



DECISION

Complaint No.	: POS/978/ROK-21/(Khp)/2024
Name and address of the complainant	Mr. Misri Khan, S/o Jalal Khan Lashari R/o Village Fateh Ali Lashari, Taluka Kotdiji, District Khairpur.
Name of the Agency Complained against	Public Health Engineering Department :
Name & Designation of Investigating Officer	AHMED BAKHSH GHUMRO, Consultant / Incharge, Regional Office Khairpur1
Vetted by	Mr. Ghulam Sarwar, Advisor-J
Subject	<u>COMPLAINT REGARDING INCOMPLETE WATER SUPPLY SCHEME AND MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.</u>

COMPLAINT

Mr. Misri Khan Lashari filed a complaint on **15-02-2024** alleging that the Government approved a water supply scheme for eight villages including his Village Fateh Ali Lashari in Taluka Kotdiji, District Khairpur at an estimated cost of **Rs. 72.0 million**. The work order for the scheme was issued to **Contractor Nisar Ahmed Bhutto** by the **Executive Engineer (Dev.), Public Health Engineering Department, Khairpur**. He alleged that officers of the Public Health Engineering Department, in connivance with the contractor, misappropriated funds, leaving the scheme incomplete and dysfunctional for the past two years. Despite approaching the authorities at Taluka and District levels, he received no satisfactory response. He, therefore, sought 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 and subject to submission of an Affidavit on Form "A".

03. Upon completion of codal formalities, the matter was taken up with the **Executive Engineer (Dev.), Public Health Engineering Division-I, Khairpur**, on **06-03-2024** for comments. In response, the Executive Engineer, PHED-I, Khairpur, reported on **07-01-2025** that a water supply scheme (**ADP No. 2113**) costing **Rs. 81.868 million** was approved in 2021–22 for eight villages in Taluka Kotdiji. The scheme consisted of four parts. The **first part**, costing **Rs. 21.854 million**, was intended for the complainant's village Fateh Ali Lashari and three nearby villages: Samano Chakrani, Ali Dino Burdi, and Abdul Hakeem Chakrani. Its scope included the installation of **three tubewell bores**, construction of **three pump houses**, solar motor systems, five **Low Service Reservoirs (LSRs)**, and the laying of **9,500 Rft. distribution pipelines**.

The Executive Engineer noted that the scheme was executed in a **non-technical and unprofessional manner**, resulting in **no tangible benefit** to the end users. He reported that **no Low Service Reservoirs** had been constructed and the **solar panels were incorrectly installed**, facing away from sunlight. Additionally, although **three solar-powered tubewells** were approved to generate water pressure, **only one was operational**. Due to public outcry, the contractor was directed to complete the remaining work and ensure water supply to the affected villages.

04. The Investigating Officer visited the first part of the scheme on **10-04-2025**, accompanied by the complainant and officials from PHED, Taluka Kotdiji. It was observed that the scheme was **ill-planned and poorly executed**. None of the **five Low Service Reservoirs** one each for the four villages and one as a reserve had been constructed. Out of the three solar tubewells, **one was not functional** and lacked a motor pump. As a result, **only the first village on the line**, i.e., **Abdul Hakeem Chakrani**, received water from the main pipeline. The second village, **Ali Dino Burdi**, received an **inadequate supply** and the remaining two villages, **Samano Chakrani and Fateh Ali Lashari**, received **no water at all**. The scheme was reportedly abandoned in **2022** after **heavy rainfall**. The current Executive Engineer (Dev.), PHED-I, Khairpur, confirmed that **full payment** has been made to the contractor despite the incomplete work. Responsibility was attributed to:

- Mr. **Sadaqat Sohu**, then Executive Engineer (Dev.), PHED-I, Khairpur
- Mr. **Riaz Phulpoto**, Assistant Executive Engineer, PHED Sub-Division, Kotdiji
- Contractor **Nisar Ahmed Bhutto**

The current Executive Engineer expressed his **inability to complete the scheme**, stating that the contractor was unwilling to resume work.

FINDINGS

05. In view to above position it is concluded that maladministration under Section 2(2)(ii) of the Establishment of the Office of Ombudsman for the Province of Sindh Act, 1991 (amended up to date) has been proved as:

- i. The scheme was **not properly planned or executed**, resulting in **no benefit** for the target population despite the expenditure of over **Rs. 21 million**.
- ii. **Mr. Sadaqat Sohu**, the then Executive Engineer (Dev.), PHED-I, Khairpur and **Mr. Riaz Phulpoto**, Assistant Executive Engineer, PHED Sub-Division, Kotdiji, exhibited **gross negligence** by authorizing **full payment** to the contractor **despite incomplete scheme**.

DECISION

06. In view of the above in exercise of powers vested in me under **Section 11** of the *Establishment of the Office of Ombudsman for the Province of Sindh Act, 1991* (amended up to date), I hereby **direct** the following:

a) The **Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department**, Government of Sindh, Karachi, shall ensure that the left over **work on the water supply scheme** is completed **without further delay**.

b) The Secretary shall initiate **strict disciplinary proceedings** against following officers / officials:-

- Mr. **Sadaqat Sohu**, former Executive Engineer (Dev.), PHED-I, Khairpur
- Mr. **Riaz Phulpoto**, Assistant Executive Engineer, PHED Sub-Division, Kotdiji

c) The Secretary is further directed to **take strict action against Contractor Nisar Ahmed Bhutto** under the applicable rules / polices

A comprehensive report on the actions taken shall be submitted to this Institution **within 60 days** of issuance of this order.

"Given under my hand and seal of office"

Sd /-
(MUHAMMAD SOHAIL RAJPUT)
Sitara-e-Imtiaz. PAS
Ombudsman, Sindh
Karachi, dated 3rd June, 2025

