# THE SIALKOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
# MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
# HELD ON AUGUST 29, 2025

**01.** A Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry was held on August 29, 2025 at 02:00 p.m. at Sheikh Muhammad Shafi Hall of the Sialkot Chamber.

**02.** Mr. Ikram Ul Haq, 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.

**04.** The following members attended the meeting:

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| • Mr. Ikram Ul Haq | President |
| • Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi | Senior Vice President |
| • Mr. Omer Khalid | Vice President |
| • Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik | -Member- |
| • Mr. Aamer Mahmood | -do- |
| • Mr. Adnan Safdar | -do- |
| • Mr. Arshad Jamil Chaudhry | -do- |
| • Mr. Bilal Ahmed Khan | -do |
| • Mr. Hassan Akbar | -do- |
| • Ms. Kinza Ijaz | -do- |
| • Mr. Mehtab Maqsood | -do- |
| • Mr. Mohammad Iqbal Asad | -do- |
| • Mr. Muhammad Abid | -do- |
| • Mr. Salman Sheikh | -do- |
| • Sh. Muhammad Shahid Inam | -do- |
| • Sheikh Atique-ur-Rehman | -do- |
| • Mr. Sohail Masood | -do- |
| • Syed Ahtesham Mazhar | -do- |

**05.** **Leave of Absence**

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| • Mr. Haseeb Tahir | -do- |
| • Mr. Jawad Khalid | -do- |
| • Mr. Khurram Javaid Sethi | -do- |
| • Mr. Muhammad Murad Arshad | -do- |

**06.** **Members who could not attend the meeting**

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| • Ms. Syeda Ayesha Wadood | -do- |

**07.** **Special Invitees**

- Malik Naseer Ahmed, Chairman Departmental Committee on Accounts

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

- Sister of Mr. Arshad Jameel Chaudhary, EC Member.

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| **09. Point discussed.** | Approval of minutes of meeting of the Executive Committee held on July 29, 2025. |
| **Approval** | Approved. |

| 10. Point discussed. | Approval of Statement of Accounts for the month of July 2025, Audited Accounts for the year 2024-25 ended on June 30, 2025 and Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Accounts and Finance held on August 25, 2025 |
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**Discussion:**

Mr. Malik Naseer Ahmed informed the House that the Committee Members thoroughly scrutinized all the vouchers and accounts submitted to them. The details of the discussion were recorded in the Minutes, attached with the agenda.

Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi inquired about the profit received on the Emergency Fund, which had been fixed through TDR. He asked whether the profit was credited back to the Emergency Fund or transferred to any other account.

Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne clarified that the profit was deposited in the Profit & Loss Account of the Chamber. Mr. Waseem suggested that the profit should instead be added directly to the Emergency Fund to strengthen it.

Mr. Aamer Mahmood raised a query regarding the Current Assets and Cash and Bank Balances as reflected on Page No. 1 of the Accounts Statement. Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne provided a detailed explanation in response.

Mr. Omer Khalid requested Mr. Amer Rashid Wyne to present a briefing on the Audit Report.

**The house approved the audited accounts for the year 2024-25.**

The President informed the house that although Al-Khidmat Foundation and other NGOs had initially been invited to raise funds for the flood-affected people of KPK, it was decided to prioritize assistance for the flood victims of Sialkot. He sought the approval of the house, which was duly granted.

Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik suggested formation of a committee to supervise the distribution of food, funds, and other relief items among the affected people.

The President agreed and informed the house that he had already planned to constitute such a committee. He invited Executive Committee members who wished to volunteer for this responsibility to have their names added in the committee.

The President further stated that the Committee would coordinate its relief efforts with the District Administration and the 15 Division. Since the 15 Division possessed transport facilities, they were requested to share information regarding the areas where ready-to-eat food was required, so that arrangements could be made accordingly.

Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam inquired about the names of the Committee members. The President confirmed the inclusion of Mian Muhammad Khalil and Mr. Muhammad Ejaz Ghauree in the Committee.

Syed Ahtesham Mazhar raised a query as to whether such relief work was being assigned to Al-Khidmat Foundation (a non-profit organization) in order to avail a 28% tax exemption benefit.

Mr. Ikram Ul Haq briefed the house regarding the coordination with Al-Khidmat Foundation for flood relief efforts. Before including them in the campaign, he held a meeting with Khawaja Masood Sahib, who was leading Al-Khidmat in Sialkot. An understanding was reached that the donations, collected under the platform of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI), owing to its NPO certification, would be deposited in Al-Khidmat's account but disbursed strictly at the discretion of SCCI for the welfare of Sialkot flood victims.

An agreement to this effect was finalized, and cheques amounting to PKR 7.5 million were handed over to Al-Khidmat Foundation. These included:

- PKR 2.5 million by Sheikh Janghir Sahib
- PKR 3.0 million personal contribution by Khawaja Masood Sahib
- PKR 2.0 million by Mr. Majid Raza Bhutta Sahib

These cheques were deposited in the presence of Khawaja Masood Sahib to Mian Asif (former IG KPK). Confirmation of deposit was verbally received.

In addition, a commitment of PKR 22 million was announced in the name of SCCI, of which PKR 7.7 million had already been received, while the balance was expected to be collected shortly.

The President further highlighted the alarming situation caused by the recent floods. He noted that the land was already flooded with water and further rains in the coming days could cause severe flooding. Areas such as Askari-II Housing Colony witnessed water up to 5 feet inside homes, resulting in property damage and at least one reported fatality due to electrocution from submerged UPS batteries.

He reported that:

- Diamond Housing Society remains completely under water, and evacuations were carried out with the help of tractors and the society's management.
- Cantt Avenue Society also required evacuation, which was facilitated through coordination with Rangers.
- Agricultural lands near Shahbaz Pul were submerged under 30 feet of water, causing destruction of crops, livestock, and infrastructure.

The President strongly criticized the Irrigation Department for breaching protective embankments of the Chenab River at three points without prior warning, which caused sudden flooding of villages and loss of livestock and assets. He emphasized that timely announcements through mosques, police, media, and digital channels could have saved lives and properties. He appreciated the efforts of the local administration and volunteers in managing evacuations and relief despite limited resources, but stressed that better preparedness could have prevented much of the damage. He expressed gratitude to the Executive Body of SCCI for their immediate financial commitments. He appealed to members to contribute further through donations, zakat, and sadaqat, even in advance from next year's allocations, given the extraordinary circumstances. He reminded that during past floods, up to PKR 120 million had been raised on a single call.

Mr. Malik Naseer Ahmed suggested procuring ration packages from reputed suppliers (e.g., Chase Plus) at special discounted rates. He emphasized that while the distribution of cooked food was beneficial, ration packages were often a more practical solution for displaced households, particularly those with cooking arrangements.

The President informed the house that assistance could be extended in the following two ways:

- Ration Packages – For families who were still living in their homes but require support, ration packages might be provided.

- Cooked Food Distribution – Cooked food would be prepared, packed in individual boxes, and distributed strictly on the basis of verified numbers. For instance, if 15 Div. reported that 1,000 persons were being maintained in a particular area, exactly 1,000 meal boxes would be supplied accordingly.

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| **Participants** | The President, Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi, Mr. Omer Khalid, Malik Abdul Ghafoor, Syed Ahtesham Mazhar, Mr. Amer Mahmood, Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam, Malik Naseer Ahmed and Amer Rashid Wyne. |
| **Approval** | Approved. |

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| **11. Point discussed.** | Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Labor Laws held on August 11, 2025. |

Discussion:

The President briefed the house regarding labour laws. He informed the members that the Secretary Labour, Punjab, had recently visited, with some members also present on that occasion. He explained that the same objections were raised before the Secretary as had earlier been presented to the Government of Punjab, particularly concerning the new draft labour law. This draft had been circulating for the past eight years without approval and was now referred to the HR and Labour Committee of Punjab, chaired by MPA Mr. Faisal Khokhar, described as a knowledgeable, cooperative, and sensible person.

The President shared that upon learning about this draft, he, along with Mr. Majid Raza Bhutta and Khawaja Masood Akhtar, met Mr. Mansha Ullah Butt and submitted the 350-page document with a briefing. Mr. Bhutta and Mr. Masood supported the presentation, with Mr. Masood also providing a comparison between the previous labour law and the proposed draft, highlighting significant changes. The draft, prepared by an NGO appointed by the ILO, contained several harsh provisions, including 12 conditions under which a factory owner could be arrested. It carried numerous clauses enabling harassment of employers. For example:-

- Workers could file telephonic complaints regarding forced labour, minimum wages, gratuity, or bonuses, and the Labour Officer would have the authority to register an FIR.
- Penalties could reach up to PKR 28 million, with Labour Officers empowered to impose unit-based fines.
- Labour Officers could enter workplaces, interview workers, and pressurize management, even facilitating union formation against employers' will.
- The draft recommended increasing annual leave from 14 to 21 days, mandatory gratuity for establishments with 20 or more employees, and requiring 2% of business profit to be contributed to the Workers Welfare Fund.

The President highlighted that these provisions posed serious risks of harassment and misuse. He strongly opposed the draft and questioned whether the ILO or any NGO had ever imposed such laws in any other country. If not, why was Pakistan being singled out? He warned that these measures appeared to be deliberate attempts to suppress Pakistan's economy and industry.

He further shared that during the briefing, Mr. Mansha Ullah Butt immediately contacted Mr. Faisal Khokhar, who acknowledged the seriousness of the issue. Mr. Khokhar emphasized that a 350-page draft could not be approved without careful review, otherwise it could result in consequences similar to the hasty approvals of FTR and EFS under IMF pressure. He assured that this draft must not be approved in its present form. Subsequently, Mr. Faisal Ikram MPA Punjab was officially added to the committee through notification, representing the industrialists of Sialkot.

The President also informed that a high-level delegation—including Khawaja Masood Akhatr, Mr. Majid Bhutta, Dr. Noman, and other senior leadership—would soon meet the committee to stress upon SCCI viewpoint, once relief activities from the floods were completed. He emphasized that this was a highly serious issue, as small worker complaints could easily lead to harassment of employers through arrests, fines, or repeated inspections. He urged that the draft should not merely be deferred but fully rejected in the Punjab Assembly, noting that Sindh had already rejected it earlier.

He further noted that Lahore, Faisalabad, and Rawalpindi Chambers had been informed and urged to take a joint stand on the issue. The upcoming proceedings of the Punjab Labour Committee would determine the fate of the draft, and all eyes were on its decision.

The President expressed gratitude to Mr. Mansha Butt for his facilitation and acknowledged Mr. Tariq Subhani, now holding a Punjab ministry portfolio related to revenue and land record modernization, who assured his support in ensuring that this draft would not simply be deferred but completely rejected.

The President concluded by stressing that this proposed labour law was even more dangerous than FTR or EFS, as it could paralyze businesses through continuous harassment based on frivolous complaints. He emphasized that it must be outrightly rejected for the survival and growth of industry in Punjab and Pakistan. The house also endorsed the President.

Mr. Sohail Masood appreciated the President for his efforts in taking up the matter with the concerned authorities. He remarked that if the issue was pursued with the same passion, positive results could be achieved.

The President requested the members to review the minutes of the Departmental Committee on Labor Laws meeting held on August 11, 2025, as all the details along with relevant clauses were included therein, which would assist them in better understanding of the matter.

The President stated that, in addition to earlier matters, discussions were also held with the Secretary Labour regarding the establishment of a Labour Colony. He mentioned the following:-

- It was demanded from the Secretary Labour that a Labour Colony be announced in Sialkot.
- The Secretary responded positively, assuring that the Government was ready to facilitate such a project. He explained that if private land became available, the Government would buy it out, and a Labour Colony would be established in Sialkot.

The President said that he drew Secretary Sb's attention to the Greater Sialkot Plan 2023–2043, already prepared by the Government of Punjab, in which the industrial and residential planning of the entire region had been clearly marked. He said that according to this point of view, first and foremost priority was the Sialkot Industrial Zone, already announced and approved by the Government of Punjab at Sahowala–Sambrial, and included as part of the official report.

The President got the House into confidence and shared that the Sialkot Industrial Zone was originally conceived during the tenure of former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in 2016, when Mr. Shahbaz Sharif was the Chief Minister. At that time, the Government, without any lobbying, recommendation, or demand from the business community, initiated the idea that each city's industrial future must be carefully planned. This was to prevent the unplanned, haphazard industrial clusters that had been causing serious problems related to environment, pollution, and waste management. He explained the following:-

- The Government of Punjab prepared a comprehensive and forward-looking plan, the Greater Sialkot Plan 2023–2043.
- The draft of this plan was available in his office for study by any Executive Body member.
- A grand meeting of the business community of Sialkot would soon be convened (after the current flood relief activities were over) to share the details of the plan.
- He emphasized that usually investments begin without proper planning, which later proved problematic. This Plan, however, ensured that future development up to 2043 should be systematic.

Syed Ahtesham Mazhar remarked that the proposed 2023–2043 Plan was not implemented.

The President replied with following ppoints:-

- Implementation had been in fact begun. Four industrial zones were recommended, of which Sialkot Industrial Zone at Sahowala (1,406 acres) was declared the first priority.
- The concept was approved, inception reports were prepared and approved by various institutions, and NESPAK was assigned the feasibility study, which was also approved.
- Mr. Hamza Shahbaz, during his short tenure as Chief Minister, exercised Section 4, meaning the Punjab Government acquired authority to utilize the land after parliamentary approval. This was done without any external pressure or recommendation, purely as a government initiative.

The President also shared the following: -

- The matter was now pending at Section 5. Despite efforts by Malik Abdul Ghafoor and his own persistent follow-ups for the past 11 months, the process was still delayed.
- He had repeatedly pressed the authorities to the extent and would try his best until Section 5 was finalized, as it was essential for Sialkot's industrial future.
- He briefed details to Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Sialkot and handed over a copy of the Greater Sialkot Plan 2023–2043, which even the DC was unaware of.
- He shared that 763 acres had already been unofficially booked by potential investors, with complete details (names, company, contact information, etc.) submitted to the DC's office.

The President then instructed Mr. Omair Nisar, Deputy Secretary to follow up the file and secure its diary number from the DC Office.

The President said that he further explained following to DC: -

- The Sialkot Industrial Zone was already booked plots "off the record" without an official announcement.
- If the Government formally announced Section 5 and allocated plots (either directly or via balloting), the Chamber could guarantee immediate bookings and installment payments from the business community.
- Development and construction would begin without delay, ensuring payback to the Government in line with its financial policy (two- or three-year installment plans).

- Investors, including the Chairman of PIEDMC, was consistently calling and pressing for this project.

The President also added that the Secretary Industry Punjab, Urban Unit, and PBIT were fully supportive of Sialkot Chamber's position.

He questioned why the Chief Minister was not prioritizing the project, but assured the House that efforts would continue through pressure-building and political engagement.

Syed Ahtesham Mazhar inquired whether the local political leadership also supported the project.

The President responded affirmatively and informed the House that during his meeting with the local leadership on the matter, they had given their approval and requested the Chief Secretary Punjab for urgent initiation of Section 5. He noted that at one stage, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz was scheduled to visit the Sialkot Chamber to make a formal announcement; however, due to a change in her schedule, the visit was instead limited to GCG College. Since then, the Government had been engaged with multiple projects, a fact which he acknowledged without criticism.

The President further added the following: -

- The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), under the Chairmanship of General Sarfraz, had taken up the case of Sialkot Chamber.
- In March 2025, SIFC issued a written directive to the Chief Secretary Punjab and the Chief Minister Punjab, instructing that funds be allocated from the Annual Development Fund for two priorities:
    - Establishment of the Sialkot Industrial Zone.
    - Development of the Sialkot Sewerage System, which was directly linked to public health concerns, including high instances of kidney failure, hepatitis and cancer caused by contaminated water.
- SIFC further recommended the immediate allocation of resources and coordination with Sialkot Chamber, and a formal letter to this effect was provided to the Chamber.

The President assured the House that persistent efforts would continue until the proposed initiatives of Industrial Zone was fully implemented.

Mr. Sohail Masood remarked that it seemed the Government was planning to shift the industrial zone to another location.

Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik briefed the house regarding the Greater Sialkot Plan 2023–2043. He stated that the project had already been designed and approved by the local government. However, following the change of government, the plan was placed under review, not only for Sialkot but also for several other cities where similar "Greater Plan" projects had been proposed. He further informed that Ms. Maryam Nawaz, Chief Minister Punjab had remarked that she would personally re-examine the matter. At present, the project remained pending with the government. Despite various efforts, whether through the Secretary or the Minister, no substantial progress appears likely at this stage. He added that:

- The Minister of Industries was not currently on board with the project.
- The Chief Minister had indicated that the plan would be reconsidered and revised.
- In light of the new situation caused by recent floods, the government intended to re-evaluate the establishment of industrial zones across Punjab, to determine

the most suitable cities and allocate land accordingly.

- Consequently, there was a strong possibility that the entire project perhaps be revised once again.

The President elaborated on the matter, particularly the use of the word "*perhaps*" regarding possible revisions. He mentioned the following: -

- The Greater Sialkot Plan was a final draft approved by the Parliament and endorsed by the entire Sialkot business and industrial community after extensive deliberation and planning.
- This draft was the outcome of a broad consensus and must be recognized as such. He stressed that any attempt to create controversy around the project was largely based on rumors and misinformation.

He clarified several objections that had been raised in the past:

- Stay Orders:
  It had been claimed that court stay orders existed on the project. However, when he personally verified this with the concerned authorities and political leadership, it was confirmed that no stay order existed.
- Flooded Land:
  Another objection was that the proposed site was on flooded land. NESPAK conducted a feasibility study, and based on their recommendation, the area was properly demarcated with concrete walls and safeguards to address potential risks.
- Green Area vs. Purple Area:
  It was also alleged that the land fell under a green area. Upon thorough examination, it was confirmed that the site was actually categorized as a purple area (industrial use zone). The President stated that he had personally clarified this matter in government circles and local leadership.

He expressed grief that such rumors and baseless objections were spread within Sialkot's own leadership circles, where people accepted gossip without verification and further conveyed it, creating unnecessary confusion.

The President further explained that objections regarding traffic congestion were also unfounded, since the project site was located outside the city limits. He demonstrated through reports and plans that the Ring Road project would facilitate traffic flow and that industrial traffic would remain outside the city.

The President recalled that after thorough briefings and reports, he, along with several key stakeholders, including Khawaja Masood, Majid Raza Bhutta, Mirza Tahir Saleem, Mr. Ijaz Bhatti, Mr. Faisal Ikram, Mr. Toheed Akhtar and others met with Khawaja Muhammad Asif, who, after listening to all sides, gave a green signal to the project.

He emphasized that most of the land allotments (approximately 250–300 acres out of 800 acres) had already been accepted by major industrialists and business leaders, each holding significant area of plots. They had clearly expressed their consent, stating that they did not wish to relocate elsewhere and were committed to this plan.

As a result, Khawaja Muhammad Asif immediately called the Chief Secretary Punjab and directed him to proceed with the necessary action. The President expressed confidence that the Chief Secretary and the provincial government still stood with Sialkot's business community, as no revised statement or objection had since been issued by the authorities.

Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik responded and elaborated on the matter of the Industrial

Zone. "He stated that Khawaja Asif Sahib was standing with the business community of Sialkot regarding this matter, as had been mentioned by the President. He informed the house that Mr. Mohsin Naqvi had convened a meeting in Gujranwala, in which the Sialkot Chamber was also invited. During that meeting, colleagues suggested that it was an excellent opportunity, since both Mr. Mohsin Naqvi and the Chief Secretary were present, to request them to expedite the process of Section 4, which had already been issued for the Industrial Zone. All the prominent figures, including Khawaja Masood, Mr. Majid Raza Bhutta, and other colleagues were present in that meeting with Mr. Mohsin Naqvi. The Deputy Commissioner, Sialkot, was also present, and upon his request, he was kind enough to facilitate a separate short meeting with Mr. Mohsin Naqvi. In that meeting, I (Mr. Abdul Ghafoor), along with Mr. Umair Nisar presented the relevant file. (it could be confirmed from Mr. Umair). I explained to Mr. Mohsin Naqvi that Section 4 had already been approved and now needed to be converted to Section 5 in order to proceed further. I also highlighted the role of NESPAK, the studies conducted, and other related matters, as mentioned by the President. Mr. Mohsin Naqvi agreed with the representation and immediately handed the file to the Chief Secretary. However, the Chief Secretary, somewhat critically, responded with following comments: -

*"Once again, the people of Sialkot have brought forward a Real Estate Project. You people always seem to be working on real estate schemes."* These were his exact words. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor also remarked that to this day, the same Chief Secretary continued to hold that position.

The President clarified about misconceptions and mentioned the following: -

- The project was not a real estate scheme but an Industrial Estate, officially announced by the Government of Punjab.
- The provided list comprises exporters and manufacturers, covering 763 acres.
- The list had been formally submitted to the Chief Secretary; request for a meeting with the Chief Minister was pending.

The President acknowledged the efforts of Malik Sahib, on whose efforts he was following up. He emphasized the long-standing desire to establish an Industrial Zone for future requirements. He also discussed on the importance of industrial zone and remarked the following:-

- Solution for certification requirements, waste management, traffic congestion, and industrial clustering.
- Industrial Zone would provide green environment, waste treatment plant, water treatment plant, underground electricity, and carbon footprint reduction.
- Certification compliance in the next 5–10 years would only be possible within an Industrial Zone.

The President discussed on the project of Sialkot Tanneries Zone (STZ) and shared that:-

- LWG Certification deadline was31 December 2025.
- Without LWG-certified tanneries, leather could not be used for export manufacturing.
- 125 tanneries under construction; over 70% work was completed.
- 10 tanneries were operational with solar energy support.
- Grid station funding secured through grants, loans, and EDF schemes; completion expected by November 2025.
- Waste & water treatment plant (UNIDO-supported, Rs. 1.25 billion) being solarized; system expected operational within 1.5–2 months.
- Chamber repurchased plots at Rs. 150,000 per marla.

- Re-allotted at Rs. 125,000 per marla plus Rs. 25,000 for development expenses.

He also discussed on the Sialkot Export Processing Zone (EPZ) and said that same strict control as in Tanneries Zone: no unauthorized sales was allowed. Mr. Asghar Ali Rana as new Chairman of Committee had been appointed. He was a very wise, hardworking and capable person. It had been working closely with PSIC, EPZA, Ministry of Industries, and other authorities.

The President affirmed that all ongoing projects would be carried forward until transformed into success stories. He stressed that the government must be strongly advised not to derail the process after years of progress and investment. Should new planning be required, it must be undertaken in consultation with the Chamber to ensure continuity and effectiveness.

Mr. Adnan Safdar requested the President to share the proposal that had been put forward to make the SEPZ operational.

The President explained that it was proposed that all penalties should be waived, all fines withdrawn, and a grace period of two years be granted to every allottee for construction purposes. Construction activities should be allowed, and all pending matters, already identified in the past, should be implemented and completed.

As an alternative, the President stated that if this proposal was not acceptable, the project should be handed over to the private sector. In that case, the private sector would take responsibility for developing and completing the project without paying any penalties or bearing any expenses. Instead, they would raise funds from within the Board of Directors (BOD) and ensure that the project was made operational and fully functional.

Syed Ahtesham Mazhar inquired about the refund from members which had been paid from the account of Sialkot Chamber to pursue the EPZ case on their behalf.

The President explained that funds were initially arranged by the Chamber, with Rs. 20,000 per allottee later distributed among members to cover the lawyer's fee. Despite repeated calls and emails, many members did not pay, although around 16–18 had agreed to contribute collectively. He said that the Chamber's legal position remained strong, with the stay order confirmed.

President said that, as mentioned by Mr. Abdul Ghafoor, there was a concern that the Minister of Industries, Punjab, had not been taken on board. The President clarified that this was not the case. He explained that he had formally informed the Minister through number of letters and had also personally briefed him over telephone calls, during which the Minister expressed his support. The President elaborated that, during his telephonic conversation, it became evident that the Minister was previously unaware of this project. However, he raised no objections. The President added that if the Minister had any reservations, these should be discussed in a meeting. For this purpose, an appointment had already been requested from the Ministry of Industry.

Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik asked the President whether he had accompanied him in the meeting held with the Ministry of Industry during the last days of his tenure.

The President replied that he had not attended that meeting, and confirmed that he had accompanied Mr. Malik only in the meeting with the Deputy Commissioner (DC).

Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik then stated that in the meeting with the Ministry of Industry, Mr. Majid Raza Bhutta, Mr. Khawar Anwar Khawaja, and Khawaja Masood Akhtar accompanied him. He elaborated that, during that meeting, the Industrial Zone project had been discussed with the Minister, who responded positively. Although the Minister initially expressed that he was not fully aware of the project, he was advised to consult the Chairman of of PIEDMC. The Minister then immediately contacted the of PIEDMC Chairman, who at first indicated that there was no such project under process. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor further explained that he had clarified to the Chairman that the case was already approved and pending in their office. The following day, the Chairman acknowledged and assured that the matter would be tabled in the upcoming Board meeting for approval.

The President added that subsequently, the Minister had given clear assurances of his support, even though two of the follow-up meetings were postponed. However, in his personal meeting with the Minister, the latter assured him with 100% certainty that the project would move forward. The Minister encouraged preparation of a draft for Section 5 and discussions with the political leadership, reaffirming that the Ministry was ready to support it.

The President further informed that detailed discussions and brainstorming sessions were also held with of PIEDMC officials and their technical team, including NESPAK, both in the Chamber and at of PIEDMC. During these sessions, the site plan was discussed, minor changes were suggested, and the project was declared as positive and ready to proceed. The President emphasized that, in his view, there was no negativity or obstacle remaining except for rumors or alternate choices. He stressed that unless a different project or proposal was formally endorsed by this House or demanded by the business community, the original Industrial Zone project should continue. He assured the members that as long as he remained in office, he would not step back from this initiative.

The President also highlighted the importance of this project for export growth, resolution of sewage, traffic congestion, pollution control, and future certification requirements. He noted that if a new Industrial Zone was to be initiated elsewhere, it would not offer the same facilities and integrated planning as this one, which had already been approved and designed.

Mr. Iqbal Asad appreciated the efforts of both Presidents, acknowledging their tireless dedication in pursuing this project. He emphasized that establishing a Wastewater Treatment Plant on an individual basis was practically impossible, as such infrastructure could only operate effectively within a designated Industrial Zone. He further noted that, similar to the practices followed by institutions such as of PIEDMC, the sale and purchase of industrial plots remained restricted, and an exit policy was enforced.

The President stated that, under the Greater Sialkot Plan, the Government had prioritized four projects. The first priority was the establishment of the Industrial Zone in Sialkot. The second was at Daska, along the canal, where the location and land records (khasra, khata, etc.) had already been identified and documented. The third was at Pasroor Road, where the necessary details, including land area, records, and demarcations, were similarly available. The fourth priority was at the Sambrial–Kharian Motorway, located approximately 15 to 20 kilometers from Sialkot, where complete details such as land demarcations, khasra numbers, and area had also been recorded. The President emphasized that these projects fall under the Government's Golden Triangle framework and form an integral part of Sialkot's development plan. He added that, once implemented, they would prove to be the most viable and practical options, fully aligned with the requirements of urban, rural, and industrial planning.

Mr. Salman Majeed remarked that it was indeed unfortunate that, despite the substantial amount of tax being contributed from Sialkot, the city was not being facilitated in the same proportion. He emphasized the importance of establishing an

Industrial Zone, not only from the perspective of infrastructure but also in view of global technological advancements. He explained that, if land was made available at affordable rates, the saved resources could instead be invested in technology and machinery. At present, the situation was not comparable to that of developed urban centers, where high land prices often restrict such investments. He therefore requested that this important aspect also be included in the proposal.

The President, while responding to the point raised by Mr. Salman regarding the rights and facilitation of Sialkot, explained that the Engineering and Applied Sciences University was a joint initiative of the Punjab Government and the Federal Government, with an agreed investment share of 50% each. Punjab contributed nearly Rs. 2.75 billion and even exceeded its committed share by an additional 5–7%. As a result, the grey structure of the buildings had already been completed.

He further stated that, under the original plan, the university was to comprise six-story buildings (six plus one). However, construction was halted at three plus one story, as the Federal Government failed to release its committed funds and, at present, shows no intention of doing so. To complete and operationalize the project, an estimated Rs. 12 billion was still required. The President expressed regret that, after 78 years, Sialkot was finally granted its first Engineering and Applied Sciences University.

Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik remarked that if projects were completed on time, Pakistan would make significant progress. He emphasized that the main issue was not the initiation of projects, but their inability to reach timely completion, or in some cases, being left unfinished. He recalled that the Sialkot Chamber had played a vital role in the conception of the Greater Sialkot Plan. At that time, during the tenure of Mr. Abdullah Khurram Niazi as Deputy Commissioner, the Chamber was consulted on the proposals. A contract was awarded to Dr. Hafiz Syed Niazi (PhD) to prepare the plan, and 4–5 meetings were held, in this regard. He further explained that the idea was to plan industrial clusters in the four corners of Sialkot, such as the Industrial Zone, Daska side, and Pasroor side, so that industries could be shifted out of the congested city.

The President added that this concept had originally emerged in 2016.

Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik clarified that while the concept belonged to that period, its formal draft was prepared a few years later.

The President then stated that, as highlighted by Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, the Chamber had given its input in the plan, and therefore there was no reason for the Chamber to step back from it now.

He also briefed the house regarding the Engineering University project. He informed that the Commissioner Gujranwala had personally contacted him, mentioning the following: -

"On behalf of the Government of Punjab and the Federal Government, I am requesting you to take this project into a Public–Private Partnership model. I am ready to visit the Sialkot Chamber to provide a detailed briefing on the model being proposed. The Chamber may take over and lead the project if it wishes."

The President mentioned that to better understand the matter, he consulted several former Presidents and donors who had been involved in similar projects in the past. However, many expressed reluctance, and preferred not to take responsibility again.

He added that Mr. Khawaja Masood Akhtar had nominated a foreign investor for this purpose. In this regard, Zoom meetings were held, during which the investors expressed keen interest in the project.

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| Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi inquired why the Federal Government was not interested in funding the project. The President responded that the Federal Government had remained silent on the matter, as the said project was not included in their priority list.<br><br>The President stated that he had been advised to contact Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman regarding the Engineering University. He requested **Mr. Umair Nisar to write a letter to Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman, after obtaining the consent of Mr. Majid Raza Bhutta and Mr. Khawaja Masood Akhtar.**<br><br>Mr. Sohail Masood inquired from the President regarding the hospital project that had been signed in Qatar with a company.<br><br>The President responded that he while representing the Chamber, while Mr. Khawaja Masood, as Chairman of SMCL, was directly engaged in the matter. He explained that the project involved a Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of approximately Rs. 70 billion under an MoU, and a feasibility study was to be conducted. The investors had already given their green signal for the feasibility, and the Chamber had requested them to release the required funds so that tenders could be called and shortlisting of firms could be done. The President further added that if the investors wished to execute the project, they would have to become a part of it alongside the Chamber. Due to various procedural matters, the project had faced delays; however, he expressed hope that the matter would be finalized by September 2025. | |
| **Participants** | The President, Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi, Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Mr. Sohail Masood, Syed Ahtesham Mazhar, Mr. Adnan Safdar. And Mr. Salman Sheikh. |
| **Approval** | Approved. |

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| **12. Point discussed.** | Approval of report of seminar on SEO Tools & Keywords Research to Ranking held on July 26, 2025. |
| **Approval** | Approved |

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| **13. Point discussed.** | Approval of minutes of meeting on visit of Maj. Gen. Farrukh Shahzad Rao, DG, National Logistics Corporation (NLC) & Mr. Farrukh Alam, Vice President, DP World held on August 07, 2025. |
| **<u>Discussion:</u>**<br><br>Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi provided a detailed update, explaining that a project titled Pakistan Mart was currently under development within the Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority (JAFZA) in Dubai. He stated that this project followed a model similar to the Chinese Dragon Mart, which was already operational, and the Indian Bharat Mart, which was currently in the planning phase.<br><br>Mr. Lodhi highlighted that DP World (Dubai Port World) had allocated premium land specifically for Pakistan's use. However, due to financial constraints, the Government of Pakistan declined to invest in the project. Consequently, DP World had undertaken the investment independently. Following this decision, DP World approached the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) to seek stakeholder input regarding warehousing and operational requirements.<br><br>Mr. Lodhi informed that the Chamber provided positive feedback, after which DP World organized a series of stakeholder engagement seminars, starting from Sialkot, followed by Lahore, and concluding in Karachi. The CEO of DP World personally attended these sessions, informing participants that businesses would have the flexibility to choose their preferred models and unit types, which could be constructed and made available on a rental basis within 12 months. | |

He further clarified that:

- Multiple companies could jointly acquire a single unit if they wished.
- Businesses could obtain light engineering and trading licenses to operate directly from Dubai.
- DP World briefed participants on taxation structures and operational procedures applicable within JAFZA.

Mr. Lodhi informed that the Chamber had circulated this information to its members, inviting interested businesses to join a webinar scheduled for the 4th of the month. This session would be hosted at the Chamber premises, with remote participation options available. The objective was to provide comprehensive awareness, enable cross-questioning, and clarify operational challenges, associated costs, and potential benefits.

Mr. Salman Sheikh said that the Dragon Mart in Dubai primarily consisted of retail shops and operated as a retail market.

Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi responded by clarifying that Pakistan Mart would not be restricted to retail activities. It would include showrooms, warehousing facilities, and even light engineering units for manufacturing, depending on business requirements. Units of various sizes would be available to accommodate businesses of different scales.

Mr. Lodhi informed that DP World had invited the Executive Committee of the Chamber to form a delegation to visit Dubai. This visit would allow stakeholders to observe the operations of the Chinese Dragon Mart firsthand, assess its model, and identify potential challenges. Based on this understanding, the delegation would be better positioned to evaluate the project's feasibility for Pakistani businesses.

He concluded that, following the upcoming webinar, if a sufficient number of members express interest, a formal delegation would be organized to visit Dubai and explore opportunities further.

Mr. Sohail Masood inquired whether similar centers were being developed in Lahore or Karachi.

Mr. Lodhi responded that a warehouse facility opposite NLC in Lahore was already operational. He also shared that additional warehousing facilities were planned for Sialkot, particularly near the Kharian Motorway, to further support regional businesses.

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| **Participants** | Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi, Syed Ahtesham Mazhar, Mr. Murad Arshad, Mr. Salman Sheikh and Mr. Sohail Masood. |
| **Approval** | Approved. |

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| **14. Point discussed.** | Approval of Report of Session by Azad Chaiwala held on August 19, 2025. |

**Discussion:**

The President stated that Chai Wala had initially approached the business community in Sialkot through mutual friends, who spoke highly of him and recommended that he be given an opportunity to engage with the Chamber. These respected businessmen personally requested the President to host him, acknowledging his contribution and following in Sialkot.

The President informed the house that, acting on this recommendation, he forwarded the matter to the SME Committee with instructions to arrange an event and extend an invitation to Chai Wala. At the time, the President himself was occupied with multiple meetings in Islamabad.

The event was successfully organized at the Sialkot Chamber, where there was a large gathering, the hall was filled to capacity, and even the back room was occupied. Upon Chai Wala's arrival he along with members of the Committee presented him with flowers as a gesture of respect. However, he declined, remarking:

"I will not accept flowers. I am not a girl. I am not delicate."

The President stated that this remark was inappropriate and offensive, yet we absorbed it with patience and chose not to react.

Furthermore, during playing of the National Anthem, Chai Wala did not stand up immediately, rising only halfway through the anthem. He later remarked that he had stood merely to avoid embarrassing the hosts twice, once for not accepting the flowers.

The President emphasized that such remarks were unacceptable. He decided to stop the meeting at that point; however, several members and friends requested him to allow the program to continue, as Chai Wala was a guest of the Chamber. As a mark of protest, the President said that he left the meeting. The President said that he reported that, in his absence, someone from the audience chanted "Pakistan Zindabad," to which Chai Wala allegedly made following remarks:-

"Why say Pakistan Zindabad? What kind of Pakistan is this? The roads I drove on were filthy, the traffic was terrible — this is not a Pakistan to say Zindabad for."

The President noted that such controversial statements were unacceptable. Raja Saqib and other executive members, including Sheikh Shahid, strongly objected to Chai Wala's words and addressed him with patience and dignity.

Later, when Chai Wala came to meet him in his office, he (President) did not offer him a seat. Instead, he stood at the door and conveyed that his words and behavior were inappropriate and would be remembered. The President emphasized that one must never speak ill of the country or insult the dignity of others' parents. He demanded the Chai Wala to apologize, which he did verbally six times. The President said that during this time he also received a call questioning why such an individual had been invited in the Chamber.

The President stated that, upon conclusion of the program, he had issued a formal statement condemning Chai Wala's remarks and conduct, which was subsequently shared on social media.

**He requested the house to formally record its disapproval of the incident and called for a complete boycott of Chai Wala. Furthermore, he proposed that the meeting minutes pertaining to Chai Wala's visit be expunged from the Chamber's official proceedings, with a note affirming that the Chamber had no place for individuals or ideas that undermine the dignity of Pakistan.**

**The house unanimously agreed with this decision.**

Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam stated that, just as he himself had gained much from the Chamber, he believed that Chai Wala had also benefitted from the experience. He noted that, in the beginning, Chai Wala had used the term chawal, which was considered quite derogatory. However, he guided him to use the phrase "non-serious people" or "non-serious suppliers" instead. He also advised that it would have been better for Chai Wala to study the Chamber in advance before visiting. Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam further remarked that Chai Wala appeared to have learned

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| something valuable from the interaction. "I gave him a detailed lecture," he said, "and I am confident that, Insha'Allah, he will pray for this Chamber in the future for helping him gain a better understanding of these matters."<br><br>Mr. Aamer Mahmood said that the President had earlier issued a very strong and commendable note on social media. He suggested that, for the future, a Code of Conduct should be introduced, whereby any invited speaker would first sign and acknowledge it.<br><br>The President replied that such a step was not feasible, as asking a guest in advance to sign such a document could itself be seen as a matter of disgrace. Instead, he suggested that if any inappropriate action were to occur during a session, the proceedings should be immediately closed at that point.<br><br>Mr. Sohail Masood endorsed this view, agreeing that while advance restrictions could be disrespectful, closing the session on the spot would be a more appropriate response.<br><br>The President further said that perhaps the members had thought the same when he himself had desired to close the session. He recalled that Mr. Muhammad Ejaz Ghauree had cautioned that such action could create a negative impression of the Chamber.<br><br>Mr. Muhammad Iqbal Asad remarked that "Chai Wala" was not well-educated and might have incidentally become a speaker. |

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| **Participants** | The President, Sheikh Muhammad Shahid Inam, Mr. Sohail Masood, Mr. Muhammad Iqbal Asad and Mr. Aamer Mahmood |
| **Approval** | **Disapproved/Deleted from the Record.** |

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| **15. Point discussed.** | Approval of minutes of meeting on visit of Ch. Tariq Subhani, Chairman, Punjab Land Records Authority and DG, PLRA, held on August 22, 2025. |
| **Approval** | Approved. |

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| **16. Point discussed.** | Approval of report of Fundraising Event for Flood Affectees held on August 23, 2025. |
| **Approval** | Approved. |

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| **17. Point discussed.** | Approval of Report of Awareness Seminar on Digital Invoicing System of FBR held on August 25, 2025. |
| **<u>Discussion:</u>**<br><br>Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi emphasized the need to take the FBR's Digital Invoicing System seriously. He explained that the system had already created certain complications and was likely to become more challenging, as FBR began imposing penalties for non-compliance effective 1st September. He clarified that, although the impact on exporters was relatively limited, since they are registered as both importers and exporters, the requirements still apply to them. The greater burden, however, falls on local traders from whom exporters purchase goods. Mr. Lodhi informed that Mr. Imran Ali Rana had spoken with the Commissioner, who assured that no notices would be issued to exporters for non-compliance. Nevertheless, he stressed the importance of reviewing the matter seriously once again to prevent future issues. He further noted that private companies responsible for developing SOPs had completed their work, but PRAL (Pakistan Revenue Automation Ltd.) was not providing necessary cooperation. A few other companies had also approached them, offering software | |

solutions at very nominal rates for instance, around PKR 150 per month for up to ten invoices. Mr. Lodhi added that, once sandbox testing was approved, digital invoice generation will become possible, forming the basis for refund processing for exporters.

The President stated that a meeting of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was held yesterday under the instructions of the Prime Minister, who had directed that such interaction meetings with important Chambers be held monthly. He informed that the Sialkot Chamber was part of this interaction and that he attended the meeting via Zoom. Mr. Umair Nisar, Deputy Secretary, was also present online. He said that during the meeting, the Chairman FBR informed that the deadline for filing returns would likely be extended as a facilitation measure, allowing matters to proceed smoothly through November and December. He further mentioned that the submission date for Income Tax Returns was also likely to be extended until December. However, he advised that those whose returns were finalized should submit them without delay.

Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi emphasized that members should submit their returns under the NTR regime.

The President clarified that matters related to the FTR and EFS were not part of the meeting agenda, as General Sarfraz did not chair the session. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Bilal Kayani, Minister of State for Finance, together with the Chairman FBR. Nonetheless, two or three Chambers, including Sialkot Chamber, raised issues related to FTR.

He observed that, so far, most facilitation measures have been directed towards large industries and major Chambers, whereas the SME sector and specifically the recommendations of the Sialkot Chamber had not been adequately addressed. The FBR representatives assured that this matter would be taken up in detail in the next meeting to assess what facilitation could be extended to exporters Sialkot and the SME sector.

The President noted that the facilitation discussed so far seems to favor large industrial units, both in terms of the FTR and EFS regimes, whereas many Chambers wished to remain under the NTR system. He added that one major Chamber raised the concern that although FTR had been discontinued and NTR implemented, the government continued to deduct tax at the FTR rate of 2%, and requested that this anomaly be rectified.

The President remarked that while this was also a matter of concern for the Sialkot Chamber, they refrained from demanding the restoration of FTR, as such a stance could be interpreted as opposing NTR. Instead, they emphasized that if tax deductions continued at FTR rates, the government should have no objection to confirming FTR arrangements.

He reminded the FBR Chairman of the Chamber’s earlier proposal for 1.5% rate, which he described as negotiable, and reiterated the Chamber’s willingness to sit with the authorities to work out a mutually acceptable arrangement. He acknowledged that full restoration of FTR might not be possible due to IMF conditions, but urged that a comparable mechanism be devised for the benefit of the SME sector.

The FBR representatives assured that this facilitation would be taken up in detail in the next major meeting.

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| **Participants** | The President and Mr. Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi. |
| **Approval** | Approved. |

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| **18. Point discussed.** | Approval of minutes of meeting with Mr. Rashid Iqbal, Chief Executive Officer, Pakistan Britain Business Council held on August 26, 2025. |

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| **Approval** | Approved. |

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| **19. Point discussed.** | Approval of minutes of meeting of the Departmental Committee on Human Resource held on August 27, 2025. |

**Discussion:**

The President stated that the HR meeting had been called to address the status of several employees who were either undergoing training, serving on professional contracts, or had ongoing contracts. A detailed discussion was held regarding their future status, and feedback and recommendations were sought from the Secretariat.

After reviewing the recommendations, following decision were taken:-

1. Mr. M. Shahban cashier was performing satisfactorily and had proven to be reliable. He was called again for an interview, during which it was communicated that, if confirmed, he would be expected to remain associated with the organization for a minimum of three years. The President said that it was observed that in recent years, qualified candidates for the cashier's position had generally not remained with the organization for long. Typically, after probation, such employees were issued contracts, but many left once they got permanent employment elsewhere. To avoid the disruption of repeatedly extending contracts, it was decided that such employees would be made permanent after completing their probation period, thereby ensuring greater stability for the organization. He said that it was further decided that a written declaration would be obtained from the cashier, signed on stamp paper, committing to work with the organization for at least three years. In return, his loyalty and performance would be recognized with a promotion.
2. Scale-1 employees were receiving very low salaries despite their long service. He recommended a reasonable salary increase for these employees, which was unanimously agreed. This adjustment particularly benefited the lowest-paid employees, such as sweepers, thereby improving their financial well-being.
3. Positions of one sweeper and the receptionist had also been reviewed. The President said that, as per legal requirements, all organizations, there must allocate 2% of their workforce to persons with disabilities. SCCI with 55 employees on the payroll was fully compliant with this requirement. The receptionist, who had initially been hired on a professional basis and was the sister of one of the operators, decided to continue under a one-year contract. This arrangement fulfilled the legal quota while also providing her with job security. The President added that the receptionist lived in a rented house, was undergoing medical treatment, and yet continued to perform her duties. The Chamber had supported her employment to enable her to meet her personal and medical expenses.
4. Mr. Mohsin Murtaza, Membership Assistant had been promoted in next Scale i.e NPS 1 7 as Assistant Secretary Membership.
5. Salary of Mr. M. Husnain, I.T Technician had been enhanced due to his excellent performance i-e up to Rs: 67000/-.

Mr. Omer Khalid shared that Mr. Faraz and Mr. Husnain had jointly developed the Chamber's App and successfully executed it. He appreciated their efforts, stating that the App was fully secured and all functionalities had been locked within it. He congratulated both Mr. Fraz and Mr. Husnain on this achievement and recommended the house that a reward should be given to them.

Mr. Salman Sheikh requested the President to provide clarification regarding the status of contract and permanent employees of the Chamber.

Mr. Omer Khalid stated that there were certain issues related to allowances in this

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| matter. | |
| **Participants** | The President, Mr. Omer Khalid and Mr. Salman Sheikh. |
| **Approval** | Approved. |

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| **21. Point discussed.** | Approval of minutes of meetings of the Departmental Committee on Membership/Bye-Laws held on August 21 and 28, 2025 |

**Discussion:**

The President stated that 948 Associate and 10 Corporate companies were registered this month, which was a matter of great satisfaction as it had generated significant revenue for the Chamber. However, he expressed his concern and said that despite this achievement, he was deeply worried. He pointed out that for the past years, even during the tenure of the previous President Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, the registrations had been consistently around 600 to 800 per month, sometimes even exceeding 1,000 which in his view was creating a bubble that could burst at any time. He observed that for the past two and a half years, memberships had been increasing continuously, but no corresponding success stories had been developed. Many of these members were unable to become entrepreneurs, and the majority were simply engaged in import/export. He further stated that he had been raising this issue at every forum, warning the Government that once this bubble burst, these people might take to the streets, creating a situation that would be difficult to control.

Syed Ahtesham Mazhar inquired why so many people were seeking memberships.

The President replied that people were establishing companies and struggling on their own, without much opportunity available in the prevailing environment, only they knew what challenges they were facing.

Syed Ahtesham Mazhar further asked what the Sialkot Chamber should do in this situation.

The President replied that he had been continuously urging the Government to create opportunities, provide support, and introduce an industrial policy. He lamented that the current budget had no provisions for export promotion, technology development, women entrepreneurs, or young entrepreneurs. He emphasized that this was what the Chamber had been fighting for, policies to empower women and young entrepreneurs, which were completely missing from the budget.

Syed Ahtesham Mazhar then asked whether there was any fraudulent activity involved in obtaining memberships.

The President categorically denied this.

Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik remarked that the Government had not provided any export policy in the budget.

The President agreed and said that had there been such a policy, they could have expected some benefit for the members. As things stood, the members were completely unsupported. He further added that not everyone could shift to the IT sector, and as a result, many members might resort to shortcuts if opportunities were not created.

Mr. Sohail Masood informed the house that the Sialkot Chamber was currently facing a shortage of space to store membership files. He suggested that an online system be introduced, similar to other institutions, where the membership files were returned to the applicant for personal recordkeeping.

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| The President replied that, as per the SOPs and TORs, it was compulsory for the Chamber to keep the membership files in order to verify documents if needed. He acknowledged Mr. Sohail Masood's point and added that the basement of the Chamber building was already filled with files, and floodwater had once entered the basement, causing significant damage.<br><br>Mr. Sohail Masood reiterated that a policy should be formulated to address this issue.<br><br>The President concluded by saying that the solution lay in the implementation of an e-filing system, but unfortunately, the Government still required records to be kept in hard copy form. | |
| **Participants** | The President, Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Syed Ahtesham Mazhar and Mr. Sohail Masood. |
| **Approval** | Approved. |

**<u>Any Other Point</u>**

**22.** The President said that Ms. Nida, Coordinator, was presently undergoing medical treatment. When he assumed charge, it was the established practice that funds for such cases were provided after approval from the Executive Body. Accordingly, her treatment was initiated and continued to date.

The Accounts Department raised an objection, noting that the Chamber contributed 50% for outpatient treatment and 100% for admitted patients. In Ms. Nida's case, she had not been admitted to the hospital but continued to receive treatment on an outpatient basis.

The President further observed that Ms. Nida remained committed to her duties despite her condition, frequently adjusting her treatment schedule to fulfill her responsibilities and accompany him for official tasks as required. Her doctors had advised her to rest as much as possible while continuing treatment.

In view of her dedication and the seriousness of her illness, the President requested the Executive Committee to approve full funding for her medical treatment for at least one year, enabling her to receive the best possible care without financial constraints.

**The house unanimously approved the President's request for full funding of Ms. Nida's medical treatment for a period of one year, with effect from September 01, 2025, to August 30, 2026.**

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

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