

DELIVERABLE

“Ease of Doing Business” Strategy

➤ **Status** Completed and Launched

➤ **Champion** Federal Finance Minister, Commerce Advisor

The 100 days commitment through which the deliverable was achieved

Theme: Revitalise Economic Growth

Initiative: 16 “Build the Council of Business Leaders chaired by the PM to improve doing business in Pakistan, to attract investment, encourage participation of overseas Pakistanis, and grow exports by bringing the country within the top 100 in doing business rankings in 5 years.”

Milestone(s) of Federal Government

- Economic Advisory Council appointed – Finance Minister - Complete
- Council of Business Leaders appointed – Advisor Commerce - Complete
- “Ease of Doing Business” Strategy Developed and Published – Advisor Commerce – Complete

Progress Update of First 100 Days

Key Highlights

“Ease of Doing Business” strategy developed and published - Complete

Pakistan needs to improve its investment to GDP ratio to the Asian average of 25%. The government's top priority is to attract investment in productive sectors to increase Pakistan’s competitiveness, exports, technology base and job creation. To attract domestic and foreign investment, the government is firmly committed to improving the business environment in Pakistan.

As promised, the government aims to elevate Pakistan’s position in the World Bank’s “Doing Business” rankings in to the top-100.

Through surveys of business people in Karachi and Lahore, the World Bank measures time spent, cost incurred, and number of procedures carried out by businesses in 10 areas (detailed below).

The Board of Investment, in collaboration with stakeholders, has prepared a 3-year strategy outlining specific actions to be taken in order to improve Pakistan’s ranking. Work on implementing the strategy has begun and is being spearheaded by the Board of Investment. The steering committee includes representation from the Punjab and Sindh governments.

A few highlights of the report, covering actions to be undertaken in key areas, are shown below. The detailed report is available on the BOI website.

Actions to be Undertaken - Highlights

Starting a Business:

Integration of SECP’s Virtual One-Stop Shop with provincial business portals; streamlining of inspections by federal and provincial agencies; Ensuring availability of online fee payment facility on federal and provincial levels.



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Paying Taxes:

Reduction of number of tax and contribution payments; Ensuring all payments can be made fully electronically; Reduction of time required to obtain VAT refunds.

Trading Across Borders:

Ensuring 50% reduction of customs related processing time at Karachi port; Reduction in hours required to prepare export and import documents by over 50%.

Getting Electricity:

Improving transparency of tariff, ensuring LESCO and K-Electric notify customers of tariff change ahead of billing cycle.

Registering Property:

Launch electronic database (Lahore) to check property encumbrances (liens, mortgages etc...); Allow online payment for, and issuance of Fard.

Getting Construction Permits

Establishing of electronic one-window operation at Sindh Building Control Authority.

Enforcing Contracts

Operationalising commercial benches on courts; Improvements in Case Management System.

In addition to these interventions, the steering committee will ensure that detail of reforms undertaken are communicated adequately across the business and investor community, so the World Bank's surveys accurately reflect improvements on the ground.

Next Steps

- Continue to implement and monitor "Ease of Doing Business" strategy