## **OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN**

## Islamabad

## FORM OF ORDER SHEET

Complaint No. FOH-ONL/0000122/21

Serial No. of	Date of	Order of other proceedings with Signature of Federal Ombudsman					
Order of Proceedings	order of Proceedings	TITLE:	MARYAM LIAQUAT	VS	SHAHID IQBAL		
			Department: PAKIST	AN PO	ST FOUNDATION, ISLAMABAD		
1	2	3					
	04-04-2022	Complaint No. FOH-ONL/0000122/21					
		Complainant Ms. Maryam Liaqat and accused Shahid Iqbal are					
		employees of Pakistan Post Foundation. Accused took over MD					
		Pakistan Post Foundation (PPF) on 22-01-2022. It is stated that he was					
		picked up out of a panel of Postal Group Officers by the Secretary					
		Ministry of Communication, by giving him a challenging task to					
		operationalize digital franchise post offices to the optimum level and to					
		refurbish and reinvigorate the organization. It is the view of the Senior					
		General Manager of the Foundation that the accused on assuming the					
		new assignment, brought about radical changes and reforms, tried to					
		inculcate and, imbibe discipline among staff members and introduced					
		friendly but performance based culture in the organization.					
		And that the performance and efficiency demonstrated by the accused					
		Shahid Iqbal was acknowledged and appreciated by Federal Minister					
		for Communication, Secretary Communication and director general					
		Pakistan Post/Chairman (PPF).					
		In the above background, it so happened that on 21-10-2021 this forum					
		received a complaint on behalf of Ms. Maryam Liaqat wherein she					

alleged sexual harassment at the hands of the accused Shahid Iqbal. It was alleged by the Complainant that she was asked by the accused to wear a short shirt and to accompany him to Lahore on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2021. The Complainant further alleged that subsequently the accused started touching her body, shoulders and back and he also caught hold of her hand. That she narrated the incidents to the senior general manager who assured her that things would be normalized soon.

Accused in his defense statement refuted all the allegations of the Complainant submitting that the allegations against him were absurd, and premeditated attempt to deter him from institutional reforms and organizational discipline that he enforced since joining the organization. He further submitted that the allegations in the complaint had been actuated out of sheer malafide and was a calculated attempt to blackmail the accused. That the Complainant signed service contract on 01-03-202 for appointment as associate but was also performing the additional duty of PA to MD (PPF). That she was not found competent and was consequently banned from entering into the office of the SyntecX Global (Pvt) Limited. That due to rude and impolite attitude of the Complainant a formal inquiry was conducted and upon the receipt of the report she was ordered to relinquish the additional charge of PA to MD and warning letter was issued to her on 15-10-2021.

That the Complainant lady in her way felt annoyed and started clamouring that she was wrongly shifted and that she wanted to go back on her previous seat, come what may.

That, thereafter, the Complainant invented the instant complaint which was far for removed from truth and real facts.

To probe into the matter at this forum to unearth the truth senior management of the organization was summoned. Accordingly Mr. Muhammad Najeeb, Senior General Manager, Ms. Aimon Ilyas,

Assistant, Ms. Tehmina Anwar, Program Coordinator, Mirza Abdul Qayum, General Manager and Mr. Rauf Malik, Manager Logistic appeared in person and testified with regard to the complaint in hand. All the above witnesses owned and verified their statements already placed on the file.

They remained unanimous that the complaint was false and fabricated. According to them the accused was a person of integrity and sound character. Mr. Muhammad Najeeb, Senior General Manager, (PPF) blatantly denied the stance of the Complainant that she narrated harassment incidents to him. On the contrary he alleged that the Complainant was not a disciplined lady and that she would always create problems for the management. According to him the Complainant got annoyed when she was removed from the seat of PA to MD on disciplinary grounds. Thereafter she used derogatory remarks against MD in his presence and threatened to teach him lesson for his action.

In view of the inquiry conducted by me into the instant case, I got convinced that the complaint filed by Ms. Maryam Liaqat was not genuine rather to take revenge from the accused for taking disciplinary action against her.

From the above facts I am further convinced that the Complainant has attempted to misuse the process of court and law to blackmail a person who is unanimously appreciated by all members of the foundation both seniors and juniors alike.

As a sequel to my forgoing discussion, I hold that the allegations levelled against the accused are false and malafide and as such in, these circumstances, not only I dismiss the instant complaint but also impose fine of Rs.50,000/- upon the Complainant to be paid to the accused as compensation for the wrong done to him.

	Disposed off accordingly.	
	0	MBUDSMAN