


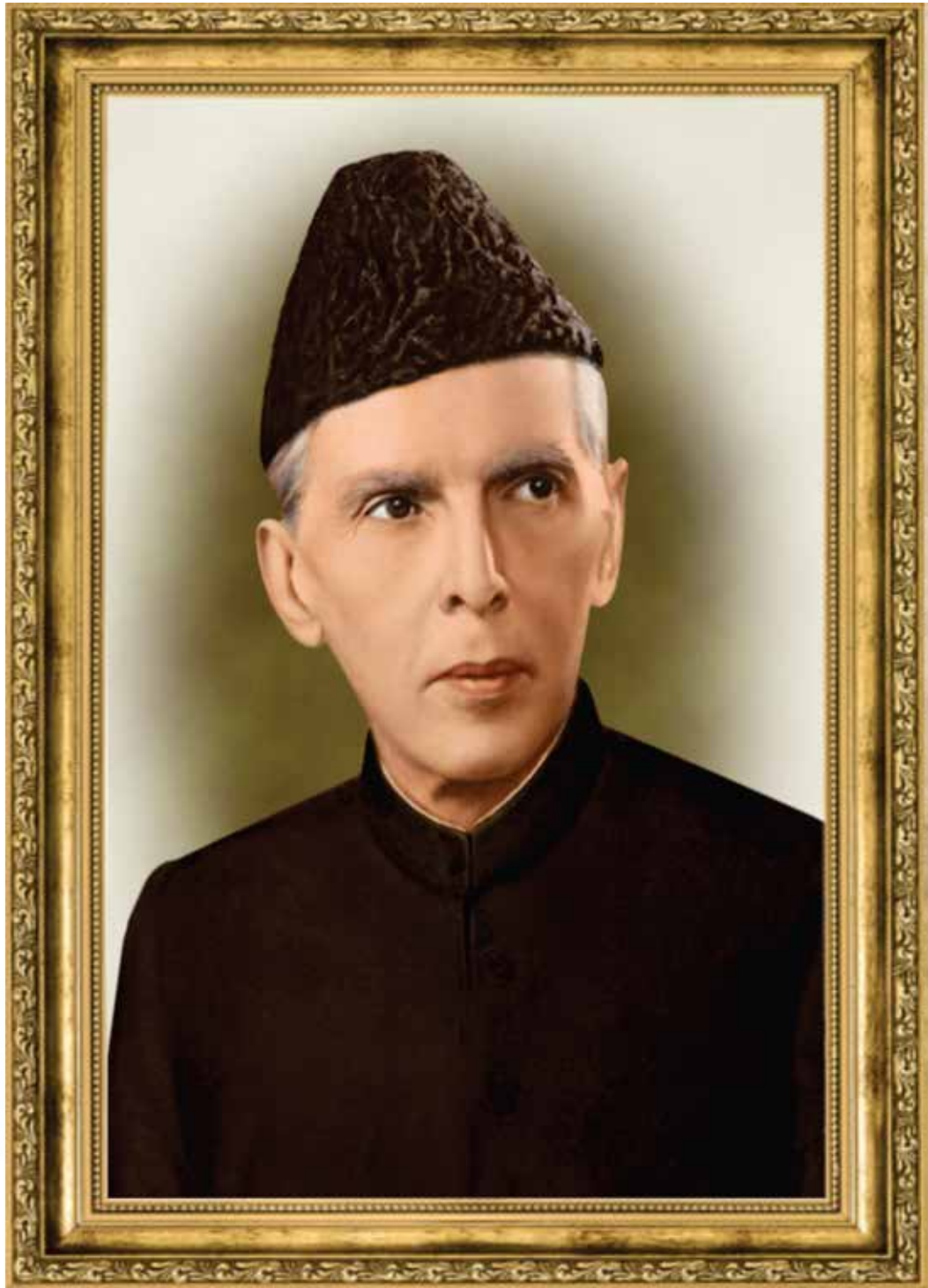
# SHELTER

A Publication of Association of Builders & Developers of Pakistan



**Climate change  
is cracking  
our concrete**





"We must work our destiny in our own way and present to the world an economic system based on true Islamic concept of equality of manhood and social justice."

—— Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

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September - November 2025

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# EDITORIAL



## ENGR. KALEEM-UZ-ZAMAN KHAN

Managing Editor and Convener  
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In every great city of the world - Dubai, Kuala Lumpur, Istanbul, Singapore - an unmissable common thread runs through them all. It is visionary construction, backed by government support, global standards, and investor confidence. These skylines did not rise by chance. They rose through policy, planning, and partnerships. It's time Pakistan followed suit. Our construction sector has the muscle, talent, and entrepreneurial drive to lead an economic resurgence. What it needs is the right ecosystem. In many countries, builders are empowered with single-window approvals, digitized land records, tax incentives, and access to affordable credit. Investors - local or foreign - are welcomed, guided, and protected. Sadly, in Pakistan, our developers often find themselves navigating a maze of red tape, unpredictability, and delayed permissions. To compete globally, we must first look inward. We must modernize our approach to building, both literally and institutionally. Adopting international best practices - such as sustainable architecture, LEED certifications, seismic compliance, modular construction, and AI-driven planning - can dramatically increase efficiency and safety. Pakistan's talent pool is more than capable of meeting these standards. What's lacking is structured training, exposure, and incentives. Government must take the lead.

A national construction policy aligned with international benchmarks is long overdue. This should include training programs in collaboration with global construction bodies, investment facilitation centres for builders and developers, and public-private initiatives to upgrade infrastructure and housing at scale. Equally important is the creation of investor confidence. Construction-related investments, whether domestic or foreign, need clear timelines, legal protection, and streamlined approvals. Builders should not be seen as petitioners - they must be seen as partners in progress. When investors are valued, they stay. When they're sidelined, they leave - and we suffer a loss not just of capital, but of vision, talent, and opportunity. The ongoing brain drain from Pakistan's real estate and construction sector is alarming. Architects, engineers, planners, and project managers are taking their brilliance abroad. Why? Because they see more appreciation, better systems, and clearer futures outside Pakistan. We must change this equation - and quickly. By thinking globally and acting locally, we can make Pakistan not just a hub of construction - but of innovation, sustainability, and economic growth. Let's build with purpose. Let's build with pride. And above all, let's build with the belief that Pakistan can lead, not lag, in the global construction arena.

# Chairman MESSAGE

**M. HASSAN BAKSHI**

Chairman ABAD



As we reflect on the current state of Pakistan's economy, one truth stands out boldly - our construction industry holds the key to national revival. It has the capacity to create jobs, trigger allied industry growth, attract investment, and uplift lives. Brick by brick, beam by beam, we can build not just homes, but hope. Pakistan's construction sector contributes significantly to the GDP and is among the largest employers. Yet, despite its immense potential, it continues to operate under the weight of bureaucratic hurdles, fragmented regulations, and outdated regulations that slow down progress. If we are to fully unlock this sector's power to drive economic growth, we must remove these bottlenecks. A clear, investor-friendly, and transparent regulatory framework is not a luxury - it is a necessity.

At the same time, we must confront an uncomfortable reality. In July 2025, a building collapsed in Karachi's Lyari, killing 27 innocent people. It was not just concrete and steel that crumbled - it was our collective failure to regulate, monitor, and act. These tragedies are avoidable. Illegal constructions continue to mushroom in various pockets of the city, often overlooked until disaster strikes. We cannot afford this negligence any longer. ABAD has consistently raised its voice against illegal and unsafe buildings. Let this latest tragedy serve as a painful reminder that we must do more - together. Builders, regulators and civic bodies must come to the table and work on strict enforcement mechanisms, digital land record systems, and a zero-tolerance policy for violations. Safety should never be compromised, and accountability must be swift and public.

Yet, amid these challenges, I remain hopeful. The spirit of Pakistan's builders is resilient. Despite rising costs, inconsistent policies, and economic uncertainty, we continue to build - because we believe in the country's future. But we cannot do it alone. It is time to rebuild trust between stakeholders, set higher standards, and make Karachi and Pakistan - a place where every citizen can live safely and with dignity. Let us not just construct buildings. Let us construct a better tomorrow.

# A brief view of **ABAD**

## **Association of Builders And Developers of Pakistan**

The Association of Builders & Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) is a national level representative organization of builders and developers, formed in the year 1972 with the aim and objective of unifying and streamlining the construction activities of private sector.

ABAD is registered under the Companies Ordinance, 1984 with Registration No. KAR No. 4967 of 1977-78 and licensed under Trade Organizations Ordinance, 2007 and it's affiliated with the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

Today, ABAD has in its fold more than 1,500 leading construction companies of the country. Most of its members' offices are equipped with up-to-date systems of designing, cost control, project management and latest civil engineering techniques to minimize the cost of construction.

The Executive Committee elected Chairman, Senior Vice Chairman, Vice Chairman and Managing Committees and also from each of its two regions i.e., Chairman Southern Region and Chairman Northern Region for a full term of year. The Chairman & Sr. Vice Chairman is elected among Full / Ordinary members and the Vice Chairman from Associate Members and One Chairman each from its two respective.

The Elected Office Bearers for the term 2025- 26 are Mr. Muhammad Hassan Bakshi, Chairman; Syed Afzal Hameed, Senior Vice Chairman; Mr. Tariq Aziz Memon, Vice Chairman; Mr. Ahmed Owais Thanvi, Chairman Southern Region Committee; Mr. Shaikh Muhammad Nabeel, Chairman Northern Region Committee (Lahore) and Mr. Abdullah Jan Memon, Vice Chairman Hyderabad Sub-Region Committee.





## The principal aims and objectives of ABAD include

- Unifying builders and developers for their collective good.
- Promoting housing industry in the country.
- Providing assistance to the Government in formulating its housing policies and plans.
- Co-coordinating between ABAD members, the Government and other agencies.
- Dealing with problems faced by its members in the execution of their projects.
- Organized research.
- Awareness and training program to promote the science and art of building.
- Working actively for eradication of unethical business practices from the housing and development field.
- Exploring the prospects of large-scale projects in the public sector and then acting as a consortium of ABAD members to secure and execute the projects.

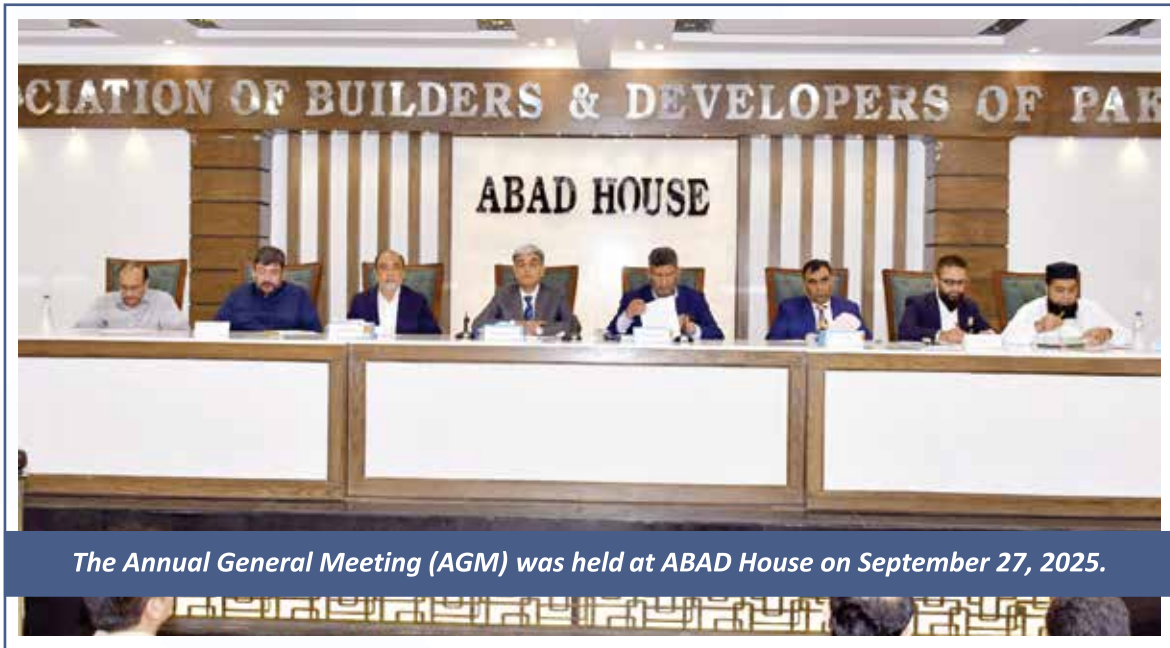
As a representative organization of the country's builders and developers, ABAD has made a valuable contribution in the formulation of National Housing Policy and Sindh building Control Ordinance. It has also played a leading role in securing and increase in the House building Finance Corporation component of housing loans as well as the allocation to HBFC in Federal Budget.

In the provincial capital of Sindh, ABAD has played a pivotal role in procurement of land for its members and also for the issuance of no objection to them by Karachi Development Authority. Other major achievements of ABAD include increasing the covered area of flats, fixation of the selling price of housing units, inclusion of a provision of escalation, simplification of the procedure for the permission to mortgage and registration of leases, increase in the period of completion and streamlining of documentation procedures regularly. Although there is a pressing requirement for houses in the city yet on account of non-availability of infrastructure and other amenities, some schemes cannot be developed due to scarcity, efforts to remove these bottlenecks are continuing on all possible levels. As a socially responsible organization in addition to the above core functions ABAD also extends donations and other kinds of support to deserving institutions and welfare organizations.

A safe shelter to live in is recognized the world over as a fundamental human right and that is the vision behind ABAD's efforts and ventures.



# AGM Annual General Meeting



*The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at ABAD House on September 27, 2025.*

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD), held on September 27, 2025, at ABAD House, brought members together to look back on the team's efforts, share what had been achieved for their benefit, and set out a vision for the road ahead.

The meeting was presided over by ABAD Chairman Mr. Hassan Bakshi. Also in attendance were Senior Vice Chairman Syed Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, Chairman Southern Region Mr. Ahmed Owais Thanvi, Vice Chairman Hyderabad Sub-Region Mr. Abdullah Jan Memon, former chairmen Mr. Mohsin Shaikhani, Mr. Anwar Gagai, Mr. Junaid Ashraf Taloo, and several senior members including Engr. Kaleem uz Zaman Khan.

After welcoming the members, the moderator, Mr. A.K. Memon, invited Mr. Noman Tabani to present the financial statements and seek approval from the House.

## **SPEECH BY OFFICE BEARERS:**

Delivering the first speech of the day by any office bearer, Vice Chairman Hyderabad Sub-Region Mr. Abdullah Jan Memon thanked all office bearers for their efforts.

He underlined the strong performance of the current leadership, noting that the office bearers had worked tremendously and with great dedication. He also paid tribute to Mr. Mohsin Sheikhani, expressing hope that the recently discussed matter of tenure extension, whatever the decision may be, would be in the best interest of the Association and its members.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Southern Region Mr. Ahmed Owais Thanvi also thanked Mr. Sheikhani and other office bearers. He said he hoped that members' expectations from the office bearers had, to some extent, been fulfilled.

He further shared that he had spent the past year working closely with Mr. Hassan Bakshi, Mr. Syed Afzal Hameed, and others, from whom he learned immensely. He stressed that teamwork always brings the best results for the Association. Mr. Thanvi highlighted that he and the team had been engaging with various departments to promote digitalization. He said that all records of ABAD dating back to 1972 have now been digitized, including 450,000 documents belonging to 1,400 members.



## CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH:

In his remarks, Chairman Mr. Hassan Bakshi began by thanking all present. He said it was an honor to lead the organization and extended special thanks to Mr. Mohsin Sheikhani.

He informed members that the Government of Pakistan allocated Rs70 million to ABAD for student training - something unprecedented in the Association's history. He shared that while the government initially offered Rs700 million, he suggested starting with Rs70 million, with a commitment of Rs500 million to follow in the future. He added that in the past, such funds were misused by authorities without yielding results.

Highlighting the importance of engineering education, he said ABAD has decided to sponsor students, with the aim that after completing four years of education, they will be stationed abroad through collaboration with the government and the Japanese government. He noted that the cost of training one student per year is Rs0.1 million and invited members to contribute toward this initiative.

He further stated that ABAD organized an in-house material exhibition which benefited both members and the industry, and expressed the hope that such events could be held every three months.

On digital transformation, Mr. Bakshi said ABAD could become a paperless organization within a month as 70 years of records have already been digitized.

These records are accessible to members through a dedicated user ID and password, ensuring that no member can access another's information. He further informed that the ABAD website has been fully renovated and updated, with all magazine editions and other information now available online. Acknowledging contributions in vocational training, he praised Mr. Suleman Saleem for his key role in the initiative under the guidance of Chairman Mr. Bakshi.

He said that around 1,000 students appeared at ABAD for engineering training tests and shortlisted ones will be provided free-of-cost training on various industry dynamics. The Government of Pakistan, he added, will also offer them incentives. Mr. Thanvi concluded by thanking all office bearers and members for giving him the opportunity to serve in this position.

In his remarks, Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz expressed gratitude to all office bearers. He recalled that when the team assumed charge in 2024, there were several pressing issues, including land grabbing, challenges with K-Electric, and other utility-related problems. Many of these, he noted, were ultimately resolved. He thanked the members for placing their trust in the office bearers.

Speaking on the occasion, Senior Vice Chairman Mr. S.Afzal Hameed shared that when he was entrusted with responsibility by Mr. Mohsin Sheikhan, he initially thought it would be a ceremonial role. However, he said he soon realized the gravity of the responsibility, which Mr. Sheikhan also helped him understand.

He said the stature of ABAD has grown and the team believes they have fulfilled their duties to a considerable extent. He credited Chairman Mr. Hassan Bakshi for uniting the team, adding that Mr. Bakshi had recently tasked his colleagues to outline priorities for the coming year. Acknowledging that mistakes are part of the journey, he stressed that if the Association members continue on the right path, many problems can be avoided.

He pointed out that people from various countries are investing in Dubai because of its investor-friendly policies and emphasized that Pakistan also needs to move in that direction. Mr. Hameed concluded by praising ABAD staff, including the secretary, for their dedication, time, and cooperation with the management. "I thank all of them," he said.





*ABAD office-bearers wear traditional turbans presented to them by a member during the AGM*

He recalled that when the government imposed Federal Excise Duty (FED) last year, ABAD successfully got it quashed. He added that ABAD proposed a framework to regularize buildings so that residents are not displaced. In cases of dilapidated structures, retrofitting or “jacketing” should be undertaken, and only if the building is beyond repair should it be demolished.

Warning of the risks, he said that if an earthquake were to hit Karachi, minimum casualties could reach Rs0.5 million. He emphasized that ABAD has urged the government to legislate in this area, ensuring dwellers' rights to their homes.

He also informed members that the Building Control Ordinance is being revisited and proposed that the Director General of SBCA could even be selected from ABAD, since its members have the necessary experience in construction. He suggested that in any case of violation, the supervising government official should also be nominated in the FIR.

He highlighted five key challenges for both urban and rural Sindh - poor infrastructure, water shortages, outdated government record-keeping, weak law and order, and the pressing need for merit-based employment.

### **IDEA FOR SINDH BUSINESS FORUM**

He said ABAD was considering forming a Sindh Business Forum that would bring together stakeholders from across the province to serve as a pressure group on these five issues. He stressed that for progress, all associations must unite on one platform.



In his keynote address, Mr. Mohsin Sheikhan said chairmen come every year and work with dedication, but often fall short of meeting expectations because of the overall situation of the country.

He suggested that ABAD should present lifetime achievement awards to senior members such as Mr. Sadiq Baloch and Mr. Haji Islam.

Mr. Sheikhan said it is important to bring in new people while senior members train the younger generation. He acknowledged that Mr. Shahid Khairi supervises everything and is forthright in expressing his concerns.

He added that he, along with Mr. Anwar Gagai and Mr. Shahid Khairi, would likely retire this year after giving their best and now the younger generation must be trained under their guidance.

He emphasized that the more pressure is placed on the chairman, the more likely problems are to be resolved, citing Gwadar team as an example. He praised Mr. Hamza Tabani for receiving the Sitara-i-Imtiaz, calling it an achievement for ABAD, and noted that ABAD member Mr. Asad Baloch had now become a senator.

He said that as 2-3 senior leaders step aside, the younger generation will take over. “This city is our identity, and we must raise our voice against what is wrong,” he stressed.

Mr. Haji Islam and Mr. Sadiq Baloch also delivered brief speeches.

## CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION FOR STAFF AND MEMBERS

The chairman later distributed certificates to both ABAD staff and members in recognition of their exemplary efforts.

Among the staff, Secretary General Mr. Ehteshamullah Mallick was commended for his utmost dedication, while Convener of the Shelter and Publications Sub-Committee, Engr. Kaleem uz Zaman Khan, was recognized for ensuring the timely publication of Shelter magazines and Annual Reports.







Certificates were also awarded to Mr. Ghaffar Khamisa, Mr. Suleman Salim, Mr. Affan Qureshi, and Mr. Ayoob for their tireless work in their respective domains.

Ms. Falak and Mr. Shabbir among the staff were also recognized and awarded certificate for their notable works.

In addition, Mr. Abdul Karim Adhia also received acknowledgment for their significant contributions to the Association.

Further recognition was extended to Mr. Anwar Gagai and Mr. S. Shahid Khairi (certificate received on his behalf by Mr. Ramiz Qasim Ghaziani) for their hard work within their respective sub-committees.

As a gesture of respect and tradition, a member concluded the ceremony by presenting turbans to all office bearers.





*Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Afzal Hameed presides over the meeting, along with Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, Chairman (SR) Mr. Owais Thanvi and Former Chairman Mr. Hanif Gohar*

# Meeting of EC / RC

## Executive Committee & Regional Committee

A joint meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) and Regional Committee (RC) of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) was held on October 21, 2025, at ABAD House to deliberate on key matters concerning the Association. The agenda included the re-election of Chairmen for the Southern and Northern Regions for 2025-2026, discussion on a legal notice served to the Chairman and members under the Defamation Ordinance 2002, approval of new memberships, formation of sub-committees for 2025-2026, and the resignation of Mr. Ashfaq Mohammad Younus Shaikhani from the Executive Committee.

The meeting was chaired by Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, Chairman (Southern Region) Mr. Owais Thanvi, and attended by former chairmen and senior members, including Mr. Hanif Gohar and Engr. Kaleem uz Zaman Khan. Mr. Hameed welcomed the attendees and requested Chairman (SR) Mr. Owais Thanvi to commence the proceedings. He informed the members that Chairman ABAD, Mr. Hassan Bakshi, could not attend due to prior commitments at the Chinese Consulate for visa documentation.

### Membership applications

Mr. Ayooob briefed the members that four new membership applications had been received, two of which were conditional. The applications were read aloud and endorsed by the house.

### Formation of Sub-Committees

The formation of sub-committees for 2025-2026 was discussed. A member

expressed dissatisfaction at not being appointed to a committee relevant to his background, stating that despite his legal expertise and regular participation, he had been overlooked.

Mr. Afzal Hameed acknowledged the concern and emphasized that committee formation should be merit-based, ensuring fair opportunities for all. Another member raised concern about alleged bias within the selection process.

Responding to this, Mr. Hameed and Mr. Hanif Gohar sought clarification, after which the member stated that the comment had been made to him directly and that he had also raised the issue with Mr. Mohsin Shaikhani earlier.



Addressing the matter, Mr. Hameed welcomed Mr. Hanif Memon and clarified that ABAD's current leadership represented diverse backgrounds, not a single community. Mr. Memon added that ABAD does not tolerate discriminatory behavior and that appointments are based on dedication and performance, not background.

He noted that many conveners have served for decades, and replacements occur only when a member steps down voluntarily. Mr. Hameed said that while ABAD has around 30 to 40 sub-committees, only 10 had been finalized so far. He invited Mr. Thanvi to announce the names of confirmed conveners.

### Formation of Sub-Committees

Mr. Thanvi shared the following appointments as Convener of the Sub-Committee:

- **Cantonment Board:** Mr. Younus Lakhani
- **ABAD Administration & Management:** Mr. Shahid Khairi
- **Gwadar Chapter:** Mr. Affan Qureshi
- **Vocational Training:** Mr. Suleman Salim
- **SBCA:** Mr. Mustafa Shaikhani
- **K-Electric:** Engr. Danish Bin Rauf
- **Board of Revenue:** Mr. Junaid Ashraf Taloo
- **Complaints Committee:** Mr. Anwar Gagai
- **New Membership:** Mr. Ayoob
- **Digitalization of ABAD Records:** Mr. Suleman Salim
- **SSGC & KWSC (Merged):** Mr. Nusrat Chughtai

He added that the remaining sub-committees showing outstanding performance will be announced after the return of Chairman Mr. Hassan Bakshi. In response to a query about co-conveners, Mr. Hameed said meetings will be held with conveners to finalize names. Engr. Kaleem uz Zaman inquired about the timeline, to which Mr. Hameed replied that additional appointments would be announced the following week.

### Re-election of Regional Chairmen

Moving to the next agenda item, Mr. Hameed discussed the nominations for Chairmen of the Southern, Northern, and Hyderabad Sub-Regions for 2025/2026. He stated that after mutual consultation, it was decided to continue with the current team for the next term to maintain consistency.

The finalized nominations were:

- **Chairman (Southern Region):** Mr. Owais Thanvi
- **Chairman (Northern Region):** Mr. S.M. Nabeel
- **Chairman (Hyd. Sub-Region):** Mr. Abdullah Jan Memon

The house unanimously approved the nominations. The meeting was informed that a legal notice had been received earlier and that A B A D has formally responded within the stipulated timeframe. The matter is being dealt with through appropriate legal channels and the association reaffirmed its full support to the Chairman. Mr. Hameed then addressed the resignation of Mr. Ashfaq Mohammad Younus Shaikhani from the Executive Committee for the 2024/2026 term. The house acknowledged and accepted his decision with appreciation for his past contributions.

### Commercial update

Before concluding, Mr. Owais Thanvi shared a brief market update, informing members that Maple Leaf Cement is available at Rs. 1,210 per bag, with delivery within 45 days through ABAD's coordination office for interested members. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all attendees for their participation.





# The Strategic

## Pakistan-Saudi Defence Agreement:

### A Turning Point for Economic Growth and Bilateral Prosperity



The recent signing of the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement between Pakistan, the world's only nuclear-powered Muslim nation, and Saudi Arabia, the heart of Islam, is a historic milestone in their bilateral relationship.

This pact not only strengthens defense ties but also opens up significant economic opportunities, especially for Pakistan, which is currently grappling with a cash-strapped economy and challenging socio-economic conditions.

The Pakistan-Saudi Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement arrives at a crucial time for Pakistan, offering both economic and strategic promise. Amid ongoing financial challenges, the partnership is expected to bring vital dollar inflows that could help stabilize the economy.

Beyond financial relief, it opens new avenues for local businesses, traders, and energy sectors to benefit from increased trade and investment. Key industries particularly imports, exports, and energy distribution stand to gain, potentially driving an economic turnaround.

Hailed as a game-changer for the Global South, the agreement extends beyond defense cooperation to include broad economic collaboration between two leading Muslim nations.

It strengthens regional ties, fosters mutual development, and provides Pakistan a path to boost trade relations, attract foreign investment, and reinforce financial stability.

The construction industry, long under strain, is among the biggest potential beneficiaries.

With fresh investments and new development projects, the sector could witness renewed growth, generating jobs and stimulating related industries such as manufacturing and infrastructure.

In essence, the Pakistan-Saudi partnership holds transformative potential.

If strategically implemented, it could deliver enhanced security, robust economic growth, and enduring prosperity marking a pivotal step toward a stronger and more resilient Pakistan.





# ABAD office bearers, members pay homage to late Sindh Assembly Speaker Agha Siraj Durrani



*ABAD delegation offer Fateha and condolences at the grave of late Sindh Assembly Speaker Agha Siraj Durrani*

A delegation of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD), visited Garhi Yasin to pay their respects at the grave of the late Agha Siraj Durrani, former Speaker of the Sindh Assembly. A condolence letter was forwarded by the Chairman of ABAD Mr. Hassan Bakshi on behalf of its members. The ABAD delegation was led by Former Chairman Mr. Mohsin Shaikhani, senior member Mr. Moiz Saqib and Mr. Abdul Ghaffar.

During the visit, the delegation offered Fateha and prayed for the eternal peace and exalted ranks of the departed soul. The visit was marked by solemnity and deep respect, as members of ABAD recalled the late Speaker's contributions to Sindh's development and his longstanding support for Pakistan's construction and housing sectors. Speaking on the occasion, Former Chairman ABAD Mr. Mohsin Sheikhani expressed profound grief over the demise of Agha Siraj Durrani, terming it an irreparable loss.

He further emphasized that Agha Siraj Durrani played a pivotal role in promoting development-friendly initiatives and remained an ally of the builder community throughout his public service. "His vision and cooperation helped strengthen the relationship between the private sector and the provincial government, paving the way for sustainable urban growth," he added. After offering prayers at the gravesite, the ABAD delegation met with members of the bereaved family to extend heartfelt condolences. Mr. Sheikhani conveyed ABAD's collective sympathies, expressing solidarity with the family in their time of sorrow. He prayed that Allah Almighty grant the departed soul the highest ranks in Jannah and bestow patience and fortitude upon the family.



THE late AGHA Siraj Durrani was a respected statesman and a strong supporter of the construction industry. As speaker, he consistently advocated for policies that facilitated growth, investment, and progress in the housing and infrastructure sectors.



— MR. MOHSIN SHEIKHANI

The visit underscored ABAD's enduring respect for national leaders who have contributed to Pakistan's development journey and reaffirmed the Association's commitment to strengthening publicprivate collaboration for the betterment of the construction industry and the country's economic future.



# How climate change is impacting construction in Pakistan and beyond

Climate change has shifted from an abstract long-term threat to a daily reality for the construction industry. Floods, heat waves, storms and shifting precipitation patterns are already damaging sites, delaying projects, driving up costs and forcing engineers, developers and policymakers to rethink how we build.

The sector has made significant progress, from using low-carbon materials to integrating climate-smart design, but as climate risks intensify, there is still more to be done to scale these efforts across the industry and ensure long-term resilience that protects assets, creates jobs and reduces costs.

## Industry under pressure

Worldwide, the built environment is both a victim of and a contributor to climate change. The buildings and construction sector accounts for roughly a third to nearly 40% of global energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions when material production (cement, steel, aluminium) and operational energy are combined.

That dual role means the sector must both adapt to rising hazards and accelerate decarbonisation to reduce future harm.

Global assessments are unequivocal as infrastructure and urban systems are already feeling widespread impacts from hotter temperatures, intensified rainfall and sea-level rise and those impacts will grow without concerted mitigation and adaptation action.

Operationally, climate change is increasing construction risk in several ways.





Extreme rainfall and flooding shut down sites and wash away foundations; heat waves reduce worker productivity and cause temperature-related damage to materials; while stronger storms threaten coastal projects and transport links. These impacts lead to schedule delays, higher costs and the need for costly retrofits - pressures that hit developers' margins and complicate long-term planning.

### **Material challenges and supply chain strains**

Material supply chains are another pressure point. Cement and steel production are both carbon-intensive and vulnerable to climate disruptions such as power shortages and extreme weather events. At the same time, post-disaster reconstruction can drive sudden demand spikes and local material shortages.

This makes it crucial to develop low-emission alternatives, adopt circular construction practices and reduce waste. Innovation in green materials such as low-carbon cement, recycled steel, and prefabricated modular systems offers a pathway to reduce both emissions and vulnerability to price volatility.

### **Pakistan's construction industry faces the climate test**

For Pakistan, the impacts are especially acute. The country is among the world's most climate-vulnerable, as the 2010, 2022 and 2025 floods showed with devastating clarity. Those floods caused tens of billions of dollars in damage, sweeping away entire communities, roads and housing projects. The construction sector found itself at the center of both the disaster and the recovery - tasked with rebuilding while confronting the very conditions that caused the losses.

Key challenges include rebuilding damaged infrastructure with better resilience, enforcing updated building codes and ensuring new projects account for future flood and heat risks. Financing is another major constraint: resilient designs and materials can cost more upfront, though they save money in the long term.

Despite these hurdles, the sector remains a cornerstone of Pakistan's growth. With improved planning, training and investment in climate-resilient design, it can drive both adaptation and economic stability. Public-private partnerships, concessional climate finance, and integration of nature-based solutions can help "build back better" while safeguarding livelihoods.

## **A chance to build smarter, greener, stronger**

The construction industry's future is not defined by loss, but by reinvention. Around the world - and in Pakistan - builders are increasingly turning to climate-smart design standards such as elevated foundations, permeable pavements, improved drainage and heat-resilient materials.

Retrofitting existing buildings for energy efficiency offers another opportunity to reduce costs and emissions while creating jobs.

By lowering embodied carbon in materials, investing in circular construction, and integrating renewable energy on worksites, the sector can help curb the very emissions driving climate instability. These changes not only protect assets but also create new growth opportunities in the green economy.

Climate change is reshaping the construction industry's risk profile but with innovation, smart finance and resilient design, it can also reshape the industry's role in creating a safer, more sustainable built environment.

For Pakistan and the world, this is not just about surviving the next storm - it's about learning to build through it.



# Sindh Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah

## visits ABAD House



Provincial Minister for Sindh Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah along with DG SBICA Mr. Muzammil Halipoto and DG MDA visit ABAD House

**"Approvals that are pending will be issued immediately. We want the public to receive affordable housing schemes on time. We do not want builders to leave the country."**

Sindh Minister  
**Syed Nasir Hussain Shah**

Sindh Minister for Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah visited ABAD House on November 15, 2025, for a high-level meeting to address regulatory challenges, streamline approval mechanisms, and enhance coordination between government bodies and the construction sector. He was accompanied by the Director Generals of SBICA and MDA.

The meeting, presided over by ABAD Chairman Mr. M. Hassan Bakshi, included senior leadership such as Senior Vice Chairman Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Tariq Aziz, regional chairmen Owais Thanvi and Abdullah Jan Memon, former chairmen Mohsin Shaikhani and Arif Habib, and other senior members.

### Welcome address by Chairman ABAD

Chairman Mr. Bakshi welcomed the Minister, officials, ABAD members, and media, appreciating the minister's prompt acceptance of the invitation. He highlighted chronic delays in approvals, noting that cases predating 2019 remain unresolved despite a committee formed by DG SBICA Ishaq Khoro, causing significant financial losses for developers. He cited K-Electric's weekly coordination meetings at ABAD House as an example of effective resolution and urged the Minister to implement a similar system

across SBICA, KDA, LDA, and MDA. Bakshi emphasized enforcing SBICA's 45-day approval timeline, gaps in land records, and the absence of digitalization as major barriers to growth.

He stressed that local investors face unnecessary hurdles while foreign investors are welcomed. Delays of four months or more have stalled projects worth Rs 75-100 million. Bakshi proposed structured review meetings every 7-10 days, particularly for public sale projects, and expressed confidence in the Minister's commitment to resolving





these longstanding issues. Noting that construction supports over 70 allied industries, he called for innovative, collaborative solutions and requested government support to strengthen ABAD's recent MoU with Saudi Arabia. Mr. Mohsin Shaikhani thanked the Minister for his support and addressed concerns about investor migration to Dubai, noting that outdated procedures, incomplete land documentation, and non-digitalized systems discourage investment, particularly among young professionals returning from abroad.

He highlighted the pending commercialization of 24 key roads, which could be resolved quickly if prioritized, contrasting it with Islamabad's smoother affordable housing project approvals. Shaikhani also referenced unresolved LDA issues from the late Agha Siraj Durrani's tenure, where possession was not granted, stressing that full digitalization is crucial and that land title issues remain the sector's most critical challenge.

#### **Address by Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah**

Minister Shah thanked ABAD for the welcome and reaffirmed the Sindh Government's commitment, under Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, President Asif Ali Zardari and the Chief Minister, to supporting the construction sector.

Recognizing the industry's role in employment and economic activity, he assured full government support and encouraged continued direct coordination between ABAD and development authorities.

He proposed a joint mechanism between ABAD and government agencies to streamline approvals and resolve land-related issues. While acknowledging past violations, he noted strict action against corruption and emphasized transparency and digitalization. On land title disputes, he urged ABAD to strengthen internal accountability and instructed DG SBCA to expedite pending approvals. Citing the NASLA Tower case, the Minister called for clear, consistent regulations to prevent similar incidents. He also offered dedicated timings for ABAD's coordination meetings and tasked

the new DG MDA with improving service delivery.

#### **Question-answer session:**

During the Q&A, Minister Shah stated that SBCA officers are removed when credible complaints arise and confirmed that reforms are underway. Calling Karachi "mini Pakistan," he reiterated commitments to improving infrastructure and highlighted positive provisions in the 27th Constitutional Amendment.

He described creating new provinces as impractical and emphasized strengthening existing systems. He noted that only four approvals had been issued in four months, with remaining cases to be shared with ABAD. He noted that delays in e-Challans and the Green Line were attributed to overlapping departmental work, with corrective steps in progress.

Regarding DHA Phase 9, the Minister said he has ordered 24/7 work to ease public inconvenience and supported land allocation to KDA.

He encouraged ABAD to formally report inquiry-related issues to the Chief Minister and cautioned against rushed policies that might require future reversals.



# Sindh Minister, DG SBCA

## visit ABAD House

### to discuss construction industry issues



*Sindh Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani & DG SBCA Muzammil Halipotolo pictured with ABAD office bearers during their visit to ABAD House*

Sindh Minister for Local Government, Saeed Ghani, along with the Director General of the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA), visited ABAD House on September 26, 2025, to hold discussions with the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) on pressing challenges and reforms in the construction and housing industry.

The meeting was chaired by Chairman ABAD Mr. M. Hassan Bakshi, with Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, Chairman (South Region) Mr. Owais Thanvi, and other senior ABAD members in attendance.

The meeting opened with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Mr. Owais Thanvi. Mr. Bakshi welcomed the attendees and expressed special gratitude to Minister Saeed Ghani for his consistent support. He praised the Minister for being a trusted ally of ABAD and a respected figure among both members and exhibitors.

“I count Mr. Saeed Ghani among my favorite ministers,” he said. He recalled that earlier ABAD Expos spanned six halls, with TDAP allocating Rs. 40 million for the event. However, ABAD proposed making the exhibitions more accessible and affordable, reducing stall costs to Rs. 100,000. Six additional halls have already been booked for future exhibitions at ABAD House

Mr. Bakshi stressed that hosting exhibitions at ABAD House significantly reduces expenses compared to larger venues like Expo, where costs could reach Rs. 1.5 million per stall.

He underlined ABAD's commitment to sustaining these in-house exhibitions.

He also raised concerns about frequent leadership changes at SBCA, which disrupt continuity in policy implementation. Emphasizing transparency, he said:

“If this city moves forward, the country moves forward.”

He urged the government to introduce planned land auctions and digitized land records. Comparing Karachi to Punjab and KPK, he pointed out that clear ownership and structured planning there had generated jobs and industrial growth. “The same should happen in Karachi,” he added. Addressing Minister Ghani directly, Mr. Bakshi requested advocacy at the cabinet level to build stakeholder confidence and concluded by thanking the media and participants.

#### **MINISTER'S SPEECH:**

Mr. Ghani thanked ABAD for the invitation and praised the exhibition's organization. He shared that he had informed Chairman Bakshi of a possible portfolio change, suggesting someone else attend, but Mr. Bakshi insisted on his presence.





He appreciated ABAD's efforts in offering discounted products compared to market rates, noting that he personally visited each stall to meet exhibitors. He advised ABAD to coordinate closely with TDAP for further support, assuring that he would raise the matter as well.

“I have visited ABAD events before, and we will continue to walk this path together,” he said. Mr. Ghani acknowledged challenges in Sindh, particularly Karachi, where construction and investment had been deliberately discouraged. Unlike other provinces, Sindh still lacks a proper land allotment system.

Calling the demolition of Nasla Tower a grave injustice, Mr. Ghani said: “Though the building was in the wrong location, it had approvals from every relevant authority. The residents invested their life savings. It's not an ordinary citizen's job to investigate approvalsthey trust the system.”

He criticized the judiciary's decision, suggesting the building could have been repurposed into a hospital, old-age home, or charity center instead of being demolished. “Evict the occupants, punish the builderbut demolition is not the solution. There's no humanity left in our judiciary,” he remarked.

Mr. Ghani warned that such harsh actions damage the industry, discourage genuine work, and embolden illegal practices. He supported ABAD's proposals and confirmed that new byelaws are being drafted to tackle illegal construction.

He added that political parties are being involved to ensure laws are practical and adaptable, while stricter laws are already drafted to restore SBCA's credibility. Governance reforms, land digitization, and land auctions are underway. Weekly review meetings, paused due to rains, will now resume under Mr. Shah's supervision with Mr. Ghani's participation.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks.

**Note :** *Mr. Saeed Ghani served as Sindh's Local Government Minister until Sep 26, and a day later the provincial government reshuffled portfolios, assigning the position to Mr. Nasir Hussain Shah.*





# ABAD, Saudi Pakistan Business Council sign **MoU** to enhance construction sector cooperation



*A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the (ABAD) and the Saudi Pakistan Business Council (SPBC) to enhance economic cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia*



The Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) and the Saudi Pakistan Business Council (SPBC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote collaboration and investment in the construction and real estate sectors of both countries. The agreement was formalized at a ceremony held in Karachi on October 10, 2025, chaired by Prince Mansour bin Muhammad Al Saud. The ABAD delegation included Senior Vice Chairman Syed Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, and Southern Region Chairman Ahmed Mr. Owais Thanvi, while the Saudi side was represented by Prince Mansour and SPBC Vice Chairman Muhammad Abdulaziz Alajlaan.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE MOU

The MoU outlines a framework for joint ventures, trade partnerships, and the attraction of foreign direct investment (FDI) into Pakistan's rapidly expanding real estate and infrastructure sectors. The agreement emphasizes collaboration in areas such as technology exchange, business cooperation, and building stronger institutional linkages between private sector players in both countries. This partnership is aimed at supporting the growth of Pakistan's construction industry by integrating global practices and attracting foreign capital. Syed Afzal Hameed, Senior Vice Chairman of ABAD, described the MoU as “a significant milestone in fostering long-term economic collaboration,” noting the increasing interest among Saudi investors in Pakistan's housing and real estate markets. He further emphasized that this agreement is a vital step in strengthening Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations.

## STRATEGIC BENEFITS FOR BOTH COUNTRIES

The MoU comes at a critical time when Pakistan is implementing economic

reforms to improve the investment climate. Reforms in areas like taxation, energy, and digital governance are expected to make the country more attractive to foreign investors. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has reiterated the government's commitment to improving the investment environment, and this partnership with Saudi Arabia aligns with those efforts.

With the establishment of an 18-member committee focused on deepening engagement with Saudi Arabia, the MoU is expected to bring capital inflows and advanced construction technologies to Pakistan, helping the country modernize its infrastructure. This collaboration is seen as an opportunity to align Pakistan's construction sector with global standards and create long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships. As both sides explore joint ventures and trade opportunities, the MoU is expected to open doors to new investment prospects, contributing to the growth of Pakistan's real estate market.



***ABAD engages with International Consultants Dar Al-Handasah on Greater Karachi Regional Plan 2047***

## Greater Karachi Master Plan- 2047

### Global firm visits ABAD to seek suggestions on city's development

Global consultancy Dar Al-Handasah engages with ABAD on Karachi's long-term urban vision. A delegation from the international consultancy firm Dar Al-Handasah visited ABAD House on October 20, 2025, for an in-depth discussion on the Greater Karachi Master Plan 2047. The meeting aimed to exchange insights and strengthen collaboration between Dar Al-Handasah, the Karachi Development Authority (KDA), and the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) to shape a sustainable and future-ready vision for Karachi's development.

The ABAD delegation was led by Chairman Mr. Muhammad Hassan Bakshi, along with Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, Chairman (Southern Region) Mr. Owais Thanvi, and other senior members. From Dar Al-Handasah, the team included Mr. David Gundry (Project Manager), Mr. Salim Eid (Deputy Project Manager), and Ms. Adeeba (Junior Planner).

They were accompanied by local partners from Asian Consulting Engineers, including Mr. Ahsan Iqbal and Ms. Nayab Ayoob, while KDA was represented by Mr. Muhammad Arshad Khan (Project Director, GKRP-2047) and Mr. Hammad Ansari (Assistant Engineer). Chairman Mr. Bakshi opened the session by briefing the delegation about ABAD's organizational structure, its facilitation services, and its pivotal role in representing Pakistan's construction and housing sector for over five decades. He emphasized ABAD's contribution toward promoting planned

*“ Through the Greater Karachi Regional Plan 2047, we aim to shape a sustainable, connected, and resilient metropolis for generations to come*

*— David Gundry*

urban development, sustainable housing, and policy advocacy for the country's growing urban centers. The Dar Al-Handasah delegation presented an overview of the Greater Karachi Regional Plan 2047, explaining its objectives, methodology, and strategic framework.





*Delegation of Dar-ul-Handasa visited ABAD House*

The presentation highlighted urban planning, data integration, and long-term sustainability, focusing on infrastructure, housing, transport systems, and environmental resilience. Project Manager Mr. David Gundry introduced Dar Al-Handasah's six-decade global legacy with projects across Dubai, Doha, Beirut, and Cairo, emphasizing their experience in urban design, transportation systems, and environmental planning. He assured that the Karachi Master Plan would be data-driven, developed by a multidisciplinary team, and aligned with local realities. He also mentioned that a detailed questionnaire would soon be shared with ABAD members to gather insights from the construction sector, ensuring the plan reflects ground-level challenges. Chairman Mr. Muhammad Hassan Bakshi appreciated the Dar Al-Handasah team's professionalism and reiterated ABAD's full support for the Greater Karachi Regional Plan 2047.

He highlighted Karachi's pressing challenges: unreliable population data, fragmented governance, and infrastructure strain, emphasizing that a unified, data-backed approach was vital for sustainable urban growth. "Karachi is Pakistan's economic lifeline," he remarked, "and it deserves a master plan that ensures coordinated, long-term progress." KDA representatives briefed participants on the government's vision for GKRP-2047, aligned with Pakistan's centenary year, and informed that the plan is expected to be completed by 2027 through collaboration between international and local consultants. During the discussion, Mr. Younus Lakhani inquired about the project's initiation and was informed it was a government-led initiative, to which he offered ABAD's cooperation. Mr. Kaleem, Convener of Shelter Magazine, asked about the firm's origin, and the delegation confirmed Dar Al-Handasah as an international consultancy. Mr. Karim Adhia requested access to the presentation and proposed

inclusion of civil water treatment and decentralized water management under the climate resilience component, a suggestion welcomed by the consultants. Mr. Tariq Aziz sought clarification on the plan's scope, and KDA officials confirmed it covers all seven districts of Karachi, including six cantonments and 25 KMC jurisdictions. Mr. Khursheed Alam raised the issue of data sharing, and the delegation responded that LDA data had been received while MDA data was awaited. ABAD assured its assistance in providing relevant information.



Members proposed establishing a Unified Development Authority to consolidate planning bodies and encourage vertical development, especially in informal settlements. Chairman Bakshi supported the idea, emphasizing sustainable urban renewal and efficient land use. In conclusion, Chairman Bakshi urged consistency in master planning, protection from political influence, and strong environmental safeguards, particularly for mangroves and the coastal belt. The meeting ended with mutual appreciation and a shared commitment to transforming Karachi into a sustainable and resilient metropolis.







*ABAD Chairman Muhammad Hassan Bakshi meets Chinese Consul General Mr. Yang Yundong to enhance cooperation in construction and housing.*

## ABAD delegation meets Chinese Consul General to strengthen cooperation in construction sector

A delegation from the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) met with Mr. Yang Yundong, Consul General of the People's Republic of China, at the Chinese Consulate in Karachi on October 17, 2025, to discuss expanding cooperation in real estate, infrastructure, and sustainable development. The ABAD delegation was led by Chairman Mr. Hassan Bakshi, accompanied by Southern Region Chairman Mr. Ahmed Owais Thanvi, Mr. Abdul Ghaffar, and Mr. Moiz Saqib, representing the association's collective vision to promote sustainable growth and global collaboration for Pakistan's development. During the meeting, both sides explored opportunities to enhance business partnerships, share technical expertise, and encourage mutual investment in Pakistan's real estate and infrastructure sectors.

Chairman Bakshi highlighted the vital role of Chinese enterprises in advancing modern construction technologies and expressed appreciation for China's longstanding support in Pakistan's development journey. He also shared ABAD's keen interest in participating in the upcoming Canton Fair Exhibition in China - one of the world's largest trade and industrial events - noting that such participation would enable Pakistani developers to access cutting-edge technologies, high-quality construction materials, and global business networks that could transform Pakistan's building and housing landscape.

“China has remained a steadfast partner in Pakistan's progress,” Chairman Bakshi said. “ABAD aims to further strengthen this partnership by collaborating with Chinese developers and manufacturers to introduce innovation and sustainability into Pakistan's construction sector.”

### **Chinese Consul General hails ABAD's role**

In response, Consul General Mr. Yang Yundong praised ABAD's proactive efforts in advancing Pakistan's construction and housing industries. He welcomed the delegation's enthusiasm for deeper collaboration and assured the Chinese Consulate's full support in promoting trade facilitation, business linkages, and knowledge exchange between the two countries. Chairman Bakshi extended a cordial invitation to the Consul General to visit ABAD House, meet with the association's members, and share insights on China's evolving construction landscape. The invitation was warmly received, with both sides agreeing that continued dialogue and cooperation would further strengthen economic and professional ties between Pakistan and China. The meeting concluded on an optimistic note, reaffirming ABAD's commitment to fostering international partnerships and creating new opportunities for its members within the global construction arena. Both sides expressed confidence that Pakistan-China collaboration in infrastructure and housing development will continue to serve as a cornerstone of sustainable urban growth and economic progress.

# RUSSIAN delegation visits ABAD for talks on smart construction and digital innovation



*ABAD joins hands with Russian tech innovators to revolutionize smart construction and usher in a new era of digital transformation in Pakistan's real estate sector.*

A high-level Russian delegation visited ABAD House on October 25th, 2025, to explore potential collaboration in information technology, smart construction, and digital innovation within Pakistan's real estate sector.

Chairman (Southern Region) Mr. Owais Thanvi, greeted the delegation and introduced the members of ABAD. He informed the visitors that the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) represents more than 1,500 members nationwide and serves as the voice of Pakistan's construction industry.

Mr. Thanvi mentioned that he had previously met members of the Russian delegation at an international expo, where he invited them to visit ABAD House to continue discussions on future cooperation.

The ABAD team included Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, Chairman (Southern Region) Mr. Owais Thanvi, and senior members Mr. Karim Adhia, Mr. Ayoob Khuwaja, and Mr. Nasir Lakhani, among others.

The Russian delegation comprised Mr. Pavel Bondar from Topstroy LLC, Ms. Anastasia Sorokina from Umec Space, Ms. Yulia who served as interpreter, and Mr. Denis from ConcordGroup LLC. They were welcomed by ABAD members and senior representatives.

Ms. Anastasia Sorokina, representing Umec Space, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the delegation's technological expertise. She explained that their companies specialize in energy-efficient construction technologies, water conservation systems, and AI-driven platforms for real estate and infrastructure development.

Their solutions, based on the Internet of Things (IoT), connect smart devices to collect and share real-time data improving building management, reducing maintenance costs, and optimizing energy and water usage.

Through intelligent sensors, these systems also monitor air quality, humidity, and other environmental factors, contributing to sustainable urban development.

Ms. Sorokina highlighted successful international implementations, including a project in the Philippines.

Where customers can design homes online, select interiors and layouts, and finalize purchases virtually.

The platform automatically updates construction and marketing departments, streamlining workflow and enhancing transparency.

She emphasized that such systems make property buying more efficient and client-focused by automating project tracking and customer engagement through AI integration.





Mr. Pavel Bondar, from Topstroy LLC (Moscow), shared that his company integrates IT solutions into construction practices, developing smart sensors, automated controllers, and digital interfaces for real-time monitoring. These innovations aim to create sustainable and cost-effective smart infrastructure adaptable to developing markets.

Mr. Denis, representing ConcordGroup LLC, noted that his company collaborates closely with UmeC Space and Topstroy to develop a unified smart construction ecosystem, merging Russian innovation with local needs.

Ms. Yulia, compared Russian and Pakistani construction models, noting that Russian developers typically complete projects before initiating sales, while Pakistani developers often begin sales earlier. She emphasized that digital integration could enhance transparency, accountability, and buyer confidence by connecting builders, investors, and buyers on a shared platform.

During the discussion, Mr. Karim Adhia, Former Chairman ABAD inquired whether the visiting firms functioned mainly as software houses. The delegation clarified that while they possess software expertise, their core focus is on integrating hardware and software to enable smart, sustainable construction.



Mr. Adhia appreciated their innovative approach and expressed interest in further collaboration, including sharing their presentation with his software team.

The delegation offered free consultation and technical support to ABAD members and proposed a Zoom session to discuss pilot projects in Pakistan. They also presented a video demonstration of their AI and IoT-based systems for real-time project management and client interaction.

Mr. Owais Thanvi thanked the delegation for their informative session, inviting them to participate in ABAD Expo 2025 which is scheduled in December to showcase their technologies. He also encouraged ABAD members to visit Russia to experience digital construction innovations firsthand.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks and a shared commitment to strengthen PakistanRussia cooperation in advancing smart and sustainable construction practices.





# SECP holds awareness session on Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) at ABAD House



Mr. Khawaja Ammad delivered a comprehensive presentation titled “Real Estate Investment Trusts The Way Forward for Pakistan's Real Estate Sector.”

He explained Pakistan's two-tier REIT model and the key requirements for setting up a Real Estate Management Company (RMC).

An RMC must be a public limited company with a minimum paid-up capital of Rs. 50 million, at least three directors (one-third independent), and a CEO not holding the same position elsewhere. Additionally, at least one director (or two on larger boards) must have relevant real estate experience.

Once established, an RMC can launch multiple REIT schemes with SECP approval.

Mr. Ammad outlined the process, including conducting feasibility studies, appointing independent valuers and trustees, and eventually listing REIT units on the stock exchange.



*Awareness session on REITs held at ABAD House in collaboration with SECP*

An awareness session on Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) was held with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) at ABAD House on Oct 2, 2025, (Thursday). The session focused on the REIT Licensing Framework and Registration of REIT Schemes.

The meeting was chaired by Chairman ABAD, Mr. Hassan Bakshi, and attended by Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, Chairman (SR) Mr. M. Owais Thanvi, and Convener of the Seminar Subcommittee Mr. Mehmood Tabba, along with several senior members of ABAD.

From SECP, Ms. Saila Jamshed, Additional Director responsible for REIT licensing, and Mr. Khawaja Ammad, a senior REIT specialist with over 18 years of experience, participated and delivered an in-depth presentation.

Chairman ABAD, Mr. Hassan Bakshi, welcomed the SECP officials and introduced ABAD and its members. He emphasized the importance of REITs in Pakistan's real estate and construction sectors, highlighting the country's severe housing shortage of more than 12 million units. The regulated sector provides only 1 to 1.5 percent of the annual housing need, creating both a challenge and an opportunity.

He explained that REITs, through their structured and transparent framework, could bridge this gap. He noted that some ABAD members had attempted to launch REITs in the past but faced challenges, including tax issues, financing obstacles, and procedural delays. He sought SECP's guidance on how ABAD members could move forward effectively.



Mr. Mehmood Tabbā, Convener of the Seminar Subcommittee of ABAD, suggested that SECP establish a functional office in Karachi to make it easier for Karachi-based members to engage in REIT discussions, as it is difficult for them to travel to Islamabad frequently.

Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Afzal Hameed remarked that the session was a valuable learning experience. It dispelled several misconceptions, particularly the belief that only large-scale projects could qualify for REITs.

He emphasized that REITs enhance transparency, provide access to both institutional and retail investors, and offer several benefits such as tax exemptions if 90% of income is distributed. REITs also improve credibility and funding for landowners and RMCs, while giving investors liquidity, diversification, and potentially higher returns through regular dividend payouts.

During the open discussion, ABAD members raised several concerns. These included high taxation under Section 99 and high property transfer costs, which can reach up to 40 percent. SECP clarified that a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) is mandatory for REIT structures and reassured members that reforms are under consideration.

Questions were also raised about whether the purpose of a REIT could be changed after it's established for instance, shifting from investment to development.

SECP clarified that such changes would require regulatory approval and guidance from the RMC. Regarding property valuation, SECP confirmed that valuations conducted by the RMC would be the benchmark.

The meeting also discussed the different types of REITs. Developmental REITs are aimed at construction projects, Rental REITs (such as the Dolmen Mall model) are based on rental income, and Investment REITs focus on financing. Members appreciated learning that REITs are not limited by project size, meaning they can be structured for both large and small-scale projects.

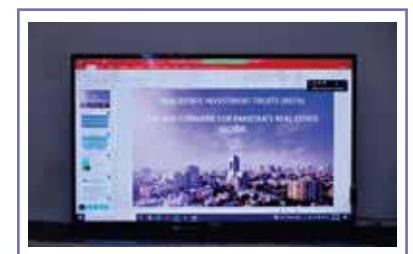
Mr. Hassan Bakshi, stressed the importance of adopting transparent, well-documented, and fully compliant business practices to capitalize on the opportunities REITs offer.

He thanked SECP officials for their time, guidance, and willingness to collaborate with ABAD, expressing hope for continued engagement in the future.

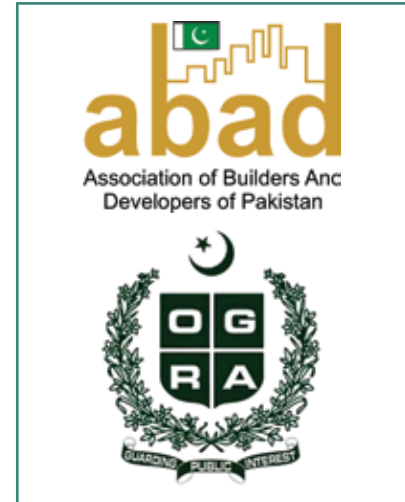
He emphasized that members were now more informed and confident about pursuing REIT ventures and recommended that additional sessions be held to build on this knowledge.

Mr. Tabbā also proposed that ABAD set up its own RMC, which could then launch multiple REIT projects. This suggestion was positively received by SECP.

The meeting ended, with both ABAD and SECP representatives agreeing to hold further sessions to provide more clarity and to collaborate in promoting REITs in Pakistan.



# abad raises members' complaints at OGRA meeting on gas issues



The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) held a complaint hearing at its regional office in Karachi on October 15, 2025 to address consumer grievances regarding excessive billing and related issues with Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC) in the Hyderabad region.

After receiving complaints from our members, ABAD forwarded letters to the Managing Director, SSGC, as well as to the Chairman, OGRA, for resolution of the issues. The Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) also attended the meeting. The meeting aimed to ensure fair and transparent resolutions for consumers affected by alleged overbilling and service discrepancies.

Complainants from Hyderabad, Tando Allah Yar, Shahdampur, and Karachi participated, alongside ABAD representatives who actively contributed to the proceedings. The ABAD delegation, led by Chairman (SR) Mr. Owais Thanvi, presented multiple cases on behalf of members experiencing gas-related issues across various residential and commercial projects.

A total of eight cases were highlighted, primarily concerning excessive billing - a persistent concern for regional gas consumers. A notable issue raised involved complaints about the supply of RLNG to a housing scheme in DEH Mirza Pur, Qasimabad, Hyderabad, underscoring the need for stronger oversight and regulation of gas distribution networks. Each complainant was given the opportunity to present their case in detail, and SSGC representatives responded accordingly. OGRA officials assured

participants that every case would undergo a thorough investigation, with a commitment to fair and timely resolutions. The meeting concluded with a strong reaffirmation of consumer rights and a pledge to enhance monitoring of gas services to prevent future discrepancies.

OGRA also highlighted the importance of continued collaboration with stakeholders like ABAD to maintain transparency and safeguard consumer interests in the gas sector.

The hearing reflects OGRA's ongoing efforts to ensure that utility providers comply with regulatory standards and deliver reliable services to the public.



# ABAD'S EFFORTS PROMPT LIFTING OF BAN ON DOMESTIC GAS CONNECTIONS

Following sustained efforts and policy advocacy by the leadership of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD), the Government of Pakistan has officially lifted the ban on new domestic gas connections under the OGRA-determined and notified RLNG tariff. The decision, achieved after nearly two years of consistent engagement, is expected to benefit the construction and housing sectors by enabling new housing units in Sindh and Balochistan to access domestic gas supply.

This development reflects the concerted efforts of ABAD's leadership, including Chairman Mohammad Hassan Bakshi, Senior Vice Chairman Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Tariq Aziz, and Regional Chairman Owais Thanvi. Through continuous follow-ups, advocacy, and constructive dialogue with policymakers, ABAD effectively highlighted the sector's needs and emphasized the importance of reliable gas connections in sustaining housing development and supporting economic growth.

Former Chairman (Southern Region) Mustafa Shaikhani also played a key role through his early engagement with government authorities and the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), ensuring the issue remained on the policy agenda and laying the groundwork for this positive outcome. The lifting of the ban marks a significant milestone for Pakistan's construction and housing industry and reaffirms ABAD's position as a leading representative body working to advance industry-friendly reforms and promote national development.



“ This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the tireless efforts of Chairman Mohammad Hassan Bakshi, his team and Convener SSGC Mustafa Shaikhani. Their dedication and persistence truly made the difference. ”



## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Government of Pakistan has lifted ban on new domestic connections on RLNG based on OGRA determined and notified monthly RLNG tariff for distribution network. Applicants desirous of domestic connection on RLNG may submit their applications with Sales Department, Head Office near Civic Center, Gulshan e Iqbal Karachi/ Customer Facilitation Centers (CFCs) / SSGC Web & App. Applicants other than Karachi may submit their applications with their respective SSGC Regional / Zonal Offices.

### Document Check List (to be attached with the application form):

- ? Completely Filled in Application Form.
- ? Copy of valid CNIC of Applicant.
- ? Approved proposal and Completion Plan with QR Code, letter and drawing, NOC from relevant authority (where applicable)
- ? Attested copy of property / ownership documents and in case of tenant, tenancy agreement along with NOC of Landlord/Landlady.
- ? Original NOC from Society / Relevant authority (if applicable).
- ? Undertaking on Rs. 100/????? '????' ??? '????????' '??????' ? Applicable to all applicants
- ? Undertaking on Rs. 100/Stamp Papers per specimen B-1/??? ? Applicable for Fresh applicants
- ? Undertaking on Rs. 100/Stamp Papers per specimen B-2) ? Applicable for Customers who paid demand note prior to moratorium.
- ? Undertaking on Rs.100/????? '????' ??? '????????' '????' ? Applicable for disconnected customers over one year aging
- ? Duly Filled -in RLNG Contract Form available on SSGC website: [www.ssgc.com.pk](http://www.ssgc.com.pk)

### Charges for domestic gas connection on RLNG

For Plot Size up to 10 Marlas or 300 Sq. Yards	(Sindh)		(Balochistan)	For Plot Size over 10 Marlas or 300 Sq. Yards	(Sindh)		(Balochistan)
	Cost (Rs.)	Cost (Rs.)			Cost (Rs.)	Cost (Rs.)	
New Connection Charges	1,500	1,500		New Connection Charges	3,000	3,000	
Gas Supply Deposit	20,000	20,000		Gas Supply Deposit	20,000	20,000	
Sindh Sales Tax (SSSTSC #)	225	---		Sindh Sales Tax (SSSTSC #)	450	---	
Balochistan Sales Tax (BSSTSC #)	---	225		Balochistan Sales Tax (BSSTSC #)	---	450	
Stamp Duty	1,000	---		Stamp Duty	1,000	---	
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs. 22,725</b>	<b>Rs. 21,725</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs. 24,450</b>	<b>Rs. 23,450</b>	

### Contact Number:

SSGC Call Center 1199  
Karachi: 021-99021169 / 021-99013133 Hyderabad 022-9240078 Quetta: 081-9201444

For forms and more detail, please visit: <https://www.ssgc.com.pk/web/>

### ATTENTION :

SSGCL has not authorized any contractor to either collect or submit any application or payment on behalf of applicant in SSGCL. Applicants may submit their applications directly in the respective SSGCL Offices along with complete documents as mentioned above.

# ABAD, NEPRA hold talks on energy policy, regulatory reforms and load allocation challenges



The meeting sought to align NEPRA's regulatory framework with the practical challenges faced by builders, developers, and end consumers.

It aimed to promote a fair, transparent, and efficient system for electricity allocation, reflecting the realities of urban growth, energy efficiency, and renewable integration across residential, commercial, and mixed-use projects.

The ABAD delegation included Mr. Owais Thanvi, Chairman (Southern Region); Engr. Danish Bin Rauf, Convener (K-Electric Affairs); and Engr. Muhammad Idrees, Consultant. NEPRA was represented by Mr. Naveed Illahi Shaikh, Director General, and Mr. Abid.

## Revision of Load Assessment Criteria

Opening the meeting, Mr. Naveed Illahi Shaikh informed the delegation that NEPRA's revised load assessment criteria would be finalized by the end of 2025.

He added that although the national solar policy is currently on hold, it will soon be updated to align with renewable energy objectives and promote private-sector participation.

Engr. Danish Bin Rauf shared that an ABAD delegation will visit China in October 2025 to explore solar and wind energy solutions, aimed at diversifying Pakistan's energy mix.

Engr. Muhammad Idrees proposed revisiting NEPRA's Consumer Service Manual (CSM) to reflect reduced consumption driven by energy-efficient technologies.

Referring to K-Electric's allocation disparities where DHA Phase 9 receives 900 MW compared to 150 MW for Phases 18 Engr.

Danish urged reforms. Mr. Naveed clarified that allocations are based on verified data and assured that all DISCOs will share three years of records for a transparent review process.

“ NEPRA appreciated ABAD's proactive engagement and assured that all recommendations would be carefully reviewed during upcoming policy deliberations, marking another step toward collaborative, accountable, and reform-oriented energy sector governance in Pakistan. ”

## Implementation of Two-Tier Load Categories

Mr. Naveed Illahi Shaikh explained that NEPRA currently maintains only two load categories upper and lower\*\*with no intermediate tier.

In response, ABAD proposed a more detailed classification, recommending subdivision based on urban and rural characteristics to ensure fairness in power allocation.



The delegation suggested classifying Categories 13 as upper-tier and Categories 46 as lower-tier, noting that K-Electric had clarified such bifurcation falls under NEPRA's regulatory scope.

Acknowledging the proposal, Mr. Naveed agreed that cities could be subdivided according to population density and development patterns.

Engr. Danish Bin Rauf added that ABAD already follows a three-tier model aligned with KE's system and requested formal coordination with the relevant Ministry.

Engr. Idrees emphasized regional differentiation, citing the contrast between DHA and Surjani, and called for audits and tax challans to promote transparency and accountability.

### **Standardization of Diversity Factor**

Raising another key issue, Engr. Danish proposed that NEPRA standardize the diversity factor which accounts for the fact that not all loads operate simultaneously at 0.8 (80%) for commercial and 0.6 (60%) for residential projects to reflect realistic consumption trends.

Mr. Naveed informed the delegation that NEPRA is reviewing its load calculation methodology and plans to collect three years of data from DISCOs covering fully occupied housing developments to improve accuracy.

Engr. Idrees suggested random physical verification to validate the data, while Engr. Danish recommended cross-checking PMT and digital meter readings for better precision.

NEPRA agreed to instruct K-Electric to provide detailed project-wise data including builder names, completion years, ultimate and current loads to enhance data-driven regulation.

Discussing CSM Clause 2.6.3, Engr. Danish proposed raising the upper load limit for self-financed projects from 10MW to 15MW, as these projects have already paid full security deposits.

Mr. Naveed confirmed that NEPRA previously increased the cap from 5MW to 10MW and is considering a further rise to 20MW in upcoming consultations.

### **Load Assessment Based on Covered Area**

Addressing another critical matter, Engr. Danish pointed out that K-Electric currently bases load assessments on the gross area rather than the net covered (carpet) area, contradicting NEPRA's Consumer Service Manual (CSM).

Engr. Idrees reaffirmed that the CSM clearly defines the net covered area as the correct standard and urged NEPRA to ensure KE's strict compliance.

The delegation also sought clarification regarding the utilization of funds collected by K-Electric under the "estimate head" over the past five years, asking for details on grid sharing, equipment procurement, and system rehabilitation expenditures.

It was also noted that KE had not issued tax challans for certain collections.

Mr. Naveed acknowledged these concerns, confirming that NEPRA had raised this issue formally and directed KE to provide proof of tax payments for commercial and industrial projects, ensuring financial transparency and regulatory compliance.

The meeting concluded on a constructive note, with both NEPRA and ABAD reaffirming their commitment to transparency, fairness, and data-backed governance in Pakistan's electricity management framework.

NEPRA appreciated ABAD's proactive engagement and assured that all technical recommendations will be reviewed in the upcoming policy deliberations.

The session marked an important step toward collaborative and reform-oriented energy governance, bridging regulatory policy with the ground realities of Pakistan's fast-growing construction and housing sectors.



# ABAD calls for urgent action to resolve Karachi's water crisis



Alliance Chairman Syed Rashid thanked ABAD for its support but voiced deep concern over mismanagement and inefficiencies within KWSC. He cited the 18-year delay in the K-IV water supply project, the collapse of the Hub Canal, and ongoing staff shortages as key contributors to Karachi's water woes.

Rashid noted that only 350 employees currently manage water supply for 1.2 million households, while more than 1,000 staff are assigned to other duties.

He called for ABAD's reinstatement on the KWSC Board, reforms in hydrant operations, new staff recruitment, and housing quotas for corporation employees.

Chairman Mr. Bakshi assured the delegation that ABAD would convey these concerns to provincial authorities, reiterating the association's commitment to transparency, responsible governance and collaborative solutions to Karachi's growing water and urban challenges.



ABAD Chairman M. Hassan Bakshi meets with the Akbar Workers Democratic Alliance to address Karachi's ongoing water crisis.

A delegation from the Akbar Workers Democratic Alliance met with the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) at ABAD House on September 28, 2025, to discuss Karachi's worsening water shortage and issues concerning employees of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC).

The meeting, chaired by ABAD Chairman Mr. Muhammad Hassan Bakshi and Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, was attended by Alliance Chairman and Central Leader Mr. S. Rashid along with senior KWSC representatives.

Mr. Bakshi described ABAD as the representative body for more than 1,500 builders and developers across Sindh, noting that its membership is mandatory for all construction projects.

He underscored ABAD's role in both regulation and advocacy, stressing that access to clean water is a basic human right.

He called for equitable water distribution, improved supply systems, and the protection of employee welfare, including pensions and retirement benefits.

Reaffirming ABAD's focus on sustainable urban growth, Mr. Bakshi shared that the Sindh government had allocated 10,000 acres for an ABAD-led affordable housing project featuring dedicated quotas for journalists, low-income families and other underserved communities.

He also invited the Alliance to upcoming meetings with the Sindh Minister for Local Government and the Karachi Mayor to advance their shared objectives.

# SBCA

## By-Laws meeting



A meeting regarding the SBCA Byelaws draft was held at ABAD House to discuss the matter. The meeting was chaired by Chairman ABAD, Mr. M. Hassan Bakshi, along with Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, Convener SBCA Mr. Suffiyan Adhia, and other prominent members of ABAD.

Mr. Bakshi opened the meeting and said that his tenure started on October 1, 2024, and will end on September 30, 2025. He informed the house that the SBCA draft had already been prepared before his tenure began, but legislation was delayed. After the Lyari incident, in which 28 people lost their lives, the draft was again taken up. SBCA said that byelaws had already been drafted, but ABAD insisted on making amendments. The draft was then shared with ABAD, changes were proposed, and circulated among members for input.

He explained that in the committee formed after the Lyari incident, he requested that Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) and Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners (PCATP) be included, since their approvals are necessary for architecture, town planning, and engineering.

Mr. Bakshi clarified that the draft was originally prepared by the government and SBCA, not ABAD. ABAD only proposed amendments. The most important amendment, he said, is that SBCA has now declared zero violation will be allowed, whereas previously 20% violation was permitted.

He also shared that in the draft, it was written that the byelaws would be imposed immediately after approval. ABAD has proposed that they should take effect after six months, and all previously approved projects should continue under the previous legislation.

On the issue of FIRs against builders with more than 20% violation, he said he told SBCA that if FIRs are lodged against builders, then FIRs should also be lodged against the five-member approval team. He warned that otherwise SBCA will keep blackmailing builders.

Mr. Bakshi added that it is not certain whether the government will agree to ABAD's amendments or not. He said there should be a committee including ABAD, PEC, and PCATP, and only through their joint decision should a building be sealed or demolished.

SBCA, he stressed, should not be the only decision maker, as this gives room for blackmail. He also said that the DG SBCA should not necessarily be from Sindh and the position should be open for nomination from anywhere.



He informed that the amended draft has not yet been submitted to SBCA but was shared with ABAD members for their review and input. He emphasized that the blackmailing and harassment by SBCA should stop.

He further informed that two more legislations are under process on dangerous buildings and another on already constructed buildings. He explained that this is very necessary, as eventually even their own buildings will reach an age where proper policies and laws will be required for maintenance and safety. He added that this legislation will likely come in the next tenure and requested the members to study it carefully when it arrives.

**Mr. Bakshi then opened the house for suggestions.**

- Mr. Khursheed Alam asked why violations should be zero when earlier 20% was allowed.
- Mr. Bakshi replied that SBCA said the floor area ratio can be increased but violations will not be allowed.
- Mr. Faraz asked what role PEC and PCATP would play in the committee, saying this should be handled by SBCA. Mr. Bakshi responded that legally it is the domain of PEC and PCATP, not SBCA.
- Mr. Asif Sumsum said increasing the FAR ratio doesn't matter and should not continue.
- Mr. Faraz suggested at least a small margin of 519% violation.
- Mr. Bakshi stressed that builders should also avoid violations and focus on quality work.
- Mr. Altaf Tai pointed out that in Karachi two different laws run one under SBCA and another under the cantonment boards. He said members must do genuine work so that no one can raise questions.
- Mr. Sohail Naviwala suggested that after six months of enactment, consultants should be hired for proper implementation.
- Mr. Jawaid asked whether under-construction projects would fall under the 1979 rules. Mr. Bakshi confirmed that under-construction and previously approved projects would continue under the 1979 rules, and map approvals within the six-month grace period would also be under the old law.
- Mr. Rana sarcastically asked whether stopping violations would also stop corruption. Mr. Bakshi said this is why the private sector should be included in the committee to ensure transparency.
- Mr. Asif again emphasized not to commit violations.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks.





# ABAD In-House Materials Exhibition

A Dynamic Showcase of Innovation and Industry Collaboration



**The in-house material exhibition was a vibrant showcase of allied industries, made successful through the exceptional efforts of Mr. Abdul Karim Adhia.**

The Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) successfully hosted a two-day In-House Materials Exhibition at ABAD House, Karachi, on September 25th & 26th, 2025, bringing together leading names from Pakistan's construction and allied industries. The event served as a vibrant platform for builders, developers, and manufacturers to explore the latest innovations in building materials, technologies, and sustainable construction solutions.

The exhibition was graced by the presence of Provincial Minister for Local Government Mr. Saeed Ghani and Director General Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) Mr. Muzammil Halipoto, who appreciated ABAD's initiative in promoting quality materials and encouraging collaboration among stakeholders of the construction sector.

Their participation added significance to the event, underscoring the government's interest in supporting initiatives that strengthen Pakistan's housing and infrastructure development.

The event was inaugurated by Former Chairman ABAD Mr. Mohsin Shaikhani, alongside Chairman ABAD Mr. Muhammad Hassan Bakshi, Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Syed Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, and Chairman Southern Region Mr. Ahmed Owais Thanvi.

Also present on the occasion were Executive Committee and Regional Committee Members, as well as representatives of 22 exhibiting companies from various allied industries.

In his welcome address, Chairman ABAD Muhammad Hassan Bakshi commended the participating companies for showcasing innovative and quality materials, emphasizing that ABAD's in-house exhibitions play a key role in bridging the gap between material suppliers and builders. He noted,

Former Chairman Mohsin Shaikhani highlighted the importance of local manufacturing and innovation, stating that such exhibitions reflect ABAD's ongoing commitment to strengthening Pakistan's construction sector through collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

He remarked that organizing the exhibition within ABAD House offers members easy access to explore products, learn about new technologies, and establish business linkages in a professional yet familiar environment.

The exhibition featured an impressive array of materials from cement, steel, tiles, sanitary fittings, insulation, and waterproofing products to



Many praised ABAD for creating an organized, professional, and purpose-driven environment that supported genuine industry collaboration rather than mere product display.

The ABAD In-House Materials Exhibition 2025 concluded on a high note, reaffirming ABAD's vital role in connecting Pakistan's construction community and promoting innovation within the sector.

modern construction systems and digital solutions. Several exhibitors introduced eco-friendly and energy-efficient materials such as low-carbon cement, solar-integrated roofing, heat-reflective coatings, and water-saving fixtures, aligning with ABAD's vision of promoting sustainable and climate-smart construction practices.

Visitors, including ABAD members, engineers, and architects, explored the diverse product offerings with great enthusiasm. The live demonstration zones drew significant attention, where exhibitors conducted on-site presentations highlighting product durability, installation techniques, and performance comparisons.

These interactive sessions added value for attendees, offering them practical insights into materials that could enhance both quality and efficiency in their projects. The exhibition also became a strong networking hub. Builders and developers engaged directly with suppliers to discuss specifications, pricing, and partnership opportunities for upcoming projects.

The presence of industry leadership and government officials further encouraged dialogue on aligning regulatory standards with evolving construction technologies and sustainable building practices. By the close of the second day, exhibitors reported an overwhelmingly positive response, noting meaningful business discussions and long-term partnership prospects.

With strong participation from government representatives, industry leaders, and allied manufacturers, the event not only showcased new materials but also reinforced ABAD's broader mission to build a smarter, greener, and more self-reliant construction future for Pakistan.



*Convener ABAD Expo, Mr. Karim Adhia, set a new benchmark with ABAD's first in-house material exhibition — a showcase of innovation, collaboration, and his tireless efforts*



# ABAD and NUTECH join hands to



## launch TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAMS for Construction Sector



*ABAD and NUTECH officials meet at ABAD House to advance collaboration on technical training and skills development for the construction sector.*

“  
Mr. Suleman Saleem's dedication to empowering youth through skill development and technical training reflects ABAD's vision for a stronger, smarter construction industry  
”

A strategic meeting between the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) and the National University of Technology (NUTECH) was held on September 30, 2025, at ABAD House, Karachi, to formalize collaboration on skill development and technical training programs for Pakistan's construction and manufacturing sectors. The meeting was chaired by ABAD Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Syed Afzal Hameed, accompanied by Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, South Region Chairman Mr. Ahmed Owais, and Convener for Vocational Training & Skills Development Mr. Suleman Saleem.

The NUTECH delegation was led by Brig. Salman Zafar, Registrar and Director of Industrial Collaboration, along with Mr. S. M. Intisar Hashim Jafri, Mr. Shameer Kausar, Mr. Hunaidur Rehman, and Mr. Rehan Bashir. Mr. Afzal Hameed welcomed the NUTECH officials and appreciated the university's efforts to bridge the gap between academia and industry. He emphasized the need for structured technical education to overcome the skill shortages affecting the construction industry.

Brig. Salman Zafar presented the details of the NUTECHABAD initiative, explaining that the student selection process will include both merit-based and need-based categories. The total training cost per student is approximately PKR 80,000, covering all expenses. NUTECH will initially fund six students, providing accommodation and meals, while NGOs are expected to offer further support.

ABAD will nominate ten students four from Karachi and Hyderabad and six merit-based for the first phase beginning October 15, 2025. Brig. Salman also shared NUTECH's plan to establish a Skill Development

Centre in DHA City Karachi, focused on Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning applications in construction and manufacturing.

The center will prioritize Human Resource Development, Industrial Expansion, Human Resource Export, and Research & Development.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks and a mutual commitment to advancing technical education, research collaboration, and human capital development across Pakistan.





**ABAD donates 100 Laptops to**

# **Central Jail Karachi**

**to support prisoner  
rehabilitation through IT Training**



*ABAD Supports Prisoner Rehabilitation with Laptop Donation to Central Jail*

**IG Prisons thanked  
ABAD, calling the  
initiative a timely  
and much-needed  
step to empower  
inmates through  
education and  
skill development.**

In a major step toward prisoner rehabilitation and digital inclusion, the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) has donated 100 laptops to Central Jail Karachi to help inmates acquire IT skills and prepare for reintegration into society.

A delegation led by ABAD Chairman Muhammad Hassan Bakshi visited the facility on October 20, 2025, as part of the association's ongoing social responsibility initiatives.

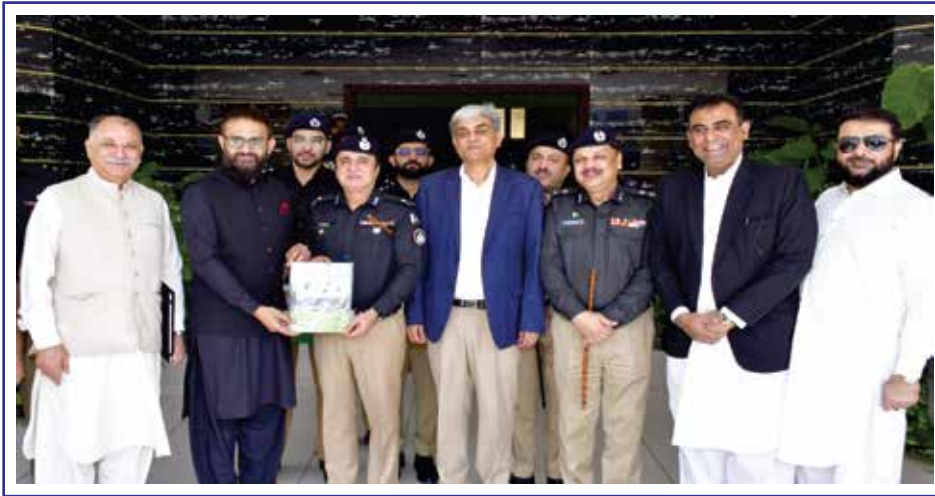
The delegation included Vice Chairman Tariq Aziz, Southern Region Chairman Ahmed Owais Thanvi, Nasir Lakhani, Dr. Hani, Usman Khanani, Abdul Ghaffar, and other senior members.

During the formal ceremony, senior member Younus Lakhani officially handed over the laptops to the prison administration, emphasizing ABAD's commitment to empowering inmates through access to digital education. The event was attended by ABAD leadership, senior jail officials, and representatives from the media.

## **IG Prisons thanks ABAD**

Inspector General of Prisons Sindh, Fida Hussain Mistroi, lauded ABAD's initiative as “a timely and much-needed step toward empowering prisoners through education and skill development.”

Highlighting the scale of the challenge, he noted that Sindh's prisons currently house over 28,000 inmates - more than twice their designed capacity of around 12,000 - with only about 4,000 officers available to manage them.



Mistroi also cited recent security lapses, including the high-profile Malir Jail incident, as reminders of the system's need for reform. While infrastructure upgrades such as CCTV surveillance, biometric monitoring, and enhanced staffing are underway, he stressed that “true reform goes beyond security. By teaching inmates valuable digital skills, we're giving them a chance to return to society as productive, self-sufficient individuals.”

### **ABAD's vision**

Chairman Muhammad Hassan Bakshi underscored ABAD's commitment to rehabilitation through education and vocational training. “Education and skills can transform lives. These individuals deserve a second chance,” he said. “Our goal is to nurture people who, upon release, can contribute positively to society rather than being marginalized.”

He further announced a collaboration with the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) to train and provide employment opportunities to 500 underserved youths, extending ABAD's outreach beyond prison walls.

Mr. Bakshi also underscored that strengthening Pakistan's judicial system could reduce crime by up to 80 percent, emphasizing the link between justice, rehabilitation, and sustainable urban development.

The 100 laptops represent more than equipment - they symbolize opportunity, hope, and a pathway to change. By introducing IT training within correctional facilities, ABAD is pioneering a publicprivate partnership model that addresses structural challenges such as overcrowding, unemployment, and recidivism.

Similar initiatives in Karachi have shown promise. The Alkhidmat Foundation, for example, runs computer and language courses for inmates, offering diplomas and reduced sentences for participants evidence that skill development can drive meaningful rehabilitation.

This initiative also reflects ABAD's broader vision of community impact: leveraging the construction and property sector's resources for social progress.

In a city grappling with housing shortages, land disputes, and urban inequality, ABAD's move signals a shift in how developers view their role as contributors to the social fabric of Karachi and Pakistan at large.

As the laptops are integrated into Central Jail Karachi's training programs, the next challenge lies in execution - designing curricula, ensuring instructor availability, linking post-training employment, and evaluating long-term outcomes.



# COMPLAINT

## Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee ensures fair and transparent dispute resolution, promotes ethical business practices, handles complaints efficiently to build trust, and uses structured tracking for effective case management.

Special recognition is extended to Mr. Ehteshamullah Malick (Secretary General, ABAD), Mr. Muhammad Shakir (Office Superintendent) and the supporting staff for their exemplary coordination and dedication in managing and documenting complaints.



*The Complaint Sub-Committee of ABAD convened a meeting to review and resolve the complaints of complainants.*

ABAD Complaint Sub-Committee maintains professional standards in dispute resolution. As envisioned by ABAD Chairman Mr. Hassan Bakshi and former chairman Mr. Mohsin Sheikhan, the Complaint Sub-Committee of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) plays a pivotal role in addressing grievances against ABAD members.

By fostering open communication between complainants and builders, the committee ensures disputes are resolved transparently, fairly and professionally maintaining the confidence and trust of all stakeholders.

Under the dynamic leadership of Convener Mr. M. Anwar Gagai and Co-Convener Mr. Muhammad Ayoob, the Sub-Committee has made significant progress in resolving conflicts and strengthening relationships between builders and allottees.

His dedication to upholding high industry standards and promoting ethical business practices has been instrumental in achieving amicable settlements and ensuring justice through due process.

Over the past months, the Sub-Committee received 36 new complaints, successfully resolving 15 cases, while 21 remain under process or sub judice. Moreover, eight previously pending complaints were concluded.

This timely and efficient handling of grievances underscores the committee's commitment to swift resolution and the integrity of Pakistan's real estate sector. The Complaint Sub-Committee serves as an essential bridge between ABAD members and the wider community of stakeholders.

ABAD remains fully committed to empowering the Complaint Sub-Committee in its mission to uphold ethical practices, strengthen harmony between builders and allottees, and ensure the continued growth and credibility of Pakistan's construction industry.

### Progress of Complaint Sub-Committee

Reporting Period:  
September - November  
2025

Total Complaints Received	36
Resolved	15
In-Process	21

Also resolved 08 more complaints that were pending



# New Membership & Renewal



*New Membership & Renewal Subcommittee meeting under the leadership of Convener Mr. Ayoob.*

## Sub-Committee

After a comprehensive examination of all submitted documents, the sub-committee presents its recommendations for final approval at the monthly joint meetings of the Executive Committee (EC) and Regional Committees (RC) (SR)/(NR).

From September - November 2025, the sub-committee held two meetings and reviewed [19] new membership applications.

Following meticulous verification, ratification, and thorough examination of property documents, all [19] cases were successfully recommended and approved by ABAD's Executive Committee.

Notably, there were no pending or rejected applications due to incomplete documentation, underscoring the committee's efficiency and commitment to transparency.

The sub-committee extends its sincere gratitude to ABAD's office-bearers for entrusting them with this crucial responsibility.

Special thanks are also due to the Secretariat team for their unwavering support and dedication, which have been instrumental in the committee's success.

The New Membership and Renewal Sub-Committee of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) plays a pivotal role in advancing the Association's mission.

As one of ABAD's most active and influential committees, it is instrumental in strengthening and diversifying the organization's membership base.

Under the Convenership of Mr. Muhammad Ayoob, the sub-committee is dedicated to evaluating and approving new members.

Their efforts ensure that ABAD continues to grow with credible and qualified professionals from across the industry.

In recent months, ABAD has experienced a steady influx of membership applications from proprietorships, partnerships, and private limited companies.

Each application is rigorously reviewed in accordance with the Association's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

### New Membership Approvals (September - November 2025)

S. No.	Meeting held on	No. Of Cases Approved
1.	25 September 2025	13
2.	21 October 2025	06

# ABAD Subcommittee reviews RLNG conversion and member complaints



*Convener Mr. Nusrat Mirza Chughtai convened a SSGC subcommittee meeting under the leadership of office bearers*

A meeting of the SSGC Subcommittee was held at ABAD House on November 4, 2025, to address challenges arising from the transition from Sui Gas to RLNG connections.

The meeting focused on members' complaints regarding payments made without receiving RLNG connections, policies related to Town Border Station (TBS) space and costs charged by SSGC, and the formal appointment of Mr. Nusrat Mirza Chughtai as the new Convener of the Subcommittee.

The meeting was chaired by Vice Chairman Mr. Tariq Aziz, Chairman (Southern Region) Mr. Owais Thanvi, Convener SSGC Mr. Nusrat Mirza Chughtai, and Former Chairman (Southern Region) Mr. Mustafa Shaikhani.

Mr. Tariq Aziz opened the discussion by expressing concern that several members had paid for gas connections but had not yet received RLNG supply. Mr. Mustafa Shaikhani assured members that all those who had made payments would be provided RLNG connections, adding that the issue would be taken up with the relevant authorities.

Mr. Nusrat informed the participants that SSGC had discontinued Sui Gas connections and now issued only RLNG connections. Mr. Shaikhani added that payments made under the previous system must still entitle members to gas supply and mentioned his attempt - unsuccessful so far - to meet the OGRA Chairman to discuss the matter.

Mr. Nusrat recommended that the committee first write to the Managing Director of SSGC, followed by a letter to the OGRA Chairman if there was no response. If still unresolved, further action would be considered. He also noted the price difference between RLNG and Sui Gas, stressing the need for clarification.

Mr. Shaikhani highlighted that most schemes in Hyderabad had applied for connections and that those who had paid should either receive RLNG supply or refunds. He also mentioned that a Hyderabad member had already paid the additional RLNG amount, suggesting that a formal letter be issued to address the concerns of members in both Karachi and Hyderabad within a week.

Mr. Nusrat added that a TBS box installation might now be required and could have to be arranged by builders. Representatives from a member company also presented complaints, citing safety concerns with the shared TBS system. The meeting concluded with an assurance from Mr. Shaikhani to personally follow up with relevant authorities and a vote of thanks to all participants.



# INTERNATIONAL News



## Transparent Solar Panels Revolutionize Building Design

In transparent solar panels are now being installed in buildings across major cities, enabling them to generate power while maintaining transparency. These panels have become a game-changer for energy-efficient buildings, providing a means to capture solar energy without compromising on aesthetics.

Source: BBC News

## Australia's Algae Bricks and Oyster Shell Walls Reshape Eco-Building Industry

Australia continues to lead in sustainable construction with algae bricks and oyster shell walls, materials introduced in to absorb CO2 and reduce reliance on traditional, carbon-heavy materials. These innovations are set to transform the building industry by offering biodegradable, CO2-absorbing alternatives that align with the country's aggressive climate goals.

Source: The Guardian

## Breakthrough 'Bulletproof' Wood Redefines Construction Materials

In a revolutionary new material dubbed "bulletproof wood" has been introduced to the market, offering an eco-friendly, high-strength alternative to traditional building materials. The new wood combines natural fibers and cutting-edge technology, making it both sustainable and highly durable for construction in high-security buildings.

Source: BBC News



## Self-Healing Concrete Now Standard in Major Infrastructure Projects

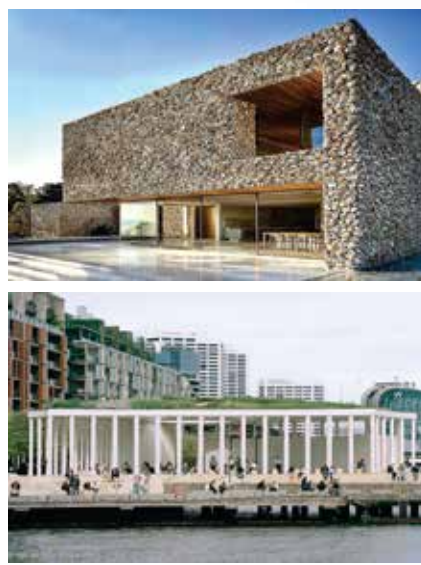
Self-healing concrete, using bacteria that seal cracks with limestone, has become standard in major infrastructure projects. The new material is expected to dramatically extend the lifespan of bridges, highways, and buildings, reducing maintenance costs and increasing structural durability.

Source: The Guardian

## 3D-Printed Homes Set to Solve Housing Crisis

3D-printed homes have entered mainstream construction in offering affordable and sustainable housing solutions. With materials like recycled plastic and concrete, these homes can be built in a fraction of the time it takes for traditional construction, offering a potential solution to global housing shortages.

Source: New Atlas



## Modular Homes Become the Future of Affordable Housing

In modular construction has emerged as a key solution to the global affordable housing crisis. These pre-fabricated homes are now being designed to meet sustainability standards, reducing both environmental impact and construction costs, and they are expected to meet the needs of low-income housing projects worldwide.

Source: Construction Week



# ABAD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS



Association of Builders And  
Developers of Pakistan

S. #	Name of Company	Joining Date	Type	Mem No.
1.	ARAV Enterprises	25 Sept. 2025	FM	3029
2.	Balaj Builders & Developers	25 Sept. 2025	FM	3030
3.	Discoverer Builders & Developers	25 Sept. 2025	FM	3031
4.	Noor-e-Jameel Builders & Developers	25 Sept. 2025	AM	3032
5.	Fiza Builders & Developers	25 Sept. 2025	FM	3033
6.	Krishna Builders & Developers	25 Sept. 2025	FM	3034
7.	Al Bayaan City	25 Sept. 2025	AM	3035
8.	Areena Builders & Developers	25 Sept. 2025	FM	3036
9.	Afroze Builders Private Limited	25 Sept. 2025	FM	3037
10.	Fayyaz Uddin Builders & Developers	25 Sept. 2025	FM	3038
11.	M. Younus Enterprises Builders & Developers	25 Sept. 2025	FM	3039
12.	I Real Estate Builders & Developers	25 Sept. 2025	FM	3040
13.	Rhine Associate	25 Sept. 2025	FM	3041
14.	Silver Builders	21 Oct. 2025	AM	3042
15.	Magsons Builders & Developers	21 Oct. 2025	AM	3043
16.	Dany Tameerat Pvt. Ltd.	21 Oct. 2025	FM	3044
17.	R & N Builders & Developers	21 Oct. 2025	FM	3045
18.	Asim Builders & Developers	21 Oct. 2025	FM	3046
19.	Al-Falah Developers & Builders	21 Oct. 2025	FM	623

# MEDIA COVERAGE



Chairman ABAD, in an interview with **Samaa TV** highlights the elements behind ongoing land encroachments in Karachi and urges NAB chairman to take immediate action.



Appearing on **Geo News**, Senior Vice Chairman Afzal Hameed highlights gaps in building and project data, announcing a comprehensive survey to enhance policy-making and ensure transparency



Vice Chairman ABAD Mr. Tariq Aziz, in an exclusive talk with **Abb Takk News**, urged immediate action against rising extortion cases, acknowledging recent arrests made by security forces after ABAD's complaint.



In an interview with **Abb Takk News**, ABAD Chairman (SR) Mr. Owais Thanvi addresses recent attacks on members and rising bhatta khori in Karachi, urging law enforcement to activate surveillance systems and take swift action to curb these crimes.

# MEDIA COVERAGE



In a conversation with **C21 News**, Patron in Chief Allied Industry Mr. Mohsin Shaikhani told that active coordination with authorities has reduced new land mafia cases, though old ones remain. He urged for strong policies to curb land grabbing.



Former ABAD Chairman Mr. Asif Sumsum, on **Metro 1 News**, discussed the Gaza situation, the 'Mera Ghar Scheme', and new taxes imposed on builders and developers.



Convener of the ABAD Gwadar Chapter, Mr. Affan Qureshi, criticized the Gwadar Development Authority and emphasized the need for policy consistency and a permanent security to ensure effective leadership and sustained progress.



Former Chairman Mr. Fayyaz Ilyas, speaking on **Metro 1 News**, expressed concern over the country's economic challenges and called for improved security for builders and developers. He pointed to declining foreign investment, industry dissatisfaction, and the growing issue of illegal construction.



# PRESS COVERAGE



## Centre yet to fulfil Karachi's Rs100bn pledge: minister

Abad says investors shifting to Dubai, Lahore amid persistent delays

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Trade Minister for Local Government Tahir Hameed Shahi said the federal government has not yet met its Rs100 billion pledge to investors in Karachi, leading to a loss of interest in the city.

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DAWN MONDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2025

## Real estate meets climate

Pakistan's construction sector, often marked by water-intensive practices and inefficient energy use, must embed climate resilience into its investment and risk assessment frameworks to remain competitive

By Ayesha Khan

The value of this sector is immense. It is the backbone of the economy, providing employment and housing for millions. However, the sector is also the most vulnerable to climate change.

Climate change is a global threat that affects everyone. It is the result of human activities, such as burning fossil fuels, which release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

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Daily Times Monday, November 17, 2025

## LDA releases auction schedule for shops, commercial plots

The Lahore Development Authority has announced the schedule for the second phase of the auction for shops in Jinnah Market Township, which is set to take place on December 10 at 10 am at Expo Center Johar Town.

This auction will feature commercial plots and shops located in both Jinnah Market and the Child Welfare Center in Quaid-e-Azam Town. A total of 29 commercial plots in Jinnah Market Quaid-e-Azam Town and 9 commercial plots in the Child Welfare Center will be up for bid.

The LDA has reported that 90 percent of the development work for Jinnah Market Township has been completed. This area, which had been encroached upon for 30 years, has now been transformed into a fully developed market.

Additionally, the LDA has waived fees related to arcade exemptions and map approvals to facilitate the shopkeepers of Jinnah Market. APP

A/6

Business Recorder, Karachi Monday, November 17, 2025

## Financial woes: KDA likely to auction off its lands

RECORDER REPORT KARACHI:

Karachi Development Authority (KDA) is preparing for auction of its land in various localities of the city to make up the financial deficit leading to many financial issues, including difficulty in payment of the employees' salaries, dues of the retired employees, and due taxes.

Talking to Business Recorder, KDA Spokesman S M Javeed, quoting KDA DG Asif Jan Siddiqui, said that approval for the planned auction will soon be sought from the Sindh government.

He elaborated that the representatives of the KDA Union will be included in the auction committee to make the auction widely recognised. He said the citizens of Karachi will benefit from the auction. All necessary steps are being taken to ensure the earliest possible transfer of the ownership rights to the citizens emerging successful in the auction process.

He informed that DG KDA, while presiding over a high-level meeting recently, said that all possible steps will be taken to make the institution financially stable that is inevitable for provision of better facilities to the employees.

The meeting was attended by Member Administration Shakeel Siddiqui, Senior Director Land Zamil Ahmed, Director Land Murad Abbasi, and Director Recovery Arif Shah, Director Estate and Enforcement Muhammad Meraaj and other executive engineers.

## BUSINESS RECORDER

Karachi, Friday 26 September 2025, 1 Rabi-ul-Sani 1447

## 'Construction Materials Expo' inaugurated

RECORDER REPORT KARACHI:

The Construction Materials Expo 2025, organised by ARMO at MNO House, was inaugurated on Friday.

The inauguration was held in the presence of the Minister for Industries and Commerce, Mr. Tahir Hameed Shahi.

Shahi said that the expo is a platform for the construction industry to showcase their products and services.

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## Ghani questions demolition of Nasla, Aladin Park

Says investors in SBCA-cleared projects should not be punished for builders' fault

OUR CORRESPONDENT KARACHI: Many illegally built buildings got regularized in Islamabad and other provinces, however, the rules are different for Sindh, particularly Karachi, said Provincial Minister Saeed Ghani on Friday.

He wrothfully recalled the demolition of Nasla Tower which deprived dozens of families of their hard earned investments and the Pavilion End Club and Aladin Park which snatched the cheapest recreation park filled with many rides from the people of the metropolis.

These demolitions were ordered in 2011 by the then Supreme Court chief justice Guizar Ahmed who was known for taking a strong stance against illegal constructions and encroachments in Karachi during his tenure.

However, he took no action against many illegal structures in the capital and other urban centers of the country.

Ghani has voiced concern over inconsistent building standards across provinces and questioned the justification for demolishing major projects such as Nasla Tower and the Pavilion End Club and Aladin Park.

Speaking after visiting the Construction Material Expo organised by the Association of Builders & Developers on Friday, he said, "Illegal construction is a serious offence but if a builder constructs a building after obtaining SBCA approval, buyers cannot be held responsible."

Ghani toured local and international stalls at the expo and praised the participation of several well-known construction firms offering affordable materials, saying such activities are vital for boosting Pakistan's economy.



# PRESS | COVERAGE



## More than 80pc of city's buildings lack basic fire safety systems, moot told

Officials, experts point out during fire safety conference over 90pc buildings have no emergency exits, leaving millions of residents at constant risk

By M. Waqar Bhatti

Karachi is teetering on the edge of a major disaster, as over 80 per cent of the city's buildings lack basic fire safety systems, and more than 90 per cent have no emergency exits, leaving millions of residents at constant risk, fire safety officials and structural engineering experts warned on Wednesday.

The warnings came during the 3rd National Fire Safety Conference and Risk-Based Awards, where officials and safety experts described the city's fire preparedness as "disastrously inadequate".

According to data shared by the Sindh Emergency Response Service (SERS 1122), the province has recorded 2,728 fire incidents, 1,041 road traffic accidents, 448 drowning cases and nearly a million medical emergencies since the service's inception.

Officials said the sharp rise in fire emergencies, especially in Karachi's high-rise and commercial buildings, highlights years of neglect and poor enforcement of safety codes.

Fire Protection Association President Kanwar Waseem said the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) has already declared over 500 buildings unsafe, warning that many can collapse if struck by fire. "We've seen buildings catch fire and crumble within hours. If safety laws continue to be ignored, casualties will soar."

He pointed out that faulty wiring causes nearly 80 per cent of fires in Karachi, while gas cylinder explosions are increasing rapidly. "The problem isn't firefighting — it's prevention."

He stressed that fixing wiring alone can prevent most fires. "We need public awareness, training, and fire safety courses across schools and

universities," he said, adding that SED University has already launched certified fire safety courses to train professionals.

SERS 1122 CEO Dr. Ahsan Jaleel said the number of fires in Karachi has surged alarmingly. "Since November 2024, more than 1,700 fire emergencies have been reported in the city, most of them caused by short circuits and poor wiring. Unless prevention is made a priority, the situation will worsen."

He said that while fire codes exist, weak coordination among departments hampers enforcement. "Multiple agencies are involved, creating confusion and delays. A single empowered authority is needed to ensure compliance."

Karachi Chief Fire Officer Muhammad Hanayza said the city's firefighting infrastructure is outdated and insufficient. "There are only 28 fire stations in Karachi when there should be at least one for every 100,000 residents. We need 200 stations for a city this size."

"Our response time is just one and a half minutes, but traffic jams, blocked routes and poor coordination often delay us. So far, 34 firefighters have died in the line of duty."

He said a recent Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) survey of 290 buildings along Shera Pao found that only 17 or 18 had proper fire safety arrangements, while the rest either had inadequate systems or none at all. "Citizens must also act responsibly. Most have extinguishers at home but don't know how to use them."

Parad Black, CEO of Thsain Habit Corporation, said Pakistan records 10,000 to 15,000 fire incidents every year, rising up to 30,000 in homes, and thousands of deaths and injuries.

"By law, every building above 35 feet must have alarms, hydrants, fire doors, emergency exits and trained fire-fighting teams, yet 80 per cent of Karachi's structures lack these systems."

He blamed corruption and weak oversight. "Even where codes exist, unsafe buildings get approved through bribes. We need an independent monitoring team to ensure strict enforcement."

Pakistan International Airlines' Captain Mohsin highlighted the lack of burn treatment facilities. "There aren't enough burn centres to handle the rising number of cases. We must also shift to safer composite materials since most construction materials used locally catch fire easily."

Urban safety advocate Rubeen Rashmi said Karachi's weak infrastructure and lack of planning worsen the crisis. "The SBCA has failed to ensure fire prevention in buildings."

He said fire tenders cannot reach sites due to broken roads and narrow lanes, while the KMC lacks funds and authority. "Karachi poses the highest taxes but gets the least attention," he added, urging the Sindh government to empower local authorities.

Association of Builders and Developers Chairman Hassan Bokshi said buildings constructed without following fire codes should not be issued occupancy certificates. "Allowing unsafe buildings to operate is like signing away citizens' lives."

Secret Secretary Akhtar Mir suggested that fire safety be taught in schools to raise awareness from an early age. "Every citizen should know what to do in an emergency. Teaching fire safety from childhood is the best prevention."



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### ABAD, SPBC ink MoU to enhance Pakistan-KSA economic cooperation

**RECORDING REPORT** KARACHI: The Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) and the Saudi Pakistan Business Council (SPBC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Thursday to enhance economic cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, with a focus on the construction and real estate sectors.

The signing ceremony, held in Karachi, was chaired by Saudi Prince Mansour bin Muhammad Al Saud.

The ABAD Senior Vice Chairman, Syed Afzal Hameed, signed the agreement on behalf of the Pakistani organization, while the SPBC Vice Chairman, Muhammad Abdulaziz Al-Jalal, represented the Saudi side.

The MoU establishes a comprehensive framework designed to strengthen bilateral relations, promote investment opportunities, and expand trade and construction-related activities between the two nations.

Under the agreement, both organizations will work to encourage Saudi investment in Pakistan's construction and real estate sectors while exploring opportunities for joint ventures in development projects across the country.

Speaking at the ceremony, Syed Afzal Hameed described the partnership as "a significant milestone toward greater economic integration between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia."



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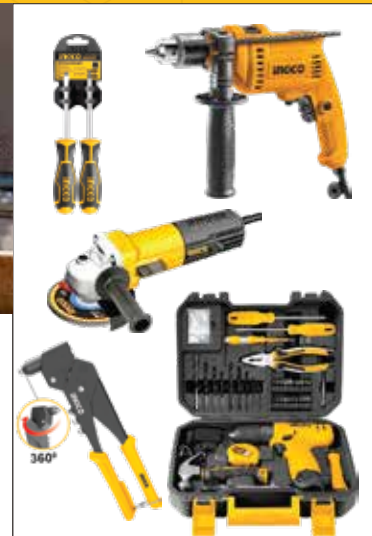
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