

**Trade officers: PM approves 20pc quota for expats**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has approved reservation of 20 percent quota for overseas Pakistanis for the posts of trade officers in Pakistan's missions abroad.

The decision was taken on Tuesday during a meeting chaired by the Prime Minister regarding reforms in posting of trade officers abroad, as earlier the Ministry of Commerce was directed to revamp the system of postings of trade officers abroad to promote trade and commercial interests of the country.

A statement issued here said that the new policy approved by the Prime Minister focuses on transparent and merit-based selection of the trade officers, market diversification, involvement of Pakistani Diaspora, rationalising the expenditure, broad-based monitoring and performance evaluation and automation of the processes.

To effectively promote commercial interests of the country especially in the emerging markets and various regions across the globe, trade clusters have been focused in the new policy to ensure optimum utilisation and maximum outreach of the trade officers.

The Prime Minister was informed that in order to ensure broad-based and real-time monitoring of the performance of the trade officers, the entire evaluation process has been made IT-based.

Secretary Commerce Mohammad Younus Dagha also briefed the Prime Minister about National Trade Data Analytics System which is being developed by the ministry.

The National Trade Data Analytics System with its comprehensive database of trade statistics, exporters/importers directory, product database and trade lead insight will help in better evaluation and promotion of trade interests of the country.

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