

MEDIA Coverage



December 27, 2021

Govt's role in economy limits space for entrepreneurs: PIDE

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The investment climate in Pakistan is very pragmatic and needs various corrective measures like decreasing the government's footprint in the economy.

This was pointed out by economist and vice chancellor of Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Dr Nadeemul Haque and leading researcher Dr Durre Nayab while talking to a group of journalists and writers in Islamabad.

They said the greater the role of the government in the economy, lesser the space available for entrepreneurs to function, adding that the challenge was to significantly raise investment rate and productivity as these were major drivers of growth but were relatively low.

Referring to a detailed

report titled 'Reform Agenda for Accelerated and Sustained Growth', they said research laid down the reform agenda, pursuit of which would put the country on a high and sustained growth trajectory.

For there to be a stable democracy, Dr Haque suggested proportional representation in the electoral system must be adopted which meant that for political parties to be eligible to contest elections, the parties must have elections within the party as well.

"A certain, minimal percentage of the provincial population must be inducted as party members. The legislators should not have any say in the approval and execution of development projects. Only a small proportion, maybe 5pc, of the legislators may hold executive positions, the rest should be legislators only, Dr Haque said, adding that there should be a maxi-

mum term limit (maybe two terms) for the prime minister and all the legislators.

"Additionally, the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) Funds should be decentralised and federal and provincial governments should focus only on policy formulation," he added.

Dr Durre Nayab said cities were believed to be the engine of economic growth.

"The cities that encourage economic activity are dense, high-rise, mixed-use and inclusive. These cities provide work, home, markets, school, hospital and leisure for all close to each other. By clustering economic activities, these cities generate knowledge spill overs, on the one hand, and reduce transaction costs on the other. This is an environment conducive to innovation, which is crucial for economic growth," she said.



THE NATION

PIDE's Reform Agenda suggests sustained growth 7-9pc in economy

**AGENCIES
PESHAWAR**

To absorb a high level of debt and youth bulge in Pakistan, Pakistan Institute of Development Economic (PIDE) Reform Agenda suggests sustained growth at a rate of 7-9pc per annum for three decades.

Challenge is to significantly raise investment rate and productivity which are major drivers of growth that are relatively low and declining. The greater the role of the government in the economy, the lesser is the space available for the entrepreneurs to function.

The Investment Climate in Pakistan is very pragmatic, and needs various corrective measures like decreasing the government's footprint in the economy. This was stated by Renowned Economist and VC PIDE, Dr. Nadeem ul Haque and Leading Researcher and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Dr. Durre Nayab while meeting a group of senior journalists and writers here on Sunday.

Referring to the detailed study report titled "Reform Agenda

for Accelerated and Sustained Growth" prepared by the PIDE Reform Agenda Commission comprising renowned economists and technocrats, they said that our research lays down the reform agenda, pursuing which would put the country on a high and sustained growth trajectory.

It focuses upon reforming almost every area that directly or indirectly influences economic growth. This includes beginning with, reforming the functioning of the state itself. Towards a Stable Democracy, they suggested the adoption of a proportional representation electoral system. For the political parties to be eligible to contest elections, the parties must have elections within the party. A certain, minimal percentage of the provincial population must be inducted as party members.

Only a small proportion, maybe 5%, of the legislators may hold executive positions, the rest should be legislators only. There should be a maximum term limit (maybe two terms) for the Prime Minister and all the legislators. Additionally, the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) Funds should be

decentralised, federal and provincial governments should focus only on policy formulation, monitoring, and evaluation.

The task of regulation may be left to independent regulatory agencies staffed with professionals. Service delivery requires closeness to stakeholders, and therefore, services are best delivered by local governments.

The decentralisation of power on the grassroots level and making people authoritative is very crucial to promote democracy and build the state's capacity for governance. And for that PIDE in its Reform agenda suggests making local government operational, direct election of mayors, clearly defining the role of all three tiers of local government, PIDE officials added.

Dr. Haque further said that PIDE's comprehensive study recognizes investment and entrepreneurial activity cannot happen in markets without the government's enabling and facilitative role. There is a need to emphasise reorienting the role of the government to function as an 'enabler' in the economy.

PIDE's Reform Agenda for Accelerated and Sustained Growth - A Software for Economic Revival: VC PIDE

TIMES REPORT

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BUSINESS RECORDER

Founded by M. A. Zuberi

Experts explain how sustained growth can be achieved

ABDUL RASHEED AZAD ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economic (PIDE) to absorb a high level of debt and youth bulge in Pakistan has suggested sustained economic growth of 7 to 9 percent per annum for 3 decades.

Talking to a group of journalists here the Vice-Chancellor (VC) PIDE, Dr Nadeem ul Haque and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, PIDE Dr Durr-e-Nayab said that challenge is to significantly raise investment rate and productivity which are major drivers of growth but at present both the indicators are relatively low and continually declining. The greater the role of the government in the economy, the lesser is the space available for the entrepreneurs to function. The Investment Climate in Pakistan is very pragmatic, needs various corrective measures like decreasing the government's footprint in the economy.

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"The current regulatory framework does not allow the emergence of such cities. The PIDE's reform agenda recommends rethinking the regulatory environment surrounding city zoning, construction regulations, car use, public spaces, among other things, to unleash such cities that facilitate economic activity to their fullest" she added.

PIDE's Vice-Chancellor stressed the need to develop state capacity to understand and meet the emerging challenges which require embedding research in all activities, just like the country's leading the scientific and technological advances. This would also require disrupting the education system to foster problem-solving skills and creativity. To begin with, this calls for almost universal internet access, and the PIDE recommends spending state resources to make the internet available for all at affordable prices. We believe that the payoffs from this would be more than the typical brick-and-mortar projects that the PSDP Funds.

PIDE's Reform Agenda for Accelerated and Sustained Growth - A Software for Economic Revival: VC PIDE

T M Report

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And for that PIDE in its Reform agenda suggests making local governments operational, direct election of mayors, clearly defining the role of all three tiers of local government, PIDE officials added. Dr. Haque further said that PIDE's comprehensive study recognizes investment and entrepreneurial activity cannot happen in markets without the government's enabling and facilitative role.

There is a need to emphasize reorienting the role of the government to function as an 'enabler' in the economy. Dr. Nayab added that cities are believed to be the engine of economic growth. The cities that encourage economic activity are dense, high-rise, mixed-use, and inclusive. These cities provide work, home, markets, school, hospital, and leisure for all close to each other.

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PIDE's reform agenda for economic revival

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Islamabad POST

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■ APP
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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1666049>



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41 people killed in Burkina Faso attack

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<https://nation.com.pk/27-Dec-2021/pide-s-reform-agenda-suggests-sustained-growth-7-9pc-in-economy>



[Experts explain how sustained growth can be achieved](#)

[Abdul Rasheed Azad](#)

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