

China visa absurdities

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ALTHOUGH Pakistan is the largest partner in the One Belt, One Road project, getting a Chinese visa for even taxpayers such as myself is a headache.

The list of documents required is not only long, it touches absurdity. For instance, every application requires a signed police character certificate and an invitation letter from China signed and stamped by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Chinese make no distinction between taxpayers and non-taxpayers.

Over \$60 billion worth of projects, most of which will benefit China, are being built by Chinese firms in Pakistan. Most of these firms bring in all resources from China. The country exports \$12bn worth of goods to Pakistan and the Free Trade Agreement is in place for around 5,500 items.

On the other hand, Pakistan exports only \$1.2bn goods' worth to China.

I ask my Chinese friends, for what use has Pakistan been working with you when even a visa, which you give freely without any invitations to most Asian states, is a problem for mid-level businesses such as mine?

I request our CPEC negotiators to make all previous deals with China transparent, to not provide free access to China and its people, and place similar restrictions on Chinese visa applicants.

They should know it's the Naya Pakistan.

Ameer

Hamza

Karachi

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