

ORDER SHEET
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH AT KARACHI

Special STRA No.1048 of 2023

| Date | Order with signature of Judge(s) |
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- 1. For order on office objection
- 2. For hearing of main case

02.12.2025

Mr. Khalilullah Jakhro advocate for the applicant

Per learned counsel for the applicant the impugned order is not a speaking order as it contains no independent discussion or deliberation. Learned counsel states that the tribunal has rendered the judgment in a perfunctory manner and the same is not befitting the last fact-finding forum in the statutory hierarchy.

Mr. Muhammad Ali advocate, holds brief for Mr. Ovais Ali Shah advocate for the respondent and requests for adjournment. The adjournment is opposed by the learned counsel for the applicant on the premise that this is third time it has been sought and the matter is being undue delayed for no reason.

The Appellate Tribunal is the last fact-finding forum in the statutory hierarchy; therefore, it is incumbent upon it to render independent deliberations and findings on each issue. The manner in which the appeals in general are to be addressed has been emphasized by the Supreme Court in the judgment reported as 2019 SCMR 1626. This High Court has consistently maintained that the Appellate Tribunal is required to proffer independent reasons and findings, and in the absence thereof a perfunctory order could not be sustained. Reliance is placed on the judgment dated 02.10.2024 in SCRA 1113 of 2023 and judgment dated 27.08.2024 in SCRA 757 of 2015. Earlier Division Bench judgments have also maintained that if the impugned order is discrepant in the manner as aforesaid, the correct course is to remand the matter for adjudication afresh. Reliance is placed on the judgment dated 10.12.2024 in ITRA 343 of 2024.

We are of the considered view that the impugned judgment could not be considered to be a speaking order and is *prima facie* devoid of any

independent reasoning etc. The entire judgment comprises essentially of reproduction and is crowned with a dissonant conclusion. Hence, no case is set forth to sustain the impugned judgment, which is hereby *set aside* and the matter is remanded back to the Appellate Tribunal for adjudication afresh in accordance with law.

A copy of this decision may also be sent under the seal of this Court and signature of the Registrar to the learned Customs Appellate Tribunal, as required per section 47 subsection 5 of the Sales Tax Act, 1990.

Judge

Judge

Zahid/*