

Misplaying Criminality in Development Sector – A Legal Perspective

The development budget of government of the Punjab has hardly been scrutinized from the perspective of criminology. In fact, the development budget is the most vulnerable for corruption for various reasons. Since PURC works to make development projects responsive, transparent, and accountable, it invited Shahid Usman, a renowned lawyer at Lahore High Court to talk about temptations, opportunities and conduct of criminality. The central argument of Shahid Usman was that the laws dealing with the implementation of development budgets had many flaws. It was never easy using these laws to prevent or avoid corruption in development budgets. He also told that only National Accountability Bureau Act was in place to handle misuse of funds. The other laws exist at administrative level only. He emphasized that both public and private sectors should involve actively in development projects to reduce chances of criminality. The audience raised a lot of questions to the speaker about cases and his views on their decisions. This forum was highly appreciated by audience and PURC requested him to come again for a real talk.