



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

—Margaret Mead

SHEHRI

Jan-June, 2006 Vol. 17/No. 1

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THE DOONGI PARK AFFAIR: GREED V.S PUBLIC INTEREST

Shehri-CBE takes its activism to Lahore to take part in a determined citizen effort to save a precious open space and recreational heritage of the city.

Parks and playgrounds are an essential component of any healthy community and form an integral part of any town planning. Parks engender equality, grant opportunity recreation and relaxation to the less privileged segments of the community and invigorate the concept of democracy and freedom.

Doongri Ground Park, located in the heart of Gulberg-II on M.M. Alam Road, Lahore is the only park spread over almost 5 to 6 acres of land that is also a full fledged play ground/field used by the residents of the entire Gulberg for sports and healthy outdoor activity. Due to its central location it caters to the entire population of Gulberg (almost 600,000 people).

The park came into being in the early fifties when it became part of the Master Plan for Gulberg Scheme no.2 and since then has been used as a public park and a public play ground/field. Over the years it has been used by people belonging to all walks of life especially children. Children from adjoining Shools (St Mary's and School for special children) and children of less privileged class in the vicinity have consistently used this play ground.

Doongi Park has also been used for playing cricket, football and hockey, etc. Regular sports tournaments and matches have been played. The ground had been approved by Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) as a cricket ground and has remained for a long time under

Lesson's not learnt...

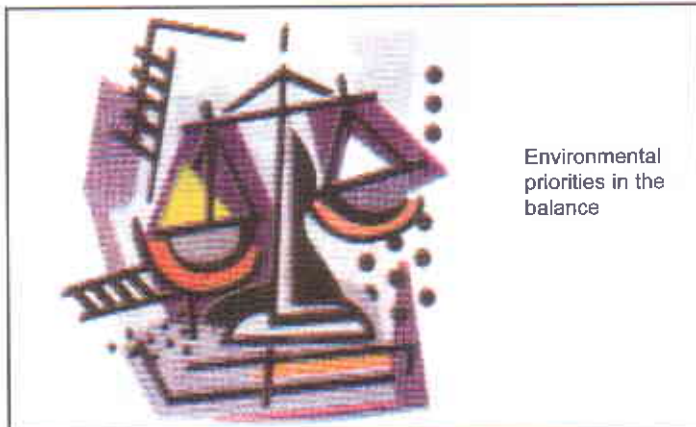
It has already been held in numerous cases by the august Supreme Court of Pakistan that a Public Park cannot be converted into any commercial venture without prior public involvement. Following are the relevant paragraphs from 2001 CLC 1589:

Para 8 (3) on Page 1596

"The authority cannot convert public parks, open spaces, playgrounds or other amenity plots to other use or purpose e.g. residential or commercial, for allotment to favorites of the partying power. The instances of conversion of properties including amenity plots to different use for enrichment of the influentials are well known. The allotment of green belts, open spaces and amenity plots as residential pots for installing petrol pumps etc, by abusing power of conversion due to political maneuvering of the parties in power have also been made. This menace of conversion of amenity plots needs to be curbed by taking away the power of conversion in respect of amenity plot...."

Para 8 (3) on Pages 1596-1597

In Abdul Razaq's case PLD 1994 SC 512, relevant observations are as "We may point out that even under, the order, the K.D.A is not authorized to change the use of any amenity plot without inviting objections and without obtaining the order of the Government. It may be stated that inspite of presence of the above unambiguous Article in the Order, the successive Provincial Governments overlooked the above Article and converted amenity plots and thereby denied to the residents of Karachi inter alia parks and playgrounds which contributed towards environmental pollution in the city...." □



Environmental priorities in the balance



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Contributions are welcome

Interested contributors should contact the SHEHRI office for writers guidelines. SHEHRI newsletter readership is from students, professionals, environmentalists, policy makers, NGOs and other organizations.

Views expressed herein do not necessarily express the views of the Editor/Editorial Board.

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EDITORIAL

Passing the Buck!

The recent catastrophic rains witnessed in Karachi City have yet again brought to the fore in no uncertain terms, the follies and extreme shortcomings of the urban planning and development process in the city.

While the city and the citizens suffered the consequences of overflowing sewers, flooded streets and neighborhoods, power outages and collapse of the communication systems, most of the civic agencies and organizations, whether government or private were engaged in a heated blame game, accusing each other for being responsible for the unfolding crisis.

It is quite obvious that the issues would not get resolved on a long term and sustainable basis till such time that the disparities and disconnect in policy making, planning, development and enforcement of rules and regulations between the various land owning and land development agencies active in the city are properly tackled and eliminated.

Decisions are being made and policies are being formulated not based on public needs and long term requirements of sustainable urban growth, rather they are being driven by the

greed and corruption of a limited few, belonging both to the government and the civil society that are bent on doing the impossible i.e. filling their bottomless pits of greed. One illegality upon the other, one form of urban destruction following the other, that, it seems is the current and unfortunately the foreseeable trend of urban development in Karachi.

No number of master plans or mega city development plans stand any chance of delivering on their stated objectives till such time that we, collectively, whether as part of the civil society or the government decide that laws are meant be followed and enforced not selectively but across the board. There is a great hue and cry following the recent rains, primarily because the main affected this time around belong to the posh and elitist localities of the city. They have a voice, are articulate and carry the necessary clout needed to bring about the required change.

However, one sincerely hopes that the rethinking and rehabilitation that now begins extends its scope beyond the streets of Defence and Clifton to cover the entire city. Pain and misery is felt alike by the poor and the rich! □



the patronage of Service Industry, which organized cricket tournaments and training on the play-field.

The Doongi Ground was the playing field of several cricket clubs like the Services Colts and Gulberg Eaglets Cricket Club. Many first class cricketers (namely: Aftab Gul, Aqib Javed, Sarfraz Nawaz, Pervaiz Jamil Mir & Misbah ul Haq, etc) used this ground as their training ground. It has also been used as Eidgah for Eid Prayers by three mosques in the vicinity.

One fine day this park was cordoned off with six feet high steel sheets and for a long time the residents were under the understanding that the park is being renovated. Upon inquiry it transpired that an elite shopping/entertainment mall with the primary attraction of CINEPLEX (cinema) was being setup in collaboration with some foreign company by the name of IMAX.

A writ petition was filed immediately after the information was received by the residents. Being a public interest petition and filed without any professional fee, the preparation of the petition and gathering of relevant information was the only time spent after receiving the information about the conversion. The residents petitioned that the public park was being illegally converted into a shopping mall and a cinema house. Healthy public use of the park was being reduced to serve the interest of the few. The only Public Play Ground in Gulberg was being sacrificed for personal greed and kickbacks.

The petitioners being aggrieved of the illegal transfer of the public park to the respondent Company by Lahore

Development Authority (LDA) and the unlawful construction on the park filed "Writ Petition No. 1226/06" before the Hon'ble Lahore High Court and the Hon'ble Court was pleased to grant interim stay vide order dated 23-2-2006 against the illegal construction. However, the respondents filed impugned Inter Court Appeal against the interim order. The learned Division Bench admitted the petition after hearing the parties on the question of maintainability and also went ahead to suspend the interim order granted by the learned single judge vide order dated 9-3-2006.

The petitioners were aggrieved of the Order dated 9-3-2006 and the subsequent fixation of the writ petition before the larger bench which did not comprise the author judge. It was felt that an interim order passed in writ jurisdiction is not appealable in the light of Section 3 (3) of the Law Reforms Ordinance, 1972.

The petitioners felt that the only question before the learned Division Bench was the maintainability of the ICA. While admitting the ICA the interim order of the learned single judge was suspended without hearing the petitioner on the stay application. Not a word was recorded on the merits of the stay order granted.

The Master Plan of Gulberg Scheme approved by LDA in the early 1950s clearly earmarks about 5 to 6 acres of land as a public park/playground. Since then the park has been used by the residents for multiple recreational purposes and mainly for sports by the children of the area. The park cannot be converted into an elite cinema house which was approved as a cricket and

Wither Public Interest...

Parks besides adding quality to our lives by providing recreational and health facilities, play a major role in regulating the environment, in maintaining fresh air and act as sources for absorbing rain water. Parks need to be added to improve the equality of life. The impugned illegal occupation and construction seriously offends *Article 9* and *Right to Life* and the quality of life of the community at large. Land once earmarked as a public park becomes part of public trust and cannot be retrieved or modified. Impugned Project is against the *Public Trust Doctrine* which is weaved into *Right to Life*.

Social and economic justice is enshrined in the *Objectives Resolution* which is the substantive part of the *Constitution* and no departure from these sacred principles is envisaged in the *Constitution*. Public interest is supreme and cannot be subjected to the vested interests of the few no matter how strong they might be. □

Disregard for the Law

Section 12 of the *Pakistan Environment Protection Act, 1997* (the "PEPA") clearly states the no project can commence unless an *Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)* has been conducted. According to PEPA, EIA means "an environmental study comprising collection of data, prediction of qualitative and quantitative impacts, comparison of alternatives, evaluation of preventive, mitigatory and compensatory measures, formulation of environmental management and training plans and monitoring arrangements, and framing of recommendations" Once an EIA is prepared, it has to be approved by EPD/EPA in accordance to Law. In addition to PEPA requirement, *Regulation no. 3(ii)* under *Building Regulation, 2005* also requires an EIA to be done before any project is undertaken. No such EIA has been undertaken. □



football ground. The impugned conversion is against the LDA Act, 1975 and goes against the law settled by the superior courts of the country.

The community and the petitioners who have invested in the adjoining of nearby property because of the park have legitimate expectations that LDA will not unilaterally deviate from the plan. The petitioners and the community at large cannot be deprived of the amenity plot in the shape of the PARK once it has been a part of the approved Master Plan of LDA and has been in use since 1950s.

In addition, any conversion of a public ground in use by the public cannot be undone without a public hearing and unless NOC has been procured by at least the adjoining properties. The public sentiment cannot be overridden by LDA or the Provincial Government with a mere stroke of a pen.

The transfer of the park has been affected in a highly doubtful manner and lacks transparency. In addition, according to Section 6 of LDA Act,

the authority has no jurisdiction to transfer the plot in favour of the company or any other person for the purposes of setting a Cinema House. According to the Preamble to the LDA Act, the authority can implement comprehensive system of metropolitan planning in the public interest in order to improve the quality of life and environment in the metropolitan area of Lahore. None of this is possible achieved by setting up a cinema houses and shopping mall.

Without prejudice to the above argument, assuming that the land can be transferred the same can only be done after inviting public tender. In the present case, the transaction looks highly suspicious and lacks transparency. The average price of the park is no less than Rs 250 million. It cannot be just given away by LDA. The respondent company has not come in through a clean process, which reflects of the poor governance at the end of LDA and the provincial government both.

There is no precedent where LDA has

given away its park for the construction of a shopping mall & a cinema house.

Government of Punjab is not empowered to set up shopping malls on a public land that is priced at around Rs 2500 million. The cost of the entire project is more than Rs 3500 million and there has been no local or international tender. The whole transaction is marred and lacks transparency and good governance. It is the duty of government authorities to put up public tender for any new project. Such valuable land has been handed over to the respondent Company and contracts have been awarded to IMAX without due process of tender. The project has no public appeal and is being set up for huge kick backs.

No feasibility report or any other evaluation for the purposes of necessity and financial viability of the setting up of Cinema Houses in the park was ever prepared or undertaken. No justification for the impugned action has ever been laid or brought to the notice of the public. □

STOP PRESS!!! Apex court stops civil work on Cineplex

The Supreme Court on Monday, August 07, 2006, stopped the provincial government and the Punjab Entertainment Company from carrying out civil work on a project under which a modern Cinema House and a shopping centre are being built at Doongi ground on M. M. Alam Road, Gulberg.

The apex court issued the order accepting a petition for leave to appeal filed by Karachi based NGO Shehri-CBE (Citizen for Better Environment), journalist Ardeshir Cowasji and 11 residents of the area through Advocate Syed Mansoor Ali Shah. The petition contested a decision of a full bench of the Lahore High Court which dismissed last month the constitutional writ petition, challenging the commercial project in the public interest, on the ground of non-prosecution.

A Supreme Court bench, headed by Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry, also restored the writ petition, and directed the LHC to constitute a larger bench for the hearing of the petition which should also include Justice Mohammad Sayeed Akhtar who, on Feb 23, 2006, had stayed the construction work.

The Court also directed the LHC Deputy Registrar (judicial) to file his reply to the allegation that by returning the petitioner's earlier application seeking the inclusion of Justice Sayed Akhtar in the larger bench with the objection that it was not maintainable, he had impeded the right to access to justice. The apex court also directed the LHC Registrar Office to ensure that in future, every petition and application should be fixed before a bench for adjudication instead of returning the same as non-maintainable.

The Punjab Entertainment Company was established under an order of the provincial government to carry out the Rs. 3.5 billion project for which six acres at Doongi ground were also allocated. The petitioner challenged the project mainly on the plea that a public park could not be turned into a commercial place. Another plea taken by the two petitioners is that the transfer of land to the Punjab Entertainment Company was issued by the Chief Minister who was not competent to issue such order. The petitioners also pleaded that the Punjab government had, by launching a commercial undertaking, contravened certain provisions of the 1973 Constitution which provided that the public sector could only develop public welfare projects and could not launch a commercial venture. □



SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

Shehri Annual General Meeting May 27, 2006 (Shehri office)

The 16th Annual General Meeting of SHEHRI-Citizens for a Better Environment, was held on May 27th 2006 at 5:00 pm at the registered office of Shehri-CBE, 206-G, Block-II, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi to transact the following business.

The Proceedings

1. To confirm the Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting held on 4th June 2005.

The minutes of the 15th AGM were read out,

Mr. Derrick Dean proposed and Mr. Khateeb Ahmed seconded, the minutes of the meeting were confirmed.

2. To approve and adopt General Secretary's report of Shehri's activities, for the year 2005.

The General Secretary, Mrs. Amber Alibhai gave a summary of Shehri's activities for the year 2005, the details of which are mentioned in the Annual Report 2005.

Mr. Mohammad Ali Rasheed proposed and seconded by Dr. Syed

Raza Ali Gardezi, hence the Annual Activity report was adopted.

3. To approve and adopt the audited statement of accounts for the year ended on December 31st, 2005.

The statement of account was read out by Sheikh Rizwan Abdullah, Treasurer, Shehri-CBE. Syed A. Mateen proposed and seconded by Syed Muslehuddin Ahmed. The audited accounts were adopted.

(The accounts for the year ending December 31st 2004 were audited by M/s Haider & Company Chartered Accountants.)

4. To approve and adopt amended Articles of Association as directed by the Commissioner of Income Tax, Companies Zone V, before issuing income tax exemption certificate u/s 2(36) of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001.

The amendment was read out. Mr. Khatib Ahmed proposed and Mr. Mohammad Ali Rasheed seconded.

The General Body approved the

amended Articles of Association as directed by the Commissioner of Income Tax, Companies Zone V.

The participants...

Managing Committee Members

Mr. Roland deSouza
Chairperson

Dr. Syed Raza Ali Gardezi
Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Amber Alibhai
General Secretary

Mr. Sheikh Rizwan Abdullah
Treasurer

Mr. Khatib Ahmed
Executive Member

Mr. Derrick Dean
Executive Member

Mr. Hanif A. Sattar
Executive Member

General Body Members

Mrs. Bernadette Dean
Syed A. Mateen

Mr. Nisar Hussain Baloch

Mr. Muslehuddin Ahmed

Ms. Victoria deSouza

Ms. Naila Ahmed

Mr. Mohammad Ali Rasheed
Member

By Invitation

Mr. Farooq Nadeem

Mr. Faraz Nadeem

Ms. Madiha Nisar





5. To pass a special resolution to amend Memorandum of Association in order to bring it in conformity with suggestion forwarded by NGORC by amending Clause III, Sub-clause (i)

"To research, investigate, compile and disseminate information regarding existing laws, rules and regulations and/or contraventions thereof, or proposed legislation, pertaining to every aspect of the environment, metropolitan/governmental representation and administration, crime control environmental pollution, community welfare, metropolitan/governmental fiscal control and taxation, health care, building construction and control land development and all other matters of civic concern, including good governance in the public sector";

Mr. Khatib Ahmed proposed and Mr. Mohammad Ali Rasheed seconded.

6. To appoint and fix remuneration of the auditors for the year 2005.

This was proposed by Mr. Hanif A. Sattar and seconded by Mr. Nisar Baloch and the remuneration of auditors was fixed

It was decided to retain M/s Haider & Company as auditors for the year 2006 and their fees will be Rs.6,000/-.

7. Any Other Business

- * Mr. Mohammad Ali Rasheed made a suggestion that Shehri should advertise the fact that they have a functioning *Help Desk*.
- * Syed A Mateen suggested that the website of Shehri (www.shehri.org) should be regularly updated, so that the people can get latest information about the Shehri activities, programme and up coming seminars/workshop. Mr. Roland deSouza requested Syed A Mateen to assist Shehri in updating the website.
- * Ms. Naila Ahmed said that image building of Shehri is necessary. People should know what is Shehri. The only impression in the general public is that Shehri is involved in demolition of buildings etc.
- * Mrs. Amber Alibhai requested members to come forward and participate in Shehri's activities. She also requested members to raise funds for Shehri's ongoing activities.
- * Mr. Mohammad Ali Rasheed forwarded a suggestion to increase the managing committee members.

The AGM 2005 concluded with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Activist's Toolkit

by
Khatib Ahmed

What is an EIA?

Environmental Impact Assessment has been variously defined as:

"A formal process to predict the environmental consequences of human development activities and to plan appropriate measures to eliminate or reduce adverse effects and to augment positive effects".

"An assessment of impacts of a planned activity on the environment" (*United Nations*)

"EIA is the systematic, reproducible and interdisciplinary evaluation of the potential effects of a proposed action and its practical alternatives on the physical, biological, cultural and socio-economic attributes of a particular geographical area" (*USEPA, 1993*)

"An activity which identifies, predicts, interprets and communicates information, and proposes ameliorative measures, about impacts of a proposed action or development proposal on human health and the well-being of the ecosystem upon which human survival depends" (*Sadar et al., 1994*)

"EIA is the systematic process of identifying the future consequences of a current or proposed action" (*International Agency on Impact Assessment*)

Thus an EIA has three main functions:

- * To predict problems,
- * To find ways to avoid them, and
- * To enhance positive effects.

According to the **Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997**, EIA means "an environmental study comprising collection of data, prediction of qualitative and quantitative impacts, comparison of alternatives, evaluation of preventive, mitigatory and compensatory measures, formulation of environmental management and training plans and monitoring arrangements, and framing of recommendations". □

SHEHRI ADVOCACY

In this section, we highlight some of our ongoing advocacy work and seek active citizen participation for ensuring protection of public interest.

Fauji foundation's Proposed 150 MW Power Plants at Korangi: Highlighting the Environmental Concerns

We refer to the hearing held by SEPA at the Regent Plaza Hotel on 3-5-2006, and reiterate the points made there by our representative:

1. The quality of EIA Report leaves much to be desired. In many places it is contradictory or incomplete, and seems to have been partially assembled from other reports using 'cut-and-paste' methods. SEPA must obtain a corrected report and have it circulated.
2. The planned use and zoning of this 37.5 acre plot in the Karachi Master plan or local Area development plan has been made clear: it would seem to be residential. How has it been converted to industrial?
3. Owing the proximity of mangroves and difficulty of controlling open cycle return water/effluent temperature to less 30C above sea water temperature (as per NEQS), closed-circuit air cooling through condensers is to be employed.
4. The proposed construction of an embankment to reclaim 7.5 acres of land from the sea for the project is un lawful. The federal government has banned the reclamation of land from the sea by any party except the PQA and KPT. These two agencies can only undertake reclamation after conducting hydraulic studies to predict the adverse effect on the regimes of the harbours. Additionally, the reclaimed land can only be used

for port related activities, not hotles, commercial plazas and power plants.

5. Under the law, any land reclaimed from the sea belongs to the Government of Sindh, and not to anyone else.
6. The centuries old common-law "Public Trust Doctrine" does not allow the privatization and commercialization of seashores and beaches. All citizens must have unfettered access to the beach. In contradiction, however, Para 13.2.1 of the EIA Report states.

"the fisherman of the adjoining Goths use this area (37.5 acres) as launching pad for fishing boats and almost 20 to 30 small boats were formed anchored at the site. These fisherman will have to find some other adjoining site for this purpose."

This will adversely affect the livelihoods of over 25,000 persons in 5 goths.

(Also see Para 13.2.6 on page 63 and Para 15.4 on Page 72.) The "Public Trust Doctrine" has already been upheld by the High Court of Sindh in the Nestle case at education city in Karachi (2005 CLC 424) and under consideration in petition filed by concerned citizens against the conversion/com-



mercialization of the beaches by the Defence Housing Authority in Karachi (see attached STAR news-item dated 16-3-2006).

7. The following issues are of particular concern and need to be addressed comprehensively by the EIA:
 - a) The NOx, SOx, and PM 10 stack emissions during use of alternative HSD fuel (3 months every year, as per Para 4.5.2 on page 8).
 - b) The noise pollution for the adjoining residential area: why is a power station being situated in a residential area? (Note that the Goths are as much residential areas as PECHS, Nazimabad or DHA Phase-2 in Karachi or Satellite Town or Sector F-6/2 in Isalmabad/Rawalpindi: these Goths are, unfortunately, inhabited by poor people, whose rights do not seem to matter much in this Islamic Republic of Pakistan).
 - c) Measures (including emergency measures) for storage and spill-containment (including contami-



nation of ground water and sea-water) of HSD fuel.

8. This location of 220/132 KV overhead transmission lines and grid station in such close proximity to residential areas is the subject of the Shehla Zia case in Islamabad (PLD 1994 SC 693). The ill effect of electromagnetic waves on human health are a matter of critical concern to all.

We look forward to prompt feed back on the above points by all concerned.

Violation of Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (PEPA) 1997

Approval of Layout Plan of Survery No. 19/3, Deh Dih Tapo Ibrahim Korangi Town, Karachi

Why are the concerned government authorities allowing the built environment of this city to deteriorate further than it already has.

Please consider the following:

- a. A copy of the technical study (availability or non-availability of utilities/ infrastructure/ amenities of the proposed Major Sub-division), nor has been provided a copy of the layout plans. How can we be expected to submit pertinent comments or objections? Objections to what?
- b. As per Item H-I of Schedule-II of Review of IEE & EIA Regulations, 2002 notified under PEPA 1997, projects on land-use and urban plans in large cities like Karachi require an EIA, with public participation. Has this been carried out by CDGK?
- c. Under what law is the proposed layout plan being approved?
- d. Is the plot affected by the Sindh Urban State Land (Cancellation of Allotments, Conversions, Exchanges) ordinance 2000?

- e. Does the scheme fit into the overall planning of KDA Scheme 25-A and the City of Karachi? Is it in accordance with the established Zoning Regulations?
- f. How will the KESC, KWSB, SSGCL, PTCL service the layout? Can the overloaded utilities' network cater to such ad hoc/ incremental demands?

We anxiously await your reply, so that we can submit detailed comments /objections.

Illegal Land Use Conversion: Plot No. 183-A, Block 2, PECHS, Karachi

Shehri has received a complaint from the area residents regarding illegal/unauthorized construction on Plot No.183-A,Block-2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi . The builder is building a flat-site on a residential plot. A visit to the area and inspection of the structure will clearly bear out our apprehension.

The plot is meant for a single unit residential bungalow to be occupied by a maximum of 5-10 persons. However the ongoing construction of multiple flats on the plot would result in increased densification with 50-60 persons living in an area mean for 5-10 persons. This would result in an increase load on the already scared infrastructure and utilities.

The conversion of single unit bungalow into a multiple flat-site is not only against the lease conditions but also violative of SBCO 79 and KBTPR 2002. Moreover, this would be source of nuisance for the neighbors who want to protect their inherent right of living in a peaceful residential area. This would also result in degradation and destruction of the environment on the entire area.

On inspection from outside, various violations of construction were also observed foremost being construction

and encroachment in COS. A detailed inspection would result in discovery of further violations.

The concerned officials are therefore requested to immediately seal the plot for misusing it as a commercial/flat-site and demolish the various offending constructions.

Commercialization of residential bungalow plot

Plot No.119,Block-3 B.M.C.H Society, Karachi

The following information would need to be made available to the general public.

1. Copies of the technical Regulation 18-4.2.2 of KBTPR 2002, (and other planning laws), including availability of utilities. (electricity, water sewerage, etc) infrastructure (road traffic handling capacity, parking, garbage collection, etc) and amenities (parks, playgrounds, Police-station, hospitals school,etc).
2. Data on the present overloading of the above facilities/infrastructure in the residential area around the proposed conversion
3. Copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) carried out in accordance with item H-1 of Schedule-ii of Review of IEE &EIA Regulations, 2002 notified under PEPA 1997 (noise, air pollution, utilities, infrastructure, crime, introduction of strangers into the neighborhood, etc) of the proposed conversion, with public participation.

Till such time that this information is made available, we as citizens of Karachi, visitors to the area, demand that the relevant authority does not approve this 'ribbon commercialization' of residential bungalow plots (including Plot 119/3, B.M.C.H society) on this road, as:



- * It will become a public nuisance for neighbors and residents of the City.
- * Town planning laws require that proper urban planning studies be undertaken first, and
- * Prior arrangement have to be made for adequate enhanced civic/municipal facilities and infrastructure in the area.

The city government must implement

Follow the law of the land...!

The following must be strictly followed and implemented.

- * There should be a wall built to give privacy to the residential houses behind 119/3, BMCHS KBTPR Reg. 25-1.3.2
- * No workshops -KBTPR Reg. 25.1.9
- * No car showrooms- KBTPR Reg.19-2.2.6
- * All shop design should be such that it does not encroach the footpath.

KBTR Reg. 9.4, KTBR Reg.21.6.2 and KBTPR Reg. 25-1.3.1
- * No opening for gates etc on the amenity lane KBTPR Reg.21-2
- * Space for KESC Sub-station KBTPR Reg.9-1
- * COS as per KBTPR 2002 Regulation 25-3.1 has to be maintained
- * No basement entrance from amenity or side lane KBTPR Reg.21-1

proper urban renewal and master planning procedures, rather than resorting to such environmentally degrading 'quick-fix solutions.

Inviting Disaster

The case of CNG Stations

We have been objecting for the past few years to the installation of hazardous and polluting CNG Stations in the residential areas. We feel that such CNG stations should be installed on industrial plots or commercial plots (not residential plot converted in commercial plot) or other plot especially town-planned for the purposes.

The provisional license of OGRA, clearly states "The CNG Station will not be located in the residential area.

Some good souls of the City!

Mr Ronald de'Souza, Chairperson, Shehri-CBE, an electrical engineer of repute, voluntarily offered to charge only one rupee for the installation of lift for senior citizens and special children visiting the Quaid's Mazaar. The inauguration ceremony and the presentation of the cheque by Mr Tahir Iqbal, Federal Minister of Environment, was held recently.

"I did it for the love of the country and the founder of the country, Mr de'Souza said. The entire treasure will not be his share however. "Mr Arshad Shahid Abdulla, architect, and Mushtaq and Bilal, structural consultants, will be entitled to four anna each, because of their devotion to contribute for this noble cause to install the lift at the mausoleum that is sacred and worthy of as much consideration as expected from us, the citizens of Pakistan, who have prospered and made a decent living from it by living in the country he created," Mr de'Souza added. He has framed the coveted cheque and hung it up in his office as valuable symbol of immeasurable wealth "that no amount of money can equal," he disclosed.

It is a matter of happiness that there are still people with good heart and soul in this city of the Quaid, who carry an unbounded respect and love for him. □

Life for special citizens at Mazar opens

A lift ramp system for handicapped people to help them have easy access to the Quaid's mausoleum was recently inaugurated.

The ramp leads to the lift at the lower podium of the Mazar enabling the special citizens to reach right upto its upper edge. The ramp has been constructed as per the international standards of 1:20 ratio. The special people can now reach the Mazar podium, which is around 91 feet above the sea level, without physical support by any other person. While the special people could enter the Mazar from any of its gates, the Bab-i-Iman on the M. A Jinnah Road Extension side which is used by VVIPs, has been dedicated to them.

The lift for special persons built in a glass enclosure, has been especially designed to have two doors, one for entry and the other for exit to facilitate straight movement of disabled person.

The proposal for the ramp was included in the original design of the mausoleum constructed in the early 1970s, through it was not built at that time. Later the provision of this facility was included in the overall plan of Bagh-e-Quaid-i-Azam which was executed in the year 2000. The ramp facility was again skipped.

Eventually, when General Musharraf visited the Mazar some time back, he ordered work on this facility, with the opening of the ramp system, the special people, who form around 10 per cent of the total population. □



GOVERNANCE

Good governance: the liberal agenda

Shehri-CBE highlights the liberal agenda for governance reforms that calls for strengthening the democratic process and ending corruption in society.

Authoritarian rule, abuse of power, corruption, protectionism and centralization make for bad government. Too many countries are kept poor- and their citizens kept ignorant- by a lack of democracy, education and effective economic and social policy. The liberal agenda for good governance focuses on returning power to individuals, separation of powers, decentralization, transparency, civil and political right, free trade, social market economy, policies against poverty and ignorance and the fight against corruption.

According to Liberals, Good Governance should look to promote:

a. The strengthening of democracy by recognizing:

- * The need to promote freedom of speech as the primary requisite for democracy and good governance:
- * The need for governments to serve not just their supporters but to serve the best interests of all citizens and consider themselves responsible and accountable to those citizens.
- * The need for strong parliaments with effective control over government and the right to set their own legislative agenda.

The need to uphold the rule of law, to guarantee access to legal and effective remedy for all, even the poorest citizens and to ensure that all - men and women, rich and poor, citizens and non-citizens, majorities and minorities - are equal before the law.



- * The need for efficient mechanisms for democratic control and accountability over supra-national institutions.
- * the need for complete separation of state and religion.
- * The need for transparency in both national governments and supra-national institutions and the requirement that citizens have access to information and for accessibility and openness in communicating decisions and to make them understandable to citizens.
- * The need to ensure democratically elected government's authority over the armed forces, police and secret services.
- * The need for checks and balances that prevent abuse of power.
- * The need to enforce an equilibrium of powers and a strict independence of the judiciary and to consolidate

the role of the judiciary, legislative and executive respectively.

- * The need for governments to accept independent and international monitoring of elections.
 - * The need to apply the principle of subsidiarity, decentralize when possible, and to give to civic society those initiatives and tasks best undertaken within that context.
 - * The need for freedom of the media, guaranteed by law and upheld by the courts.
 - * The need to create a competitive framework for the media and to promote plurality.
- b. The protection of human rights, recognizing:**
- * The need for governments to commit themselves to the principles in the UN treaty and to other international law, including the International Criminal Court.
 - * The need to strengthen recognition and implementation of human, civil and political rights by enshrining them in the constitution around the world as a cause in itself and to enhance and promote economic and social



development.

- * The need to ensure free education - at least on primary level - to enable as many citizens as possible to take full advantage of their equal rights.
- * The need to uphold the rule of law, to guarantee access to legal and effective remedy for all, even the poorest citizens and to ensure that all - men and women, rich and poor, citizens and non-citizens, majorities and minorities - are equal before the law.
- * The need to end impunity.
- * The need to promote tolerance and fight discrimination and to protect the identity of ethnic, national, religious and linguistic minorities.
- * The need for independent national Human Rights Institutions

according to the Paris Principles in all countries, in order to protect and promote human right.

- * The need to protect life, liberty and property in order to guarantee freedom.
- c. The developments of political parties and civil society:**
 - * The need to guarantee free competition between political parties, fair access to the mass media and clear and fair electoral rules that are enforceable in court.
 - * The need for local and regional governments to participate in the decision-making processes of national and supranational policy preparation, legislation and evaluation.

- * The need to recognize NGOs as valuable partners in creating democracy and promoting human rights and civil society and the need to guarantee their independence and their democratic governance while at the same time asserting the authority of democratically elected governments.
- * The need for governments to encourage citizens to participate in politics and public life.
- * The need to have effective political parties and electoral systems in order to strengthen parity and democracy itself.
- * The need to emphasize the role of political parties in civic education and political debate in addition to their role as vehicles to power.

LIBERAL FORUM PAKISTAN'S VISION

The members of the Liberal Forum Pakistan believe that the parliamentary values bases on democratic political system should be strengthened. LFP stresses the need for affirmative action for the disadvantaged portion of the population particularly women, children and religious minorities. The stance that LFP has developed over political challenges confronted by Pakistan is as follows:

Electoral Reform

- * An independent Election Commission must be established.
- * Existing electoral system should be reformed to ensure participation of all sections of society.

Judiciary

- * LFP calls for an independent judiciary which is free from interference of any kind.
- * All parallel judicial structures like the Federal Shariat Court, Anti Terrorist, and Military Courts should be abolished.
- * There should be fair and impartial justice for all citizens regardless of case, religion and gender.
- * All discriminatory laws against women, children, minorities and others should be abolished.

Governance

- * There should be meaningful decentralization and devolution of power.

- * Devolutions should be based on the principle of subsidiarity.

Economy

- * The members of the LFP advocate for a free market economy with strong mechanism to check monopolies and ensure consumer rights.
- * The LFP calls for judicious land reforms followed by organization of the agricultural sector on the principles of a free market economy.
- * LFP supports promotion of agricultural practices congenial to the local environment and based on sustainable practices that ensures the rights and well being future generations. □