

**HIGH COURT OF SINDH, CIRCUIT COURT,
HYDERABAD**

C.P. No.D-1583 of 2026

[Muhammad Ismail Khaskheli vs. Province of Sindh and others]

Before:

JUSTICE ADNAN-UL-KARIM MEMON

JUSTICE MUHAMMAD JAFFER RAZA

Petitioner:	In person
Respondents	By Mr. Ayaz Ali Rajper, Assistant A.G Sindh, a/w Assistant Director, Social Welfare Department, Mubin Ahmed
Date of hearing	15.10.2026
Date of Decision	15.10.2026

O R D E R

ADNAN-UL-KARIM MEMON J:- The petitioner, a 65-year-old resident of Village Sher Muhammad Bhurgri, Taluka and District Hyderabad, has filed this petition under Article 199 of the Constitution, seeking issuance of a Senior Citizen Card.

2. Petitioner, present in person, submits that the Government of Sindh, under the Sindh Senior Citizens Welfare Act, 2014 (Sindh Act No. XXI of 2016), provides for issuance of Senior Citizen Cards to persons aged 60 years and above to facilitate access to medical treatment, concessional transport and other benefits. He added that despite applying for the card before respondent No.4 on 26.03.2025, along with all requisite documents, and making subsequent visits and representations, the card has not been issued. The petitioner alleges that such inaction is arbitrary, discriminatory and contrary to law, violating Articles 4, 9, 14, 25 and 38(d) of the Constitution. He, therefore, seeks directions for immediate issuance of his Senior Citizen Card, formulation and notifying a clear SOP and timeframe for issuance of such cards to all eligible senior citizens in Sindh.

3. The learned AAG submitted that the Government of Sindh is committed to the welfare of senior citizens under the Sindh Senior Citizens Welfare Act, 2014, as amended in 2023. He admitted that the petitioner's application was received and registered on the official online portal under Tracking ID No. 100000030971, where he has been declared eligible. He, however, denies any deliberate delay, negligence or violation of the petitioner's rights, stating that the application status was updated as "exported" on 24.06.2026 for card generation and printing, while phase-wise distribution would commence after the formal rollout. He contends that

the petition is premature, as the issuance process is underway, and prays for dismissal of the petition.

4. We have heard the petitioner, who appears in person, as well as the learned AAG, and perused the record with their assistance.

5. The Sindh Senior Citizens Welfare Act, 2014, as amended by the Sindh Senior Citizen Welfare (Amendment) Act, 2023, reflects the legislative intent to promote the welfare, dignity and facilitation of senior citizens through institutional and administrative measures, including issuance of Sindh Senior Citizen Card and provision of prescribed benefits and concessions.

6. The petitioner, being 65 years of age, falls within the eligible category, and his application has admittedly been received, registered on the official portal under Tracking ID No. 100000030971, and declared eligible by the concerned department. The respondents have further acknowledged that the application was marked as “exported” on 24.06.2026 for card generation and printing.

7. In these circumstances, the petitioner’s entitlement to consideration and processing of his application is not disputed; the only explanation offered for non-issuance of the card is that distribution is to commence in phases following the formal rollout.

8. While the implementation of a welfare scheme may legitimately require administrative arrangements, printing facilities and phased distribution, such considerations cannot justify indefinite delay in extending a benefit to a person whose eligibility has already been verified and acknowledged by the competent authority.

9. The Government functionaries are required to act fairly, reasonably and in accordance with law, particularly where the legislation is intended to facilitate a vulnerable section of society. The petitioner cannot be left awaiting the benefit indefinitely merely because the administrative process remains incomplete. Nevertheless, in the absence of material establishing a deliberate denial of the card or a wider unlawful policy, no declaration of mala fide, discrimination or violation of the cited constitutional provisions is warranted at this stage. Similarly, the request for framing and notifying a general SOP does not, on the material available, call for a separate mandatory direction by this Court, as the competent authorities remain responsible for administering the scheme in accordance with the governing law.

10. In view of the foregoing, this petition is disposed of with a direction to respondent No.4, in coordination with the concerned authorities of the Social Welfare Department, Government of Sindh, to expedite and complete the

remaining process for generation, printing and issuance of the petitioner’s Sindh Senior Citizen Card within three weeks from receipt of a copy of this order. In case any genuine administrative or technical impediment prevents issuance within the stipulated period, the competent authority shall, within the same period, communicate to the petitioner a reasoned written decision specifying the precise impediment and the definite timeframe for issuance, in accordance with law. The respondents shall not defer the petitioner’s case merely on the ground of an unspecified future rollout or phased distribution, without considering his already verified eligibility and the progress of his application. There shall be no order as to costs.

JUDGE

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