



BY COURIER

Ref: PILAP/HO/2020/352

July 13, 2020

1. The Chairman,
Planning and Development Department, Sindh
Tughlaq House, 2nd Floor, Sindh Secretariat
Karachi
2. The Chairman,
Sindh Solid Waste Management Board,
Head Office, Bungalow No. 13, Al-Hamra Housing Society,
Shaeed-e-Millat, Road, Karachi

**APPLICATION UNDER THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT, 2017 AND THE SINDH
TRANSPARENCY AND RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2016**

Dear Sirs,

The Public Interest Law Association of Pakistan (PILAP) is a public interest association concerned with the primary objective of enabling the citizens of Pakistan to attain the realisation of their civil, human, economic, social and political rights, as guaranteed by the Fundamental Rights laid down in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. PILAP addresses matters of public interest by means of advocacy and by seeking redress for the people of Pakistan through the justice system. It respectfully submits as under:

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

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW ASSOCIATION OF PAKISTAN

Plot # 18-C, 2nd Floor, Office # 202, Zamzama Lane # 2, Phase-5, DHA, Karachi.
Phone: +9221 32417049, +9221 32417087, +9221-35304110 Email: info@pilap.pk

2. That attention is drawn to the issue of garbage disposal and waste management in the city of Karachi, and the resulting flooding caused by rains. Every year, as the monsoon rains begin, the city becomes flooded due to lack of any effective drainage system. The storm-drains, both natural and man-made, are clogged with every kind of waste, hence leaving no outlet for the rain water. In addition to causing large-scale inconvenience to commuters, the accumulation of stagnant water not only brings with it all manner of diseases, but has also caused a large number of flood related deaths in the preceding years. Seventy deaths were recorded due to rain related flooded between 2014 and 2019.
(Dawn article attached herewith as Annexure A)
3. That one cause of rain water flooding is the city's waste being dumped directly into storm-drains, thereby leaving them ineffective as drains. Another reason is mismanaged urban planning. Natural drains, or "nullahs", are growing narrower due to irregular reclamation activity on the banks of these drains.
(Prism article by Dr. Noman Ahmad, Chairman, Department of Architecture and Planning, NED University, attached herewith as Annexure B).
4. That the accumulation of stagnant water brought about by ineffective sewerage and drainage systems, and the resulting environmental and health risks it poses is an abrogation of the citizens' right to life granted under Article 9 of the Constitution of Pakistan. The flooding also negatively impacts their right to freely practice a trade or profession, granted under Article 18 of the Constitution, as many people are unable to reach their places of business, and traders are faced with various impediments. Further, the freedom of movement, guaranteed by Article 15 of the Constitution, is hampered as commuters are faced with difficulties in moving through the city at these times.
5. That, in view of the above, PILAP respectfully submits this Application under the right granted to all citizens of Pakistan under the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017 and the Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2016, as under:
 - i) What measures is the Planning and Development Department of the Government of Sindh taking to ensure effective urban planning so as to have an effective drainage and sewerage system in place?
 - ii) What policies does the Planning and Development Department, Sindh, have regarding the planning and development of Karachi's drainage and waste disposal system?

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iii) What measures is the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board taking to ensure that the storm-drains are cleansed of waste, refuse and garbage in order for the rain water to be effectively and properly drained?

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

Thank you.

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