ORDER SHEET
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH AT KARACHI

Const. Petition No. D-7109 of 2026
(Umar Farooq Bullo Vs. NAB & others)

Date	Order with signature of Judge

Before:-
Mr. Justice Riazat Ali Sahar
Mr. Justice Muhammad Hasan (Akber)

1. For orders on office objection.
2. For hearing of CMA No.28365/2026.
3. For hearing of Main Case.

11.11.2026

Mr. Shaheer Adil Shaikh, Advocate for the Petitioner.
M/s. Syed Manzoor Ali & Sadaf, Spl. Prosecutor NAB along with Asher Abbasi, I.O. Investigation-II NAB, Karachi.
Ms. Wajeeha Mehdi, Assistant Attorney General for Pakistan.

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Riazat Ali Sahar, J:- The Investigating Officer (I.O.), appearing in person, submits that, pursuant to the amendments introduced in the National Accountability Ordinance, 1999 (hereinafter referred to as "NAO, 1999"), no person can be arrested or detained merely on account of the pendency of an inquiry. He further submits that the NAB authorities are under a legal obligation to communicate the outcome of the inquiry to the person concerned before its conversion into a formal investigation. He clarifies that, in the event of such conversion, the question of arrest may arise under Section 14 of the NAO, 1999, subject to compliance with the statutory requirements and due process of law. He further undertakes that the petitioner shall be duly informed of the fate of the inquiry in accordance with law.

2. In view of the categorical statement made by the Investigating Officer that the proceedings against the petitioner are presently confined to the stage of inquiry, which has not yet been converted into an investigation, and that no arrest or detention is permissible merely on account of the pendency of such inquiry, the apprehension of the petitioner regarding his possible arrest stands sufficiently addressed. Consequently, no surviving cause of action warranting further adjudication by this Court remains at this stage.

3. Accordingly, the instant constitutional petition, having become infructuous, stands dismissed, along with all pending applications, if any. It is, however, clarified that any subsequent coercive action against the petitioner, including his arrest, if otherwise permissible under the law, shall be taken strictly in accordance with the applicable statutory provisions and after observance of due process. The statement and undertaking made by the Investigating Officer before this Court, particularly regarding communication of the outcome of the inquiry to the petitioner, are taken on record and shall remain binding upon the concerned NAB authorities.

JUDGE

JUDGE

M. Khan