

FPCCI elections: UBG, BMP gear up campaigns

KARACHI: Two groups namely United Business Group (UBG) and Businessmen Panel (BMP) have geared their campaign up as the date for annual election of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) nearing which is scheduled to be held on December 27, 2019 for the year 2020.

Both the groups BMP and UBG are claiming to be in a comfortable position and are hoping for landslide victories in annual election of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry for 2020.

Both the groups claimed that they would push the government to initiate long-term economic planning for the betterment of business community of Pakistan and assured that the business community of our country has ability to change the fate of Pakistan and transform it into a prosperous country.

The groups have already stated holding meetings to introduce their nominated candidates. They also started mudslinging on each other.

UBG has nominated Dr Nouman Idris Butt as its candidate for President seat while BMP has nominated Anjum Nisar for the same post.

Patron-in-Chief of United Business Group (UBG) S M Muneer has accused the opposition leaders of harassing voters through unfair means to pressurize them to vote against UBG in upcoming federation elections.

He called it pre-poll rigging and said this was the sign of their defeat. In a statement released by UBG, S M Muneer said Anjum Nisar and alike have started threatening the voters which is completely uncalled for.

He said the opposition should attract voters by presenting their performance and strategy instead of resorting to such unethical practices.

He said that UBG would not allow anyone to hurt the prestige and reputation of the FPCCI and added that even if these people manage to achieve what they desire, they would not serve Pakistan or the business community because they serve themselves only.

Muneer pointed out that opposition was 'frustrated' because they could see their defeat in advance.

Before 2014, FPCCI was financially bankrupt and in a state of ruins. It had lost all its prestige and reputation as being the most important apex body of the business community.

It was the collective efforts of UBG team which brought back FPCCI's past glory. Unfortunately, these people still think they can re-control FPCCI to achieve their personal benefits but this time UBG team will not allow them to do so.

He also said business community is not going to bend into submission by the applied political pressure and malpractices adopted by the opposition.

We cannot allow FPCCI to become a political arena because this forum represents all business community regardless of their political affiliations, he maintained. He thanked UBG senior leadership and members for successfully running election campaign, by personally contacting all voters. Muneer said, "I am also a part of election campaign and always engaging voters into sharing ideas. I am hopeful that we are going to win with a margin of more than 90pc and opposition is well aware of this fact".

He hoped that UBG panel 2020 will prove a valuable asset for FPCCI and Pakistan.

Members of BMP were of the view that the president ruling group of United Business Group (UBG) in FPCCI has miserably failed to address issues faced by business community.

Secretary General (Federal) of the Businessmen Panel, Ahmad Jawad while talking to this scribe said that FPCCI should be strengthened to enhance the role of the private sector in the country's economic development.

In this regard Mian Anjum Nisar will give a tough competition in the presidential election of the FPCCI.

Jawad said around 340 votes will be cast this year and we hope FPCCI 2020 elections will change a fate of the Federation in real terms. "We received immense feedback and support from different corners of the business community".

"He further said day night efforts would be required to raise voice in the power corridors for the rights of the business community, development of trade and industry and restoration of the lost prestige of the federation chambers in the year of 2020".