

RECORDER REPORT

Revamping of industrial area, Minister asks SAI to propose infrastructure's master plan

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Haider Zaidi has advised SITE Association of Industry (SAI) to prepare a master plan proposal for total revamp of infrastructure in this industrial area.

The master plan proposal will be presented to the Federal Commerce Minister for provision of necessary funds. The funds will be released directly to SAI to spend on the improvement of infrastructure.

Speaking at a meeting of SAI, he assured his full support and cooperation to uplift the infrastructure of SITE area Ali Zaidi while expressing views on the proposal to hand over administrative control of Site Limited to SITE Association said that in the larger interest of Karachi he is ready to fight for the rights of Karachi as well as to boost industrial activities in the area.

He pledged to make his 'Clean Karachi' campaign a success at any cost. Under 'Name & Shame' slogan, the names and pictures of those making the city dirty by any means will be published in national dailies with the intention to make them feel embarrassed of what they did and remind them of their responsibilities.

SAI patron-in-chief Siraj Kassam Teli said together with politicians, the business community is also responsible for all the wrong doings. Now it's time to speak truth. He expressed dismay over the performance of SITE Limited and demanded to hand over its control to SITE Association of Industry. Teli further said Karachi pays 97 percent revenue collected by the Sindh Revenue Board (SRB) and if they stop paying taxes to SRB, 97 percent revenue will fall.

Zubair Motiwala expressing his views on the state of SITE area said heaps of garbage can be seen everywhere in the SITE area and in many areas and it is extremely difficult to reach factories.

The industrialists of the area have tired with government departments and brain drain is on increase. Karachi industries pay 2200 billion rupees revenue to the government but the city has never been given its due share for uplift of infrastructure. He demanded to stop step-motherly treatment with Karachi and urged the need of creating working environment.

SAI president Saleem Parekh in his welcome address said the industrialists pay various taxes to the SITE Limited but unfortunately, they are not provided with basic infrastructure facilities. Current position is that the SITE Limited doesn't have money to pay salaries to its staff.

He highlighted key issues of the area and said that 400 ton garbage accumulates in SITE area on daily basis out of which, the share of industries is 30pc while the rest of the garbage comes from adjoining residential areas.

SITE Limited has the capacity to lift only 40 ton garbage on daily basis. Referring to Sindh Solid Waste Management Board, Parekh said this body is practically 'orphan' and the industrialists were made fool in the name of engaging Chinese Contractor who were also provided open plot for vehicles parking by the Association. Now Chinese company has disappeared.

He suggested making provincial government a part of the campaign to make it a real success. SAI ex-president Jawed Bilwani demanded the federal government to take over the control of industrial estates of Karachi.

He said the new generation is not willing to take interest in industrial activities seeing the current state of industries. They prefer going abroad and our talent is shifting to other countries.