



BY COURIER

Ref: PILAP/HO/2020/408

Dated: 02 September, 2020

1. Cantonment Board Clifton,
Through the Cantonment Executive Officer,
CC-38, 10th Street,
Khayaban-e-Rahat,
Phase VI, DHA,
Karachi
2. Defence Officers' Housing Authority, Karachi,
Through the President
2-B, East Street,
Phase 1, DHA,
Karachi

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT, 2017

Dear Sir,

The Public Interest Law Association of Pakistan (PILAP) is a public interest association registered under the laws of Pakistan and is concerned with addressing issues of public interest in accordance to the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It respectfully submits as under: -

1. That the details of the authorized person on behalf of PILAP are as under: -

Name of the Applicant:	Pervez Said
CNIC No.:	42301-0954324-1
Father's Name:	Muhammad Said
Address:	51-I, Khayaban-e-Hilal, Phase-6, DHA, Karachi
Phone No.:	0300-8235570

3. That PILAP seeks information on the building plans, drainage system and general flood and disaster mitigation processes in place in the area of Defence Housing Authority (DHA), Karachi.

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW ASSOCIATION OF PAKISTAN

Plot # 18-C, 2nd Floor, Office # 202, Zamzama Lane # 2, Phase-5, DHA, Karachi.
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4. That the immense damage caused due to the recent spell of monsoon rains in Karachi has ruined homes, businesses, personal properties and the already crumbling infrastructure of DHA, Karachi. Many residents had to be evacuated from their homes at their own cost and expense. Similarly, businesses, both big and small have been adversely affected due to a lack of proper civic facilities. Waist-high rain water continued to remain standing on the fourth day after the rains. Neither is there an outlet for the accumulated rain water and nor did DHA or CBC attempt to drain the water in a timely manner. It fell upon private citizens, acting as good Samaritans, to take on the onerous task of draining public roads streets, again at their own cost and expense.
5. That had there been an efficient drainage system in place, much of the damage caused by urban flooding could have been averted. In addition, since many of the houses built in the area get inundated with just a few millimeters of rainfall, the question arises as to what kind of building by-laws and inspections processes are in place to ensure that the built properties are able to withstand the level of rainfall that a coastal city such as Karachi is expected to receive.
6. That a failure to foresee and plan for a monsoon spell that fell upon the city during the last days of August, 2020 is a breach of the Fundamental Rights of the people guaranteed by the Constitution of Pakistan. In particular, it affects security of the person (Article 9); freedom of trade, business or profession (Article 18) and the right to free movement (Article 15). It is, therefore, a serious issue of public interest.
6. That, in light of the above, PILAP respectfully submits this Application requesting for information under the right granted to all citizens of Pakistan under the Right of Access to Information Act 2017 and Article 19A of the Constitution as under: -
 - i) Given the colossal amount of public money spent on the construction of DHA Karachi's storm-water drains, why were they not able to drain away a majority of the rain water?
 - ii) How much capital has been spent on building DHA Karachi's storm-drain system? How much of this was paid for by DHA residents in the form of taxes and other charges?
 - iii) What was the decision-making process for selecting the contracting company that built the storm-drains?
 - iv) Who was responsible for the technical approvals of the storm-drain construction project?

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- v) What is the mechanism for approving house and building construction plans? What systems and procedures are in place to ensure that rain-water does not accumulate on residential and commercial buildings?

7. That in the circumstances, PILAP would be grateful for a reply at the earliest.

Thank you.

Best regards,


Public Interest Law Association of Pakistan (PILAP)
Through its Chief Executive Officer
Pervez Said

Address for reply:

Public Interest Law Association of Pakistan (PILAP),
Office No.202, 2nd Floor, Zamzama Commercial Lane # 2,
Defence Housing Authority, Phase-5,
Karachi.

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