

Mr. Murad Ali Shah,
Chief Minister House,
Civil Lines, Karachi,
Pakistan

Respected Sir,

Subject: Petition to alleviate Karachi's Water Crisis

As you are aware, Karachi is facing a severe water crisis. Despite being the biggest city of Pakistan, which generates and collects a substantial portion of the nation's revenue, it is suffering from an archaic and disintegrating infrastructure.

Water is a basic human necessity, and it is a fundamental right according to the Constitution. It is to be held on public trust, and to be distributed efficiently to the people, and therefore it is extremely infuriating that the people of Karachi have been deprived of this necessity. This is against the law, and it is against basic human decency. This is a blatant failure of the government, and it is thoroughly unacceptable.

It is disappointing to see the Sindh Government proposing far-fetched, unworkable plans such as highly expensive Desalination plants, which can become avenues of mass governmental corruption, instead of fixing the current issues, which range from supply to distribution to contamination. The apathy and incompetency of government officials is harrowing.

We Demand:

- that there should be a consensus on Karachi's need of water by its stakeholders. The contested figures in the 2017 census will lead to a decrease in Karachi's water quota, and we call upon you to argue for increasing Karachi's water quota in the Council of Common Interests, according to Article 155 of the Constitution.
- that the government restructure the KWSB, as it suffers from chronic mismanagement and runs on a deficit of nearly 59.3% (major defaulters are government institutions). This will ensure that it is free from political influence and functions like the autonomous and corporate body it was initially created as. The Managing Director of KWSB should be selected from a pool of highly trained technocrats, rather than from the civil service.
- that a human resource audit should be carried out, as the KWSB is staffed with political appointees and overmanned to an outrageous degree.

- that the illegal use of 10,000 tankers should be curbed, for which a law needs to be introduced to regulate and manage these tankers. Which should also empower Law Enforcement Agencies to impound tankers operating illegally, with strict punishments for persons operating them.
- that the filtration plants of the KWSB should be revamped and opened, ensuring 24/7 functioning so that the 91% contamination of water can be purified.
- the upgradation of leaking and archaic lines, so that 35% of the water supplied isn't lost due to leakages and theft.
- that a government team should research and pinpoint how many parallel lines exist and where.
- the government to immediately upgrade the sewerage infrastructure and initiate more essential projects like the Treatment Plant III. This will ensure that sewerage water doesn't mix with regular water due to degradation of sewerage lines.