

ORDER SHEET
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH, KARACHI
C.P. No.D-2896 OF 2020

Date Order with Signature(s) of Judge(s)

Present
Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar.
Mr. Justice Arshad Hussain Khan.

Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE)..... Petitioner

Versus

Province of Sindh & others..... Respondents

Date of hearing, 25.11.2020

Mr. M. Azhar Faridi, Advocate for the Petitioner
Mr. Shaheryar Mehar, A.A.G.
Mr. Imran Atta Soomro,
Secretary Information, Government of Sindh present in person

Muhammad Ali Mazhar, J: The petitioner is a registered society and the representative of organization of the Newspaper Editors in Pakistan. This composite petition has been filed in the interest of the members of petitioner who claims that the respondents have not paid their dues effective from January, 2019 to June, 2020. Today Mr. Imran Atta Soomro, Secretary Information, Government of Sindh is present in person who has filed comments. The concluding paragraph of the comments is reproduced as under:

- “It is humbly prayed that keeping in view of the facts narrated in preceding paras, this Honourable Court may pleased to pass an order that claims are verifiable and let respondent may complete the process under the policy and procedure.
- Respondents may kindly be allowed minimum possible time of one month for reconciliation and verification of the remaining outstanding dues as per record of the Department and record provided by the petitioner as difference of amount has surfaced in claims of petitioner.
- It may kindly declare that allegations leveled by the petitioner are unjustified, fabricated and baseless as respondent has never denied of genuine payments.

- It is prayed that petition may kindly be disposed of in above terms.”

The Secretary Information submits that the respondents are willing to make such payments but there is a requirement for which they have issued advertisement for appointment of an auditor and as soon as the auditor is appointed, the audit exercise will be commenced and completed, thereafter payment shall be made and for this exercise he requests for atleast one month`s time. At this juncture, Secretary General of the petitioner submits that in fact payments are to be made from both “budgetary” and “non-budgetary” accounts. He further submits that audit exercise may be required for the budgetary account and not for non-budgetary account. The Secretary Information agrees that payment of dues of the petitioner`s members from the non-budgetary account will be started within fifteen days. On this statement, the Secretary General of the petitioner is satisfied. Since a clear statement has been given in writing by the Secretary Information that payments shall be made from budgetary account within one month and from non-budgetary account within 15 days, therefore the petition is disposed of accordingly to ensure payment in the aforesaid stipulated time.

JUDGE

JUDGE

