

## **Press Release**

*For immediate Release*

**June 16, 2015**

### **Regulators need to be uncompromisingly honest and bold**

ISLAMABAD, June 16: The SECP's officers have been advised to follow a strict code of behavior and remain uncompromisingly honest, bold, firm, discerning and incorruptible, if they really want their organization to be a true and effective regulator of the capital market. You should never compromise on matters of integrity.

Mr. Khalid Mirza, former Chairman of the SECP, gave this advice at a special session. The SECP regularly arranges such sessions where experienced personalities of the corporate sector address its employees.

Earlier, the SECP's former chairmen, Mr. Shamim Ahmed Khan and Dr. Tariq Hassan had addressed such sessions. Mr. Zafar Hijazi, the SECP Chairman, announced that the SECP would keep inviting eminent personalities to benefit from their wisdom.

Mr. Mirza said that self-seeking persons are misfit in a regulatory body such as the SECP. He said that he remained regulator of the market for many years, but never bought a single share as that might have reflected badly on his position as a regulator.

He praised Mr. Zafar Hijazi, saying "he was a tough enforcement commissioner" when he was the chairman. He knew what was what and what needed to be done and in what manner. I think pretty soon you will see a change in the tone of the SECP, in the way it acts and in the way it responds to situations.

He advised the officers not to bring in their personal prejudices. You have to be objective and fair. It is very important for a regulator to be honest, and bold. If a regulator doesn't have these qualities, they are prone to be ham-handed, and likely to overplay their hand. They are likely to get a reaction which they regret later.

He also advised the SECP employees that under all circumstances they have to remain fair and resolute in their enforcement actions. He said that a regulator's position is not that of a court of law, but of a court of justice. If the regulator is firm and fair, he can be helpful in developing a robust market. He should consider the interests of the small shareholders supreme.