

ORDER SHEET
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH, KARACHI
C. P. No. D-5586 of 2026

Date	Order with signature of Judge
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- Hearing.
1. For hearing of Misc. No.141939/2026.
 2. For hearing of main case.

19.10.2026.

Mr. Rana Sakhawat Ali, and Muhammad Fareed, Advocates
for the Petitioner
Mr. Sardar Zafar Hussain, Advocate for the Respondents.
Ms. Mehreen Ibrahim, DAG alongwith Muhammad Hassan,
Deputy Director/Focal Person for Litigation DPP on behalf of
the Respondents Nos.2 & 3.

The Petition pertains to imported consignments of Betel Nuts which are pending clearance, with it being stated by the Department that the same are required to be retested to determine the aflatoxin level. The learned DAG invites attention to the Order made on 13.08.2026 by a learned Division Bench of this Court in C. P. No.D-1339/2026 under analogous circumstances and submits that this Petition may also be disposed of along similar lines. The relevant excerpt of that Order reads as follows:-

“As regards the SOP for re-sampling and re-testing the consignments of betel nuts held-up at the port after DPP’s release orders, that is clearly made in the interest of public health, inasmuch as the level of aflatoxin in those consignments may have naturally increased in the meanwhile beyond the acceptable limit. Public health outweighs any financial loss suffered by the Petitioner in the delay albeit without prejudice to its right to seek redress for such loss.

In view of the foregoing, the listed application is disposed of with the following order:

- (i) consignments of betel nuts subject matter of this petition, shipped prior to 23.12.2025 but still at the port after DPP’s release orders, shall be processed by

the DPP as per the Court's order dated 15.04.2026, however, after re-sampling and re-testing as per the SOPs dated 04.06.2026 and Prime Minister's directive dated 04.08.2026 to apply the aflatoxin standard of 30 ppb to those consignments;

(ii) the re-sampling shall be done in the presence of the Petitioner's representative at the earliest, and the samples shall be sent for testing at the Petitioner's cost and without delay to both labs on the panel of the DPP i.e. HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry, Karachi and the Punjab Agriculture, Food & Drug Authority Laboratory (PAFDA), Lahore;...."

Under the circumstances, the Petition stands disposed of in the aforementioned terms for purpose of re-sampling and re-testing of the consignment(s), which are the subject matter of this Petition and, processing thereof in accordance with the outcome of such re-sampling and re-testing.

JUDGE

JUDGE