

## CASE STUDY

### CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC LAND FINALLY FACES TRIAL FOR ASSETS ACCUMULATED THROUGH MISUSE OF POWER

#### ABDUL HAMID KHAN, MEMBER BOARD OF REVENUE, NWFP SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS R.I. & FINED RS. 45.45 MILLION

1. It was a typical case of accumulation of assets and properties beyond known sources of income and acquired through misuse of official power. The accused during the course of his service, remained on positions and appointments, considered to be 'lucrative' by the perpetrators of corruption. He used his official authority to his advantage and gained pecuniary benefits thereof. He amassed assets both in the names of his dependants and in his own name, resorting at times to pressurize subordinate officials and at others circumventing legal procedures. At the time of his arrest, he had assets worth Rs. 51.6 million including Rs. 4.2 million in a foreign currency account. He allegedly coerced the local revenue official to declare a built up house as a vacant plot and then undervalued its price as a residential accommodation, further transferring it in the name of his sister-in-law.

2. In 1986, he purchased a house in Islamabad in the name of his sister-in-law who later gave a general power of attorney to his wife. In 1996, the accused filed a civil suit against his wife and his sister-in-law claiming that he has paid Rs. 4 million to the two women and the house should be transferred to his name. He obtained the consent decree and after obtaining the possession of the house, he gifted it to his wife. These are just few examples of how the accused managed to accumulate properties bypassing rules and often violating them in his favour. His assets and benamdaris (worth Rs. 51.6 million) include three houses, two residential plots, National Savings Certificates worth Rs. 13.7 million and a foreign currency account in US dollars equal to Rs. 4.8 million.

3. The accused was supposed to be the custodian of public land and property towards collection of state revenue which he hardly did. Instead, he multiplied his personal assets and finally faced conviction with the loss of all his illegal accumulations, service career and earning public ignominy.