

### **Conflict of interest**

THE prime minister's adviser on commerce Razak Dawood recently in a TV interview asserted that although Descon was a family-owned company, there was no conflict of interest when it got the bid for construction of Mohmand dam.

This he said arguing that he had resigned from the company's management.

The adviser did, however, concede that he was a major shareholder in the company. He further elucidated that he had informed the prime minister about this issue at the time of his induction as an adviser.

Now the important question is: if a company whose majority shares are owned by an adviser and his family gets a government contract, what else can possibly constitute conflict of interest?

It seems obvious that the standards to which Imran Khan held the previous government accountable when he was in opposition are not upheld in his own government.

Akbar Jan Marwat  
Islamabad