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### PRESS RELEASE

Today, on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2020, meeting of the Provincial Justice Committee – Sindh (PJC-Sindh) has been held at High Court of Sindh, Karachi, under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ahmed Ali M. Shaikh, Chief Justice, High Court of Sindh / Chairman PJC-Sindh. The meeting was convened by Dr. Muhammad Raheem Awan, Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan / National Judicial Policy Making Committee (Member PJC – Sindh). The meeting was also attended by the Prosecutor General Sindh, Senior Most District and Sessions Judge, of Karachi, Secretary Law, Secretary Home, Chairman Inquires and Anti-Corruption, IG Police and IG Prisons whereas Advocate General Sindh was represented by the Additional Advocate General Sindh. The meeting was also attended on special invitation by worthy Registrar High Court of Sindh, Member Inspection Team-II, High Court of Sindh. Moreover, Additional Inspector General of Police, Presiding Officer, Banking Court-III, Karachi, and Secretary Social Welfare Department also attended the meeting on Special Invitation.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice, Chairman PJC-Sindh welcomed the participants and remarked that the Provincial Justice Committee - Sindh is the provincial apex body which strives for effective administration of justice and impartial rule of law for addressing provincial law and justice sector challenges. The committee appraised the steps taken by the different stakeholders in compliance of decisions taken therein in the previous meeting of the PJC dated 03<sup>rd</sup> March 2018.

The Additional Inspector General of Police presented statistics about the number and types of street crimes and their year-wise comparison which reflected slight reduction in vehicle snatching and theft. He stated that the cases of police encounters are being investigated in other districts to ensure impartial investigation. He further apprised that action has been taken in accordance with law to eliminate the curse of street begging; in this respect, it was resolved that the rackets involved in promoting street begging be taken to task. He also apprised the committee that the Sindh Police has commenced investigation processes on modern scientific patterns including DNA testing, fingerprint examination and matching, firearms and ballistic analysis, CCTV, Digital Forensics and vehicle examination. Moreover, eleven Crime Scene Units (CSU) have been established which consist of trained police personnel, are mobile and work round the clock whereas their function is to assist the investigating officers in systematic and scientific investigation. The committee endorsed the recommendations of the police department regarding

upgradation of investigation branch, its required logistic, technical and forensic resources etc. The Hon'ble Chair stressed need for improvement in investigation process which otherwise affects fate of the trial extending unwarranted benefits to the accused.

Secretary Home updated the committee regarding Safe City Project. The committee resolved that the safe city project will be accelerated by the relevant departments to ensure safety of the general public. The committee considered the effective role of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) in terms of civil administration of justice; the Hon'ble Chair directed that the Judicial Officers be posted in Court Annexed Mediation Centers within a week. The committee also resolved that the work on the establishment of state of the art forensic lab in Sindh may be expedited. The committee expressed concerns over vacancies in the Directorate of Reclamation and Probation, Prisons Department and Presiding Officers of the Administrative Tribunals and Special Courts (Provincial) and, resolved that the same be filled on priority basis. The committee appreciated the efforts of Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan for funding of Family Courts in Karachi for infrastructure renovation, children play areas and libraries.

The committee also considered the need of expeditious disposal of cases and, resolved that timelines for disposal of cases in the National Judicial Policy be followed in spirit. It was also resolved that a column may be added in the challans showing criminal record of the accused.

The committee further resolved that the government should ensure basic amenities to prisoners and update the infrastructure facilities of prisons. Moreover, the video link facility between Courts and Prisons would be established for production of custodies to ensure expeditious disposals of cases. The committee also resolved that the respective PJC members would nominate focal persons to further and ensure implementation of decisions of the committee.

The committee appreciated role of the Sindh Judicial Academy for imparting training to personnel of justice system stakeholders and emphasized that such trainings continue. The committee appreciated the proposal regarding establishment of Provincial Headquarter of LJCP to ensure timely implementation of decisions in PJC meetings.

In concluding remarks, the Hon'ble Chair thanked the participant for their active participation and hoped that such efforts would further effective and service oriented justice delivery.

The meeting was ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

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