



SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

(Adjudication Department-II, Adjudication Division)
4th Floor State Life Building No.2, Wallace Road, Karachi.
Website: www.secp.gov.pk

CASE No. AOK-389/2024

BEFORE THE ADJUDICATING OFFICER

ORDER UNDER SECTION 130 READ WITH SECTION 479 OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2017

IN THE MATTER OF FRESH LIVESTOCK (PVT.) LIMITED

Case Fixed for Final Hearing: 07-06-2024

Present: None present for personal hearing

1. This Order shall dispose of the proceedings initiated under Section-130 of the Companies Act, 2017 ("The Act"), vide Show Cause Notice dated 09-01-2024["the Notice"].
2. The facts of the case are that the company was required to file its annual returns within thirty days from the date of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in the year or, when no such meeting is held or if held is not concluded, from the last day of the calendar year to which it relates in terms of provisions of section 130(3) of the Act.
3. However, the record of the company registration office revealed that the company failed to file its annual returns for the year 2020 to 2022, in violation of the above said provisions of law.
4. This constituted violation of law and rendered the company liable to penalty of level – 1 on the standard scale, provided under section 130(6)(b) read with section 479(2) of the Act. Accordingly, taking cognizance of the matter, a Show Cause Notice dated 09-01-2024 and subsequent reminders dated 24-01-2024 and 15-03-2024 were served to the company, calling upon to show cause in my office within 10 days from date of show cause notice and reminders thereafter, as to why the penalty laid down under the above mentioned section should not be imposed.
5. In response to the above-mentioned show cause notice, no one appeared before the undersigned for personal hearing. However, a written reply dated 23-01-2024 was received for and on behalf of the company stating therein that:

"We understand the importance of timely submission of annual returns, the global pandemic had a significant impact on our operations, resulting in

disruptions and resource allocation to address immediate challenges. We are now actively addressing the backlog of compliance requirements, including the submission of annual returns we also submitted the annual return of FY 2020 on dated January 22nd 2024 (copy of paid challan is also provided for your perusal) to rectify this situation and subsequently submit 2021, 2022 & 2023 once we received SECP acknowledgement of approval of FY 2020."

6. The contentions of the Chief Financial Officer that the requirements of Section-130 of the Act could not be complied in accordance with law are not truly justifiable, as it shows negligence on the part of management of the company who is responsible to manage, pursue and make sure that all the statutory requirements of law are fulfilled diligently. The aforesaid circumstances, in spite of being conceivable, should have not been a hindrance in making requisite compliance, i-e filling of year ended forms-A (annual Returns). The board of Directors (BoD) could simply instruct it's any officer or even official to file the statutory returns containing the requisite information made upto the period ended on 31st December each year. It is an apparent ignorance and negligence on the part of management which could not be considered as a plausible plea under the eyes of law. Notwithstanding, keeping in view the circumstances narrated hereinabove and assurance given by the Company Secretary that the management of the company will ensure timely compliances of statutory requirements as soon as possible, I am convinced to take a lenient view and not inclined to impose a penalty on the directors/officers in personam this time. In this regard, the record maintained by the dealing/concerned registrar, Company Registration Office shows that the company has failed to file its annual returns for the previous year(s) 2020 to 2022. Accordingly, this is a consecutive default of 3year(s). Hence, a penalty of Rs. 75000/- is hereby imposed on the company without prejudiced.
7. The management of the company is advised to deposit the penalty amount within 30 days in any designated branches of MCB Bank Limited or UBL Bank and furnish original receipted challan to this office within the above said period positively and also directed to file requisite financial statements immediately but not later than 30 days from the date of receipt of this order positively.
8. A copy of this order be placed on the record of company maintained by the concerned/dealing Registrar of the Company Registration Office.

Dated: 14-06-2024



**(ZIA UL RASHEED ABBASI)
ADJUDICATING OFFICER /
ADDITIONAL REGISTRAR**