



ECONOMIC RELEASE



PRESS RELEASE

EFP Voices Concern Over Ban On Export Of Edibles

Dated: 30th June 2020

On behalf of the ailing manufacturers and exporters, the EFP Economic Council has registered protest on the recent two weeks ban on food edibles with the Hon'ble PM Imran Khan and his esteemed cabinet, here on Thursday, 30 April 2020.

The Economic Council of Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP), chaired by Ismail Suttar, has been actively working to promote Pakistan's export in international markets and bringing in much needed FDI to the country to fuel economic development. The council has taken multiple such initiatives and is continuing to do so on its Commonwealth partnership program from London office.

Yesterday, the government announced it had banned the export of all the edible items from Pakistan which also includes value added food items. The EFP-EC communicated that the news has created panic in the export-oriented food-manufacturing sector which is employing millions of people and contributing to national exchequer with valuable foreign exchange as food group represents 20 percent of all export.

On behalf of the exporters the following concerns were raised to the Hon'ble PM and his cabinet:

- The decision will result in mass unemployment, which will add to the already worsened employment market conditions due to COVID 19.
- Export oriented food sector is one of the few sectors which are still working despite Covid 19 crisis and getting orders from international market due to ongoing seasonal demand. Ban on export will affect our export targets quite negatively.
- Ramadan and Eid are peak seasons for food exports especially to Muslim countries and exporters make their main profits during this season. Any decision to ban exports will have adverse effect on exporters' revenue and many of them may not be able to revive their businesses once the ban is lifted.
- Exporters will lose hard-earned market share and competing countries will take advantage to get a walkover.
- The cabinet has made decision without taking business community into confidence.
- There are many export-oriented food items, which can never be short for domestic market due their huge reserves in Pakistan.

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