



ESTABLISHMENT OF CHILD COURTS AT DISTRICT MALIR AND DISTRICT EAST KARACHI

(ON 24 - 25 FEBRUARY 2021)



Following the decision of the National Judicial Policy Making Committee (NJPMC) back in 2019 to establish model courts for women and children in each district of Pakistan, SJA and GDP have worked closely with the state actors to provide technical and financial assistance for establishing child courts.

With an aim to take the criminal justice reform agenda forward, two child courts have been established in the District Malir and District East, Karachi. It was a part of a chain of efforts to establish child courts in the province aimed at providing expeditious, child-sensitive and fair justice to children in contact or in conflict with the law as envisaged in the Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018, and other relevant child protection laws and the Constitution.

Sindh Judicial Academy and Group Development Pakistan (GDP) worked in collaboration and made persistent efforts for early establishment of the Child

Courts. The High Court of Sindh transformed the physical spaces to make a child-friendly and conducive environment for the children visiting the courts.

The juvenile courts have also been equipped with toys and books to create a relaxing environment for kids to help them deal with the mental pressure and trauma of court visits.

Further to share, SJA and GDP arranged 03, Three-day training programs for Judges on "Laws Relating to Children and their Implementation Mechanism in Pakistan".

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ahmed Ali M



Shaikh, Chief Justice High Court of Sindh inaugurated District Malir



Karachi facility on February 23, 2021 whereas Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Judge High Court of Sindh and acting Director General, Sindh Judicial Academy inaugurated the child court at District East Karachi on February 24, 2021.

Addressing on the occasion at District Malir, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ahmed Ali M Shaikh, Chief Justice High Court of Sindh appreciated the efforts of SJA and GDP for establishing of the Child Court. He said that it is just the beginning and soon the Juvenile and Child protection Courts would be



established in every district. He shared that the foundation of this court will improve dispensation of child and gender justice in Sindh as well as it will enforce child rights as per international child safeguarding standards.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice High Court of Sindh also appreciated the training courses for the Judicial Officers at the Academy on the sensitive issues of child rights, child justice and child protection.

Mr. Arshad Murtaza, District & Sessions Judge, District Malir Karachi, in his address,

welcomed the Hon'ble Guests on the inauguration ceremony. He also delivered a presentation on the progress of the district. He also shared that this effort would improve the public trust in the state institutions mandated with protecting rule of law and child rights in the province.

Later, Mr. Murtaza presented the traditional gift of Ajrak to Hon'ble Guests.

Following dignitaries/officials/notable guests were present on the occasions of inauguration ceremonies:

- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ahmed Ali M Shaikh, Chief Justice High Court of Sindh, Chief Guest for District Malir, Karachi
- Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Judge High Court of Sindh and Acting Director General, Sindh Judicial Academy, Chief Guest for District East, Karachi
- Mr. Muhammad Shahid Shafiq, D&SJ/SFM, Sindh Judicial Academy
- Ms. Valerie Khan, Executive Director GDP





- Mr. Aftab Ahmed Bajwa, Admin Officer, Sindh Judicial Academy
- Ms. Batool Zehra, Political Advisor, British High Commission
- Ms. Zainab Hamirani, District Public Prosecutor
- Mr. Naeem Qureshi, President Karachi Bar Association
- Mr. Amir Waraich, General Secretary, Karachi Bar Association

Mr. Rana Saifullah, Civil Judge/Judicial Magistrate, District East

the recitation of few verses from The Holy Quran.

Mr. Khalid Hussain Shahani, Learned District & Sessions Judge, Karachi East in his address, delivered a brief presentation on



Director, GDP briefly apprised on the objectives and vision behind the establishment of Child Courts. She also paid her special gratitude for Hon'ble Chief Justice High Court of Sindh and the Hon'ble Director General Sindh Judicial Academy for their kind leadership, cooperation and support.

In his short address on the occasion, Hon'ble Mr. Justice

Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Judge High Court of Sindh and acting Director General, Sindh Judicial Academy appreciated the efforts and cooperation of M/s Group Development Pakistan. He apprised that establishment of separate Child Courts with fully furnished facilities was a historical initiative and regarded it as an important milestone for extending facilities and response of Child Justice System directive forwards its implementation mechanism in Pakistan. He also appreciated the efforts of District & Sessions Judge Karachi East and his subordinate officers/staff.



Karachi hosted the ceremony at District East Karachi. began with

