. He shared incident of fire in his factory in 2005 which was situated at Pasrur Road. After that several requests were sent to the concerned authorities to setup Rescue 1122 Office but no action was taken. He said that it would be big development of this tenure in case the Tank Filling Station was installed at Pasrur Road.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim requested the Chair to write a letter to Deputy Commissioner for Installation Tank Filling Stations in the City on different spots.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir requested the Secretariat to send a letter to DC with the consultation of the President.

Discussion	Mr. Wahub Jahangir, Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim and Choudhry Jahangir Rashid.
Approval	Approved.

21. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Human Resource held on May 18, 2024.
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Approval	Approved.
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22. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Employers & Workers/ Vendor Disputes held on May 22, 2024..
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Approval	Approved.
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23. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting on visit of Thirty-Five UN New York based Foreign Diplomats from Foreign Service Academy (MOFA Islamabad) held on May 23, 2024.
Approval	Approved.

24. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting with Ms. Saima Shahzad, Chief Collector Customs Appraisalment (Punjab) Lahore and Ms. Saima Aftab, Collector of Customs Sialkot held on May 23, 2024.
Discussion:	
Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that he had highlighted the issue of impounding of stocks on non-production of import documents with the Collector Custom in the meeting to which she replied that focal person had been nominated from Gujranwala and that Sialkot Chamber should also nominate a focal person. Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz requested the Chair to nominate a focal person as discussed with Collector in the meeting.	
Mr. Wahub Jahangir said that according to his information the Collector had replied to share the name of Department which was involved, secondly, since she took charge, she had not carried out any such action on the shops. Mr. Wahub also asked the Secretary General about nomination of focal person on which he replied that it could be checked. Mr. Wahub Jahangir requested the Secretariat to check it and if so, then nominate a focal person.	
Participants	Mr. Wahub Jahangir and Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim,
Approval	Approved.

25. Point discussed.	Approval of Report on Business Networking Event by Lakeshore Towers held on May 24, 2024.
Approval	Approved.

26. Point discussed.	Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Membership/Bye-Laws held on May 22-23 & 30, 2024.
Approval	Approved.

Any Other Point:

27. Mr. Omair Nisar, Deputy Secretary R&D informed the house that upon the inauguration of the Business Facilitation Centre Sialkot on January 13, 2024, Ms. Saima R. Shaikh, Director General (Business Development & Training), PITB had requested President Chamber to hire of a full-time Business Facilitation Officer.

He shared that Manager of BFC Sialkot had written to the Chamber that a full-time Business Facilitation Officer had been working for the last 3 months without pay as the Government of Punjab had yet to allocate appropriate budget for the project. It was further shared that the Manager of BFC had requested Sialkot Chamber to offer

a stipend to Mr. Muhammad Bilal Zahid till he was officially enrolled on the payroll of the Government of Punjab.

The house unanimously approved Rs. 35,000/- per month stipend for BFO Mr. Muhammad Bilal Zahid with effect from May 01, 2024, till the time of his official enrolment on the payroll of the Government of Punjab.

28. The President said that an incident of explosion of the Cylinder occurred at the house of Mr. Naveed Akhtar, Library Incharge that caused lot of damage. In this regard, he had requested for some help from the Chamber which should be approved. The President said that the amount was not mentioned.

The house approved the request of Mr. Naveed Akhtar and authorized the Office Bearers to issue amount as per his request.

29. Mr. Amer Majeed Sheikh said that an application for reimbursement of medical bill of Rs. 126,000/- of Appendix Operation of wife of Mr. Ammar Ahmed Khan had been received which required approval from the house.

The house unanimously approved the medical bill of wife of Mr. Ammar Ahmed Khan of Rs. 126,000/-.

30. Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan expressed his concern regarding insulting behavior of Traffic Police with SVP, Chairman Committee and himself. He shared the following:-

- One of the Senior Vice President was locked up in Murad Pur Police Station for not wearing a seat belt.
- He himself and Rana Nadeem went to Haji Pura police station in connection with a complaint of a member which was resolved amicably and, on their return, Traffic Warden treated them in insulting behave for parking of the vehicle outside the Police Station.
- Rana Nadeem's Nephew's car was lifted from Allama Iqbal Chowk by the traffic police due to wrong parking. When they contacted the concern person (Traffic Police), he replied that the challan fee was five thousand but you should deposit Rs. 2000 while the challan fee was Rs. 2000.

He said that the Sialkot Chamber always cooperated with Police Department and tried to facilitate on any request received from DPO or any of their concern. The Department should give respect to the members of this Chamber and resolve their issues. He further said that the EC Members representing twenty thousand members, so at least, the EC Members should also be invited in the meetings, so that they could address the issues of the members directly. He informed that Mr. Muhammad Ayoub Khan, former Vice President had written a letter to the Department, in this regard, by sending copy to the President.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said that the Executive Committee members were also the part of the team of Office Bearers and if they (Office Bearers) did not want to include them in the meetings, then they should get proposal from EC

members, a couple of days, before the meeting, so that it could be discussed with the officials. He added that he had discussed the matter regarding pressurizing of one of the Foreign Buyers of his friend to visit different factories by Security Officer, in last meeting, similar incident as discussed by Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan but was not replied accordingly. He said that the EC Members were also the part of President's team, therefore, he requested the Chair to kindly consider the requests of the EC Members.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir replied that after the meeting with the RPO and DPO, the point of security of the Chinese was concluded because Chinese Nationals would be provided bullet proof van from Airport to the industries. The President had already shared that it was pointed out to the RPO and DPO that how the Bullet Proof Vehicles would be arranged but they replied that they were forced to make implementation on it. Mr. Wahub informed that while narrating the incident of deporting of two Chinese Nationals who came for business purposes in Sialkot, the DPO shared that Police had picked them up from the Shinwari Hotel and kept them inside the hotel for three days till completion of their documents to depart. Mr. Wahub told Mr. Shahbaz Saim that he didn't know what was he said on it but he asked the DPO whether he would ever come to Pakistan again. He added that Mr. Majid Raza Bhatta said to the RPO that after such actions, no one would come to Pakistan. Mr. Wahub asked to Mr. Shahbaz whether if he could have said such hard words as stated by him and Mr. Majid Raza Bhutta. Mr. Wahab said that as concerned to inviting the Executive Members in the meetings, they were invited in practically every meeting. The meeting with RPO & DPO was held at time when another meeting was going on in the Main Hall. The meeting with RPO & DPO was notified at the eleventh hour. He said to Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz that it was very good to speak words, they were not invited, but practically it was not like that because they were invited, in all meetings, which could be checked from the record with the notifications of meetings held during the last month. Mr. Wahab Jahangir said to Shahbaz Saim that he was invited in every meeting, he understood the situation and know every scenario, there was no question of point scoring, EC Members were the part of our team, so please be careful to discuss any such point.

Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim said to the Chair that he was mixing two meetings, DPO had visited the Chamber, a few days ago, and had a discussion with him on the same points which were discussed in the meeting with RPO and DPO.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir replied that DPO did not visit, for any meeting. He just walked in to meet the President.

Mr. Shehbaz Saim said that he was talking about that visit of DPO, there was no point scoring.

Miss Lubna Tubsim said that the Sialkot Chamber was the main stakeholder in Sialkot representing the District Sialkot. She said that the Chamber could not prove its importance in the Departments to get facilitation from the departments but always facilitated them. She said that work had not been done on that how

benefit could be gotten from the Departments for the betterment of business community and the Chamber. She emphasized that the Chamber needed to convey the principles and interest of the business community to the Departments, through the platform, of Sialkot Chamber. The platform of Sialkot Chamber should be strengthened so that it could prevail upon of the government or other departments to safeguard interest of the members and to get their issues resolved conveniently. After all, Sialkot Chamber was also an Institution and was a main stakeholder of District Sialkot.

31. Mr. Taheed Nasir Mirza said that as member of the Executive Committee, he had noticed that in the last two years, there was no discussion on increasing exports in the Executive Committee meetings, but the irrelevant issues were always discussed which could be done by assigning the duty to someone. He said that in the Executive Committee Meetings, ways and means of increasing the exports, arrangement of raw material at cheap rates, facilitation of SMEs to increase their exports etc., should be discussed and, in this regard, a Special Committee should be formed.

Mr. Mian Imran Akbar replied that all the different Departmental/Project Committees that had been formed and their minutes of meetings were discussed in the Executive Committee Meetings were inter-linked with export. If he reviewed two years minutes of meetings, there were many meetings regarding the SMEs sector and if he was not able to give his input, it was not the fault of the Sialkot Chamber or Office Bearers. He said to Mr. Toheed Nasir that he could give his input in the Committees like SMEs and Taxation etc. He added that he had still 4 months and he should share his ideas for betterment of export industry. Mian Imran Akbar said that he had given a chance to organize a program in the Chamber regarding small scale business ideas in his tenure, but most of the members did not participate.

Mr. Toheed Nasir Mirza said that he wished that work should be done regarding the availability of raw material directly from EPZ instead of import by using different sources. Lot of members didn't know about EFS scheme, small exporters needed to be facilitated so that their exports could increase.

Mr. Mian Imran replied that Export Facility Scheme was a big facility for the import of Raw Material used in export of the goods. He said that the purpose of establishment of EPZ was to get the same facility that was available under EFS. The EFS facility was better than EPZ. However, it was not a solution, as the import of the country was more than the exports. The raw material should be produced within the country. He also discussed the reasons of decrease in exports of the beauty instruments/personal care industry. He said that most of the Beauty Instruments business was shifted to Vietnam & China and one of the reasons was non-availability of international quality raw material.

32. Mr. Wahib Jahangir said that the shed above the President's office had to be removed for re-adjustment of the Solar Panel. The construction work was needed to be done to cover that area which required approval from the house.

The house unanimously approved the quotation for the construction work above the office of the President.

33. Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Saim suggested to approve the Staff Eidi.

Mian Imran Akbar suggested that it could be approved as per the tradition.

Mr. Wahub Jahangir said that he would discuss it with the President.

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Minutes approved by the President, Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry.