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Rawalpindi Targets Illegal Buildings Near Flood Zones

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The Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) has launched a targeted enforcement campaign to remove unauthorized buildings and encroachments near key drainage points, aiming to reduce flood risks during the ongoing monsoon season.

On the directive of RDA Director General Kinza Murtaza, enforcement teams began operations this week across high-risk zones, including Adyala Road, Jawa Dam, Misriot Dam, Dhamial Road, and Dhamial-Kalyal Link Road. These areas have been flagged for water blockage concerns that could trigger urban flooding in case of heavy rains.

According to RDA officials, at least 10 notices have been issued to property owners responsible for constructing illegal or unsafe structures on or near stormwater drains and natural waterways. The operation focuses on clearing obstructions that could restrict the flow of rainwater and increase the chance of overflow in surrounding low-lying areas.

The RDA team also carried out inspections at major water reservoirs to identify potential hazards such as blockages, contamination risks, and structural weaknesses. Officials paid particular attention to nullahs and stormwater drains that serve as critical outlets during peak rainfall.

Director General Kinza Murtaza reaffirmed the authority's commitment to a zero-tolerance policy against encroachments, especially in areas prone to flooding. She noted that the campaign supports the broader urban planning efforts under the direction of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

"This enforcement drive is a necessary step to protect both infrastructure and public safety during the monsoon season," said Murtaza. "Illegal construction near drainage routes not only violates building codes but also puts entire communities at risk."

The on-ground operation is being led by Assistant Director Building Control Shiza Tanweer, with assistance from Building Surveyor Aamir Mahmood Malik and supporting staff. Their focus remains on sensitive zones close to water bodies, where violations could have the most serious consequences during seasonal downpours.

Citizens have been urged to avoid constructing on restricted land and to report any unauthorized development to the RDA. Public cooperation is seen as a key part of ensuring effective city management and flood preparedness.

By acting early in the season, the RDA hopes to limit damage from potential flash floods and reinforce public confidence in local urban planning initiatives.