

 ISLAMABAD : While the Employees Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) is being taken to task in the Supreme Court, it seems as if no one has noticed the rules violated by the CDA while making a deal with the Defence Housing Authority (DHA).

CDA's role in this latest scandal has also come to light as the court picked up the issue. But the civic agency, it seems, was aware of its weak position and tried to cover its tracks.

It held meetings and wrote letters to show that it had made efforts for the retrieval of its lost land from the DHA and even warned the latter of legal actions.

It is important to note that the land measuring 321.3 kanals, which the DHA sold to the EOBI for Rs15.74 billion, was parceled out from the 868 kanals that were partly owned by the CDA and Commoners Town (CT), a private housing society.

This CDA and CT land was acquired by the DHA in 2008 after signing agreements with both.

And by this year, the CDA was trying to push the issue with the DHA - if the civic authority's records are to be believed.

On May 16, shortly after the May 11 elections, the CDA member estate asked the DHA to provide the layout plans and arrange physical inspection of the developed plots promised to the CDA in exchange for the land it (DHA) had taken six years back.

On July 5, CDA Director Estate Management-I Mohammad Latif Abid wrote to Brigadier Saadullah Fatimi, the administrator of DHA, that the developed plots (as per agreement) be handed over to CDA, failing which CDA shall have to review the alternate options.

In 2008, the DHA offered CDA 729 developed plots in its extension project in exchange for the land.

The CDA immediately handed over 2,412 kanals to the DHA but six years later it is still waiting for the allotment letters and layout plans from the DHA. Not a single plot has been handed over to the CDA.

The letter by the CDA director estate management was written two days after a meeting held by CDA Member Estate Shaista Sohail which was also attended by secretary DHA Col (retired) Ijaz.

The agenda of the meeting was to review the inordinate/inexplicable delay on part of DHA in defiance of the agreement between CDA and DHA.

It is not difficult to guess the atmosphere of the meeting as the minutes record that, Member (Estate) CDA opened the session with a very serious view that DHA's non-implementation of the signed agreement is an unacceptable violation of the agreement.

She underscored that the DHA committed 729 plots in lieu of the land. However, the agreement has been violated for the last six years by DHA.

The member (estate), according to the minutes of the July 3 meeting, also warned the DHA that failing (a prompt reply from DHA) CDA shall review the alternate options which may extend to the cancellation of the agreement and/or filing of a writ petition with the court of law for non-conforming to the agreement.

Courtesy: Dawn