ORDER SHEET IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH, KARACHI C.P. No.D-5305 of 2020

Date

Order with signature of Judge

Before:-

Mr.Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar Mr.Justice Arshad Hussain Khan

Zafar Iqbal.....Petitioner

V/s

Salman Talibuddin, Advocate General Sindh

& others....Respondents

25.11.2020

Mr.Zafar Iqbal, Advocate/Petitioner present in person. Mr. Salman Talibuddin, Advocate General Sindh.

Muhammad Ali Mazhar, J: The petitioner who is a practicing lawyer has filed this petition for directions against the respondents No.2 and 3 to restrain the contesting candidates of forthcoming Sindh Bar Council election from using banners, placard, stickers, panaflex etc. during their canvassing which is sheer violation of Rule 10-A of the Legal Practitioners & Bar Councils Rules, 1976 and action is liable to be taken against them under Rule 10-B.

2. The learned Advocate General Sindh, who is also Returning Officer for Sindh Bar Council election argued that no specific complaint has been lodged against any individual candidate, but the general complaint has been filed. For ease of

reference Rule 10-A and 10-B of the Legal Practitioners & Bar Councils Rules, 1976 are reproduced as under:-

"Section 10-A.(1) No prospective and/or contesting candidate or his/her supporter/s shall canvass for votes through advertisement, banners, pla-cards, stickers, panaflex, hoardings, calendars, dairies key-chains and posters etc. He/She may, however, solicit support through personal contact and by issuing letters and visiting cards of the maximum size of 3x5 inches on which he/she may also display his/her photograph. No prospective and/or contesting candidate or his/her supporter/s shall use or show of any kind of weapon during election campaign or on the day of election.

Provided that no prospective and/or contesting candidate or his/her supporter/s shall canvass for votes by approaching a voter, directly or indirectly, at his/her residence.

- (2) No meal/lunch/dinner/breakfast/hi-tea by a contesting candidate or his/her supporter/s will be given to voters directly or indirectly in connection with election campaign."
- 10-B. Any violation of Rule 10-A shall be treated as "misconduct" disqualifying/disentitling the prospective and/or contesting candidate to contest election for the Bar Council."
- 3. Learned Advocate General Sindh submits that in order to implement Rule 10-A of the Legal Practitioners & Bar Councils Rules, 1976, he will issue general circular and in case of any specific complaint received against any candidate, he will take action in accordance with law after issuing notice to the candidate and providing opportunity of hearing to him as per Rules.
- 4. In view of the statement, the petition is disposed of.

JUDGE