

Truth Commission: Impact on Economy

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THE proposed formation of Truth Commission is one of the major innovations in the institutional structure of Bangladesh. The objective of this institution is expected to assist the growth and development of the economy. This article highlights a few factors which discuss how Truth Commission might have a positive impact on the economy.

Economic policy objectives of higher income and output of goods and services, employment, and price stabilization, all of which, recently tend to move in a reverse direction. Growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) may remain unacceptably low for the next decade. We do not have any possibility for the inflation to come down soon from the double-digit to a single-digit. It would not be surprising if we have a galloping inflation of 20% or over in a year. In fact, this is the situation of stagflation - with higher inflation, lower income and output, and higher unemployment. It has been a necessity that we do something for the growth of our economy at the early possible convenience.

We need a relaxed business policy and business related laws, amendment to these laws, rules and regulation to promote the private sector, its business including self-help or self-employed business by the maximum utilization of the selfishness characteristics of ourselves. "We are selfish by born. We want more of everything by working hard. Our families and the society will ultimately share the larger pie of our earnings, income and benefit from our hard work" said Chief Adviser, Center for Policy Research (CPR), Uttara University.

We need to save the business and the businessman by making amendment to the business related laws to eliminate the probable unnecessary provisions/clauses of the business law, if any, which are constraints to implement the business law and to give a go-ahead and reap the business and social benefit from the business, and also to help minimize the corruption to a significant level. A careful review and amendment to the business related laws may be made by a joint committee of the Government and the business

leaders to serve the interest of all parties, and by harming none.

To eliminate corruption, the formation of Truth Commission has become a necessity, but it might face a challenge on discriminatory grounds. Laws of the land under which Truth Commission will work have to be equally applicable to all parties. Degree of punishment may differ between individuals or parties according to their nature of crimes. The above attempt might bring back the businessman's confidence in investment, which will have expansionary effects on the economy.

In the economic state of lower output and higher unemployment, we cannot recommend to increase the tax-rate. But, the extensive coverage of tax payment by providing a Tax Identification Number (TIN) certificates to each and every citizen with taxable or nontaxable income will maximize the Government's tax revenue.

The proposed formation of Truth Commission highlights the importance of business for the growth and develop-

ment of national economy. We appreciate the Government for its recognition about the importance of business; support the idea of forming Truth Commission to save the business and the economy. We suggest that the commission includes the stake-holders, investors or business leaders who understand the business and can advise the legal group of consultants in framing appropriate laws to be exercised by Truth Commission without making a further mistake. We also advise to form a committee or sub-committee including the business consultants, social scientists and economists to review and recommend amendments to the existing business related laws to eliminate unnecessary provisions, if any, from the laws which make their implementation less than feasible and lead to corruption. It is also suggested that priority be given to the business as it is the sole source of finance for the economy, Government, life and living.

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