ORDER SHEET IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH, CIRCUIT COURT HYDERABAD

Constitutional Petition No. D -988 of 2021

DATE

ORDER WITH SIGNATURE OF JUDGE(S)

For orders on compliance report dated 25.02.2023.

16.03.2023

Before:

Justice Nadeem Akhtar

Justice Khadim Hussain Tunio

Mr. Gulzar Ali Almani, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Rafique Ahmed Dahri, Assistant Advocate General Sindh.

This petition was allowed by virtue of an order dated 18.01.2023 of this Court. A relevant excerpt from the aforementioned order is hereby reproduced:-

"In the above circumstances, the respondents are jointly and severally directed to conduct a detailed survey of the villages / areas in question and proper specialized laboratory / chemical tests of the underground water in the said areas within sixty (60) days; ensure immediate eradication of contamination in water by proper and specialized water treatment; and, ensure provision of clean, safe and adequate water for the said areas forthwith with R.O. plants along with solar system. The Secretary Health, Government of Sindh, is directed to submit a compliance report in the above terms within fifteen (15) days of the period stipulated above. Issue notice to him as well as the Chief Secretary Sindh for compliance. The petition stands allowed in these terms with no order as to costs."

This Court received compliance report from the Executive Engineer (O&M), Public Health Engineering Division Dadu who submitted that after receiving results of the water samples from the Laboratory of Pakistan Council of Research in Water Sources, the water was found to be unsafe for human consumption and as such he sealed the concerned hand pumps and has prepared a fresh location for provision of pure drinking water from the said area where he proposes that new water supply schemes shall be installed with permission of P&D Department, Karachi and Finance Department according to law.

Needless to state that compliance report submitted is barely sufficient to hold that the order of this Court dated 18.01.2023 has been complied with. No measures have been taken to eradicate the contaminated water nor have any measures been taken to ensure the provision of safe and clean water. For these reasons, the official respondents are directed to ensure compliance of the earlier order of this Court within an additional sixty (60) days and such report shall be submitted to the Court in chamber for perusal. In case of non-compliance, the official respondents shall expose themselves to the possibility of contempt proceedings.

JUDGE