

NEWSCLIPPINGS

JANUARY TO JUNE 2024

WATER SUPPLY



Urban Resource Centre

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Old city area plagued with water woes

The port city is plagued with a clean water problem but some areas of the metropolis have it worse than others. For instance, the Old City area, where the water distribution has collapsed due to deterioration and decades of neglect.

Areas which comprise the Old City in Karachi are at the farthest end in terms of water delivery, as per urban planners and locals, and thus those who reside in those areas have to fulfil their water needs by relying on water porters, colloquially referred to as mashikis, who travel door to door with a leather bag full of water. However, that is not a sustainable solution.

In this regard, Nausheen Khatoon, a long-term resident of Pakistan Chowk, which is part of the Old City area, highlighted the plight of living in the locality. "The water pipes are visibly rotten, so it is not surprising that they are not fit to distribute water efficiently," remarked Nausheen, further adding that it was a shame that for decades people of the Old City area had been demanding access to water but those demands seem to fall on deaf ears.

Whether it is Pakistan Chowk, or other localities in the Old City area, like Bohrapir, Ranchod Line, Burns Road, Kharadar, Meetha Dar, and Bolton Market, dilapidated water lines and the consequent inefficient water supply plagues affects all.

Muhammad Ayub, a 65-year-old resident of Burns Road, while talking to the Express Tribune, expressed his frustration at the fact that people on this side of Karachi had to rely on the centuries old practice of mashiki to get access to such a crucial natural resource. "Whatever water flows through these dilapidated lines is probably hazardous. Therefore, all credit goes to the government that we are forced to pay on a daily basis for the water we drink and use," the elderly citizen criticised.

Like Nausheen, Muhammad too was of the view that politicians only used the populace for votes and when it came to delivering on their promises "the politicians are nowhere to be seen."

Faheem-ul-Zaman, a former administrator of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), is familiar with the plight of the residents of the Old City area. According to Faheem, the water lines in the area were installed in the British era and no one has thought of placing new ones ever since. "Even though two main water lines were installed here to solve the water issue, a 66-inch line in 1984 and a 24-inch one prior to that; they are not enough," the former KMC administrator asserted, further adding that the crisis has been further exacerbated due to people installing illegal connections in the already semi-functional water lines.

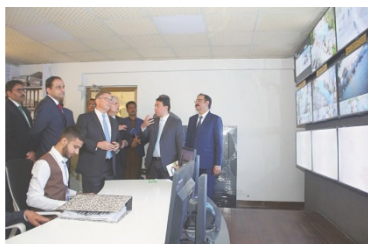
Given that the last water line installed in the area was nearly 4 decades ago, urban planners feel that only new water lines are the solution. Sadia Jabeen, an urban planner and a senior civil engineer at the University of Karachi, suggested that to solve the water scarcity in the Old Area the water board should install new water lines as part of Karachi's master plan.

Farhan Anwar, another urban planner based in the city, agrees. However, Farhan further suggested: "Apart from new water lines, there is an immediate need to devolve power to the local governments so they can be on top of issues such as water scarcity and address them in a timely fashion."

Farhan's suggestion is music to the ears of Muhammad Dilawar, former town nazim from the old city area. "We need to realise that water being delivered on push-carts and on the back of labourers in leather bags is a practice of prehistoric times. A city of Karachi's stature and its residents should not be subjected to such a plight just because the government and the water board are inefficient," he demanded while talking to The Express Tribune.
(By Aamir Khan The Express Tribune, 04, 04/01/2024)

Blome discusses city's water issues with mayor

US Ambassador Donald Blome met Mayor Murtaza Wahab at the head office of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation on Monday and discussed with him issues pertaining to water supply in the metropolis, wastewater treatment, etc.



"The mayor, who is also the chairman of the KWSC, and the US ambassador talked about recent initiatives by the water utility to improve water supply and steps to ensure security in various areas of Karachi," said a statement. "There was also a discussion on possible involvement of American companies in the water sector."

The US diplomat also visited the recently established Hydrant Management and Monitoring Centre.

KWSC CEO Salahuddin briefed Ambassador Blome on recent reforms, improvements and the vision of the corporation.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 23/01/2024)

Water expert Seemi Kamal honoured

Simi Kamal, one of Pakistan's leading geographers, has been appointed the chair of the Board of International Water Management Institute (IWMI).

With 40 years of experience in water, environment, food security and related sectors, Ms Kamal is also well-known globally and nationally in social development and women empowerment circles.

According to a press release, Ms Kamal has been instrumental in guiding IWMI's strategic direction and organisational growth as a member of IWMI's board since 2018, and moving forward will provide leadership in integration of IWMI with One CGIAR.

Ms Kamal is the first woman to be appointed as the Chair of the Board since IWMI's establishment in 1984. This is a huge honour for Pakistan and the women of Pakistan.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 10/02/2024)

Water supply from Hub Dam restored after canal breach plugged

Residents of districts West and Keamari heaved a sigh of relief on Saturday when water supply was restored in their areas after four-day disruption due to a breach in the Hub Canal.

The Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation said that the canal had cracked due to heavy rain and subsequent power breakdown at the Hub Pumping Station and the repair work had been completed on Friday evening on an emergency basis.

KWSC Chief Executive Officer Syed Sallahuddin Ahmed told Dawn that normal water supply to the city had been started from the Hub Canal.

He added that water to the two affected districts had been supplied normally from the alternative line of K-III during the repair work.

He said that the K-III, which brought water to district West from Keenjhar Lake, was actually designed to supply water to Balida Town, Orangi Town and Manghopir in addition to water supply from Hub Canal.

He said that the reliance on the 84-inch line increased due to damage to the Hub Canal leading to short supply of water in some parts of the district West.

Contrary to the KWSC claim, many residents of Baldia Town and adjoining localities complained that the water supply had not so far been restored to their areas.

The chief engineer of the water utility said that the water was being supplied in parts of the two districts at different timings in turns.

Meanwhile, a water utility spokesperson said that water from Hub Dam was blocked and dewatering pumps were installed to empty the affected portion of the canal so that the repair work could be completed soon.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 11/02/2023)

Man shot dead in clash over 'illegal' water supply line

A man was shot dead and two others were wounded in Nazimabad in the small hours of Monday morning, police said.

SSP-Central Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi said that a clash took place between some residents and local builders, who also owned an estate agency, over laying a line to supply water in Nazimabad near Baqai Hospital.

The police said that the builders were trying to illegally lay a 12-inch water line and when the residents objected, the suspects attacked them.

The SSP identified the suspects as Noman and Owais, who killed 45-year-old Asim Rehman and wounding Naveed and Shoaib. Victim Asim was a jeweller and father of four children.

A case was registered under Sections 302 (premeditated murder), 324 (attempted murder) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code and a suspect was taken into custody, the police said.

CCTV footage that went viral on social media showed a quarrel between two sides in which shots were also fired.

Complainant Naveed Rehman stated in the FIR that two builders, Owais and Noman, were trying to lay a water line on the road in front of Imambargah Noor-i-Iman. When residents raised objections over it, they left the place and came back again with more persons, called his brother and started beating him. When his second brother, Asim, tried to save him, both Noman and Owais started firing with their pistols.

He stated that a bullet fired by Noman hit Asim in the face. Owais also started firing and a bullet hit him and their accomplice, Shoaib. Asim died on way to hospital, he added.

The complainant told the media that the killers left behind their six motorcycles and fled. He said that the suspects enjoyed backing from a political party in the area.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 13/02/2024)

Murad vows to approach PM for release of funds required for K-IV project

Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Sunday that he would approach Prime Minister-elect Shehbaz Sharif to discuss the issue of delay in release of funds by the federal government for the much-awaited Greater Karachi Water Supply Project, commonly known as K-IV.

Speaking to reporters at the office of the Election Commission of Pakistan here, he said that the federal government had allocated Rs16 billion for the project, but released only Rs4bn so far.

He expressed concern that the project would suffer more delays if the remaining funds were not released soon.



Accompanied by PPP leaders who filed nomination papers for contesting elections on two Senate vacant seats in Sindh, the CM stated that the PM-elect would take the oath of his position on Monday and it was his primary responsibility to strengthen the economy.

Says Centre had allocated Rs16bn but released only Rs4bn

“People are currently facing an unprecedented rise in prices and the new federal government will have to take steps to address this issue. This can only be achieved by withdrawing subsidies being enjoyed by the elite,” he said.

CM Shah stated that he intended to write a letter to the new prime minister, requesting for the completion of the K-IV project.

He emphasised that the K-IV project was crucial to meet the water requirements of the city.

About the upcoming Senate elections, the CM said that the PPP candidates would easily be elected as senators from the provincial assembly.

“We need only 108 votes for the two seats and we have 114 votes in the house. We will get our candidates elected easily for which I am congratulating [former] president Asif Ali Zardari,” he said.

In response to a question, the chief minister said that Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab was working tirelessly to turn Karachi into one of the most advanced cities in the world.

“As an elected mayor, he has all the necessary powers,” he said, adding that any changes in the local government law would be made by the Sindh Assembly.

Commenting on the PML-N's agreement with the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan regarding an empowered local government system, the CM was of the view that the PML-N could not make amendments to the local government law as demanded by the MQM-P since it had not a single MPA in the Sindh Assembly.

He said that at present the MQM-P leadership was in Islamabad for the election of the prime minister and “we will approach them for the presidential election”.

He admitted that the MQM-P and the PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council had stakes in Sindh. “I want to take all the stakeholders together so that the issues of the province can be resolved with collective wisdom.”

He said that maintenance of law and order was the responsibility of the provincial government for which he had given necessary instructions to the police and Rangers. “We will soon rid Karachi of street criminals and riverine area of dacoit gangs,” he said.

About protest by the Grand Democratic Alliance, the CM said that despite Pir Pagara's announcement that MPAs-elect of the GDA would not take the oath the lawmakers got themselves notified from the Election Commission and took the oath.
(By Dawn Reporter, 13, 04/03/2024)

K-IV fate still hangs in balance as Centre yet to give final approval

The fate of the much-awaited Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme, commonly known as K-IV, still hangs in balance as the federal government has been dragging its feet in its final approval for the past two years, it emerged on Saturday.

Official sources said that the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) had in August 2023 conditionally approved the PC-1 of the project, that also included Rs74 billion K-IV Augmentation Project to be carried out by the Sindh government and funded by World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

They said that the federal government had asked the provincial government to give justification of cost increase of Rs40bn.

The sources said that the provincial government had submitted to the federal government its revised compliance report, giving justification of increase in the cost of the project on Feb 13, 2024, but it was still pending under review at the planning commission for the issuance of authorisation to the provincial government.

Murad to request prime minister for release of Rs30-40bn funds for much-delayed project

They said that the matter would be again placed before the ECNEC for its final approval.

On Saturday, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah reviewed the progress of the ongoing K-IV project and set September 2025 as the timeline for the completion of the components being undertaken by the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda).

He said that he would discuss the Augmentation Project with the federal government, which had been pending since March 2022.

He directed the Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation to start consultancy of the augmentation works for which he would arrange the funds.

The meeting, held at the CM House, was attended among others by Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, Planning and Development chairman Najam Shah, Local Government Secretary Khalid Hyder Shah, Finance Secretary Fayaz Jatoi, Irrigation Secretary Zarif Khero and KWSC CEO Syed Salahuddin Ahmed.

The CM was told that K-IV mainstream works were being implemented by Wapda and its 100 per cent funding of Rs126bn would be made by the federal government.

The CM was told that there were eight contract packages which were awarded in the construction phase.

He was told that in March 2024, World Bank mission was informed that Rs40.36bn were released against the allocation of Rs52.62bn and the main reason for its possible delay was the unavailability of funds timely.

The chief minister said that he would talk to the federal government to release Rs30-40bn allocated in its PSDP.

The meeting also discussed the Rs40bn KB Feeder Lining project being funded by the federal and the provincial government. It would be executed by the irrigation department.

The CM was told that as per the water balance study conducted by KWSSIP, the water for K-IV could only be extracted by Keenjhar if the KB feeder upper was lined.

The CM said that the World Bank wanted the irrigation department to expedite the completion of the procurement process.

The irrigation secretary told the CM that the KB feeder upper lining project was in the tendering process and the bids were expected to be received in the second week of April.

The CM was told that the trench for laying pipeline PL-I had a length of 65.19 km, of which 63.3 km was completed, 1.49 km was under process and 0.4 km was a disputed area.

The CM directed the chief secretary to get the land disputes redressed.

As far as PL-2 was concerned, the CM was told that it had a length of 47.69 km, out of which 26.79 km had been completed while work on 13.7 km was under process and 7.2 km under litigation. The CM directed his legal team to get the cases cleared and expedite the work.

The CM was told that in the federal public sector development programme, Rs52.6bn was allocated against which Rs45.6bn had been released which has been utilised. Now, Rs30bn to Rs40bn were required to expedite the work.

The chief minister said that he would request the prime minister to release the amount so that the much-delayed project of K-IV could be completed.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 07/04/2024)

This week 50 years ago: Water crisis and Rasheed Arain's environmental art

THE issue of shortage of civic amenities reared its head in Karachi as soon as the city began to expand both vertically and horizontally (that is, in terms of infrastructural development and population). On April 9, 1974 a story in Dawn suspected that a serious crisis of water supply was likely to hit Karachi in 1975 because of the delay in the execution of the first part of the third phase of the Bulk Water Supply Scheme. The reason was the non-receipt of funds from the provincial government. There was already a shortfall of 25 million gallons of water on a daily (MGD) basis since only 140m gallons were being supplied to the city. The requirement was 165 MGD.



With the continuing rise in population, Karachi needed 185 MGD by the next year. Experts said the pinch would be felt by the consumers in May (1974) and in the succeeding months the trouble could aggravate.

Not just that, the authorities were trying to find a solution to the grave problem of impure drinking water as well. On April 10, Dow Medical College (DMC) started sample testing of drinking water in its laboratory complying with the directives of the provincial government. The test was in addition to the one being done by the Karachi Development Authority (KDA).

It seemed that no good news was in the offing on the subject. On April 14, it was announced that Karachi would get turbid water from Haleji Lake after two days due to the closure of Jam Branch Canal along with other canals in Sindh for annual cleaning, distilling and weed removal. The effects of the change would, however, be noticed in the city from April 18 and the supply from Haleji Lake was to be restored in the first week of May.

Impure water has to do with pollution. Interestingly, on April 11, renowned artist Rasheed Arain staged Karachi's first demonstration in environmental art at Jheel Park in PECHS. To launch 16 fluorescent discs into the lake, the artist invited a couple of kids and some grownups who used them like a discus thrower would. Initially, the 24-inch diameter discs made a circular pattern. As they were carried towards the centre of the lake, the pattern changed. The ducks in the water received the creative process with a mixed reaction. They first got scared but after a while the curious birds approached the discs and swam

along with them. Subsequently, the artist proceeded to Indus Gallery where an exhibition of photographs pertaining to the demonstration was held.

From one essential commodity to another: on April 14, M Q Zaman, the Managing Director of the Karachi Gas Company (KGC) at the annual general meeting of the company's shareholders said the KGC had pressed the government for an upward revision in the price of gas to cover increases in operational and developmental costs. According to him, there had been an increase in the number of domestic connections which were uneconomical for the gas company. He nonetheless claimed that the KGC was earning profit, and 'in spite of losses on investments in Bangladesh and depreciation in the market value on investments in Pakistan, it had maintained a dividend of 12.5 per cent'.

(By Peerzada Salman Dawn, 14, 08/04/2024)

Teenage boy, minor girl die after consuming 'contaminated water' in Karachi's Nazimabad

Contaminated water supply continues to play havoc with people's lives, killing two children in a Nazimabad locality and making hundreds of others ill across the city during the Eid days, it emerged on Friday.

Sources said 14-year-old Abbas and six-year-old Malika died on the first day of Eid after remaining ill with acute watery diarrhea for some days. They were residents of Union Council 49 (Jalalabad), part of Nazimabad.

They said there were speculations about a cholera outbreak in the locality with at least 25 children ill with acute watery diarrhea and vomiting. But the disease couldn't be confirmed through a laboratory test.

"A team of the health department and water board immediately reached the spot. While we couldn't get any lab report from the parents on disease diagnosis or collect samples for lab confirmation, what was evident to all officials was the highly contaminated water being supplied to the locality," shared a health department official.

The water, he pointed out, was visibly contaminated and stinking, and had worms that could be seen from the naked eyes.

Supply of impure water continues to play havoc with people

"The cause of children's death could not be confirmed but the specific conditions we saw there left no doubt in our minds that the continued consumption of contaminated water killed the children," he said, adding that more than 20 children were ill in the same locality with acute watery diarrhea and vomiting.

According to the official, the team couldn't meet the parents of the deceased children as they had left for their village.

"The team distributed chlorine tablets amongst the residents, most of them illiterate, and counselled the families on water use. The locality had countless illegal water connections."

The health services director Karachi wasn't available for comments.

Gastroenteritis, mainly with acute watery diarrhea, has gripped the city for almost a month. Most experts put the blame on the use of contaminated water for drinking purposes as a paucity of gas and its soaring prices has forced many people to use water without boiling.

At the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi (CHK), Additional Medical Superintendent Dr Liaquat Ali Halo shared that the number of gastroenteritis patients was persistently high.

"Out of the 800-900 cases that are currently being reported at our main emergency unit during the Eid holidays, 50 per cent pertain to acute watery diarrhea," he said, adding that the condition had a high fatality rate among malnourished children.

"Often, parents prepare milk for their children in contaminated water. Hence, their illness quickly takes a serious turn and they go into shock."

Seconding his opinion, Dr Altaf Hussain Khatri, senior general physician representing the Pakistan Medical Association, said there was no let-up in gastroenteritis cases.

"I had my clinic today (Friday) and more than half of my patients were ill with gastroenteritis. None of them was using boiled water for drinking," he said, adding that he ran his clinic in the old city area.

According to him, contaminated water is often the breeding ground for hosts of infections that can wreak havoc on the digestive system and lead to symptoms like nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps and diarrhea.

"Gastroenteritis is a broader term used for all illnesses causing inflammation of the digestive system, including cholera. This inflammation could be caused by viruses and bacteria, toxins, parasites, particular chemicals as well as certain drugs," he explained.

(By Faiza Ilyas Dawn, 14, 13/04/2024)

Murad approves Rs14.7bn for K-IV project

Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday approved Rs14.7 billion as 20 per cent share from the Sindh government for the Rs74bn Augmentation Project of the much-awaited Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme, commonly known as K-IV, and directed the planning and development department to start the process of hiring consultants for the project.

The Augmentation Project is one of the components of the K-IV to be carried out by the Sindh government and funded by 40pc each from the World Bank (WB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and 20pc by the provincial government. However, it has been pending final approval from the federal government since March 2022.

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (EcneC) had in Aug 2023 conditionally approved the PC-1 of the K-IV Project, that also included Rs74 billion K-IV Augmentation Project, asking the provincial government to give justification of Rs40bn increase in the cost. In response, the provincial government on Feb 13, 2014 submitted its revised compliance report giving the justification.

A statement issued from the CM House said that while approving Rs14.7bn as provincial government's share, the CM was told that no-objection certificates (NOCs) for the K-IV Augmentation Project works were being sought from 12 federal and provincial agencies for identification and relocation of their systems.

WB and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to bear remaining 80pc cost of Rs74bn scheme

He directed the local government minister and Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation to pursue them for the issuance of the NOC.

Mr Shah said he would talk to Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal to expedite the pending K-IV project.

Meanwhile, expressing concern over the impact of climate change on water scarcity, the CM said it could be addressed by introducing a new cropping pattern that included low delta crops aimed at reducing water consumption and increasing efficiency in agriculture.

Presiding over a joint meeting of the irrigation and agriculture departments, he said that during the Kharif season-2024, water shortage was expected to increase by 30 per cent, but it could be more acute, therefore, the agriculture sector would suffer. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 17/04/2024)

Karachi's water security

In a significant stride towards addressing Karachi's persistent water scarcity challenges, the Sindh government has approved crucial funds for the long-pending K-IV project. The project represents a lifeline for Karachi, a metropolis perennially grappling with water shortages. With the recent approval of Rs14.7 billion as the Sindh government's 20% share, the project inches closer to realisation, signaling hope for a future where Karachi's water needs are met with greater resilience and reliability.

Conceived in 2015 to alleviate Karachi's water woes, the K-IV project has been languishing due to bureaucratic inertia, intergovernmental disputes and funding uncertainties. However, with this recent development, a crucial barrier has been crossed. Once completed, this ambitious undertaking is poised to deliver a much-needed boost to Karachi's water supply infrastructure, providing an additional 650 million gallons per day upon its initial completion in 2025. With further extensions planned, the project's capacity is projected to reach up to 1,430 million gallons per day, ensuring a sustainable water supply for generations to come.

However, it is essential to acknowledge that the journey towards realising the full potential of the project is not without its complexities. Environmental concerns and community impacts must also be carefully navigated to ensure that the project proceeds in a manner that is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable. To account for this, a comprehensive Environmental and Social Impact Assessment can be conducted to identify potential risks and develop mitigation measures. Ensuring compliance with regulations and standards will help avoid any criticism while also paving a path for systematic implementation.

While the approval of funds for the K-IV project represents a significant step forward, much work remains to be done to translate this commitment into tangible outcomes. Karachi's residents deserve nothing less than a reliable and sustainable water supply, and it is incumbent upon the government to deliver on this fundamental need without further delay. (By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 22/04/2024)

Extraction of underground water without KWSC licence banned

The provincial government has approved Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation's regulations to regulate and control subsoil water extraction and prevent its illegal extraction for industrial and commercial purposes.



A gazette notification of the Groundwater (Extraction, consumption and management) Regulations-2024 was issued on May 16.

According to the regulations, licences will be issued for two years for extracting underground water in industrial areas and meters will be installed on all boreholes.

Under the regulations, all previous licences have been cancelled and now one licence would allow four boreholes.

Five-member committee formed to grant licence for groundwater extraction

Additional boreholes will require a separate licence and a licence from the water utility was made mandatory for using underground water for industrial purposes.

Talking to Dawn, KWSC chief executive officer engineer Syed Salahuddin Ahmed said that if water theft or illegal sales were proven, the water utility could impose a fine of Rs5 million on the licence holder.

He said that the implementation of this law would significantly increase the water utility's income and stop the illegal water extraction for commercial and industrial purposes.

Mr Ahmed emphasised that the new administration of the water corporation was taking strong measures to ensure fair distribution of water, and negligence would not be tolerated.

The new regulations categorised water into five types — industrial, groundwater operator, commercial, healthcare and educational institutes, and residential complexes.

The KWSC chief formed a five-member committee for issuing underground water licences.

The committee would be led by Owais Malik, with members Muhammad Dilawar Jafri, Muhammad Khalid Farooqui, Mirza Obaid-Ur-Rehman, and Syed Hasnain Abbas.

Interested applicants must submit their licence applications through the chairman or president of their respective industrial estate to the water utility chief and the committee would review the applications and decide on approval or rejection.

According to the new law, those with records of water theft or illegal sales would have their licences revoked under the Subsoil Water Regulation Act 2018.

Under the regulations, boreholes or tube wells cannot be placed within 330 feet of the KWSC's conduits, bulk lines, reservoirs, or pumping stations, and they must not exceed a diameter of 24 inches.

Violators will face strict legal action, including immediate licence cancellation.

As per regulations, a person having criminal record regarding theft of water from the pipelines or infrastructure of the water utility, or involved in illegal sale of water, or had its licence revoked under the Subsoil Water (Extraction and Consumption) Regulation-2018 or has been declared insolvent by any court of law shall be ineligible for the grant of licence.

According to the law, the person applying for the industrial use as an individual unit is bound to consume the water extraction for itself and further sharing or supplying of extracted water to nearby or other industrial units is not allowed.

For individual industrial extraction, the person has to apply separate licence for individual industrial unit.

Besides, under no circumstances transportation of groundwater (processed or otherwise) shall be allowed through bulk water tankers/bowsers, but shall not be applicable to the bottled or water under small containers.
(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 27/05/2024)

KWSC seeks Rs12bn from Sindh govt for new Hub Canal project

The Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) has approached the Sindh government for grant of funds required for its ambitious Rs12 billion project for construction of a new canal to supply water to the metropolis from Hub Dam and rehabilitation of the existing one, it emerged on Tuesday.

Recently, the board of the KWSC had approved the project to build another canal and rehabilitate the existing one with an estimated cost of Rs12bn.

Officials said that the provincial government would release Rs700 million, under the annual development programme of the current fiscal year, shortly for the project after the approval of the Sindh cabinet in its upcoming meeting.

Karachi has two major sources of water supply — the Indus River and the Hub Dam. The Indus source through Keenjhar Lake provides water for about 570 Million Gallons Daily (MGD), while the supply from Hub Dam through Hub Canal has considerably reduced from 100 MGD to 70 MGD.

Talking to [Dawn](#), Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, who is the chairman of the board of the KWSC, said that 200 MGD could be provided to the city from the dam after the completion of the new canal project in 12 months.

Around 100 MGD water is supplied to district West from the Hub Dam through the existing Hub Canal, which has been in dilapidated condition and develops cracks frequently, especially during the wet season when the dam is overflowed.

He said that the board had also noted that the decision of taking up canal repair through government funds should have been taken long ago, as the demand for water was increasing every passing day in the city.

In his letter to the Sindh chief minister, the mayor requested that the rehabilitation of Hub Canal under public-private-partnership (PPP) mode may be dropped and necessary approval may kindly be granted for the placement of funds amounting to Rs12.72bn with a breakup of Rs700 million in the annual development programme of FY24 and Rs12bn in FY25, accordingly.

Informed sources told [Dawn](#) that the CM had approved the project and directed the water utility to submit the proposal in the next cabinet meeting through a summary.

KWSC Chief Executive Officer Syed Salahuddin Ahmed told [Dawn](#) that the Hub Canal, built in 1982-84, had outlived its life over a period of time and due to flash floods in the past few years, the lining and infrastructure of the canal has been damaged.

He said that an effort had been made by the provincial government to undertake Hub Canal Rehabilitation Project under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for the last three years, however, the project under PPP mode appears to be extremely high in the cost amounting to Rs75bn.

Mr Ahmed said that in the given situation, Wah Construction Limited, a subsidiary of Ministry of Defence Production, had submitted its proposal to undertake rehabilitation of existing Hub Canal and construction of the new canal of 100 MGD parallel to the existing one as well.

"The proposal has a financial cost for new canal and rehabilitation to the tune of Rs9.8 bn and Rs2.92bn, respectively," he added.

The water utility chief said that the proposal of M/s. Wah Construction Limited was placed before the Board of KWSC in its 4th meeting on May 7, 2024 for its consideration.

"The board, after thorough deliberations, gave concurrence to the proposal and its subsequent placement before the cabinet for the decision," he said.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 29/05/2024)

Karachi gets only 50pc of its water needs, minister tells PA

Almost half of Karachi's population is forced to purchase water for their daily use from different sources as "the gap in water supply and demand in the city is 50 per cent", it emerged during the Sindh Assembly session on Wednesday.

The current state of the water crisis in the metropolis was highlighted when Sindh Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani briefed the house about the grim situation, but at the same time, the minister shared initiatives being planned by the Pakistan Peoples' Party government in order to improve the situation.

Responding to a call attention notice given by Muttahida Qaumi Movement-P (MQM-P) member Rehan Akram, the Sindh minister came up with data and statistics which revealed the water supply situation in the city.

The minister said that if the "six legal hydrants" had not been operating, "there would be a huge water crisis" in the city.

Akram, an MPA from Karachi's Central constituency (PS-121), which is facing a severe water supply crisis for the past several months, raised the question about the water problems.

The MPA said it was interesting to note that hydrants, which were operating within the same affected areas, were not facing any supply issue.

Ghani informed the house that six legal water hydrants were operating in the city in line with the apex court's directives and shutting down them would mean that several areas in Karachi would go dry.

"But let me tell you that the Sindh government is spending money out of its annual development programme to restore water supply from the Hub Dam canal," he said.

"The development work will be completed in the next 12 months to ensure 150 million gallons of water supply daily to the city. The water shortage increases in the summer due to higher consumption.

"Then power supply issue also affects the water supply. The Central district localities, mentioned in the call attention notice, receive water from the bulk supply source of Hub Dam."

He said that Karachi receives 70 million gallons per day (MGD) of water from the Hub Dam source against its quota of 100 MGD. The public-private partnership mode of development had been adopted to carry out development work to restore the Hub Dam canal and supply to the affected areas in the city would improve after the completion of this project.

Earlier, Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah informed the house that there were 14,000 primary schools across the province which did not have basic facility of water. "Similarly, 38 of them in Karachi are operating without washrooms."

Replying to questions relating to the education department, the PPP minister sounded helpless when he explained how his ministry's efforts to energise schools in rural Sindh with solar power to address the electricity supply issues were not meeting the desired results.

"We install solar panels in schools, but they get stolen after a few days," he replied to one of the questions.

"The ills which have affected the society have obviously hit the education department as well, but we need to work together on this particular matter without going into political debate because it's a matter of our children and our future. We have boosted our efforts and the project is going to equip all schools with water supply, washrooms and boundary walls."

He also informed the legislators about technology-based solutions to ensure regular classes, regular presence of teaching staff at schools and monitoring of their performances. The technology including an app designed on modern lines will start functioning with the start of the new academic year, he added.

The house also passed the Gorakh Hills Development Authority (Amendment) Act which appoints the tourism minister as head of the authority.

The session was adjourned till Friday when Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah will present the budget for the next fiscal year. (By Imran Ayub Dawn, 15, 13/06/2023)

People in Karachi take to streets in several areas against 'up to 16 hours' of outages, water crisis

The electricity and water utilities continued to pile miseries on Karachiites on the fourth consecutive day of extreme heat on Wednesday while people took to streets in several parts of the metropolis against prolonged loadshedding and acute water shortages.

The public protests caused severe traffic jams and disrupted routine life in many areas.

The residents, who regularly face water shortages and unannounced power loadshedding for hours, erected barricades and burnt tyres in parts of the city to protest against "cruelty and apathy" of the K-Electric and the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC).

The worst-affected areas were the parts of districts Central, East and Korangi where water supply remained suspended for the past two days and prolonged loadshedding of electricity was underway in sweltering heat.

Jl warns govt of bigger protests if public problems not addressed

While people had no means to beat the heat, the acute shortages of water and frequent disruption of power supply made their lives miserable, they said.

In many areas, the residents had to move to houses of their relatives and friends in the localities where the situation was comparatively better.

Many others had to fetch water from their relatives and friends in other parts of the city, exposing them in heat. Sick and old people, women and children suffered the most in the absence of water and electricity in the sizzling weather.

In Safoora Goth and its neighbourhoods, the power supply remained suspended for hours forcing the frustrated residents to come out of their houses and gather in the streets.

They said that the "indifference" of the KE and the KWSC during the heatwave had put the lives of citizens at stake.

The protesters said that power went off in the vicinity at 1am and remained suspended for 12 hours.

They said that unannounced loadshedding for 12 to 16 hours had become a daily routine.

A resident of Model Colony said that the outdated pole-mounted transformers (PMTs) and feeders of the power utility tripped in extreme heat, while on the other hand power supply was suspended for hours in the name of repairing faults.

Jl protest against water shortage

People gathered on main Sharea Faisal on Wednesday to stage a sit-in outside the headquarters of Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) on the call of Jamaat-i-Islami to protest against the "acute and prolonged water crisis" in the city.

The protesters carried placards and banners and chanted slogans against the "tanker mafia and their facilitators".

Speaking to the protesters, Jl Karachi chief Ameer Munem Zafar warned the authorities that the protest could further expand, if the government did not resolve the public problems.

He lambasted the federal and provincial governments for "neglecting Karachi and its people despite the fact that the city generates a major chunk of revenue for the both".

He said the prolonged acute water crisis in the city was right now the biggest challenge of the people.

He recalled that the Jl's mayor Abdul Sattar Afghani in 1980s had completed the K-I and K-II water supply projects, whereas the Jl's Nematullah Khan had completed the K-III and initiated the K-IV project that was supposed to cater the future needs of the city.

"The K-IV was supposed to be completed in 2019 but still it's in limbo, whereas the tanker mafia with the support of authorities robbing Karachiites of billions of rupees," he claimed.

The Jl leader demanded the government to ensure smooth water supply to Karachi through pipelines and bring the tanker mafia to an end.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 27/06/2024)