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## PM Shehbaz orders creation of 'Pakistan Skill Company'

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ISLAMABAD:

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed on Wednesday the establishment of 'Pakistan Skill Company' to better employment opportunities for the Pakistani workforce aiming to work abroad. The decision came during a sectoral briefing regarding the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTCC) and the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MOPHRD). The premier also directed the unification of nationwide technical and vocational education and the immediate establishment of the Pakistan Skill Development Fund. He emphasized the importance of NAVTCC in providing world-class training to the youth workforce, ensuring globally recognized certifications in technical fields. PM Shehbaz stressed collaboration between federal institutions and provinces, advocating for an

integrated regulatory system to develop Pakistani manpower to international standards. He called for implementing technical and vocational training plans aligned with global benchmarks. The premier also advocated for a centralized database of Pakistani manpower and reforms in the licensing framework for companies engaging Pakistani technical and vocational workforce abroad. He emphasized merit and transparency in appointing community welfare attachés in Pakistani embassies and directed the formation of a committee for reforms in NAVTTC and the MOPHRD. During the meeting, it was disclosed that following reforms NAVTTC aims to provide technical training to sixty thousand individuals this year and extend it to a total of six hundred thousand people over the next three years. Initiatives to support the youth of Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir were also discussed, including allocated quotas at the federal level and the launch of a specialized training program scheduled to commence in June this year. Earlier on May 5, the Ministry of Federal Education, Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology, and the NAVTTC inked a tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a new training centre in Islamabad. Federal Minister for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik also stated that the premier had formulated a plan aimed at providing job opportunities for young individuals upon completion of their degrees.