

Munawar Opel

Chairman, PRCL.



Mr. Munawar Opel graduated from D. J. Science College, Karachi, and later did his Master's in International Relations from University of Karachi. He did his Master's in Development Administration from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA, in 1985, securing 3.75 GPA, on a US-AID Scholarship. Mr. Opel made his entry into the District Management Group after appearing in the CSS exams in 1978.

He has a brilliant service record. In 1980, his first posting was as Assistant Commissioner & Additional City Magistrate Karachi, and later worked as AC/Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Larkana. On promotion to BS-18, his services were placed at the disposal of the Government of Balochistan, which posted him as Director (Administration), Balochistan Development Authority, Quetta. He had the distinction of serving as Deputy Commissioner-Cum-Political Agent, Loralai, and Deputy Commissioner, Punjgur. In his service career, he also held the posts of Additional Secretary in the Education, Services and General Administration, Local Government and Health Departments. He became Municipal Commissioner of now defunct Karachi Metropolitan Corporation, and subsequently took charge of the post of Director General, Lyari Development Authority, Karachi. He became Secretary to the Government of Sindh, Food & Cooperation Department, with additional charge of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Department. He became Member (Registration, Stamps & Evacuee Property), Board of Revenue, Sindh, and then Director General, Sindh Coastal Development Authority, till his elevation to the post of a Federal Secretary in the Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman) Secretariat, Islamabad, since 24th February, 2006.

During his long career, his motto was to serve, contribute and infiltrate government's influence. His achievements have been tremendous and few among them briefly is that he launched the District Crash Immunization Programme in Larkana in 1982-83, involving community participation, which not only received national acclaim, but is quoted for its record coverage by World Health Organization.

Administratively, he put the Balochistan Development Authority on the right track. Education and Health Departments, Sindh, saw the 4-tier formula 1:15:35:50 for College Teachers, and for General, Dental Surgeons and Teaching Cadre Doctors implemented. He also introduced policy guidelines for strengthening the health delivery system, which was approved by the Cabinet on 11.1.1994.

As DG, Lyari Development Authority, he launched the Beach Avenue Project at Hawksbay as a first public-private venture, plus Ibrahim Homes of 80 & 120 sq. yds. under supervision of LDA. Land grabbers were effectively checked.

As Secretary Food & Cooperation, he was instrumental in procuring 0.630 Million tonnes of wheat during Crop-2000, thus not only breaking a 10-year old record, but also fulfilled the commitment made to the then Chief Executive of Pakistan by the Sindh Administration in early January, 2000, that procurement target of 0.6 Million tones shall be met. Achieved the target of harvesting 3.00 Million tonnes wheat in the Province, Thus, again fulfilling commitment made to the Chief Executive by the Sindh Administration. There was no flour or wheat crisis, during his tenure. Furthermore, discrimination among flour mills and chakkies eliminated by introduction of Roller Bodies Formula for flour mills and Stone Formula for chakkies, thus discretionary powers of food officials eliminated. All special quotas done away with. A huge sum of about Rs. 2.00 Billion was saved for the Exchequer due to adoption of systematic and sound administrative measures under various heads. Wheat Policy-2000 also formulated.

On the Cooperatives, 463 dummy societies were un-earthed and accordingly their registrations were cancelled including 188 cooperative Housing Societies and 275 Agriculture Cooperative Societies.

As Member (RS&EP), BOR Sindh, the revenue was enhanced by Rs. 500 Million as committed to Governor Sindh (later Chairman Senate). Stamp Act, 1899, saw 65 Articles in Schedule-I of Stamp Act, reduced to 31.

A scheme to upgrade existing microfilming facility at Karachi, Hyderabad and Larkana approved at a cost of over Rs. 41 Million. The Evacuee Property Wing wound up after 31st December, 2001. Only cases remanded by Superior Courts to be considered.

As a participant of the 81st National Management Course at Pakistan Administrative Staff College, Larhore, Mr. Opel submitted a research paper on "Oil-palm, future oilseed crop of Pakistan - a multibillion rupee sector", which culminates that the Coastal Zone of Provinces of Sindh and Balochistan are suitable for Oil-Palm Plantation and that if done on 500,000/- acres of land, it would yield Rs. 35 Billion per year for the next 35-40 years after maturity (7 to 8 years of planting).

As Secretary, Federal Ombudsman Secretariat, he ordered for the confirmation of services of 406 employees of the Secretariat, some of whom were working "on temporary basis" since 1983-84. He was instrumental in drafting the Wafaqi Mohtasib Employees (Service) Rules, 2006, covering all aspects of their appointment, promotion, seniority, GPF, BPF, efficiency and discipline, conduct, etc.

Mr. Opel had the distinction of being the Executive Secretary of the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA).

Mr. Opel worked at the Employees Old-Age Benefits Institution since March 22nd, 2007, as its Financial Advisor/Director General (F&A). His negotiations with Banks on checking account (daily product) has yielded around 1.4 Billion rupees as profit for the Period from July 1st, 2007, to 31st March, 2008. Previously, the main NBP was giving profit of 2% to 3% on all accounts. Diversification of accounts have led to an average of 8.5% of profit on daily product. During quarter July-September 2008, profit rose to Rs. 683 Million. Reconciliation of matters with UBL & NBP taken in hand. Finance and Accounts Departments restructured, revamped and strengthened and fresh blood inducted.

As Chairman, Enquiries and Anti Corruption Establishment (E&ACE), Sindh, Mr. Munawar Opel removed 75 corrupt, inefficient and ineffective officers by reverting them back to the Police Department and that only high profile cases were pursued and arrests made. The revamping and restructuring of E&ACE was also undertaken. The Anti Corruption Committees I and II met regularly and several cases were registered, corrupt apprehended and their cases sent to the competent courts of law.

Upon his transfer as Additional Chief Secretary (Development), Planning and Development Department, fast track development projects including five flyovers in Karachi, mega projects of sanitation, sewerage and water supply in Nawabshah, Khairpur, Larkana and Sukkar, were undertaken. Less focused Departments received attention and their ADP was sizeably increased. Re-appropriations at the fag end of financial year were discouraged.

Mr. Opel has the distinction of being the Acting Chief Secretary Sindh twice. He also served as KPT's General Manager (Administration) since 6th May 2011, till 2nd of April, 2012, when he was elevated as Federal Secretary in BS-22 and appointed as Chairman, Pakistan Reinsurance Company Limited.

Mr. Opel has the distinction of being President of the Pakistan CSP/DMG Officer's Association (Sindh Chapter) for the last four years. He was part of an endeavour to get District Management Group renamed as Pakistan Administrative Service (PAS) announced on May 17th, 2012, by the Prime Minister of Pakistan.