



IPDF handling projects worth Rs230bn

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KARACHI: The government wants to provide sovereign backing and credit worthiness to local governments in order to attract foreign investors.

This was stated by Ghulam Murtaza Satti, adviser to Infrastructure Project Development Facility (IPDF) while talking to media persons. He said that the present government was increasingly looking to the private sector for investment and the development of capital infrastructure projects. Pakistan's initiative with public private partnership (PPP) began with the establishment of the IPDF by the government to facilitate projects by providing expertise and support to public sector implementing agencies, he added.

He said that currently IPDF was handling a total of 13 different projects in various stages of completion having a cumulative worth of Rs230 billion.

The projects nearing finalisation include Karachi Circular Railway with a cost of Rs80 billion, CNG busses (Rs0.4 billion), cool chain system along the National Trade Corridor (Rs12 billion), and IT Park under the PSEB amounting to Rs12 billion.

Satti said last week, meetings were held between the IPDF, World Bank, its UK-based consultants Cambridge Economic Policy Associates and officials of the ministry of finance in order to set up viability gap fund (VGF) and the project development fund (PDF). The purpose of these funds is to compliment the PPP initiative in the infrastructure sector.

Giving details of the funds he said that the VGF will function to help with projects, which are of considerable social and economic importance but are not commercially viable from the investors' perspective. The PDF will be a revolving fund, which can be accessed by various line ministries and the IPDF to determine the feasibility and to design infrastructure projects

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