



DECISION

- Complaint No. : POS/1845/ROK-25/(Khp)/2022
- Name and address of the complainant : Mr. Muhammad Saqib, R/o Ahmedpur City, Taluka Kingri, District Khairpur.
- Name of the Agency Complained against : Public Health Engineering Department
- Name & Designation of Investigating Officer : **AHMED BAKHSH GHUMRO,** Consultant / Incharge, Regional Office Khairpur
- Vetted by : **Mr. Ghulam Sarwar, Advisor-J**
- Subject : **COMPLAINT AGAINST INCOMPLETE SEWERAGE SCHEME AND ACCUMULATION OF SEWERAGE WATER IN THE STREET NEAR POLICE STATION AHMEDPUR, TALUKA KINGRI.**

COMPLAINT

Mr. Muhammad Saqib filed an online complaint on 01-04-2022 wherein he stated that the sewerage scheme near Police Station Ahmedpur had been incomplete for two years. As a result, wastewater from houses accumulated in the streets and self-dug holes became breeding grounds for many chronic diseases. He alleged that the funds allocated for the development project were either misused or diverted through corruption by Municipal Officers and District Government. He claims to have filed multiple complaints in person and through digital platforms including the websites of both the Federal and Provincial Ombudsmen, but no relief had been provided. He, therefore, requested the intervention of this Institution.

PROCEEDINGS

02. The complaint was admitted under Section 10 of the Establishment of the Office of Ombudsman for the Province of Sindh Act, 1991 (amended up to date), by condoning the delay in filing it, subject to the submission of original signed complaint, an affidavit on Form "A" and a copy of the CNIC.

03. The matter was taken up with the Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering (O&M) Division, Khairpur on 28-04-2022 for comments. The complainant was simultaneously advised to complete the codal formalities. In response, the Assistant Engineer, Public Health Engineering (O&M) Sub-Division Kingri, reported on 27-11-2023 that the issue pertains to the Town Committee Ahmedpur. The same was shared with the complainant on 28-08-2024 for a rejoinder. The Investigating Officer also contacted the complainant at the provided cell and advised him to complete the codal formalities.

04. Subsequently, the matter was taken up with the Town Officer, Town Committee Ahmedpur, Taluka Kingri on 28-08-2024 for comments. In response, the Town Officer, Town Committee Ahmedpur reported on 24-09-2024 that he had visited the site along with the Chairman of the Town Committee. It was found that the complainant's colony was located in a low-lying area, with streets 4 to 5 feet deeper than the houses. The Town Officer further reported that a significant amount of funds was required to redress the grievance of the complainant and the Town Committee Ahmedpur had no income other than the OZT share. He added that the District Administration Khairpur had therefore been requested to include this scheme in ADP program.

05. On 06-02-2025, the Investigating Officer visited Ahmedpur Town alongwith the AEN, PHE Kingri, the Chairman and the Town Officer, Town Committee Ahmedpur as well as the inhabitants of the complainant's colony. It was found that complainant's mohalla and the area in the surrounding of Police Station Ahmedpur was low-lying. The Investigating Officer observed dismantled sections of the surface sewerage line there. Upon inquiry, the inhabitants informed that PHED had previously constructed the sewerage line on a raised base, against the natural gravity flow. The line had been dismantled by the residents as the sewer water from the Nali was flowing into the houses.

06. The Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering (Development) Division-I, Khairpur which executed the sewerage scheme at Ahmedpur Town was asked to submit a detailed report. He submitted report on 11-02-2025 which indicated that the drainage scheme at Ahmedpur was constructed and completed according to its estimate and scope. The funds were utilized properly and transparently. The report further indicated that the complainant's area was not included in the original survey plan of the scheme. It was also noted that the main disposal site situated to the North-East of Ahmedpur Town was at a higher level, while the complainant's mohalla was located in the South-West, a low-lying area (depression). As a result, sewerage could not flow through gravity to the main disposal. Technically, a new pumping station was needed but no one was willing to provide land for this purpose. The dismantled Nali had been constructed at the complainant's mohalla. The Executive Engineer further informed that a new drainage scheme was being proposed for the complainant's mohalla, and the same was being sent to higher authorities for approval of funds. The residents of the complainant's mohalla were now willing to provide land for installation of proposed pumping station.

FINDINGS

07. The Sewerage scheme of Ahmedpur Town, Taluka Kingri cited by the complainant was completed as per it's scope. However, the complainant's mohalla consisting around 200 houses was in low-lying area and needs separate disposal. It's inhabitants were facing difficulties in the absence of sewerage system. So grievance of the complainant requires redressal as soon as possible.

DECISION

08. Therefore, I, in the exercise of powers vested in me under Section 11 of the Establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman for the Province of Sindh Act, 1991 (amended up to date), hereby direct the Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department to ensure the expeditious approval of the proposed scheme. A compliance report should be submitted within 60 days positively.

09. The complaints Nos. POS/1320/ROK-11/(Khp)/2022, POS/2083/ROK-33/(Khp)/2022, POS/4396/ROK-202/(Khp)/2024, and POS/218/ROK-21/(Khp)/2025 filed by the complainant regarding the same matter are also disposed of on the same grounds.

"Given under my hand and seal of office"

Sd /-

(Muhammad Sohail Rajput)

Sitara-e-Imtiaz. PAS

Ombudsman, Sindh

Karachi, dated 30th April, 2025

