ORDER SHEET IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH AT KARACHI

Date Order with Signature of Judge(s)

<u>Present</u>: Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar Mr. Justice Agha Faisal

C.P. No.D-7444 of 2019

Mehr-un-Nisa Sheikh & Others.....Petitioners

Versus

Province of Sindh & Others......Respondents

- 1. For hearing of CMA No.32841/2019.
- 2. For hearing of main case.

Date of Hearing: 06.12.2019

Mr. Muhammad Waseem Iqbal, advocate alongwith the petitioners. Mr. Masood A. Noorani, advocate alongwith the respondent Nos.4 & 5. Mr. Jawad Dero, Additional Advocate General Sindh. Dr. Altaf Shaikh, Health Department, Sindh. Shahid Azam, Assistant Director, Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace, Sindh.

Muhammad Ali Mazhar, J.: Petitioners are present alongwith their counsel. Mr. Masood A. Noorani, advocate has filed Vakalatnama for Dr. M. Anwar Palari and Dr. Shakeel Ahmed/respondents No.4 and 5, who are also present in court. At the very outset, the petitioners counsel pointed out page 57 of court file, which is a complaint filed before the learned Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace, Sindh. Learned counsel expressed a grievance that this application has not been decided by the learned Ombudsman and during intervening period, the respondent Nos.4 and 5 are causing harassment and also extending threats to the petitioners for the dire consequences. Whereas, the respondent Nos.4 and 5 have denied the allegations. Since a proper complaint in accordance with the relevant provisions of law has been moved by the petitioners to the learned Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace, Sindh, to take cognizance and decide the complaint of the petitioners in accordance with the law. At this juncture, Shahid Azam, Assistant Director of Ombudsman office Sindh, submits that normally a complaint filed before the Ombudsman is decided within the period of 30 days, and the complaint filed by the petitioners is already fixed before the learned Ombudsman on 09.12.2019, for filing the reply of the respondents.

2. The petition is disposed of with the directions to the respondent No.3 to decide the complaint within the period of one month in accordance with the provisions of Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010 and submit compliance report through the learned Additional Advocate General Sindh. Till such time the compliant is decided by the learned Ombudsman, the respondent Nos.4 and 5 shall not cause any harassment and threats to the petitioners and shall act strictly in accordance with law.

JUDGE

JUDGE

Khuhro/PA