

Mr. Mamnoon Hussain
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Address on the occasion of
“Dinner of LCCI in Honour of Ambassadors”

(Islamabad: July 13, 2017)

“Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Raheem”

- **Mr. Abdul Basit, President, Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry,**
- **Excellencies,**
- **Distinguished Guestsand**
- **Ladies & Gentlemen!**

Assalam-o-Alaikum, And a very good evening!

Ladies & Gentlemen!

This ceremony of Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) has turned into a praiseworthy tradition in the context of linking the industrial and commercial sectors of Pakistan with the world for which I congratulate its leadership and members. I hope that this healthy activity will continue to develop as a gateway not only to harmonize contacts of LCCI and associated institutions but also of Pakistani trade and industrial community with the world. It will also continue to pave the way for possibilities of bilateral trade, investment and joint ventures in the mutual interest of friendly countries by establishing pleasant relations with the diplomatic community, God Willing.

Ladies & Gentlemen!

As you are aware that Pakistan has been facing various challenges for the last several years the reasons for which have been regional instability, political turmoil and incoherent economic policies. But it

gives me pleasure to say that during the last few years the situation has completely changed as a result of sincere and consistent implementation of the policies adopted for reviving the national economy and restoring law and order. The law and order has been restored in most parts of the country and sincere efforts are being made to eradicate remnants of extremism as a result of which, God Willing, the menace of terrorism and extremism will be eliminated forever.

Ladies & Gentlemen!

The Government has also accorded equal importance to its agenda of revival of national economy along-with its efforts to deal with terrorism and lawlessness. In this regard some important decisions were made and as a result of their implementation and by the Grace of Allah Almighty Pakistan has entered into a bright period of economic progress. The significant increase in GDP, foreign reserves, domestic and foreign investment and noteworthy decline in inflation are irrefutable signs of these positive and encouraging changes.

The basis of these successes are sound policies adopted for trade and industrial sectors which caused substantial increase in investment and trade in Pakistan. In this respect, commercial and industrial sectors have been granted special concessions and a flexible strategy has been devised to attract domestic and foreign investment which has made Pakistan the most important country in the region for trade and investment. I am glad that our efforts are bearing fruit and internal and

external investment is gradually increasing in the country which is an encouraging development. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project has given impetus to these efforts whereas Pakistan's active role in international organizations including Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and free trade agreements with friendly countries are also playing an important role in this regard. I am confident these trends will further increase in the coming days which will fast track the journey of development and prosperity of the country. In this backdrop, it would not be inappropriate to say that no hurdle can be placed in the path of development of Pakistan because our mission is to ensure prosperity of coming generations and meeting future requirements. I say this without any qualms that we will continue to make endeavors for political and economic stability in order to protect the future of hardworking and industrious people and coming generations of Pakistan. I am hopeful that the people of Pakistan, with their characteristic resolve and determination, will be successful in defeating every obstacle in its way, God Willing. Therefore, I urge entrepreneurs and traders of Pakistan and domestic and external investors to continue their activities without any fear and misgivings because tough patch is over. Now Pakistan has to progress and with national resolve it has to not only change the tide for itself but also discharge its responsibilities for prosperity of millions of people of this region.

Ladies & Gentlemen!

I am glad to know that LCCI has worked with dedication for enhancing the export of Halal Food. I pray for your success but it is also important to explore new markets for exporting other products along-with maintaining the existing ones. Furthermore, attention should also be paid on enhancing domestic and foreign investments for development of other sectors including minerals found in different parts of the country. In the matters of imports and exports, sometimes the traditional channels are not very effective while chambers and other organizations of businessmen and industrialists can play a valuable role in this regard. Therefore, I would like to see that the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) and its affiliated organizations should play their useful role for promoting bilateral trade, investment and promoting exports and imports by establishing robust contacts with the diplomatic community. I am hopeful that Allah Almighty will bless your efforts and the process of national development will continue successfully.

I once again welcome the diplomatic community participating in the ceremony and hope that there will be further expansion in the activities of other national institutions including the LCCI.

May Allah protect us all, Amen!

Pakistan Paindabad
