- 233 -

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In the Supreme Court of Pakistan

In re:

HRC 6257-P/2018

(Action taken by HCJ Regarding Air Pollution Prevailing in the Country)

Progress Report of the Smog Commission constituted by the Lahore High Court in Walid Iqbal vs. Federation of Pakistan (Writ Petition No. 34789/2016)

Dr. Parvez Hassan Senior Advocate Supreme Court

(Chairperson, Smog Commission)

20 April 2018

- 234-

In the Supreme Court of Pakistan

In re:

HRC 6257-P/2018 (Action taken by HCJ Regarding Air Pollution Prevailing in the Country)

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Respectfully sheweth:

- 1. The above titled case is fixed for hearing before the Lahore Registry of this Court on 21 April 2018. Pursuant to the Court Order dated 24 March 2018, the members of the Smog Commission, constituted by the Lahore High Court in <u>Walid Iqbal vs. Federation of Pakistan</u> (Writ Petition No. 34789/2016), have been required to appear before this Court on the date so fixed.
- 2. A brief background of the constitution and scope of the Smog Commission and the progress so far made by the Commission is as follows:
- (1) The Commission was constituted by the Lahore High Court Order dated 19 December 2017
- (2) The terms of Reference are:

To formulate a holistic <u>Smog Policy</u> for Punjab, which identifies the root cause(s) and prescribes a plan to protect and safeguard the life and health of the people of Punjab. The plan must specifically set standards which trigger preventive intervention by the Government as described in the earlier order of this case. The concept of <u>Heath Emergency</u> is required to be recognized through the said Policy.

- (3) The membership of the Commission comprises eight (8) persons including the Secretary Health and the Secretary Environment
- (4) The Chairman of the Commission has power to co-opt other members with information to the Lahore High Court.
- (5) The first Meeting of the Commission was held at ethe office of the Hassan & Hassan (Advocates) on 5 January 2018 and:
 - (a) Appointed the Secretary EPD as Secretary of the Commission.
 - (b) A Summary of the proceedings at the meeting is recorded in the minutes:
 - (i) All the participants benefited from the discussion.
 - (ii) Environment is to be protected not only for ourselves but also for our posterity.
 - (iii) The best guide for the Commission is its Terms of Reference mandated by the Honorable Court.

- (iv) The report of the Commission must point out root-causes waste burning, vehicular emissions, etc. – of the high concentrations of pollutants in air.
- (v) The report must also discuss how can short-term, medium-term and long-term measures be introduced to reduce concentration of pollutants in air.
- (vi) Being a regional phenomenon, the problem can only be resolved through a collaborative effort at regional level and the Commission should also assess and recommend measures for a regional pact.
- (6) The Second Meeting of the Commission was held at the office of the Environment Protection Department on 13 January 2018:
 - (a) The Commission formed five (5) Committees:
 - Root Cause Committee to identify the sources and contributions of these sources to pollutant concentrations in ambient air (Dr Abu Bakr, Chair)
 - (ii) Smog Policy Committee to recommend elements of Smog Policy of Government of the Punjab (Mr. Saif Anjum, Chair)
 - (iii) Health Emergency Committee to suggest and draft health emergency response of Government of the Punjab (at different levels: province, division, district) in an event of high pollutant levels in ambient air (Mr. Anwaar Hussain, Chair)
 - (iv) Voluntary Action Committee to Actions to identify Short-Term, Medium-Term and Long-Term voluntary actions by general public aimed at mitigation air pollution and improving air quality in the province (Mr Ali Habib, Chair)
 - (v) Capacity Building Committee to identify what capacity is needed to deliver the recommendations of the Committees (Mr. Saif Anjum, Chair)
 - (b) The Chair of each Committee was given powers to co-opt members from inside and outside the Commission.
 - (c) The Commission had a visit to the EPA Headquarters and witnessed first hand the equipment, laboratories and functioning of the EPA.
- (7) The Third Meeting of the Commission is scheduled at the EPD offices, on 30 April 2018 to, among others, review the Reports of the Committees.
- (8) It is anticipated that the Commission will submit its Report and Recommendations to the Lahore High Court in the next 6-8 weeks.

Dr. Parvez Hassan Senior Advocate Supreme Court

(Chairperson, Smog Commission)