

PM optimistic about investment prospects

Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday said the government was taking all out measures to bring ease of doing business and discourage red-tapism to create an investor-friendly atmosphere in the country as the world was eyeing Pakistan for investment.

Addressing the ceremony highlighting 100-day performance of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government, he directed the bureaucracy to facilitate and ease the investment process. Unfortunately, the country was still facing the mindset begot by the nationalization of industries which resisted the investment, he added. The event was attended by KP Chief Minister Mahmood Khan, Governor Shah Farman, cabinet members and parliamentarians besides a huge number of party workers.

The Prime Minister spoke high of the recently constructed five shelters for down-and-out people in Peshawar what he said truly represented the mindset behind Madina state which showed compassion towards the poor. He strongly defended his decisions of appointing Usman Buzdar and Mahmood Khan as chief ministers of Punjab and KP respectively and reiterated his trust in their honesty and credibility.

He said coming from a backward region, Buzdar had gone tough on mafias in the province. As the prime minister was addressing the first public gathering after assuming the office, he formally thanked the people of KP to give his party mandate to serve them twice which was unprecedented. He lamented the extravaganza of former Punjab CM who had spent around Rs 350 million each on entertainment and his travel through the prime minister's aircraft.

He said the previous government had also doled out billions of rupees short before elections in the name of development works just to influence the voters.

Mentioning the excessive rate of children with stunted growth in Pakistan, the prime minister vowed to reform the health and education sectors which had unfortunately been neglecting the poor.

Resolving to introduce a uniform education curriculum in the country, he said in presence of existing education system, it was almost impossible for a student with a very humble background to compete in civil services. The prime minister strictly directed the provincial cabinet members to regularly attend their offices and focus their policies for masses welfare. Warning them for action over slacking performance, he said, now the pressure of any forward bloc had also been ebbed away.

He said it was unfortunate that being a 210 million nation, Pakistan's exports volume stood at \$24 billion against \$220 billion by Malaysia and \$330 billion by Singapore. Defending his government's steps of auctioning luxury cars as well as buffaloes kept at PM House, he said our people were still running the country on the pattern of British rule who used to live like a monarch in this region on the taxes of local people.

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