



PAKISTAN ELECTRONIC MEDIA
REGULATORY AUTHORITY
ISLAMABAD

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

August 9, 2022

**All Satellite TV Channel Licensees
(News and Current Affairs)**

**Subject: DIRECTIVES - TO STOP PROPAGANDA, MISINFORMATION &
DISINFORMATION AGAINST STATE INSTITUTIONS**

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

2. The Authority has observed a trend on satellite TV channels specifically, News and Current Affairs, wherein some of their News/ Programme anchors, guests / analysts are indulged in spreading misinformation and disinformation against the state institutions without any cogent justification. Such trend on channels not only tantamount to casting aspersions against state institutions but also a planned propaganda campaign against the state institutions. 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 restrictions imposed by law in the interest of glory of Islam or the integrity, security or defense 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 constitution as well as 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, 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)(i) Fundamental principles:- *The licensee shall ensure that no content is aired which is known to be false, or there exist sufficient reasons to believe that the same may be false beyond a reasonable doubt.*

(1) is defamatory as defined in the law for the time being in force; or

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. All satellite TV channel licensees are once again directed to ensure that an effective Time Delay Mechanism is put in place and an impartial and independent Editorial Board is constituted as required under Clause 17 of Electronic Media (Programmes and Advertisement) Code of Conduct 2015 in order to avoid using their platform by anyone (employee or guest) for spreading misinformation, disinformation and propaganda against 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.


Muhammad Tahir
Director General
(Operations-Broadcast Media)

Copy for Information:

- Director/PSO to the Chairman PEMRA
- Director General (Monitoring), PEMRA, Islamabad
- Director / Head Legal, PEMRA, Islamabad