

SEC Registers 224 Companies during February 2005

Islamabad – March 3 2005: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SEC) registered 224 companies during the month of February 2005 compared to 162 companies registered during the corresponding month of the previous year showing an increase of 30 percent.

Of the total 224 registered companies, 216 were companies limited by shares including 3 public unlisted companies, 201 private companies, 12 single member companies, six foreign companies, one association not-for-profit and one company limited by guarantee.

The Company Registrar Office (CRO) Lahore registered the highest number of 91 companies, followed by Karachi, 64 and Islamabad registered 52 companies. CROs at Faisalabad, Multan and Peshawar registered six, four and seven companies respectively. Besides, the SEC granted licenses to three associations not-for-profit.

Total authorized capital and paid-up capital of the 216 limited-by-shares companies amounted to Rs. 3,569.8 million and Rs. 161.26 million respectively. Out of these, 201 were private companies having authorized capital of Rs. 3,189.3 and paid-up capital Rs. 155.368 million, 12 single member companies with an authorized capital of Rs. 20.5 million and paid-up capital Rs. 5.42 million, and three were public companies with an authorized capital and paid up capital of Rs 360 and Rs. 0.47 million respectively. Further, a total of 32 companies have raised their authorized capital during the month with an increment of Rs. 2956.6 million.

Moreover, the SEC accorded approval to 21 companies during February 2005 for alteration in the Memorandum of Association under section 21. The companies may require alteration to enable them mainly to expand their businesses in order to improve efficiency or economy of scales, use improved means, combine business advantageously and to enlarge or change area of operation.

During the month, the most flourishing sector in terms of number of new registration was the services sector whereby 29 companies were registered, followed by 26 companies registered each in communication and real estate development sector and 25 in trading sector.

The month's total incorporations brought the SEC's total portfolio of registered corporate sector to 45,373 companies as on 28 February 2005 which comprises of 2,811 public companies, 41,245 private companies, 209 single member companies, 286 associations not-for-profit, 56 companies limited by guarantee, 167 trade organizations, 594 foreign companies and five companies with unlimited liabilities. This is an increase of 6 percent as compared to 42, 693 companies registered upto 28 February.

The number of new registration each month has been increasing at a considerable pace and marked with a continuous average of new incorporation in excess of 200 companies continuously since March 2004. The corporate sector has maintained a similar trend in the beginning of this year with 219 and 224 new registrations in the months of January 2005 and February 2005 respectively, thus far surpassing the comparative registration figure of the previous year.