

Press Coverage of PAMA Letter to MoIP – NTP and Underlying Data Concerns dated 16-Oct-26

**BUSINESS
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Founded by M.A. Zuberi

Guidance sought for independent review of simple, trade-weighted average tariff data

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By Recorder Report



KARACHI: Pakistan Automotive Manufacturers Association (PAMA) has sought the Prime Minister's guidance for an independent review of simple and trade-weighted average tariff data under the national tariff policy.

In a letter to Haroon Akhtar Khan, Advisor to the PM on Industries and Production, Director General PAMA Razi ur Rahman has requested him to place this matter before the PM and seek his guidance for: an independent technical review of NTP's simple and trade-weighted average tariff calculations, underlying data and methodology, including reconciliation with the relevant WTO figures; a transparent, like-for-like comparison using consistent reference periods, tariff coverage, weighting methods and clearly stated assumptions; and deferral of further tariff adjustments materially dependent on the disputed baseline until the review is completed and findings considered.

DG PAMA drew Haroon's attention to the association's concerns regarding the data and methodology underpinning the National Tariff Policy (NTP), particularly the reported simple and trade-weighted average tariffs for Pakistan and their comparability with the corresponding figures used in international assessments.

"Tariff adjustments based on an inaccurate assessment could inadvertently undermine domestic manufacturing, discourage investment, weaken local supply chains and compromise employment and

export potential – objectives contrary to the government’s broader industrialization objectives,” reasoned Razi.

He reiterated that PAMA fully supports the government’s objectives of rationalizing tariffs, improving export competitiveness, and promoting an efficient, competitive economy; however, the success of these reforms depends on the accuracy and comparability of the underlying data.

“We are concerned that Pakistan’s reported average tariffs may not provide a sufficiently robust basis for determining the extent and pace of further tariff rationalization without independent technical verification.

“Simple and trade-weighted average tariffs can differ significantly depending on the methodology, datasets and assumptions employed. Differences in tariff-line coverage, reference periods, import weights, exemptions, preferential rates and the treatment of specific duties can materially affect the resulting figures,” stated DG PAMA.

Accordingly, he added, Pakistan’s reported tariff indicators must be compared with World Trade Organization (WTO) statistics on a strictly like-for-like basis, as without reconciling these elements, headline percentages may lead to misleading conclusions about Pakistan’s actual tariff position.

“Our concern is not with tariff reform itself but with the possibility of far-reaching policy decisions being made on the basis of an inadequately verified baseline. An independent review would establish whether the figures used in the NTP are methodologically sound and internationally comparable, thereby providing a reliable foundation for future decisions.

“This is particularly important for the automotive industry, which supports a substantial domestic vendor base and requires long-term investment, localization and policy predictability,” said Razi.

He added that this would be a prudent safeguard, not a departure from the government’s reform agenda, as it would strengthen the credibility of the NTP, minimize the risk of unintended economic consequences, and ensure future tariff decisions are based on reliable evidence.

“We trust that you will appreciate the importance of resolving this matter before further adjustments are undertaken and will extend your support in bringing it to the Prime Minister’s attention,” concluded DG PAMA.

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PAMA seeks independent review of NTP tariff data

Business

By Our Correspondent

October 17, 2026



A view shows the assembly line at the Volkswagen (VW) electric fleet lead plant in Emden, Germany, February 18, 2025. — Reuters

KARACHI: The Pakistan Automotive Manufacturers Association (PAMA) has sought the prime minister's guidance for an independent review of the simple and trade-weighted average tariff data under the National Tariff Policy (NTP).

In a letter to Haroon Akhtar Khan, adviser to the PM on industries and production, PAMA Director-General Razi ur Rahman requested that the matter be placed before the Prime Minister. The association has sought an independent technical review of the NTP's tariff calculations, underlying data and methodology, including reconciliation with relevant World Trade Organisation (WTO) figures.

It also called for a transparent, like-for-like comparison using consistent reference periods, tariff coverage, weighting methods and clearly stated assumptions. Further tariff adjustments that depend materially on the disputed baseline should be deferred until the review is completed and its findings considered, the letter said.

Razi said tariff adjustments based on an inaccurate assessment could inadvertently undermine domestic manufacturing, discourage investment, weaken local supply chains and compromise employment and export potential, which he termed contrary to the government's broader industrialisation objectives.

The DG said PAMA fully supported the government's objectives of rationalising tariffs, improving export competitiveness and promoting an efficient economy, but the success of these reforms depended on the accuracy and comparability of the underlying data.

"We are concerned that Pakistan's reported average tariffs may not provide a sufficiently robust basis for determining the extent and pace of further tariff rationalisation without independent technical verification," he said.

He noted that simple and trade-weighted averages can differ significantly depending on methodology, datasets and assumptions. Differences in tariff-line coverage, reference periods, import weights, exemptions, preferential rates and the treatment of specific duties can materially affect the figures. Without a strictly like-for-like comparison with WTO statistics, headline percentages could lead to misleading conclusions about Pakistan's actual tariff position, he added.

"Our concern is not with tariff reform itself but with the possibility of far-reaching policy decisions being made on the basis of an inadequately verified baseline," said Razi. An independent review, he said, will establish whether the NTP figures are methodologically sound and internationally comparable.

He said this was particularly important for the automotive industry, which supports a substantial domestic vendor base and requires long-term investment, localisation and policy predictability.

Describing the proposal as a prudent safeguard rather than a departure from the reform agenda, he said it will strengthen the credibility of the NTP, minimise the risk of unintended economic consequences and ensure future tariff decisions rested on reliable evidence.

"We trust that you will appreciate the importance of resolving this matter before further adjustments are undertaken and will extend your support in bringing it to the prime minister's attention," he concluded.



PAMA seeks PM's guidance for independent review of national tariff policy data

Imran Ali Kundi

October 17, 2026

Newspaper, Business

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Automotive Manufacturers Association (PAMA) has sought Prime Minister's guidance for independent review of simple and trade-weighted average tariff data under the national tariff policy. In a letter to Haroon Akhtar Khan, Advisor to the PM on Industries and Production, Director General PAMA Razi ur Rahman has requested him to place this matter before the PM and seek his guidance for: an independent technical review of NTP's simple and trade-weighted average tariff calculations, underlying data and methodology, including reconciliation with the relevant WTO figures; a transparent, like for like comparison using consistent reference periods, tariff coverage, weighting methods and clearly stated assumptions; and deferral of further tariff adjustments materially dependent on the disputed baseline until the review is completed and findings considered.

DG PAMA drew Haroon's attention to the association's concerns regarding the data and methodology underpinning the National Tariff Policy (NTP), particularly the reported simple and trade-weighted average tariffs for Pakistan and their comparability with the corresponding figures used in international assessments. "Tariff adjustments based on an inaccurate assessment could inadvertently undermine domestic manufacturing, discourage investment, weaken local supply chains and compromise employment and export potential – objectives contrary to government's broader industrialization objectives," reasoned Razi. He reiterates that PAMA fully supports the government's objectives of rationalizing tariffs, improving export competitiveness and promoting an efficient, competitive economy, however, the success of these reforms depends on the accuracy and comparability of the underlying data.

"We are concerned that Pakistan's reported average tariffs may not provide a sufficiently robust basis for determining the extent and pace of further tariff rationalisation without independent technical verification."

"Simple and trade-weighted average tariffs can differ significantly depending on the methodology, datasets and assumptions employed. Differences in tariff-line coverage, reference periods, import weights, exemptions, preferential rates and the treatment of specific duties can materially affect the resulting figures," stated DG PAMA.

Accordingly, he added, Pakistan's reported tariff indicators must be compared with World Trade Organization (WTO) statistics on a strictly like-for-like basis as without reconciling these elements, headline percentages may lead to misleading conclusions about Pakistan's actual tariff position.

"Our concern is not with tariff reform itself but with the possibility of far reaching policy decisions being made on the basis of an inadequately verified baseline. An independent review would establish whether the figures used in the NTP are methodologically sound and internationally comparable, thereby providing a reliable foundation for future decisions."

"This is particularly important for the automotive industry, which supports a substantial domestic vendor base and requires long-term investment, localisation and policy predictability," said Razi.

He further stated that that this would be a prudent safeguard, not a departure from the government's reform agenda as it would strengthen the credibility of the NTP, minimise the risk of unintended economic consequences and ensure that future tariff decisions are based on reliable evidence.

"We trust that you will appreciate the importance of resolving this matter before further adjustments are undertaken and will extend your support in bringing it to Prime Minister's attention," concluded DG PAMA.

Pakistan OBSERVER

PAMA Seeks PM's Guidance on Independent Review of Tariff Data

By [Staff Report](#) | Oct 16, 2026 | Updated 30 minutes ago



The Pakistan Automotive Manufacturers Association has sought Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's guidance for an independent review of tariff calculations under the National Tariff Policy (NTP), citing concerns over the accuracy and international comparability of the data.

In a letter to Haroon Akhtar Khan, the PM's adviser on industries and production, PAMA Director General Razi ur Rahman urged him to bring the matter to the premier's attention and seek guidance on reviewing the policy's simple and trade-weighted average tariff calculations, underlying data and methodology.

PAMA has called for the figures to be reconciled with relevant World Trade Organization (WTO) statistics through a transparent, like-for-like comparison based on consistent reference periods, tariff coverage, weighting methods and clearly defined assumptions.

The association has also requested that further tariff adjustments significantly dependent on the disputed baseline be deferred until the review is completed and its findings examined.

Razi said tariff decisions based on inaccurate assessments could undermine domestic manufacturing, discourage investment, weaken local supply chains and adversely affect employment and export potential, running counter to the government's industrialisation objectives.

He reiterated PAMA's support for the government's efforts to rationalise tariffs, enhance export competitiveness and develop a more efficient and competitive economy. However, he stressed that the effectiveness of these reforms depended on the reliability and comparability of the underlying data.

According to PAMA, average tariff figures can vary considerably depending on the datasets and methodologies used. Differences in tariff-line coverage, reference periods, import weights, exemptions, preferential rates and the treatment of specific duties can significantly influence the reported averages.

The association maintained that Pakistan's tariff indicators must be compared with WTO statistics on a consistent basis to avoid misleading conclusions about the country's actual tariff structure.

"Our concern is not with tariff reform itself but with the possibility of far-reaching policy decisions being made on the basis of an inadequately verified baseline," Razi said, adding that an independent assessment would establish whether the NTP figures were methodologically sound and internationally comparable.

He highlighted the importance of accurate tariff data for the automotive sector, which supports a substantial domestic vendor network and requires long-term investment, localisation and predictable policies.

Razi described the proposed review as a safeguard that would reinforce the credibility of the NTP, reduce the risk of unintended economic consequences and ensure that future tariff decisions were grounded in reliable evidence.

He urged the government to address the concerns before implementing further tariff adjustments.