

Doing Business in Pakistan

REFORMS UPDATE

Meeting with DB Data Collection Team

INDICATOR: Starting a Business (Sindh)

Date:

DB2018 versus Current Status

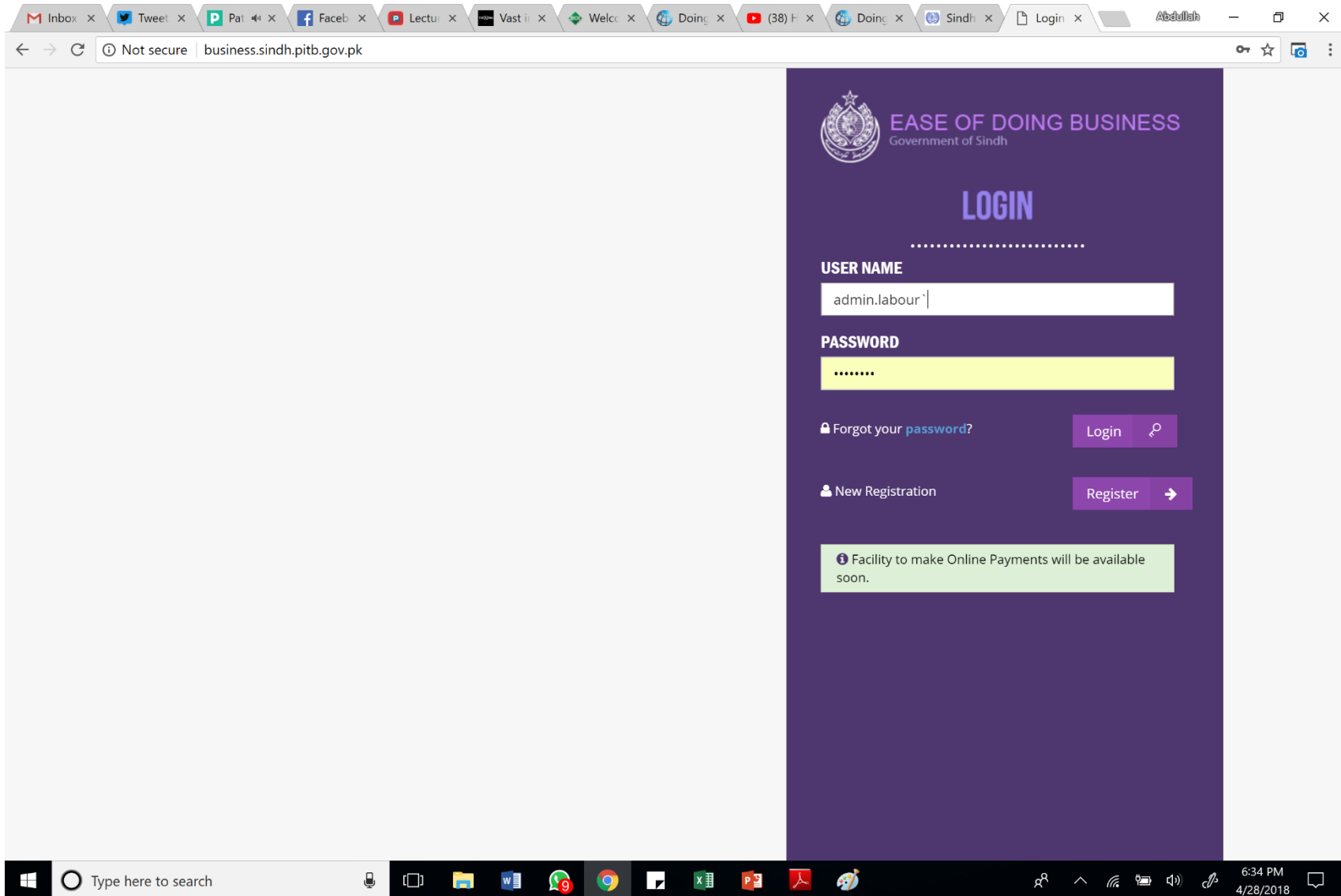
DB2018 Procedures, Time, Cost, Quality Index	Current Procedures, Time, Cost, Quality Index
<p>Procedure No 8: Register for Professional Tax with the Excise & Taxation Department of the District.</p> <p>Cost: None Time: 7 Days</p>	<p>The Excise & Taxation department has automated the procedure for obtaining Professional Tax Registration through its website : http://www.excise.gos.pk/vehiclefind/tax_register/</p> <p>Cost: None Time: Online</p>
<p>Procedure No 9: Register with the Sindh Employees Social Security Institution (SESSI)</p> <p>Cost: None Time: 7 Days</p>	<p><i>No Change</i></p>
<p>Procedure No 11: Register under the West Pakistan Shops and Establishment Ordinance 1969 with the Labor Department of the District</p> <p>Cost: 1000 Time: 7 Days</p>	<p>Registrations now take place under Shops and Commercial Establishment Act, 2015</p> <p>Cost: 1,000</p>

Reforms Completed between June 2017 and April 2018 with Data/Evidence

- Launch of Sindh Business Registration Portal (Testing Phase)
 - Combined registration with Industries Department, Labour Department and Sindh Employees' Social Security Institution (SESSI)
 - Eight Facilitation Centers to be established for the portal:
 - One at Sindh Board of Investment
 - One at Karachi Chambers of Commerce
 - One at Office of Directorate of Industries, Department of Industries & Commerce, Sindh
 - Two at Labour & Human Resource Department
 - Three at Directorate of SESSI
 - All provincial departments trained
 - Procurement for hardware and civil works for facilitation centers underway

Reforms Completed between June 2017 and April 2018 with Data/Evidence:

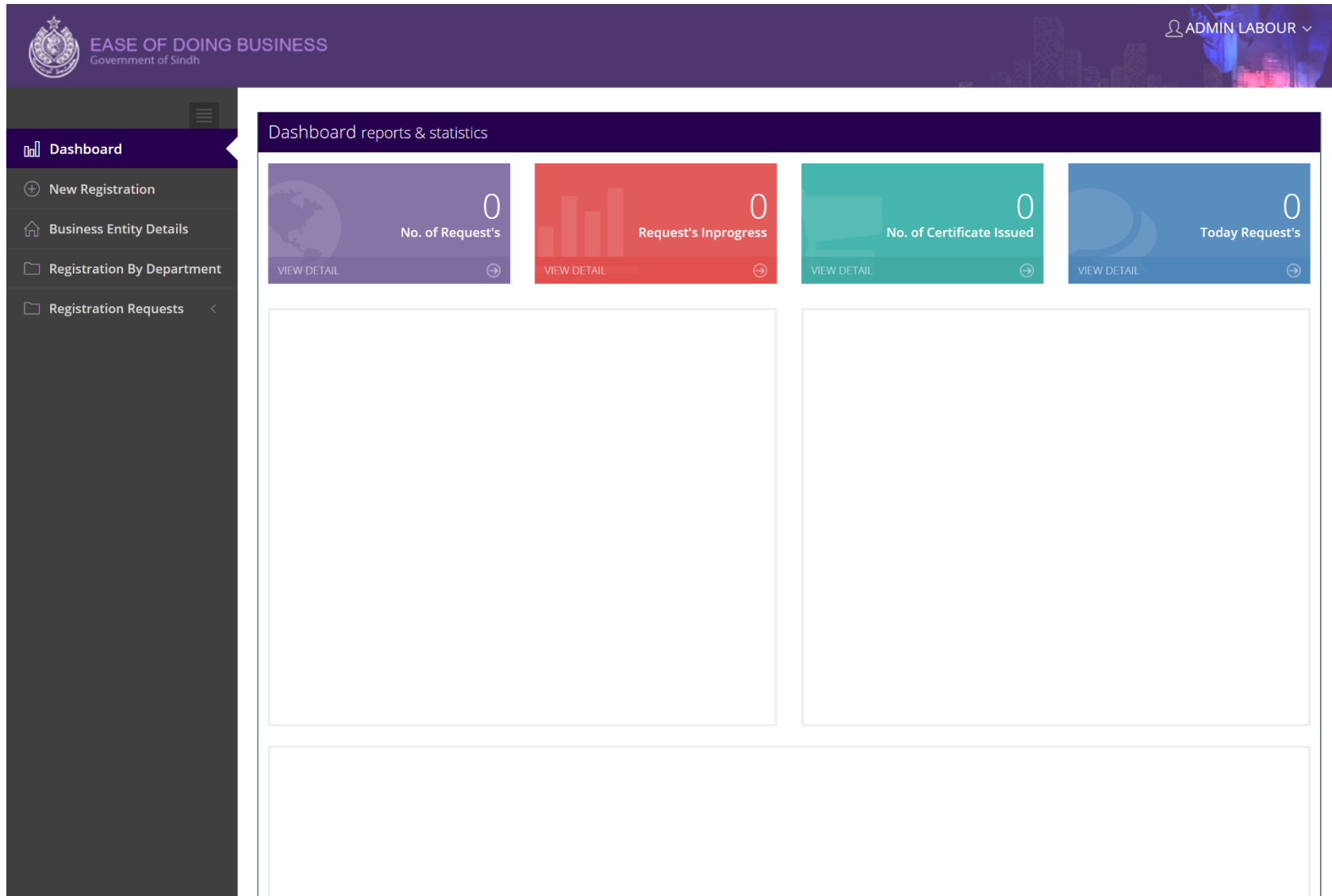
Sindh Business Registration Portal



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `business.sindh.pitb.gov.pk`. The page features the logo of the Government of Sindh and the text "EASE OF DOING BUSINESS Government of Sindh". The main heading is "LOGIN". Below this, there are input fields for "USER NAME" (containing "admin.labour") and "PASSWORD" (masked with dots). There are buttons for "Login" and "Register". A link for "Forgot your password?" is also present. A green notification box at the bottom states: "Facility to make Online Payments will be available soon." The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 6:34 PM on 4/28/2018.


Reforms Completed between June 2017 and April 2018 with Data/Evidence

Sindh Business Registration Portal



Reforms Completed between June 2017 and April 2018 with Data/Evidence

Sindh Business Registration Portal

 **EASE OF DOING BUSINESS**
Government of Sindh

ADMIN LABOUR ▾

Dashboard

➕ New Registration

Business Entity Details

Registration By Department

Registration Requests <

Managing Partner Detail

Full Name *

Father's/ Husband Name *

CNIC No. *

Mobile No. *

Landline Phone No.

Email Address

→

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Reforms Completed between June 2017 and April 2018 with Data/Evidence

Sindh Business Registration Portal

The screenshot displays the 'EASE OF DOING BUSINESS' portal for the Government of Sindh. The header includes the logo and the text 'EASE OF DOING BUSINESS Government of Sindh' on the left, and 'ADMIN LABOUR' with a dropdown arrow on the right. A dark sidebar on the left contains navigation options: 'Dashboard', 'New Registration', 'Business Entity Details' (highlighted), 'Registration By Department', and 'Registration Requests'. The main content area is titled 'Business Entity Details' and features a table with columns for Applicant Name, Business Nature, Business Entity Full Name, Sector, Sub Sector, Date of Establishment, Registration Date, and Action. An 'Export To Excel' button is located in the top right of the table area. The table contains two rows of data.

Applicant Name	Business Nature	Business Entity Full Name	Sector	Sub Sector	Date of Establishment	Registration Date	Action
ATIF HABIB	SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP	M/S. HABIB & COMPANY (PVT) LTD.	TRADER	ALLIED PRODUCTS	06-Dec-2017	14-Feb-2018	
ALI	SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP	M/S. ALI ENTERPRISES	SERVICE PROVIDER	DISTRIBUTORS, SALES AGENTS AND IMPORTERS	14-Feb-2018	14-Feb-2018	

Reform Outreach

Date	Subject / Event	Attendance
5-Apr-18	Urdu/Sindhi media meet	10 media personnel.
5-Apr-18	DB retreat - 5th April	100 businessmen & contributors
4-Apr-18	Consultative Session on Construction Permit	15 Members of ABAD
4-Apr-18	Contributors meet-up session on Trading across border indicator	12 plus invitees (contributors/Reps of FBR & Customs)
29-Mar-18	Social Media Influencers/Bloggers meet follow-up	3 Bloggers & Social Media Influencers & 5 from WB & SBI
20-Feb-18	Round table with American Business Council (ABC)	20 plus members of ABC
15-Feb-18	Sindh Doing Business Reforms Exhibition	175 members from the business community
14-Feb-18	Social Media Influencers & Bloggers meet	10 Bloggers/Social media influencers/senior journalists
14-Feb-18	Social Media Influencers & Bloggers meet - I	3 Bloggers & Social Media Influencers & 5 from WB & SBI
22-Jan-18	Media Briefing on Sindh DB efforts	40 plus members of the media.
17-Jan-18	Consultative Session on Contract Enforcement	30 plus members of the legal community

Reform Outreach: Sindh DB Reforms Exhibition



Reform Outreach: Sindh DB Reforms Exhibition

STARTING A BUSINESS IN SINDH

QUICKER AND EASIER THAN EVER BEFORE

- Online business registration facility at Sindh Business Registration Portal.
- Time required for provincial department registrations to be reduced to 1 day from 7 days by using the Sindh Business Registration Portal.
- Developing procedural links between 4 departments - Industries, Sindh Employees' Social Security Institution (SESSI), Labour and Excise & Taxation (E&T) – for smoother and swifter business registration.
- Public facilitation desks at Excise & Taxation (E&T), Labour & Industries departments and Karachi Chamber of Commerce.
- Simultaneous registration with provincial agencies dealing with business registration.



GETTING CONSTRUCTION PERMITS IN SINDH

QUICKER AND EASIER THAN EVER BEFORE

- Number of procedures to obtain Construction Permits reduced from 15 to 7.
- SBCA waives Floor Certificate requirements from selected projects.
- SBCA reduces time to grant construction permits from 60 to 30 days and for completion certificates from 45 to 30 days.
- 3 NOCs exempted by SBCA.
- Karachi Water & Sewerage Board (KWSB) reduces timeframe for commercial water and sewerage connections from 61 to 21 days.
- Environmental Approval waived for 9 selected projects by Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA).
- Environmental Checklist approval time reduced from 30 to 15 days.



CUSTOMER-FRIENDLY INITIATIVES BY K-ELECTRIC FOR INDUSTRIES

ONE-WINDOW SOLUTIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF NEW POWER CONNECTIONS.

New Connection Process – Simplified

- Making the application process faster and simpler at 29 locations across Karachi and adjoining areas.
- Introduced simple to understand New Connection request forms, available on KE website.
- Single undertaking for new connection requests.
- Reduced new connection documentation requirements.

Reduced turnaround Time (TAT) for customer with above 50KW sanctioned load

- Reduced TAT for execution from 215 days to 120 days after submission of application and required documents (Road Cutting Challan, EIA test form, Power Factor).
- Time of Execution of infrastructure on full payment reduced from 120 days to 90 days.
- Complete facilitation extended for new connection via industrial associations.
- Internal department to monitor TAT of on-going cases.
- Plans underway for dedicated industrial customers helpline.



REGISTERING PROPERTY

QUICKER AND EASIER THAN EVER BEFORE

- Overall time required to register property in Karachi reduced from 208 days to just 17 days – A 92% reduction.
- With the Digital Scanning Unit replacing microfilming technology, time spent at the Sub-Registrar Offices reduced by 96%.
- 2 procedures eliminated.
- 50% archival registries of Karachi digitized.
- Transparency and ease of access ensured with online services at www.sindhzameen.gos.pk & App SindhZameen@.
- Standard registration templates and tax calculator available online.
- Title search facility available online through Land Administration & Revenue Management Information System (LARMIS).
- Live Dashboard of Property Registries in Karachi.
- Rules, Laws and checklists mentioned on website.
- Adoption of binding service standards and complains mechanism for ensuring quality of services.
- Online Complaint Management System & UAN available at 111-267-467.



Sindh DB Reforms Exhibition – Banners / Infographics (Urdu)

سندھ میں نئے کاروبار کا آغاز۔ پہلے سے آسان تر اور تیز تر

- ☆ برنس رجسٹریشن پورٹل پر آن لائن برنس رجسٹریشن کی سہولت۔
- ☆ سندھ برنس رجسٹریشن پورٹل کے استعمال کے ذریعے صوبائی محکموں سے رجسٹریشن کا طریقہ کار سہولت (7) دنوں کی بجائے صرف ایک (1) دن میں۔
- ☆ جیز اور آسان برنس رجسٹریشن کیلئے صنعت، سندھ ایچ پی اے سوشل سکیورٹی (SESSI) لیبر اور ایکسائز اینڈ ٹیکسیشن (ET&CD) جیسے چار دکانوں کے درمیان پروسیجرل لنک۔
- ☆ ایکسائز اینڈ ٹیکسیشن (ET&CD)، لیبر، صنعت اور کراچی چیئر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری (KCCA) میں پیکیڈ فیسیلیٹیشن ڈیسک کا قیام۔
- ☆ برنس رجسٹریشن سے متعلق صوبائی ایجنسیوں کے ساتھ بیک وقت رجسٹریشن۔

کراچی میں پراپرٹی رجسٹریشن۔ پہلے سے آسان تر اور تیز تر

- ☆ کراچی میں پراپرٹی کی رجسٹریشن 208 کی بجائے صرف 17 دنوں میں۔ 92 فیصد وقت کی بچت۔
- ☆ سب رجسٹرار کے دفاتر میں، سیکورٹیز اینڈ ٹیکسٹ کی نیا مادی کی بجائے جدید ڈیجیٹل سکیٹنگ پورٹ، جس سے 96 فیصد تک وقت کی بچت۔
- ☆ طریقہ کار کے 2 مراحل کا خاتمہ۔
- ☆ کراچی کی 50 فیصد ریکارڈ کیلبر رجسٹریوں کی ڈیجیٹائزیشن۔
- ☆ آسان رسائی اور شفافیت کیلئے ویب سائٹ www.sindhzameen.gos.pk اور ایپلیکیشن SindhZameen کے ذریعے آن لائن سروسز۔
- ☆ سینڈرز رجسٹریشن میچ پلیٹس اور گیس کیٹو لیٹریسی کی سہولیات کی آن لائن فراہمی۔
- ☆ لینڈ اینڈ منسٹریشن اینڈ ریویو نیوٹیجمنٹ انفارمیشن سسٹم (LARMIS) کے ذریعے ہائل سرچ کی آن لائن سہولت۔
- ☆ کراچی میں پراپرٹی رجسٹریز کا لائیو ٹیسٹ بورڈ۔
- ☆ ویب سائٹ پر قوانین، قواعد و ضوابط اور چیک لسٹ کی تفصیلات۔
- ☆ معیاری خدمات کی فراہمی کیلئے ہائڈرولجک سروس سینٹر ڈاؤر شکایات کا جدید نظام۔
- ☆ آن لائن کھیلت میجمنٹ سسٹم اور پاس این 111-267-467 کا قیام۔

بجلی کا حصول کے الیکٹرک اصلاحات

- ☆ بجلی کے نئے کنکشن کیلئے ون ونڈو سہولیات۔
- ☆ نئے کنکشن کے حصول کا طریقہ کار اب انتہائی آسان:
- ☆ کراچی کے 29 مقامات پر نئے کنکشن کی درخواست کا آسان اور تیز طریقہ کار۔
- ☆ کے الیکٹرک کی ویب سائٹ پر نئے کنکشن کے حصول کیلئے آسانی سے کھانے والے فارم کی فراہمی۔
- ☆ صرف درخواست دہندہ کے اقرار نامہ کے ذریعے نئے کنکشن کا حصول۔
- ☆ صرف چند ضروری دستاویزات کے ساتھ نیا کنکشن۔
- ☆ منگور شدہ 50kw سے زائد لوڈ کے کنکشن کیلئے ٹرن اراؤنڈ دورانیے میں کی:
- ☆ درخواست بعد ضروری دستاویزات (رڈ ٹنگنگ چالان، مائی آئی اے ٹیسٹ فارم، مارٹیکلر) میج کروانے کے بعد درخواست پر 215 دن کی بجائے صرف 120 دنوں میں ملگروا۔
- ☆ مکمل ادا جی پی پرائز اسٹریکچر کی تکمیل کا دورانیہ 120 دن کی بجائے 90 دن۔
- ☆ اینڈ سٹریل ایسوسی ایٹس کے ذریعے نئے کنکشن کی درخواست پر تمام سہولیات کی فراہمی۔
- ☆ کنکشن کی تنصیب کے دوران ہی (TAT) کی ماٹریٹیک کیلئے انٹریل ڈیپارٹمنٹ۔
- ☆ عینی صارفین کیلئے الگ سہولت لائن متعارف کروانے کا پلان۔

سندھ میں کنسرکشن پرمٹ کا حصول۔۔۔ پہلے سے آسان تر اور تیز تر

- ☆ کنسرکشن پرمٹ کے حصول کا طریقہ کار 15 سے کم کر کے 7 مراحل میں۔
- ☆ سندھ بلڈنگ کنٹرول اتھارٹی کی جانب سے منتخب پرائیکٹس کیلئے فلور سرٹیفکیٹ کے حصول کا خاتمہ۔
- ☆ سندھ بلڈنگ کنٹرول اتھارٹی کی جانب سے کنسرکشن پرمٹس کا حصول 60 کی بجائے 30 دنوں میں اور کیمپین سرٹیفکیٹ کا حصول 45 کی بجائے 30 دنوں میں۔
- ☆ سندھ بلڈنگ کنٹرول اتھارٹی کی جانب سے ٹین (3) NOCs کی پابندی کا خاتمہ۔
- ☆ کراچی وائٹ اینڈ ریورج پورڈ (KWSB) کی جانب سے پانی اور ریورج کنکشن کا حصول 61 کی بجائے 21 دنوں میں۔
- ☆ سندھ انوائرنمنٹل پرائیکٹس ایجنسی (SEPA) کی جانب سے 9 منتخب پرائیکٹس کیلئے انوائرنمنٹل اپروپل میں رعایت۔
- ☆ سندھ انوائرنمنٹل پرائیکٹس ایجنسی کی جانب سے چیک لسٹ کی منظوری 30 کی بجائے 15 دنوں میں۔

Sindh DB Reforms Exhibition – Banners / Infographics

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS REFORMS - SINDH

COMMITTED TO MAKING SINDH AN EASY AND COMPETITIVE BUSINESS HUB. SPEARHEADING EFFECTIVE BUSINESS REFORMS FOR IMPROVING THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN SINDH.

As a part of the Government of Sindh's current focus on moving aggressively to transform the regulatory environment of the province, ground-breaking reforms have been introduced to help make Sindh the next business powerhouse.

This reform is a part of the larger plan developed to introduce Doing Business reform at the federal and provincial levels.

With regards to this endeavour, the Government has formed Sindh Investment Climate Improvement Cell (SICIC) – a dedicated unit for execution of the reform agenda.



Leaflets - SBCA

SBCA is also in the process of introducing a risk-based evaluation system for issuance of Construction Permits, with the pilot currently notified for Category-I buildings.

For Category-I buildings, the following NOC's shall not be required:

- NOC from Karachi Water & Sewerage Board (KWSB)
- Floor Certificate from the Structural Engineer
- NOC from Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)
- NOC from Excise & Taxation (E&T) Department, Government of Sindh

Ease of Doing Business Reforms - Sindh

SINDH BUILDING CONTROL AUTHORITY (SBCA)



Leaflets - SBCA

Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA)

SBCA is a regulatory and supervisory body whose prime function is to ensure that the approval of building plans and NOCs etc. are in conformance with the existing Building & Town Planning Regulations. The quality, soundness and implementation of approved design/specifications are the sole responsibility of the concerned professionals licensed by SBCA under Karachi Building & Town Planning Regulations 2002 (Amendment up to date).

Functions:

- To regulate Town Planning and Building Control in accordance with Master Plan and Environmental Control (Building & Town Planning) Regulations, given legal cover under SBCO 1979.
- Approval of all type of building plans under the jurisdiction of SBCA.
- Approval of Structural Designs of the buildings.
- Issuance of NOCs for sale and advertisement for Public Sale Projects to the Builders and Developers i.e fixation/approval of unit price, time period and specifications of construction and development.
- To resolve public complaints against builders and developers regarding public sale projects within the purview of approved plans and specifications.

- To take action against the builders for violation of approved building plans.
- To identify, declare and demolish dangerous buildings in different parts of the city.
- To take legal action against the builders and developers involved in unauthorized construction and violations of building plan/NOC.
- To issue licenses to professionals, builders and developers under Karachi Building & Town Planning Regulations 2002. (Amended up to date).

Public-friendly Building Regulations by SBCA:

As a landmark step taken towards facilitating the public, the procedure for approval and issuance of permits for Residential Bungalows, Non-Obnoxious Warehouses or any other buildings falling in Category-I has been eased out.

Amendments in procedures and timeline have been notified, according to which every case of construction permit falling within Category-I, after completion of necessary requirements, shall be approved and issued in a single-stage procedure within a period of 30 days.

Also, every case of Final Completion Certificate falling within Category-I, after completion of necessary requirements and final inspection, shall be approved within 30 days.

Reform Outreach: Twitter & Facebook

WhatsApp 11:54 AM

Twitter, Inc.

← Tweet

 **Ease of Doing Business Sindh**
@EODBSindh

Sindh moving quickly ahead to implement Doing Business reform, KWSB notifies significant reduction in commercial water connections time to just 21 days from the previous 61!

[@Illango_WB](#) [@Naheed_Memon](#)
[@saleemranjha](#) [@naeem_zamindar](#)
[@MuradAliShahPPP](#) [@SindhCMHouse](#)

6:30 am · 25 Jan 2018

3 Retweets 4 Likes


   







← >   

(8) Ease of Doing Business - Sindh

Secure | <https://www.facebook.com/Ease-of-Doing-Business-Sindh-146937396011405/>

 Ease of Doing Business - Sindh

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 **Ease of Doing Business - Sindh**
Yesterday at 1:00pm · 


KWSB reduces timeframe for new water connections -
<https://t.co/WUHQIDKnsB> [@Illango_WB](#) [@Naheed_Memon](#)
[@MuradAliShahPPP](#) [@saleemranjha](#) [@naeem_zamindar](#)



KWSB reduces timeframe for new water connections
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COMMUNICATIONS – Twitter & Facebook Posts




"I will admit I did have women in mind when I started working on making doing business easier in Sindh. We have a long way to go but a good place to begin is to 'want'. Nothing makes me happier than to see women wanting to be independent, successful, powerful, and rich. It is as much our world and our right to do whatever we want."

Naheed Memon, Chairperson, Sindh Board of Investment


"Right from the top executive in Sindh - the Chief Minister - to officials in the government of Sindh, we are all geared to achieving targets on the Doing Business reform." : Mohammad Waseem, Chairman Planning and Development, Sindh.


#SindhDoingBusiness #EoDB

“Sindh is open for business. Karachi is open for business . And the departments in the government of Sindh eagerly await new businesses to come in and promote the investment climate in the dynamic province of Sindh.

AGHA WASIF ABBASS,
SECRETARY SINDH

#DoingBusinessSindh
#EoDB



#DoingBusinessSindh #EoDB

"We stand at an opportune time today because we are on the verge of re-industrialization in Pakistan. Karachi and the province of Sindh are poised, placed and located to lead this re-industrialization. We in the government of Sindh take on this opportunity and responsibility with passion."

Naheed Memon, Chairperson,
Sindh Board of Investment.




Reform Outreach: News Ad

**WELCOME TO SINDH
WHERE BUSINESS IS EASY!**

Doing business in Sindh is now easier than ever. The Government of Sindh is proudly implementing unprecedented, and far-reaching business-friendly policy reforms.



Pakistan's Commercial and Industrial Hub

- **Sindh Business Registration Portal** to integrate all federal and provincial departmental procedures (Industries, Labour, Excise, SESSI, NADRA, FBR & SECP) online, for entrepreneurs to get all provincial registrations in real-time via a single website.
- Sindh Building Control Authority has waived NOCs for selected projects. Now it takes **7 steps** to get Construction Permits compared to 15 before.
- Sindh Environmental Protection Agency has waived Approval requirement for selected low-impact projects.
- Karachi Water & Sewerage Board has reduced timeframe for commercial water and sewerage connections from 61 to **21 days**.
- Board of Revenue has reduced time to register property from 208 days to just **17 days** – a 92% reduction.

BUSINESS BECOMES EASIER IN SINDH



www.twitter.com/EODBSindh/

www.facebook.com/EODBSindh/



Reform Outreach

- Articles, Interviews, Press-releases, Photographs



Reform Outreach: Op-ed

- Articles, Interviews, Press-releases, Photographs

Sindh rising to the challenge

By Naheed Memon

Globalisation has introduced unparalleled competition, and Pakistan's market size and location advantages can dissipate into nothingness if we do not act swiftly to improve our business environment

PAKISTAN has lagged behind in development and investment-driven growth. This sluggish development could be attributed mostly to capital constraints, an underdeveloped bond market, directionless bank support for infrastructure construction and ad hocism in fiscal management.

A constant ray of hope and a propelling force in the country's growth story has been its private sector. The business community seems ready to re-industrialise Pakistan and we may have an opportunity to make up for the lost decades.

Despite all the apprehensions people may have about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), business is on the move because Pakistan has somewhat closed infrastructure gaps in infrastructure through mega projects. Criticism of CPEC is mainly based on our expected inability to pay back loans and the imminent balance-of-payments crisis.

Ironically, the solution to this impending issue lies with the very beneficiary of this build-up, i.e. business.

A simple message, therefore, for policy makers is that unless we support business, we won't have the money to pay back the loans we have taken.

Hence, the ease of doing business, a concept now synonymous with World Bank's \$1-million-per-year project in Pakistan, is a way to avoid a

fiscal crisis in the medium to long term.

We certainly do not owe all new business opportunities to CPEC. There is now a resurgence of foreign investment interest in Pakistan on account of greater stability, a growing middle class and an urbanising society.

However, globalisation has introduced unparalleled competition, and the country's market size and location advantages can dissipate if we do not act swiftly to improve our business environment.

Recently, a friend representing one of the world's largest community development funds told me that they select their next investment destination singularly on the "respect" shown for their money.

And the principal way of showing respect for people's money, whether domestic or foreign, is by making the environment business friendly.

Of late, Pakistan's ranking in the World Bank's ease of doing business index has not been encouraging. In the Doing Business Report 2018, the country declined to 147 from 144 a year ago out of 190 countries.

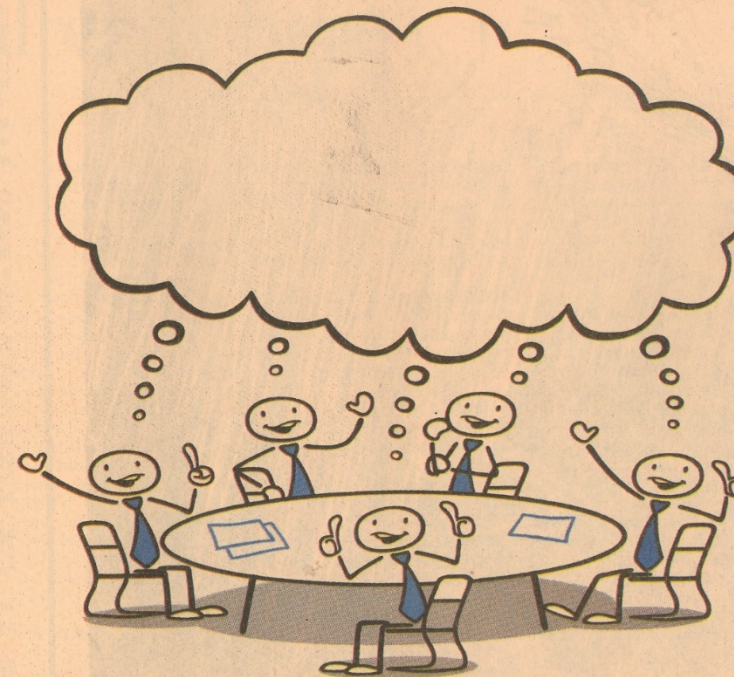
Our distance to frontier score — which helps assess the absolute level of regulatory performance of an economy over time — was 51.65; a far cry from the best score of 100.

In Pakistan, regulations evaluated in three areas — registering property, getting building permits and enforcing contracts — are in the provincial domain. Two other areas — starting a business and paying taxes — partially fall within the provinces' purview.

In Sindh, recent developments spell out the provincial government's commitment to this agenda. A steering committee is overseeing the reform plan in collaboration with the World Bank.

A dedicated unit — the Sindh Investment Climate Improvement Cell — is responsible for ensuring that the number of procedures and time are reduced.

Over the last decade, Sindh has been quicker to introduce administrative and economic reforms



compared with other provinces. The Land Record Management Information System (Larmis) was first deployed in Sindh.

Under the project, 90 per cent of the land

records of all 29 districts in the province — maintained since 1985 — have been computerised and verified by deputy commissioners of districts.

Similarly, the Sindh Revenue Board has led the

way in collecting sales tax in the country after the 18th Constitutional Amendment.

With the help of the Punjab Board of Information and Technology, Sindh also plans to automate business registration via a portal which will link all provincial and central databases and authorities for starting a business. The idea is to integrate all departmental procedures online so that entrepreneurs can get required provincial registrations from a single place in real time.

This facility will be launched in a pilot form in key government departments and will also be placed in the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry office soon. Business facilitation or customer services centres will also be set up in Karachi at as many locations as possible.

The Sindh government also plans to set up arbitration centres to mitigate undue delays in settling business matters and to lessen the burden on district courts. The World Bank is collaborating with the Sindh Judicial Academy and the office of the Attorney General Sindh to draft a plan to make such centres operational quickly.

Studies show that high start-up costs can result in lower overall productivity. Inefficient incumbent firms are more likely to continue operating despite poor productivity because there is little competition from new, more productive firms.

There may be some merit in tax amnesty schemes in the short term, but these are mere quick fixes for a problem which can only be solved through encouraging businesses to enter the formal sector.

The Sindh government is committed to embracing global best practices and forging meaningful partnerships with all stakeholders, while holding in place our values and priorities. Unless there is more and bigger business, there cannot be more prosperity. ■

—The writer is chairperson of the Sindh Board of Investment