



DECISION

Complaint No.	: POS/ 2519/2025/J-18
Name and address of the complainant	Mst. Bilqees Jahan, Publisher, Daily Sindh Affairs, R/o. Pant House, Maros Wala Buildings, M.A, Jinnah Road, Karachi.
Name of the Agency Complained against	Information Department
Name & Designation of Investigating Officer	Dr. Syed Sharif Ali Shah, Advisor-J
Vetted by	Mr. Shahid A. Hashmi Consultant-Legal
Subject	<u>COMPLAINT AGAINST NON-ISSUANCE OF OFFICIAL ADVERTISEMENTS TO COMPLAINANT'S NEWSPAPER FOR WANT OF GRATIFICATION.</u>

THE COMPLAINT:

Mst. Bilqees Jahan, filed a complaint on 18.04.2025 against Secretary and Director Information Department, Government of Sindh, alleging stalling official advertisements to her newspaper, owing that she refused to fulfill their illegal demands for gratification. She accused both the officers for nurturing biases against her and her publication. She, therefore, solicited intervention of this Institution.

PROCEEDINGS:

2. The complaint was admitted. Notice was issued to concerned department. The Director Information vide letter dated 04.08.2025 vehemently denied the allegations of the complainant as false and baseless. He termed it as being deliberate act to malign their reputations. Refuting the allegation of biases it was informed in the report that complainant's daily "Sindh Affairs" was issued advertisements to the tune of Rs.20,163,223/- during the past five years and out of which Rs.19,090,767/- have been disbursed.

3. The report alleged the complainant for misusing of digital platforms and social media against public functionaries, including the Minister. The report indicated that as per Sindh Government Advertisement Policy, 2023, a physical verification exercise was conducted in November, 2024 by three members committee of Directorate of Advertisement to assess the functioning of various News Papers including the complainant's. During the investigation, the daily "Sindh Affairs" was found to be non-operational, whereas, its registered office addresses i.e. Suite No.606, Block-B, Saima Royal Residency, Gulshan-e-Iqbal Block-2, East Karachi turned out to be private residence of her sister. The newspaper was not found / available at any newspapers' stall across Karachi or elsewhere.

(2)

4. According to the report the daily newspaper of complainant was currently in litigation before the Implementation Tribunal for Newspaper Employees (*ITNE*) Islamabad that issued an order in case No. IT/S/8-WBA/112/SM/24 to Secretary, Information Government of Sindh “*to suspend name of respondent establishment i.e. Daily Sindh Affairs, Karachi from central media list being maintained by their respective departments and submit compliance report*”.

5. Rejoinder was called. The complainant in her rejoinder dated 25.08.2025, termed the report being misconceived and devoid of merit and instead of commenting on ITNE order(s) she reiterated her earlier stance of discriminatory treatment towards her and her Institution by the respondent agency, which removed her newspaper from media list without issuance of notice to her publication. The rejoinder made no mention of the ongoing ITNE proceedings and its referred order.

FINDINGS:

6. I have examined the case and found it non-maintainable due to the sole reason that the case of complainant is pending with the Implementation Tribunal for Newspaper Employees at Islamabad. The Tribunal has been constituted under Section 12-A of the News Paper Employees (Condition of Service) Act, 1973, being an independent and the sole forum for grievance resolution related to Newspapers and non-implementation of wage awards.

7. As per law, when a special law relates to a particular subject, it is incumbent upon both the parties to adhere to that special law. The perusal of the file confirmed the pending litigation between the complainant and the agency before ITNE.

8. Non-releasing of any amount to respondent establishment i.e. Daily Sindh Affairs was ordered by the Chairman ITNE, Islamabad on 19.06.2025. The Tribunal through its subsequent order passed on 23.07.2025 issued directions to the Secretary, Information Department, Government of Sindh to suspend name of Daily Sindh Affairs, Karachi from Central Media List. By removing the complainant's newspaper from their media list, the agency followed the judicial order.

DECISION:

9. In view of the above, the complaint is disposed of. The complainant may pursue her case with the ITNE, the competent forum for resolution of grievances of media personnel. The case file be consigned to record room.

“Given under my hand and seal of office”



Sd/-
(MUHAMMAD SOHAIL RAJPUT)
Sitara-e-Imtiaz, PAS
Ombudsman Sindh
Karachi, Dated 8th October, 2025