ORDER SHEET
THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH, KARACHI
C. P. No. D-1623 of 2026

Dated: Order with signature of Judge(s)

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1. For orders on office objection.
2. For hearing of CMA No.21880/2026.
3. For hearing of CMA No.6349/2026.
4. For hearing of Main Case.

05.11.2026:

Mr. Muneer A. Malik, Advocate for the Petitioner.
Mr. Mohammad Farooq Chaudhry & Ms. Mahreen Maqsood, Advocates for the NADRA a/w. Syed Masood Ali, Deputy Director, NADRA Regional Head Office.

The Petitioner professes to be the only child and legal heir of the late Shaikh Muhammad Salim (the "**Deceased**"), who is said to have been a dual national of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the United States of America ("**USA**"), and to have contracted a marriage with one Bertha Lizarraga in the State of California on 10.08.1990, with the Petitioner being born from their union on 14.12.1990, and the marriage later being dissolved on or about 05.09.2001, with the Deceased then passing away on 24.12.2024. Copies of Birth Certificate of the Petitioner, the Marriage Certificate, Divorce Certificate and Death Certificate of the Deceased have been filed as Annexures "A", "B", "C" and "D" to the Petition respectively.

As it transpires, during his lifetime, the Deceased apparently held CNIC No.91509-0188431-7 issued by NADRA (Annexure "F" to the Petition) but had not taken steps to ensure that the NADRA record was updated so as to reflect his marriage or the birth of the Petitioner. As such, it is said that when the Petitioner came

forward to initiate an online application for a Pakistan Origin Card ("**POC**"), NADRA did declined to process her case as its portal showed the marital status of the Deceased as "unmarried" and required that his CNIC be updated before any application could proceed, with her endeavours in that regard remaining unsuccessful.

The Petitioner asserts that the failure of her late father to apply to NADRA to update its record so as to reflect his marriage and her birth does not divest her of the right to obtain a POC under Section 11 of the National Database and Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2000 ('the NADRA Ordinance') read with Rule 4(4) of the NADRA (Pakistan Origin Card) Rules, 2002, as well as under Rule 4(1) of the POC Rules read with Section 5 of the Pakistan Citizenship Act, 1951. Through the Petition, she seeks a declaration to that effect on the strength of the documents annexed therewith, whilst eliciting directions for NADRA to enter her name as the real daughter of the Deceased in the relevant records and issue her a POC upon payment of the prescribed fee.

On a separate note, as the Deceased had also obtained certain Life Insurance Policies in Pakistan through IGI Life Insurance Limited (the Respondent No.4), it had also been sought that the insurer be directed to deposit the entire sum payable under the policy in Court for investment in profitable securities pending final adjudication of the Petition, with the Nazir's Report dated 23.04.2026 reflecting that a sum of Rs.82,927,511/- already stands deposited by the Respondent No.4 on that score pursuant to the Order made in that regard on 15.04.2026.

Learned counsel for the Petitioner also invited attention to the Order dated 27.04.2026, directing verification of the Petitioner's credentials and processing of her application for a POC in accordance with law and the report submitted by NADRA reflecting that the matter could not be advanced as a sibling/blood

relative of the deceased was required for purpose of verifying the link that the Petitioner claimed to have with the Deceased. He submitted that the Petitioner had no knowledge of or contact with any such relations and could not possibly comply with the requirement being imposed, which was unreasonable under the circumstances in as much as Annexures "A" to "D" submitted by the Petitioner themselves served to establish her claim and had been duly authenticated by apostile in consonance with the Hague Convention. He pointed out that when NADRA had been approached pursuant to the Order of this Court, it had replied through a letter dated 28.07.2026 seeking certain compliances on the part of the Petitioner. That letter reads as follows:

> "To: MCA LAW ASSOCIATES
> Barrister
> Office/Suit # 14-C, 21st Street Off Khayaban-e-Sehar, Phase VI, DHA, Karachi.
> Tell # 02135172187-88
>
> Sub: LEGAL NOTICE - C.P D-1623/2026 (Hon'able SHC) (NTL)
>
> Reference: Your Notice No. Nil dated 20-07-2026.
>
> Notice issued from your good office on behalf of your client namely Ms. Shreen Salim, has been placed before me. I am instructed to reply you as under.
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> 1. The instant notice, arising from the directions of the Hon'able Sindh High Court, is noted. The Petitioner, claiming to be the sole surviving legal heir of the deceased (Shaikh Salim), seeks POC/Insurance benefits and the rectification of her status in the National Database.
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> 2. Compliance is contingent upon the successful verification of the following apostilled original documents, which have not been provided, yet except Birth Certificate of applicant (being given the foreign origin of the case):
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> a) Marriage & Divorce certificate of parents.
> b) Death Certificate of parents.

3. The Petitioner is required to appear in person for biometric verification and physical Identification to conclusively establish her identity vis-a-vis the database record.

4. It is pertinent to state that while this Authority facilities registration and verification, the declaration of legal heirship remains the exclusive domain of a court of competent jurisdiction.

5. Subject to the above conditions being fulfilled in strict compliance with the law, this office will proceed accordingly, in compliance of the court direction. Failure to comply will render the verification process incomplete."

Learned Counsel submitted that all the relevant documents specified in Paragraph (2) of the letter had been provided to NADRA, which could readily be examined so as to record/update marriage of the Deceased and status of the the Petitioner, who would otherwise appear before the Pakistan consulate for purpose of her biometrics.

Conversely, learned counsel for NADRA maintained that the presence of a blood relative of the Deceased was necessary, but remained at a loss to explain how the Petitioner or any aspirant for a CNIC or POC could compel appearance of any such person so as to advance her/their cause.

Under the circumstances, in light of NADRA's own stance, in terms of the aforementioned letter, NADRA is hereby directed to examine the documents produced by the Petitioner, including Annexures "A" to "D", so as to record the marriage, birth and demise of the relevant party/parties accordingly and thereafter process the case of the Petitioner for issuance of a POC in accordance with law, while issuing notice to any blood relative of the Deceased, if deemed necessary, and considering any objection(s) as may come to the fore. Let such exercise be carried out and finalized within a period of thirty (30) days from the date of communication of this Order and a

compliance report submitted through MIT-II. Needless to say, the fate of the sum deposited in Court by the Respondent No.4 would fall to be determined through an appropriate testamentary proceeding. The Petition stands disposed of in such terms. Office is directed to transmit a copy of this Order to the Respondent No.3 for information and ensuring compliance.

JUDGE

JUDGE

Nasir Lodhi.