



PAKISTAN ELECTRONIC MEDIA  
REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
ISLAMABAD

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Operations Wing,  
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Tel: 051-9107176

No. 3(07)/2022/OPS-BM/ 3723

May 9, 2022

**All Satellite TV Channel Licensees  
(News and Current Affairs & Regional Languages Channels)**

Subject: **DIRECTIVES - ASPERSIONS AGAINST STATE INSTITUTIONS  
(JUDICIARY AND ARMED FORCES)**

This is in continuation to earlier directives/advice issued from time to time regarding the subject matter.

2. It has been observed that few satellite TV channels are airing content which tantamounts to casting aspersions against state institutions i.e. Armed Forces and Judiciary. Airing of such content is in violation of the directives issued by the Authority, provisions of PEMRA Electronic Media (Programmes and Advertisement) Code of Conduct 2015 and the principles laid down by the Superior Courts. It is pertinent to mention here that freedom of speech and expression is the fundamental right of every citizen as per Article 19 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan however this right is subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of glory of Islam or the integrity, security or defence of Pakistan, or any part thereof, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to the contempt of court [Commission of] or incitement to an offence.

3. In view of the above, all satellite TV channel licensees are hereby directed to follow the principles laid down in the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan passed in Suo Moto Case No. 28 of 2018 and the judgment of the Hon'ble Islamabad High Court, Islamabad passed in Criminal Original No. 270/2019 dated 25-11-2019 and ensure strict compliance to the following relevant provisions of PEMRA laws which are reproduced herein below for ready reference:

***Section 20(f) of PEMRA Ordinance 2002 as amended by PEMRA (Amendment) Act 2007:***

*A person who is issued a licence under this Ordinance shall comply with the codes of programmes and advertisements approved by the Authority and appoint an in-house monitoring committee, under intimation to the Authority, to ensure compliance of the Code.*

**Rule 15(1) PEMRA of PEMRA Rules:** *The contents of the programmes and advertisements which are broadcast or distributed by the broadcast media or distribution service operator, shall conform to the provisions of Section 20 of the Ordinance, these rules, the code set out in the Schedule-A and terms and conditions of the licence.*

***Provisions of Electronic Media (Programmes and Advertisements) Code of Conduct 2015:***

**3(1)(j) Fundamental principles:-** *The licensee shall ensure that no content is aired which contains aspersions against the judiciary or armed forces of Pakistan.*


***4 News and current affairs programmes:*** *The licensee shall ensure that:-*

*(3) Programmes on sub-judice matters may be aired in informative manner and shall be handled objectively:*

*Provided that no content shall be aired, which tends to prejudice the determination by a court, tribunal or any other judicial or quasi-judicial forum.*

4. Moreover, all satellite TV channels are further directed to ensure that an effective Time Delay Mechanism be put in place and an impartial and independent Editorial Board be constituted as required under Clause 17 of Electronic Media (Programmes and Advertisement) Code of Conduct 2015 in order to ensure that their platform is not used by anyone for uttering contemptuous remarks in any manner whatsoever against any state institutions. In case of any violation observed legal action under Section 27, 29, 30 and 33 of PEMRA Ordinance 2002 as amended by PEMRA (Amendment) Act, 2007 shall be initiated.

5. This issues with approval of the Chairman, PEMRA.

  
(UMAIR AZIM)  
Director  
(Operations-Broadcast Media)

**Copy for Information:**

- Chairman, Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), Karachi
- Director/PSO to the Chairman PEMRA
- Director General (Monitoring), PEMRA, Islamabad
- Head Legal, PEMRA, Islamabad