ORDER SHEET IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH AT KARACHI CP D 6120 of 2019

DATE ORDER WITH SIGNATURE OF JUDGE

For hearing of Misc. No. 27173/2019
For hearing of main case

<u>14.04.2025</u>

Mr. Manzoor Hameed, advocate for the petitioner Messrs. Ameer Nausherwan Adil, Zeeshan Ahmed and Syed Kumail Abbas Naqvi, advocates for respondent Ms. Mehreen Ibrahim, Deputy Attorney General

This petition is pending since 2019 and the prayer clauses reads as follow:

"It is therefore, prayed in the interest of justice that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to:

I. Declare that the demand of Respondent No.2 in respect of alleged amount of Rs.18,663,715/- (Rupees Eighteen Million Six Hundred Sixty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Fifteen Only) vide special Bill dated 20-09-2019 is illegal and without any authority.

II. Direct the Respondent 2 to provide complete details with the period of the alleged outstanding amount of Rs. 18,663,715/-(Rupees Eighteen Million Six Hundred Sixty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Fifteen Only).

III. Declare the Respondent No.2, or his agents, employees not to disconnect the supply of the Gas to the Petitioner Company without the permission of this Hon'ble Court.

IV. Grant interim orders with the directions to the Respondent No. 2, its agents, employees, staff etc to restrain from disconnecting the gas supply of the Petitioner till the decision of the present Petition.

VII. Grant such further relief as this Hon'ble Court may deem appropriate.

VIII. Grant costs of the Petition"

Mr. Ameer Nausherwan Adil advocate points out that the petition is prima facie not maintenance inter alia as the relationship between the petitioner and concerned respondent is contractual; sections 5 & 6 of the Gas Theft Recovery Control Act, 2016 confers exclusive jurisdiction upon the Gas Utility Court to entertain such grievances; and furthermore the judgment of the Supreme Court in the case of Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority vs. Sui Southern Gas Company Ltd. reported as 2023 SCMR 908 reiterated the jurisdictional issue as being contended. Learned counsel for the petitioner remained unable to articulate any cavil to the aforesaid; hence, the petition found to be not maintainable is dismissed.

Judge

Judge

Amjad