**Mohmand Marble City**

Mohmand is one of the six agencies recently merged in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where huge quantities of Marble are extracted. Despite of being a war zone for several decades, Mohmand, Khyber, Bajaur, Orakzai and Kurram Agencies in FATA are the major zones where huge quantities of Marble are extracted. These deposits have a great variety of colors and types and thus have vast potential in international Market. About 7000 million tons of good quality marble ranging from super white and grey varieties exist in this region. Currently more than 1.5 million stones of Marble are excavated. Currently, about 0.43 million ton of marble is processed in 301 units established in different areas of Mohmand Agency. The remaining production is processed in industrial units of Peshawar, Mardan, and Islamabad etc. Most of the processing units in Ex FATA run at less than 30% of their installed capacity due to irregular power supply and low-quality infrastructure and other allied issues.

In order to revitalize the economy, generate employment and to process the available marble into products compatible in the international market, a Marble City was established in Mohmand Agency in collaboration with Pakistan Stone Development Company Islamabad (PASDEC) on 350 Acre in September 2012. After the 25th Constitutional Amendment, the FATA was merged into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa handed over the project of Mohmand Industrial Estate to KPEZDMC in March 2019. The development of Mohmand Economic Zone was incomplete. To complete the balance infrastructure works in Mohmand Economic Zone, the PC-I amounting PKR. 1349 million was approved under AIP 2021-2022 by the PDWP dated 18/10/2021. The implementation of balance works will be started by end of April 2022 with project duration of three years.

The core objective of the project is to revitalize the economy of FATA, generate economic activity, employment generation and business opportunities for the local of most marginalized areas of previously FATA, now merged with KP. The main objective of Mohmand Economic Zone is listed below;

* To develop an integrated economic zone with the objective to create a platform for industries, create mass employment opportunities, skill development of local population and to utilize the resources to boost the economy of the province.
* To utilize the available mineral resources to enhance marble production in the region.
* To create conducive environment for enhancement of industrial output.
* To create more opportunities of investment, for economic and social uplifts of the region.
* Export will be boosted due to advantage of KP province on gateway to Afghanistan, central Asian republics and China.
* To influence and facilitate government project development.
* To progress strategic government infrastructure projects and to ensure adequate facilitation for industries to support development.
* To provide furtherance in social, economic and cumulative benefits.
* Provide a conducive environment for the Dimensional Stone Industry of Pakistan;
* Add value to the existing products, enhance exports and to attract local & international investment in the Dimensional Stone industry.
* Address the environmental and health hazards.
* Localized environmental controls that are specific to the needs of an industrial area;
* Process innovation according to international standards.

It is estimated that in addition to other economic benefits, MEZ will generate more than 30,000 direct job opportunities in the area where unemployment is rampant. The total expected investment is around PKR. 10 Billion. More than 300 industrial units of different categories will be set up in the Zone.