



**Experts Center for Market and Policy Research, Pakistan
(ECMPR)**

Newsletter

December, 2022



Impact Created by ECMPR

Today is a great day not only for the Experts Centre for Market and Policy Research (ECMPR) and Sir Rahim Shah Foundation but also for the general public as well. For the latter, the former filed a writ petition in Peshawar High Court. This public-interest petition was filed by Rahim Shah Akhunkhail, Chair Sir Foundation and Dr. Wali Rahman, Director Research, Experts Centre for Market and Policy Research (ECMPR). The petition sought safeguarding and ensuring fundamental rights of the people of the neglected districts of Dir Lower, Dir Upper, Chitral and Bajaur. This petition had the backing of Articles 4, 5 & 25 of the Constitution of Pakistan that talk about equal protection of law

and extension (protection of individual rights). In addition, the writ petition was also invoking Article 19A (Right to information), and Article 38 (Promotion of social and economic well-being of the people) of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973.

Through this petition, the petitioners requested the court to alleviate the sufferings of the residents of districts concerned by processing the construction of Express Way from Chakdara to Chitral and also the construction of N-45 (CEPEC route). This petition is significant in the sense that it was related to roads, the arteries through which the economy pulses. Roads are critical to link producers to markets, workers to jobs, students to schools and the sick to hospitals. Roads are instrumental in bringing economic and social benefits and improving the local economies and consequently eradicate poverty and bring prosperity. Prior to file the writ petition, the petitioners laboriously worked on mobilizing and convincing the public representatives of the area. However, all these efforts failed and the petitioners were left only to knock at the doors of the higher judiciary. At last, the petition was filed in March 2022 in Peshawar High Court with the contention that delay in the construction of the approved roads is an injustice with the inhabitants of the areas from where the road would be passing. After hearing the council of the petitioners, Muhammad Ajmal, Advocate, in a number of hearings gave its verdict in favour of the petitioners by directing the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to complete the land requisition for Dir Expressway project at the earliest and thereafter, the construction work of the project should be undertaken. The petitioners have no hesitation to recognize the legal sagacity of the council, Muhammad Ajmal. The petitioners also acknowledge the interest of the High Court in the public interest litigation.

Media Coverage

PHC orders acquisition of land for Dir Expressway

Disposes of plea for speedy completion of road projects

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court has directed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to complete land acquisition for Dir Expressway project at the earliest and thereafter the construction work of the project should be undertaken.

A two-member bench consisting of PHC Chief Justice Qaiser Rashid Khan and Justice Ijaz Anwar disposed of a petition, seeking direction of the court for early completion of the widening and improvement of NA-45 (Chakdara-Chitral Highway) as part of CPEC's western route and construction of Dir Expressway (Chakdara-Rabat), after assurance was given by representatives of National Highway Authority and KP Highway Authority that steps had been taken for completion of both the projects.

They stated that acquisition process for land for the construction of expressway from Chakdara to Rabat and onward from Dir to Chitral was under way, which would take some time.

The bench directed that the process should be completed at the earliest so as to alleviate the sufferings of the residents of the districts concerned.

The petition was filed by two residents of Dir Lower district named Rahim Shah Akhunkhail and Prof Wali Rahman.

They requested the court that apart from N-45, it might also direct the government to expedite work on the 29.6-kilometre Dir Expressway from Chakdara to Rabat.

The respondents in the petition were CPEC Authority through its chairman, federal ministry of planning and development, federal secretary economic affairs, ECNEC through its chairman, NHA through its chairman, KP Highway Authority through its managing director, KP chief secretary and provincial secretary finance.

Advocate Malik Mohammad Ajmal appeared for the petitioner whereas assistant attorney general Ashfaq Ahmad Daudzai, advocates Sikander Rashid and Khalilullah Khalil represented the federal government, NHA and KPHA, respectively.

The petitioners' counsel stated that the friendly country Peoples Republic of China had started the Built and Road Initiative (BRI) worldwide and one of its projects was com-

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The petitioners' counsel stated that the friendly country Peoples Republic of China had started the Built and Road Initiative (BRI) worldwide and one of its projects was commonly known as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

He said that according to official documents, N-45 was part of CPEC. He said that as per available record, all the schemes under CPEC were categorised as completed, under-construction and pipeline projects. He added that N-45 had duly been approved by ECNEC as a western route and under-construction project.

Malik Ajmal claimed that the respondents due to reasons best known to them had been delaying the project.

He stated that another project was that of Dir Expressway, a 29.6-kilometre long road to be completed at a cost of Rs38.8 billion. He added that its PC-I had already been completed and was mentioned as a pipeline project.

The counsel stated that another project was that of Shandur-Chitral road, an alternate route of Karakoram Highway. It would be 153-kilometre long and would cost \$16 billion. He stated that it was shown as an under-construction project and its groundbreaking ceremony had taken place in April 2021. The counsel stated that there was also a proposal to extend Dir Expressway to China by stretching it around 214-kilometre at a cost of Rs339 billion.

Mr Ajmal stated that Chakdara to Timergara section of N-45 called as Section-1 would be about 38.85-kilometre and would include the widening and rehabilitation of the said route.

He claimed that the route from Chakdara to Timergara was shown as under-construction project but there was nothing on record about the route from Timergara to Dir.

He contended that delay in construction of the said roads was an injustice with the inhabitants of the areas from where the roads would be passing.

Photo Gallery



Students Research Project in Less Developed Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

Research is the basis for every decision making and policy making. It is the job of a think tank to conduct research and present the facts to the policy makers for an effective and people friendly policy making. ECMPR team is making preparation for its “Higher Achiever Students’ Research Project”. Complete project report can be accessed from our research window.





Meeting Regarding Training Materials for ADR Project

The ECMPR team comprising Dr. Fayaz Ali Shah, Dr. Shahid Jan and Dr. Wali Rahman visited Malak Ajmal Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan in his chamber regarding the ADR project. The CEO, ECMPR briefed Malak Ajmal Advocate regarding the progress of the project. Malak Ajmal guided the team on the legal aspects of the project and also promised to extend his cooperation to ECMPR in future endeavors. Malak Ajmal Advocate has also accepted the invitation of the ECMPR as a resource person for training of local elders (members of local Jirga) under the said training. They also discussed the different aspects of the training materials required during the training sessions for the local jirga members





Seminar conducted on Liberty and Individual Rights

A Seminar was held at Islamia College Peshawar by Experts Center for Market and Policy Research to promote a free, prosperous and peaceful world by encouraging education, principles of individual liberty and protection of individual rights.

Around 20 participants of this seminar had the chance to learn more about the idea of freedom and individual rights. The resource person shed light on the importance of individual freedom especially in the context of developing countries.



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economically and socially vibrant and progressing society.*

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