

## **PBIF chief urges govt to help resolve Karachi's problems**

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REPORT

KARACHI: President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum (PBIF), Mian Zahid Hussain, has said that Karachi is facing severe problems despite being the major economic contributor and industrial hub of the country.

Talking to the business community, he said that federal and provincial governments could not play significant role in development of infrastructure, sanitation, mass transit and curbing issues such as pollution and street crimes.

“Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) too has totally failed in attaining the city's due position, although its officials have succeeded in forming personal relations,” he said.

Mian Zahid cited that according to Asian Development Bank, 90 percent drinking water is unsafe and industries are in acute shortage of water. He quoted World Bank report that disclosed that bad sanitation in the city is the major cause of deaths due to diarrhoea and diseases among children under five.

“Karachi is the only mega city in the World, with no mass public transport system. Increasing concrete structures and lack of plantation have increased the intensity of hot weather and hundreds have died due to heat stroke,” he said, adding that Karachi is the number one in pollution in Pakistan and air in Karachi is as polluted as twice in Beijing, according to the World Bank.

PBIF president said Karachi is economic and industrial hub of the country where majority of industries, head offices of multinational institutions and banks are situated. He said that 95% of the country's exports and imports took place via ports located in Karachi.

“According to World Bank, Karachi contributes 20 percent to the country's GDP, which has been annually increasing by 5.5 percent,” he said, adding that maximum tax collection in the country is made in Karachi that contributes 75 pc custom duty, 80 pc sales taxes and 53 pc of total FBR's collections. Karachi produces about 30 percent of value added large scale manufacturing; textiles, cement, steel, heavy machinery, chemicals, food, banking and insurance are the major industrial sectors contributing to Karachi's GDP. He said there are 8 industrial zones in the city with one export

promotion zone in the city of over 21 million population while 25 thousand formal and more than 0.2 million informal trade and industrial institutions are located; actively contributing to production and exports of the country.