



‘Karachiites are victims of tussle over power, city resources’

[The Newspaper's Staff Reporter](#) Published March 7, 2021 -

KARACHI: The prolonged war over power and resources has left Karachiites in unending pain and misery as civic conditions of the city are getting worse with each passing day. Only good governance can save Karachi.

This was stated by speakers at a seminar titled ‘The priorities and solution to the festering civil problems of Karachi’ organised by Karachi Citizens’ Forum (KCF) at PMA House on Friday.

In her opening remarks, KCF convener Nargis Rahman regretted failure of successive governments to transform Karachi into a liveable city despite announcing ambitious projects.

“They were [talking] about making Karachi the envy of South East Asia, a smart city for tourists. Budget allocations were made and large sums were also borrowed from international donor agencies, but little materialised,” she added.

Despite massive budget allocations, Karachi is still an unliveable city, seminar told

Karachi, she pointed out, over the past few years had degraded in international indices and become one of the most polluted cities in the world.

“There is little realisation that more people are dying in the city from diseases caused by air pollution than Covid-19.”

Seasoned architect Arif Hasan, also a keynote speaker, said main problems of the common people in Karachi were scarcity of water, blocked drains, undeveloped coastal belt and delay in the Malir Expressway Project.

“The K-4 project is not the solution to Karachi’s water issues and the authorities should find out new ways to overcome this problem in consultation with stakeholders,” he noted.

The continued water scarcity, he told the audience, had led to an alarming drop in groundwater levels that had gone beyond 2,800 feet as people’s reliance on this water source had increased.

Talking about poverty and housing, he said the poor were forced to put their lives in danger and build their homes alongside nullahs.

“These slums are often destroyed by the government for completion of projects that see growth of new slums without any planning and facilities, where children are deprived of education,” he said.

He was of the opinion that the government should develop vacant land in the city and use it for poor people’s housing. He demanded that the government prepare proper housing policy for poor people and the elite should prepare a memorandum in this regard and submit it to the government.

Former Karachi administrator Faheem Zaman Khan said the only problem the city faced was poor governance. “There is a war of power between authorities. During the military rule, local governments were empowered but they were constrained to function in democratic set-ups. If we merge these institutions or bridge their differences, we can overcome the civic issues of Karachi.”

Senior economist Dr Kaiser Bengali said: “We cannot achieve the goal of development unless there is coordination among institutions. There is an imbalance of power between local and provincial governments. Constitutionally, provincial governments are more empowered for local development works. Empowerment of local bodies can only be achieved through a constitutional amendment.”

Urban planner Farhan Anwar said it’s unfortunate that in the last seven decades successive governments couldn’t decide who was responsible for city’s development work, often initiated without proper planning.

The dispute among authorities over city’s responsibilities had become more intense after the 18th Amendment, he added.

Dr Abdul Ghafoor Shoro of PMA also spoke.

Earlier, KCF deputy convener Dr S.M. Qaiser Sajjad welcomed the guests, while sharing concerns over the state of civic conditions of the city.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1611037/karachiites-are-victims-of-tussle-over-power-city-resources>

‘Grand projects preferred over Karachi’s needs’

Panellists lament metropolis being degraded to least liveable, most polluted city over last few years

[Our Correspondent](#) March 07, 2021

KARACHI:

‘Grand projects preferred over Karachi’s needs’The authorities have seemingly been prioritising grandiose projects over Karachi's needs, decried speakers on Saturday at a seminar focusing on 'The Priorities and Solution to the Festering Civic Problems of Karachi', organised by the Karachi Citizens Forum.

Urban planners Arif Hasan and Farhan Anwar, former Karachi mayor Fahimuz Zaman, economist Dr. Kaiser Bengali and Abdul Ghafoor Shoro of the KCF were among the panelists who spoke on the occasion.

During the session, it was highlighted that several promises were made and projects were announced over the past decade to make Karachi a smart city and the "envy of South Asia."

However, the speakers lamented, in the last few years, Karachi has been degraded to the status of one of the least livable and most polluted cities in the world.

Referring to the 1.13 trillion Karachi Transformation Plan announced last year when rains and floods devastated the metropolis, the panelists called to mind that the package was announced to permanently solve Karachi's problems within three years.

It was announced that under the package, the National Disaster Management Authority would clean nullahs, the Sindh government would resettle persons displaced as a consequence of anti-encroachment drives, the city's sewerage and solid waste management system would undergo an overhaul and transport facilities and infrastructure would be developed, they recalled.

But little progress has been made on these fronts, while the Sindh and federal government remain engaged in a "game of political one-upmanship," according to the speakers.

They criticised the authorities, particularly Sindh government, for prioritising mega projects like expressways, flyovers and neighbourhood improvement schemes, aimed at giving Karachi a "facelift", over fulfilling the city's needs.

The panellists noted that road projects had been completed at a "dizzying speed", without any consideration for the needs and demands of the public.

They were of the view that many of the projects seemed to be designed for the privileged few, depriving scores of basic necessities.

Instead of rebuilding Karachi, the provincial and federal governments have shown interest in grandiose schemes, such as islands and beach resorts, they decried.

The example of Lyari Expressway was cited in particular in this regard.

It was built at a humungous cost and at the price of "human suffering", but failed to relieve the city of the traffic problem, they pointed out.

The speakers also listed Peoples Square, Bagh Ibne Qasim and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Park as projects that were more of a grandiose than contributing to resolving the metropolis' issues.

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<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2287974/grand-projects-preferred-over-karachis-needs>

March 7, 2021

KCF deliberates upon civic problems of Karachi

Karachi: A seminar was recently organized on “The Priorities & Solution to the Festering Civic Problems of Karachi by the Karachi Citizens’ Forum at PMA Karachi.

Panel of speakers included Crème de la crème of the top most urban planners of the city, Mr. Arif Hasan, Mr. Farhan Anwar, Mr. Muhammad Toheed, former mayor Karachi Mr. Faheem-uz- Zaman, leading economist Mr. Qaisar Bengali, and Dr. Abdul Ghafoor Shoro of KCF.

The distinguished speakers deliberated upon the festering civic problems and presented their priorities & solutions to end sufferings of the people of this megapolis.

The findings of this seminar will be presented to the authorities who are constitutionally empowered to govern this city.***

https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/800530-kcf-deliberates-upon-civic-problems-of-karachi?_ga=2.67409813.549989074.1615199975-1527573202.1584197547

March 08, 2021



حکومت غریبوں کیلئے ہاؤسنگ پالیسی تشکیل دے، مقررین

کراچی کے معاملات ایڈہاک بنیادوں پر چلائے جا رہے ہیں، ڈاکٹر ایس ایم قیصر سجاد

پی ایم اے ہاؤس میں سیمینار منعقد ہوا، اس سیمینار کا عنوان ”کراچی کے دیرینہ شہری مسائل کا

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) کراچی سٹیزنز فورم اور پاکستان میڈیکل ایسوسی ایشن کے باہمی اشتراک سے پی ایم اے ہاؤس کراچی میں سیمینار منعقد ہوا، اس سیمینار کا عنوان ”کراچی کے دیرینہ شہری مسائل کا حل اور ترجیحات“ تھا۔ نظامت کے فرائض کے سی ایف کے ڈپٹی کنوینر ڈاکٹر ایس ایم قیصر سجاد نے ادا کیے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ کراچی کے مسائل دن بدن ابتر ہوتے جا رہے ہیں، کراچی کے معاملات کو وفاقی اور صوبائی حکومتوں کی جانب سے ایڈہاک بنیادوں پر چلایا جا رہا ہے، شہری مسائل کی بدولت کراچی میں صحت کے مسائل میں تیزی سے اضافہ ہو رہا ہے جس کی بدولت بیماریوں کا بوجھ بھی مسلسل بڑھ رہا ہے۔ کنوینر کے سی ایف نرگس رحمن نے کہا کہ آج ہمارے درمیان شہری منصوبہ بندی کے حوالے سے ماہرین موجود ہیں جو کراچی کے دیرینہ مسائل، ان کا حل اور ترجیحات بتائیں گے، ان کی تجاویز و سفارشات مرتب کر کے متعلقہ اداروں تک پہنچائیں گے جو آئینی طور پر کراچی کا انتظام سنبھالنے کا اختیار رکھتے ہیں۔ معروف آرکیٹیکٹ عارف حسن نے کہا کہ کراچی کے عام آدمی کے بڑے مسائل میں قلت آب، بھرے ہوئے گندے نالے، غیر ترقی یافتہ ساحلی پٹی اور ملیر ایکسپریس وے پروجیکٹ میں تاخیر شامل ہے، انہوں نے حکومت سے مطالبہ کیا کہ غریبوں کیلئے جلد از جلد ہاؤسنگ پالیسی تشکیل دی جائے۔

https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2021-03-08&edition=KCH&id=5541596_55972046