

Rebuilding Karachi infrastructure, Task be outsourced to NDMA, FWO, reiterates Teli

KARACHI: Businessmen Group (BMG) chairman and Former president of Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) Siraj Kassam Teli said the entire country including the federal and provincial governments, chief of the army staff, corps commander, trade associations / chambers and the public are now focused on his legitimate demand to outsource Karachi's infrastructure rebuilding task to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Frontier Works Organizations (FWO) which is good and "I am happy to see that."

However, instead of arguing, planning or forming committees, this gigantic task must straightaway be given to NDMA and FWO who have the capacity and capability to accomplish it within the next three to four years.

Siraj Teli said, "Throughout last month, I constantly demanded through media to rebuilt Karachi's infrastructure which has to be outsourced to NDMA and FWO under army's supervision and now everyone is also repeating and talking about the same but it has to be ensured that Karachi's infrastructure rebuilding task do not falls prey to politics. Hence, I would like to request everyone to put their politics aside and the only priority should be to develop Karachi's infrastructure and this should be above politics."

He pointed out that the country's affairs are mostly run from the revenue being generated from Karachi, which contributes more than 70 percent to the national exchequer and around 95 percent to the provincial kitty. If the infrastructure of the city is not reconstructed and improved in the next three to four years, it would terribly affect government's revenue. "How the government is going to run the affairs if Karachi's infrastructure issue is ignored as the revenue generated by Karachi is utilized for running the entire country", he asked, adding that it is in everyone's interest including the federal & provincial governments, the armed forces, business & industrial community and the masses that Karachi's dilapidated infrastructure must be rebuilt on top priority.

Referring to massive electricity and gas outages, Siraj Teli underscored that in order to provide relief to the poor masses and the perturbed business & industrial community, the government will have to put an end to KE's monopoly and start negotiations with other parties as KE's agreement is going to expire in 2023 and the next agreement must be devised in such a manner that it brings an end to KE's monopoly and encourages other players to easily enter the power generation and distribution sector.