

ORDER SHEET
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH, KARACHI
CP No.D-631 of 2020

| Date | Order with Signature(s) of Judge(s) |
|------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | For orders on Misc. No.3041 of 2020 |
| 2. | For orders on Misc. No.3042 of 2020 |
| 3. | For orders on Misc. No.3043 of 2020 |
| 4. | For hearing of main case |

30.01.2020

Mr. Abrar Hassan, Advocate for Petitioners

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1]. Learned counsel for the Petitioners pleads urgency in the matter, therefore, urgent application is granted.

2]. For the time being, exemption application is granted, however, subject to all just exceptions.

3-4]. By means of this petition, the Petitioners herein have `impugned` the `Corrigendum` dated 10.10.2019, published by Secretary Universities & Board Department, Government of Sindh/Respondent No.2. Per learned counsel, through the `impugned Corrigendum`, the Respondents, in fact, are in a drill to give benefit to few candidates who have already applied but seemingly to the exclusion of the Petitioners herein. According to the learned counsel for the Petitioners, the official Respondents with a view to accommodate their favorites, have thus opted to change the `criteria`/`the requisite qualification` of a candidate in an afterthought manner through the `impugned Corrigendum` issued for the purpose of appointing Vice Chancellors of the Universities. According to Mr. Abrar Hassan, otherwise, there was no need of publishing the `impugned Corrigendum` dated 10.10.2019. Per learned counsel, by doing so, the Respondents in fact have deprived the Petitioners herein from their rights of participation in the process of appointment of Vice Chancellors.

The `eligibility criteria`/ the requisite `qualification` of a candidate for the post of Vice Chancellor, as per `Advertisement`, published in the newspaper [Annexure `D/T` at page 131 to the MoP], is as follows:-

- A PH.D. from HEC recognized university
- At least 25 quality research publications in national and international HEC recognized research journals.
- 20 years` experience in teaching / academic position with a substantial experience of working in senior / administrative positions.

- *Must possess outstanding and inspiring leadership with strong interpersonal and influencing skills and proven academic excellence*
- *Candidates must not be above 65 years of age on closing date of application.*

The `eligibility criteria` / requisite qualification of a candidate later on changed through the `impugned Corrigendum` [Annexure `D` at page 129 to the MoP], is as under :-

- *At least 15 quality research publications in national and international HEC recognized research journals.*
- *20 years` experience in academic positions of which a minimum of 10 years in senior administrative positions.*
- *Age on closing date of application must not be above 65 years instead of 62 years.*

The `impugned Corrigendum` issued on 10.10.2019, as urged, by Mr. Abrar Hassan, learned counsel for the Petitioners, is not only illegal but the same has been issued in violation of Articles 4, 9 & 25 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973. The same, as such, needs to be declared a `nullity` in law and of no legal effect.

Be that as it may, let notice be issued to Respondents, as well as, learned AAG for 03.02.2020. Till then, parties to maintain `status-quo`.