

• **PAKISTAN**

## **Government urged to make public-friendly policies to stabilise economy**

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President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum (PBIF) Mian Zahid Hussain has said instead of increasing country's revenue by increasing prices of petroleum products, government should form public-friendly policies and should take other measures to stable the economy of the country; unnecessary expenditures should be avoided and reduced.

He said that the purchasing power of public has reduced due to inflation caused by rise in oil prices which seems to affect the productivity of SME sector in particular and will adversely affect the entire business community. To curtail the impact of increased oil prices, he suggested that the government should give subsidy on gas and electricity to the export oriented industries to increase country's exports and attain the level of economic and industrial stability thus opens the possibilities of increased foreign exchange reserves.

He said that high rise in prices of petroleum products will highly increase the cost of doing business ultimately affecting all industries equally.

POL prices have risen on June 20 this year and again with a difference of only 10 days, prices are again increased.

High octane prices increased by Rs 27, premium by Rs 7.54, hi-speed diesel by Rs 14, light-speed diesel by Rs 5.92 and kerosene oil by Rs 3.36 making the current prices of high octane to Rs 114.70, petrol to Rs 99.5, hi-speed diesel to Rs 119.31, light speed diesel to Rs 80.91 and kerosene oil to Rs 87.70 respectively. Collective increase in prices since June 20 is Rs. 11.80 in petrol, Rs 20.55 in hi-speed diesel, Rs 12.05 in light speed diesel and Rs 7.83 in kerosene oil prices respectively, which is unbearable considering the declining economy of the country.

He said that increase in prices of oil products will directly affect the products where petroleum products are used as raw material and will indirectly affect all industries as their cost of transportation, manufacturing and processing will rise.

This increase in cost of products will ultimately draw adverse affect on every sector and the burden will shift to common masses.

He said higher oil prices will have destructive impacts on emerging economy of Pakistan as it will cause inflation and consumers' products will get expensive. Investment ratio will decline in the country due to rise in petrol prices which will slower the industrial and economic growth process of Pakistan.

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