ORDER SHEET
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH AT KARACHI
C.P.No.D-7310 of 2026

DATE ORDER WITH SIGNATURE(S) OF JUDGE(S)

1.For office objection.
2.For hearing of CMA No.29176/2026
3.For hearing of main case.

12-11-2026

Mr.Muhammad Sauban Tasleem, Advocate for the Petitioners.
Ms.Mehreen Ibrahim, D.A.G.
Mr.Muhammad Hassan, Deputy Director (P&D), Focal Person Litigation, Department of Plan Protection (Respondent Nos.1 to 3)
M/s.Sardar Zafar Hussain, Amir Ali, Advocates for the Respondents.
Mr.Shahan Ali, Advocate for the Respondent No.7

M/s.Sardar Zafar Hussain, Amir Ali and Shahan Ali, Advocates undertakes to file Vakalatnama on behalf of the Respondents

The Petitioners are aggrieved by a letter dated 10.10.2026 issued by the Department of Plant Protection, Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Government of Pakistan on the subject of Destruction of Betel Nut Consignments. The letter reads as follows:-

> "From
> Syed Muzamil Hussain Entomologist Quarantine-XI
> To,
> 1- Wajid Ali, Chief Collector, CCCASKHI, Karachi
>
> SUBJECT: DESTRUCTION OF BETEL NUT CONSIGNMENTS
>
> I am directed to enclose herewith copies of this office letters/notices of even number dated 10-08-2026, 29-08-2026, 01-09-2026 and 10-09-2026 regarding the proposed disposal/destruction of Betel Nut consignments/containers lying at ports and customs bonded warehouses, owing to the failure of importers to arrange for fresh sampling and testing of unclaimed consignments and re-sampling/re-analysis of consignments against which Release Orders (ROs) had been issued on the basis of previously conducted aflatoxin tests, in accordance with the SOPs notified on 04-06-2026.
> 2. As per DPP's record, the aforesaid consignments lying at ports and customs bonded warehouses comprise approximately 300 containers. The detailed lists previously shared by the Customs authorities with DPP are enclosed for ready reference. It is once again requested to undertake their disposal/destruction forthwith in accordance with the applicable customs laws.
> 3. It is emphasized that the disposal/destruction of the Betel Nut containers is being monitored by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on a weekly basis.
> 4. This issues with the approval of the competent authority."

Learned counsel for the Petitioners submits that 16 consignments of the Petitioners form part of the list of consignments that are the subject of the aforementioned letter. He submits that the Petitioners merely seek that the same be re-sampled and tested, as was ordered under analogous circumstances in C.P.No.D-1339/2026. The learned D.A.G. accompanied by representative of the Department of Plant Protection and learned counsel appearing on behalf of Customs Department accord their no objection to a similar procedure being followed in the matter of the Petitioners' subject consignments.

Under the circumstances, by consent, it is ordered that the Petitioners' consignments of Betel Nuts which are subject to the letter dated 10.10.2026 shall be resampled and tested as per the SOPs dated 04.06.2026 and the Prime Minister directives dated 4.8.2026 to determine the aflatoxin level. The re-sampling shall be done in the presence of the Petitioners' representative at the earliest, and the samples shall be sent for testing at the Petitioners' cost and without delay to both labs on the panel of DPP i.e. HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry, Karachi and the Punjab Agriculture, Food and Drug Authority Laboratory (PAFDA), Lahore. Needless to say, the fate of the consignments would rest on the basis of such test. The petition stands disposed of in the foregoing terms.

Judge

Judge

m.nasir