

MINUTES OF MEETING REGARDING SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN KARACHI HELD ON 26-2-2005 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF GOVERNOR SINDH

In pursuance of the directives of the Governor who having taken cognizance of the sanitary conditions prevalent in the city, had desired a presentation to be made to him, highlighting the issues in this regard and putting forward recommendations for consideration, a meeting on the subject was held under the chairmanship of Governor Sindh on 26-2-2005. List of the participants is annexed.

A presentation was made by Mr. Muhammad Saleem Khan, ACS (LG) on solid waste management system in Karachi. He stated that an estimated 6113 tons of garbage was generated in 18 towns of Karachi per day. Out of those 5057 tons is lifted and 1057 tons remains as backlog. Garbage lifting cost Rs. 1.08 million per day and on average Rs.233 per ton expenditure is incurred on transportation of garbage. Besides 600 tons of recyclable material is picked by scavengers.

Recycling industry provides employment to more than 55000 families and has annual turn over of Rs. 1.2 billion. More than 1000 recycling units are operative in the informal sector. In addition to the garbage generated by 18 towns, 5 cantonments in Karachi namely Clifton, Faisal, Malir, Karachi and Korangi generate 311 tons of garbage per day. Garbage lifting and sweeping is privatized in these cantonments on which Rs.197000/- are incurred on daily basis.

Three policy options were presented for improvement the solid waste management system in Karachi which include filling of the resource gap, privatization of lifting and transportation of garbage and development of infrastructure - garbage transfer station and land fill sites.

Keeping in view the fact that most of the towns are not able to lift 100% garbage and there is a lack of infrastructure in the system, ACS(LG) emphasized the need for privatization/ out-sourcing of garbage lifting as has been done in the Shah Faisal Town and development of a number of garbage transfer stations. He also recommended establishment of more landfill sites so that informal dumping of garbage can be eliminated.

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ACS (LG) also highlighted problem of hazardous waste generated by Health Care Units in the city. As per the survey of EPA around 2.7 tons waste is generated by 200 hospitals having total bed strength of 9000. It includes 540 K.G hazardous waste and 216 K.G. non-hazardous waste. Besides these hospitals TMAs have identified 1379 Health Care Units operating in the city. Only 140 Health Care Units are disposing off their waste through incinerators run by the City Government. Presently 2 incinerators are running at the capacity of 15 to 20 %. He said a major reason for this problem is non-registration of HCUs either with the Health Department or with the City Government and non-compliance of the EPA guidelines by the HCUs.

The Governor Sindh commended the efforts in preparation of the presentation and gave the following directives:-

- a) ACS (LG) may convene a meeting of all Nazims of TMA Karachi and discuss the proposal of outsourcing of garbage transportation. Views of the TMAs in this regard will be submitted to the Governor Sindh within fifteen days.
- b) ACS (LG) may further discuss the issues with Mr.Arif Hassan, Architect and Planning Consultant so that the proposals submitted in the presentation may further be crystallized. If there is a need, a presentation to the Governor by Mr.Arif Hassan may also be arranged.
- c) ACS (Dev) may expedite his efforts for early clearance of Concept Clearance Proposals for GTS and take it up with the Federal Government for de-linking of Power Generation Plant from the GTS.

The meeting ended with a vote of thank to and from the chair.