

# DAILY MIRROR

Quetta  
Karachi

mirrorqta@gmail.com

Chief editor Syed Mumtaz Shah

Friday, May, 20, 2022

Shawal, 19, 1443

## "Balochistan SME Competitiveness Strategy will be instrumental for the promotion of businesses and economy in the province:" Abdul Lateef Kakar

### Press Release

Quetta: The Balochistan Department of Industries and Commerce (DoIC), in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC), held multistakeholder consultations in Quetta on 18 and 19 May as part of the provincial government's efforts to design Balochistan's first ever SME Competitiveness Strategy. More than 300 stakeholders from public and private stakeholders from 16 districts of Balochistan attended the 2-day consultations, covering both the north and south areas of the province.

The consultations are initiating the design of the Strategy, where SMEs from the agriculture, manufacturing, and services sector came together to assess SME performance in key economic sectors, key challenges, and opportunities, and ultimately contributed to prioritizing areas of intervention for the SME Strategy.

Quetta Chambers of Commerce President Fida Hussain Dashti said that "An SME Strategy that is aligned with the local context of Balochistan is a necessity for improving the business environment for the SMEs of the province." This was echoed by President Gwadar Chambers of Commerce Mr. Abdul Nagman, President Chaman Chambers of Commerce Haji Rehmat Ullah, and President Small Chambers Abdul Baqi Kakar who stated, "The Strategy will be a key driver for our established and emerging industries to be more globally competitive. We are pleased

that the Government of Balochistan is actively seeking to build an enabling ecosystem for SMEs growth, innovation and regional competitiveness."

Balochistan's SMEs provide 80% of non-agriculture employment and contribute 40% to the provincial GDP. By considering the quantitative and qualitative findings on the challenges and opportunities for the sector, a holistic strategy will ensure SMEs receive better support and services to expand their business, and create inclusive growth by enabling youth and women to be active in the work force.

Secretary Department of Industries and Commerce, Mr. Abdul Latif Kakar said, "Balochistan SME Competitiveness Strategy will be instrumental for the promotion of businesses and economy in the province." Secretary Planning and Development Mr. Abdullah Khan said, "Keeping in view the growing contributions of the SMEs to Balochistan's economy, there is no denying their essential contribution to domestic led growth, job creation and value creation. And yet, Balochistan's SMEs are deprived of necessary services that they need to grow such as finance and skills.

We are grateful to the European Union and International Trade Centre for facilitating us in developing the SME Competitiveness Strategy that considers the context of Balochistan which vastly differs from the other provinces of Pakistan." CEO BBoIT, Mr. Saeed Ahmed Sarparah shared these views.