

CASE STUDY 2

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE MANOEUVRES STATE RESOURCES FOR PERSONAL ASSETS MULTIPLICATION AND MISUSE OF AUTHORITY

JAVED IQBAL ABBASSI, EX-SENATOR AND CHAIRMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL ABBOTTABAD SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS OF R.I. AND A FINE OF RS.21.52 MILLION

In a democratic set up public representatives are supposed to be the custodians of state and its peoples' interest and resources. The accused started his political career as Chairman District Council Abbottabad, growing into status of an MNA (firstly) and Senator thereafter (1997-99). Originally a matriculate by qualification the accused accumulated assets worth Rs.4 crores plus which included his shares in Kohistan Flour Mills, and 300 kanals of demarcated forestland transferred in his name from the provincial forest department through manipulation of district revenue record. During 1997-98 the accused encroached upon 5 kanals of adjacent land and constructed shops on it.

The accused in his income tax/wealth statement from 1974-98 reflected a nominal yearly income through which huge property could never be acquired. He withheld income/property details in his various declarations to evade wealth tax as per law. Contrarily the accused and his family had 153 shares before 1985 in Kohistan Flour Mills, which rose to 491 in 1999. The total investment of the accused in various business transactions valued to Rs.20.17556 million.

As Chairman Distt. Council he received an honorarium of Rs.2000/- per month since 1979, but as the holder of public office the accused accumulated wealth and huge moveable/immoveable assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

The Accountability Court sentenced the accused to 5 years of R.I. and fine of Rs.21.52 million in view of his quickly developed personal assets over a period of 10 years during the tenure he held public offices (Chairman District Council, MNA and Senator).