

**Form No:HCJD/C-121**  
**ORDER SHEET**

**IN THE LAHORE HIGH COURT LAHORE**  
**JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

W.P. No. 9137/2012

The Public Interest Litigation  
Association of Pakistan, etc.

The Government of the Punjab,  
etc.

28. 08.12.2015 Mr. Ahmad Rafay Alam, Advocate for the petitioners.  
M/s Anwaar Hussain and Jamal Mamdot, Assistant  
Advocate Generals, Punjab.  
Mr. Waqar A. Sheikh, Advocate for respondent LDA.  
Muhammad Nawaz Manik, Director (Law),  
Environment Protection Department, Punjab.  
Zeeshan Bilal, XEN (WWT), WASA.  
Muhammad Yousaf, Director Construction, WASA.  
Muhammad Ayub, Assistant Director (Legal), WASA.  
Muhammad Akram, XEN, LDDL.  
Sohail Ali Naqvi, Coordinator, WWF, Punjab.

In pursuance to order dated 20.11.2015, River Ravi Commission ("**Commission**") was directed to hold a meeting to re-evaluate the initiation of the Bioremediation Project ("**Project**") and also consider the current status and cost of River Ravi Front Development Project ("**River Ravi Project**") proposed by LDA. Meeting of the Commission was held on 27.11.2015 which was attended by the relevant stakeholders. It is submitted that minutes of various meetings of the Commission, particularly minutes of meeting dated 01.03.2013, show that there is no objection to setting up of the Project proposed by the Commission. Bioremediation Project is a home grown solution to clean polluted water entering into River Ravi. The overall cost

of the Project is approximately Rs.50-million and does not involve the development of any major infrastructure as it simply comprises water ponds. Total area required to set up the Project is 50-Acres of land.

2. On the other hand, learned counsel for the respondent LDA submits that River Ravi Project has a total cost of US \$.3-billion (i.e., approximately Rs.318-billion). He further submits that total land required for the Project is around 300-Acres and the said land has yet to be acquired under the provisions of Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioners/Secretary to the River Ravi Commission Mr. Ahmad Rafay Alam, Advocate submits that the Commission in its last meeting inquired about the status of the River Ravi Front Development Project and according to the information received, neither PC-1 has been prepared for the said Project nor EIA of the Project has been undertaken. He further submits that seven components of the proposed River Ravi Project pertain to waste management but none of them has yet been initiated.

4. As far as 50-Acres of land for the Bioremediation Project is concerned, it is already in possession of WASA as stated by the representative of WASA namely Zeeshan Bilal, XEN (WWT), therefore, till such time River Ravi Front Development Project is materialized, Bioremediation Project can be put in place with only 0.16% of the cost of the River Ravi Front Development Project. It is also important to underline that polluted water of the River Ravi affects the fundamental rights of

the citizen of Lahore in particular right to life under Article 9 of the Constitution. It is also pointed out that 42 species of fish have already gone extinct due to polluted water in River Ravi. Therefore, Bioremediation Project proposed by the Commission which comprises of the under-mentioned members, is a home grown solution and does not entail major infrastructural development. This immediate home grown solution cannot be put on the shelf because the proposed River Ravi Project entailing a cost of US \$.3-billion will be built one day.

1.	Dr. Kosar Abdullah Malik	Chairperson.
2.	Managing Director, WASA	Member
3.	Advocate General, Punjab	Member
4.	The Secretary, EPD, Govt. of the Punjab	Member
5.	Nominee of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce, to be appointed by the President of the said Chamber.	Member
6.	Commissioner, Lahore Division, Lahore.	Member
7.	Mr. Vaqar Zakria (Environmental Expert)	Member
8.	Mr. Anjum Altaf (Economist)	Member
9.	Mr. Ali Habib, Director General, WWF, Pakistan.	Member
10.	Mr. Kamil Khan Mumtaz (Petitioner)	Member
11.	Mr. Ahmad Rafay Alam (Advocate/Counsel for the petitioners)	Member.

5. Therefore, in order to protect the fundamental rights of the citizen of Lahore and the aquatic life in River Ravi, Chief Secretary, Government of the Punjab is directed to proceed with the recommendations of the

River Ravi Commission and take immediate steps for setting up the Bioremediation Project at the earliest in the larger public interest and submit an interim report regarding the progress made in this regard within one month from today.

6. It is clarified that reservations of the LDA as noted in the minutes of River Ravi Commission dated 27.09.2015 have been safeguarded. In case, tomorrow, River Ravi Front Development Project is materialized in accordance with law, the area/location if any utilized by the Bioremediation Project can be taken over by the River Ravi Project without any additional cost.

7. To come up for submission of report and further proceedings on 13.01.2016. Office will reflect this case in the cause list as ***“River Ravi Commission Case”***.

(Syed Mansoor Ali Shah)  
Judge

*M. Tahir\**

**To be uploaded on the Lahore High Court website.**