

# Association of Builders And Developers of Pakistan (ABAD)

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Dated: June 9, 2012

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Chairman ABAD Mohsin Sheikhan, Vice Chairman Arif Siddik and Chairman South Region Saleem Kassim Patel have underlined the importance of the construction industry in the economy of Sindh. They expressed hope that ABAD proposals for the Sindh Budget which were sent well in time, will be included in the Provincial Budget 2012-2013. The office bearers of ABAD were giving their views in a joint statement.

The office bearers of ABAD added the shortage of housing is taking its toll on the economy. The decreased construction activities are affecting the employment market and a large number of skilled and unskilled workforce is on the verge of losing its livelihood. It is also instrumental in decreasing in the generation of revenue to the government in the shape of direct and indirect taxes as the production of more than 100 allied industries is reduced due a weak demand. The scarcity of affordable housing is increasing the trend of katchie abadies. Theses katchie abadies do not provide an address to their dwellers. This phenomena is providing all ingredients to convert these slums into crimes breeding place. In order to correct this situation the availability of housing finance to the housing sector on easy terms is essential so that the prices of a unit comes within the reach of the public.

A number of taxes, which come to total of more than 7%, are imposed on the construction industry which is resulting in making a housing unit out of the reach of the common man. The National Housing Policy, which was prepared by relevant government departments and ABAD emphatically, recommends that the percentage of tax imposed on construction sector should be a maximum of one percent. This recommendation of the Housing Policy has to be followed so that the construction sector could play its due and inevitable role for the revival of the economy.

Similarly the gas connections are being denied as a result of a government policy which is not comprehensible at all. This problem has to be addressed so that timely possession is provided to the allottees of the projects.

The grim law and order situation is the biggest threat confronted by not only the construction sector but the nation as a whole. The frail security conditions have compelled the builders and developers, and the business community to limit their activities. The demand of extortion, kidnappings and threats to life have become a daily routine. In a situation when the very life of the builders and developers including that of business community is at stake, there is no alternative but to retract the investments and go to safe and secure places.

The office bearers of ABAD said the proposals of ABAD provide a very viable solution to put the derailed economy back on the right track.

S. Javed Jafri  
**Secretary General – ABAD**