

# THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH KARACHI

C.P. No. D - 2287 of 2026

[Ali Abbas versus Province of Sindh & others]

Petitioner : Ali Abbas through Mr. Abdul Jabbar Rajpar, Advocate.

Respondent No.1 : Province of Sindh through M/s. Hakim Ali Shaikh and Saghir Ahmed Abbasi, Additional Advocates General, Sindh.

Respondents 2 to 6 : Mayor Karachi & 03 others through Mr. S. Hassan Ali Abidi, Advocate.

Respondent No.7 : M/s. Ghazi Corporation through Mr. Tariq Hussain and Muhammad Absar Hussain, Advocates.

Date of hearing : 29-04-2026

Date of decision : 29-04-2026

Date of Reasons : 05-05-2026

## **ORDER**

**Nisar Ahmed Bhanbhro, J.** - Through this petition, the Petitioner claims following relief(s):

- a. *Declare that the acts of the Respondents in cutting old trees, demolishing animal enclosures, and carrying out construction activities within the premises of Karachi Zoo are illegal, unlawful, without jurisdiction and of no legal effect.*
- b. *Issue appropriate writ, order or direction directing the Respondents to immediately stop and suspend all ongoing demolition, tree cutting and construction activities within Karachi Zoo.*
- c. *Restrain the Respondents, particularly Respondent No.7 (Builder/Contractor), from carrying out any further construction or development work within the premises of Karachi Zoo.*
- d. *Direct Respondent Nos.5 and 6 (Sindh Wildlife Department and Sindh Environmental Protection Agency) to conduct a detailed inquiry/investigation into the matter and submit a comprehensive report before this Honourable Court regarding compliance with wildlife and environmental laws.*
- e. *Direct the Respondents to restore the original status of Karachi Zoo, including restoration of demolished animal enclosures and plantation/replacement of trees cut unlawfully.*
- f. *Declare that any change in land use of Karachi Zoo for purposes other than wildlife conservation and lawful public use is illegal and void*

*unless carried out strictly in accordance with law and after obtaining all requisite approvals.*

- g. Grant an interim relief by suspending all ongoing activities of demolition, tree cutting and construction within Karachi Zoo during the pendency of this petition.*
- h. Grant any other relief deemed just, proper and appropriate in the circumstances of the case in the interest of justice, protection of environment, wildlife and public property.*

2. Learned counsel for the Petitioner submitted that Respondent No.7 has been engaged by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (“KMC”) for carrying out construction activities within the premises of the Karachi Zoo. It was further contended that, during the course of such construction work, several old and mature trees have been felled, and certain cages/enclosures meant for housing animals have also been demolished. Learned counsel argued that the cutting of old trees has resulted in adverse environmental consequences, not only affecting the ecological balance of the Zoo but also causing detriment to the health and welfare of the animals as well as the general public visiting the premises. It was further contended that the demolition of animal enclosures and the felling of trees have been carried out without any lawful authority. Therefore, he prayed that appropriate directions may be issued restraining the Respondents from continuing the construction activities, as well as from further cutting or felling of trees within the premises of the Karachi Zoo.

3. Mr. S. Hassan Ali Abidi, learned counsel for Respondents 2 to 6, along with the learned Additional Advocate General, Sindh, opposed the petition and submitted that the construction activities in question are being undertaken solely with the objective of upgrading and improving the facilities within the Karachi Zoo. It was contended that the said development work is aimed at enhancing the living conditions of the animals housed in the Zoo as well as facilitating and improving the experience of members of the public visiting the said recreational facility. Learned counsel fairly submitted that during the course of construction activities, certain trees were admittedly felled; however, the same was stated to have

been done as part of the development and recreational planning of the area. It was, nevertheless, categorically assured and undertaken that no wrongful or unauthorized act has been committed within the premises of the Karachi Zoo. Furthermore, they undertake that adequate steps shall be taken for plantation/replantation of a substantial number of trees upon completion of the construction work. Therefore, they prayed that the captioned petition may be dismissed. Learned counsel for Respondent No. 7 (private Respondent) adopted the arguments advanced by learned counsel for the KMC and A.A.G., and reiterated the same.

4. Heard learned counsel and perused the material available on record.

5. In view of the submissions made by the learned counsel, it appears that the KMC, being the custodian and managing authority of the Karachi Zoo, is undertaking necessary repair, rehabilitation, and up-gradation works within the premises. It has been explained that the ongoing construction forms part of a broader and structured plan for the modernization and rehabilitation of the Zoo infrastructure. The said plan is aimed at improving and upgrading the existing facilities, including the provision of better and more appropriate enclosures for animals, enhancement of environmental and living standards within the Zoo, and development of improved recreational and visitor facilities, in line with contemporary standards of zoological management and public utility infrastructure.

6. Since the overall objective of the project is not only infrastructural improvement but also the welfare of animals and facilitation of the visiting public, while ensuring that any environmental impact arising from the construction activities is duly mitigated through appropriate replantation and other remedial measures in accordance with law.

7. In view of the foregoing discussion, no case for grant of any indulgence is made out. The Petitioner has failed to point out any illegality, irregularity, or *mala fide* in the construction activities being carried out within the premises of the Karachi Zoo. Accordingly, the instant petition is dismissed.

These are the reasons for our short order dated 29.04.2026, whereby we have dismissed the captioned petition.

**JUDGE**

**JUDGE  
HEAD OF THE CONST. BENCH**

**\*PS/SADAM**