

**BY COURIER**

Ref: PILAP/HO/2020/358

July 21, 2020

Karachi Cantonment Board,  
Through the Cantonment Executive Officer,  
259 Sarwar Shaheed Road,  
Saddar,  
Karachi.

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

Dear Sir,

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 realization 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: -
2. That attention is drawn to the recent collapse of a wall of the historic Bandoowala building (now called the P and O building) located on I.I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi, as reported in Dawn on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 in an article titled, "Flooded Roads, Power Outages and Traffic Jams: Heavy Rains Wreaks Havoc in Karachi". The article is attached herewith for ease of reference. It notes that a wall of the building collapsed and damaged a number of cars parked nearby.
3. That the already fragile infrastructure of Karachi is in a dilapidated condition, thereby not only posing a risk to property damage, as evident from the collapse of the building's wall, but also to human life. The right to life is a Fundamental Right

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**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

guaranteed by the Constitution of Pakistan. The Supreme Court of Pakistan has held this right to cover all facets of human existence, including all the amenities and facilities that encompass a person's quality of life.

4. That the Cantonment Board has the power to take measures against the use of buildings that are unsafe for human occupation. As per Section 126 of the Cantonments Act, 1924, if the Cantonment Board is of the opinion that any building or wall etc located within the Cantonment area is *"in a ruinous state or, for want of sufficient repairs, protection or enclosure...., dangerous to persons passing by or dwelling or working in the neighbourhood, the Board by notice in writing may, require the owner...or occupier thereof to remove the same, or may require him to repair, or to protect or to enclose the same in such manner as it thinks necessary; and if the danger is, in the opinion of the Board, imminent, it shall forthwith take such steps as it thinks necessary to avert the same."*
5. That, in addition, the Unified Cantonments Building Bye-Laws 2019 for Karachi region, as provided on Cantonment Board Clifton's website, state that if it appears to the Cantonment Board that a building or a part thereof is unfit for human habitation or occupation, it has the power to prohibit the further use of such building (Bye-law 6-2).
6. That since a wall of the historic Bandoowala Building collapsed, it was evidently in an unsafe state and steps should have been taken beforehand to secure it before the collapse.
7. 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) What measures, if any, did Cantonment Board Karachi take to ensure that the Bandoowala building on I.I. Chundrigar Road was safe for human habitation and occupation as required under the Cantonments Act, 1924, and to ensure the safety of the human population and property in the surrounding area?
  - (ii) How many times was the building in question inspected for safety reasons during the past year?
  - (iii) How many buildings have been declared unsafe in the Cantonment area by Cantonment Board Karachi under the Cantonments Act, 1924 and the Cantonment Boards building bye-laws?

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- (iv) What mechanism does Cantonment Board Karachi have in place to ensure that all historical buildings within its territorial jurisdiction are safe for human habitation and occupation and for the human population and property in the surrounding area?
8. That in the circumstances, PILAP would be grateful for a reply at the earliest.

Thank you.

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# Flooded roads, power outages and traffic jams: Heavy rain wreaks havoc in Karachi

Imtiaz Ali | Qazi Hassan | Dawn.com | Updated 18 Jul, 2020



People wade through a flooded road caused by heavy rainfall in Karachi on Friday, July 17. — AP

**At least two people including a policeman lost their lives as heavy rain accompanied by strong winds battered Karachi on Friday, leaving major thoroughfares flooded and causing widespread power outages even as residents heaved a sigh of relief from the day's intense heat.**

Among other damages caused to the city's infrastructure by the second rain spell of the season, a wall of the Bandoowala building located on the city's I.I. Chundrigar Road collapsed, badly damaging a number of cars parked nearby, according to police.

A policeman, identified as 30-year-old Arshad Ali, who was posted with the Rapid Response Force of police, lost his life when he suffered an electric shock while performing duty at Bahar-i-Madina Water Pump in Ibrahim Hyderi. The body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC).



A man pushes a donkey cart through a flooded street caused by heavy rainfall in Karachi on Friday. — AP

In a separate incident, a 35-year-old man, Abid Husain, died of electric shock near Abdullah Shah Ghazi's shrine in Clifton, according to Dr Seemin Jamali, executive director of the JPMC, where the body was brought.

According to the Met Office, Karachi





received a maximum  
63.5mm of rain at PAF  
Faisal Base, Saddar  
(41.0mm), Gulshan-i-



Cars damaged in wall-collapse  
incident in Saddar. — Photo:  
Imtiaz Ali

Hadeed (40.0mm), Landhi (40.0mm), Karachi  
MOS (28.0mm), University Road (16.0mm),  
Jinnah Terminal (15.0mm), Nazimabad  
(9.0mm), Masroor Base (5.7mm) and North  
Karachi (traces).

The K-Electric (KE), which has already come  
under fire from all sides in recent weeks over  
frequent unannounced load-shedding and  
complaints of overbilling, took to Twitter to say  
that heavy rains and winds were "causing  
power disruption throughout the city".

It said some of its feeders were switched off for  
"safety reasons". "Teams are working for swift  
restoration of power," the power utility added.

KE   
@KElectricPk



Update 1:

Heavy rains and wind causing power  
disruption throughout the city. Some  
feeders switched off for safety reasons.  
Teams are working for swift restoration  
of power. Please only call 118 for  
emergencies such as sparking, broken  
wires, or fallen PMT.

6:41 PM · Jul 17, 2020



74 153 people are Tweeting about...

As commuters returning from their workplaces complained of major roads such as Sharea Faisal being inundated and traffic moving at a snail's pace, Sindh Minister for Local Government Nasir Hussain Shah and Adviser to the Chief Minister Barrister Murtaza Wahab undertook a visit to various areas to review the situation.

Many netizens criticised the municipal authorities and provincial government for not having prepared adequately for the heavy rains which led to roads being flooded.

**Shafaat Ali**  
@iamshafaatali



Spent 5 hours on Shara e Faisal trapped in my car... feel so sorry for Karachi who hasn't have a drainage system in 72 years...

#karachirain

9:21 PM · Jul 17, 2020



In a statement, Shah said efforts were being made to bring the situation back to normal following the heavy rain and that drainage of rainwater was continuing due to a "comprehensive strategy".

He said the administrations of all districts were fully active while the process of cleaning storm-water drains was continuing uninterrupted.

According to Shah, pumping stations of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board were functioning non-stop and dewatering machines had been installed at major choking points.

Special attention was being paid to maintain the flow of traffic through underpasses, he said.



A police team drains rainwater outside JPMC. — Photo: SHO Saddar

The heavy rain caused flooding at the JPMC, one of the largest government-operated hospitals in the metropolis, and put patients and attendants in a "difficult situation", Saddar Station House Officer Arshad Afridi said in a statement.

He added that a police team from the Saddar Police Station "came in action and promptly ... managed to drain the water inside and [in the] parking area of JPMC".

**Naimat Khan**  
@NKMAlazai



This is Jinnah hospital Karachi, the largest health facility of Sindh province, of which the Sindh Govt is proud and we often see @murtazawahab1 sb and other PPP leaders Tweeting its videos #Karachi #karachirain



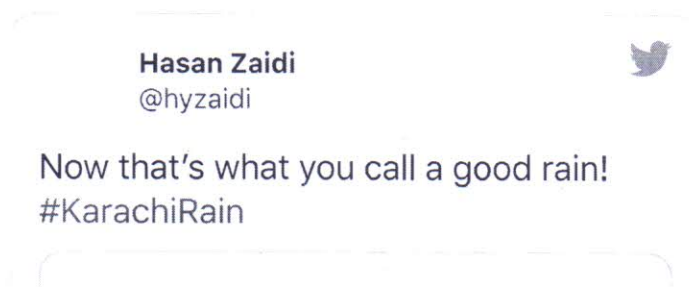


The Met department had forecast light to moderate widespread rain in Sindh today (Friday), a day after several parts of Karachi received light rain in the evening.

On July 6, the first monsoon spell had hit Karachi and lasted for three days, wreaking havoc on the ill-maintained municipal infrastructure, disrupting electricity for hours and causing traffic jams on almost every major thoroughfare. At least seven people were killed in various rain-related incidents.

The weather system currently active is likely to persist for a shorter duration and move towards Oman soon.

Residents took to social media to share pictures and videos from the first downpour of the season.



0:16 4.2k views

5:11 PM · Jul 17, 2020



♥ 132    💬 25 people are Tweeting about...

The rain left major arteries of the city inundated, with commuters reporting being stuck in traffic jams for hours.

**Usama Qureshi**   
@UsamaQureshy



One word for this traffic police guy.  
#Respect #karachirain

9:21 PM · Jul 17, 2020



♥ 8.8K    💬 1.5K people are Tweeting ab...

**Sajid Gohari**  
@SajidGohari



RIGHT NOW: Shara e Faisal road under heavy flood water at the moment as heavy rain lashes Karachi.

#KarachiRain

10:06 PM · Jul 17, 2020



4



See Sajid Gohari's other Tweets

**Shazia Naz Khan**  
@ShaziaNazKhan



Stay safe guys! Defence karachi roads flooded againnnn due to poor drainage like every year.. Shabaash Sindh govt and DHA Khi you guys manage this level of incompetence For years.  
#karachirain #karachi



0:16 4.2K views

5:11 PM · Jul 17, 2020



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## **'Power supply remained intact'**

As residents of the city's DHA, Clifton and other neighbourhoods complained of hours-long power outages, the KE in a statement claimed that "power supply remained intact in the city" during the latest spell of rain.

However, it said power supply to "a few low-lying areas including Orangi, Korangi, small pockets of DHA, Baldia, Gulshan and Bin Qasim as well as in areas with a high incidence of *kundas* was temporarily suspended in the interest of public safety".

"The power utility regrets inconvenience caused to customers due to inclement weather," it said, advising residents to stay away from any broken wires, electrical poles and transformers during the rains.

In an update , KE said waterlogging in areas suffering power outages was "causing disruption in restoration efforts".

"Our teams are making all necessary efforts to ensure power is normalised at [the] earliest."

#karachirain #karachi



0:07 814 views

10:33 PM · Jul 17, 2020



♡ 16



See Shazia Naz Khan's other T...

**Zain Shaikh**

@ZainSha86624600



This is #Karachi  
#karachirain



0:06 6.6K views

9:47 PM · Jul 17, 2020





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"Our teams are making all necessary efforts to ensure power is normalised at [the] earliest."

♥ 31



See Zain Shaikh's other Tweets

One resident tweeted that fish were blown into her house during the windy showers.

**Majida Malik**

@MajidaMalik



It rained fish in my house! Can someone explain what is this phenomenon. For context, I live almost 1 km from Karachi sea! #karachirain

0:12 123.5K views

6:06 PM · Jul 17, 2020



2.3K



1.1K people are Tweeting ab...