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Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met visiting Senate delegation from Pakistan, for International Migration Review Forum at UN, New York.

"Balochistan SME Strategy instrumental for promotion of businesses: Kakar

By Our Reporter

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.

The SME Competitiveness Strategy will yield an action-oriented and precise framework, which does not stop at simply identifying broad objectives, but go into detailed activities, and targets, indicating exactly what needs to be done and by whom, within what time frame and with what resources. They will be instrumental in empowering the development of new policies, programmes, and support initiative to enhance SME competitiveness.

The objective is to develop a set of conducive ecosystems to strengthen and modernize Balochistan's SMEs, build up the entrepreneurship and innovation of the enterprises, and to reach SMEs across the

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Aurat F  
women

QUETTA: A non-governmental organization working for women and children in the country, has demanded that the government should guarantee the rights that women have under the constitution that work for the right of 50% reservation in the government system. The organization for women's rights in the local government of Balochistan has issued a statement with a platform. Yasmien said that she expressed her concerns with the government. Quetta PM M Mandok said while giving the response.

She said that the foundation with the support of the government of Pakistan has launched a campaign for the promotion of women's participation in the electoral process. She said that the foundation will be instrumental in empowering the development of new policies, programmes, and support initiative to enhance SME competitiveness.

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