

April 13, 2021

## **LHC hears petition against audit of companies involved in petrol shortage**

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) has heard the petition challenging audit of the companies involved in creating a shortage of petroleum products by the Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP), ARY News reported on Monday.

The LHC Chief Justice Muhammad Qasim Khan conducted the hearing of the petition filed by one of the companies manufacturing petroleum products.

CJ LHC remarked that the courts are not working to protect mafias in the country nor the laws. He maintained that an audit was being conducted against the firm but not the action. Justice Khan questioned the company's lawyer what will happen if the audit doesn't spot any irregularity.

The counsel said that the action lacks jurisdiction to run an audit and it shuts down the business as the petitioner is an ordinary businessperson.

Justice Khan remarked that the petitioner's stance will be taken during the legal proceedings of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). CJ LHC questioned whether the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has no powers to conduct an audit or not.

The lawyer replied that OGRA could take action after issuing a show-cause notice.

Later, the lawyer sought more time to continue arguments in the case. The court accepted the plea and adjourned the hearing.

<https://arynews.tv/en/lhc-audit-companies-petrol-shortage/>

\*\*\*\*\*

# OGRA — NEWS BRIEF

A daily news brief brought to you by Corporate and Media Affairs Department

## Govt takes action against those responsible for petrol crisis

**ISLAMABAD:** The government has started taking action against those behind the countrywide petrol shortage in June 2020 in light of recommendations submitted by a cabinet committee that probed the 'shortage' last year.

The government has also directed the Petroleum Division, Maritime Affairs Division and Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) to address the shortcomings which led to the issue.

The federal cabinet had constituted a committee comprising Minister for Planning Asad Omar, Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood, Human Rights Minister Dr Shireen Mazarim Railways Minister Azam Swati and Shahzad Akbar to analyse the report of a commission which was formed to probe the said crisis December 15, 2020.

This committee recommended administrative actions including, the removal of then Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Petroleum, Nadeem Babar, having the secretary Petroleum to report to the Establishment Division, removal and transfer of officers of the Directorate General of Oil, removal and transfer of port authority officers who were involved with the alleged delay in berthing ships, appointment of professional officers on technical positions through objective criteria, the creation of a monitoring cell in the Petroleum Division for reliable data collection, to end reliance on Oil Companies Advisory Council (OCAC) during analysis and decision making, establishment of new testing labs able to test all petroleum products as well as mandatory testing of imported petroleum products.

The cabinet committee also suggested the government to order FIA to carry out forensic audit over the failure of maintaining a minimum of 20-days stocks as per the license requirement of OMCs over a prolonged period, failure to ensure lifting of products by OMCs from local refineries, apparent maneuvering of berthing plan of vessels, failure to ensure implementation of PRM decisions regarding imports, fake sales, hoarding and discrepancies between the reported and actual supplies to retail outlets by OMCs, illegalities regarding provisional marketing licenses to OMCs, unlawful joint ventures (JVs) and hospitalities, illegal private storages and illegal retail outlets.

Moreover, the committee recommended an inquiry into the affairs of BYCO Refinery and OMC and reported involvement in sale of illegal petroleum products, and also an inquiry of companies involved in adulteration of petroleum products.

It was further recommended that OGRA Ordinance 2002 may be reviewed to remove the ambiguity regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Petroleum Division and OGRA and be assigned to the Ministry of Law and Cabinet Division.

Similarly, further action that the government may take against culprits behind the petrol crisis includes making sure that OGRA redefines punitive measures against illegalities, irregularities and like figure fudging to show fake supplies, establishing illegal petrol pumps, sale of smuggled and adulterated products, construction of strategic storage of refined products and crude oil, up-gradation of outdated refineries with modern technology to reduce cost, increase efficiency and provision of environment friendly products to the citizens.

<https://profit.pakistantoday.com.pk/2021/04/12/govt>

\*\*\*\*\*

## عدالتیں قوانین مافیا کو تحفظ دینے کیلئے نہیں چیف جسٹس لاہور ہائیکورٹ

ملک میں جتنے مافیابن گئے انکا کیا کرنا ہے، آپ کے خلاف کارروائی نہیں صرف آڈٹ ہو رہا، کیا اوگر کو

اختیار نہیں؟ ریمارکس

آپ کہیں نہ کہیں مافیا کا حصہ: جسٹس قاسم، پٹرولیم کمیشن رپورٹ کا عدم قرار دینے کی درخواست

پر سماعت کے دوران ریمارکس

لاہور (کورٹ رپورٹر) آڈیٹر جنرل آف پاکستان کی جانب سے پٹرولیم مصنوعات کی قلت میں ملوث کمپنیز کے آڈٹ کے خلاف شامل کمپنی مائی پٹرولیم کمپنی نے لاہور ہائی کورٹ سے رجوع کر لیا، پٹرولیم کمپنی نے پٹرولیم مصنوعات کی قلت سے متعلق قائم کمیشن کی رپورٹ کا عدم قرار دینے کی استدعا کر دی۔ چیف جسٹس لاہور ہائیکورٹ جسٹس محمد قاسم خان نے ریمارکس دیتے ہوئے کہا عدالتیں اور قوانین ملک میں مافیا کو تحفظ دینے کے لئے نہیں۔ ہمارے ملک میں جتنے مافیابن گئے ہیں ان کا کیا کرنا ہے، آپ کے خلاف کوئی کارروائی نہیں ہو رہی، صرف آڈٹ ہو رہا ہے اگر آپ کے خلاف آڈٹ میں کچھ بھی نکلتا تو کیا ہوگا؟۔ درخواست گزار وکیل کا موقف تھا آڈٹ کرنا دائرہ اختیار سے باہر ہے، آڈٹ کی وجہ سے کاروبار بند ہو گیا ہے، ہمارے درخواست گزار مافیابن نہیں ہیں، معمولی کاروباری لوگ ہیں۔ چیف جسٹس نے مکالمہ کرتے ہوئے کہا ایف آئی اے کی کارروائی میں بھی تو آپ کا موقف لیا جائے گا، کیا اوگر کا اختیار نہیں ہے آڈٹ کروانا۔ وکیل نے کہا اگر اوگر چاہے تو اظہار وجوہ کا نوٹس جاری کر کے کارروائی کر سکتی ہے۔ چیف جسٹس نے ریمارکس دیئے آپ کہیں نہ کہیں اس مافیا کا حصہ ہیں، عدالت نے سماعت ملتوی کرتے ہوئے آئندہ سماعت پر مزید دلائل دینے کی ہدایت کر دی۔

جسٹس قاسم خان

[https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2021-04-13&edition=ISL&id=5586583\\_72066127](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2021-04-13&edition=ISL&id=5586583_72066127)

\*\*\*\*\*