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Editorial Team

Editor

Absar Alam

Assistant Editor

Fakhar-ud-Din Mughal

Media & PR

- 051-9107109**
- 051-9107129**
- info@pemra.gov.pk**
- www.pemra.gov.pk**
- @reportpemra**
- @reportpemra**



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AUTHORITY MEETINGS

Mr. Absar Alam, the new Chairman of Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) after taking the charge of his office on December 01, 2015, chaired the first meeting of the Authority held at PEMRA Headquarters, Islamabad on December 4, 2015. Overall this was the 107th meeting of PEMRA Authority.

Amongst other agendas, a very important and ongoing DTH project also came under threadbare discussion. The Chairman asked the Authority Members that he has been entrusted the charge of PEMRA at the time when besides other challenges and required initiatives, PEMRA is going to commence the biggest and most significant project of its history i.e. Direct to Home (DTH) project which involves multi-million dollars of investment and revenues. He said that he has hardly spent few hours as the Chairman in PEMRA but he is being asked to follow the bidding time line of December 7, 2015 for the DTH. He said that how he can be able to take any decision / position on such an important and significant project unless he does not know or is briefed about the project, its committee, criteria, procedures, guidelines and other important legal matters. Therefore, in order to address these issues and to eschew foreseeable legal complications, he requested the Authority that the scheduled bidding may be delayed to fully understand the project.

Important decisions of the meeting are as under:

- Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) postponed the bidding scheduled to be held on Monday, December 7, for grant of Direct to Home (DTH) Licences till the completion of legal due diligence.
- Further decision in the matter shall be taken in its next meeting. The Authority directed to prepare for consideration of PEMRA keeping in view all legal aspects and security issues regarding the DTH project.



PEMRA ESTABLISHES SOCIAL MEDIA DESK

PEMRA has recently developed official social media accounts at Twitter and Facebook with the names of (@reportpemra) to disseminate all its actions and notable activities for information of media, public and stakeholders.

PEMRA'S FIRST URDU ADVICE TO TV CHANNELS

In compliance to the orders of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, PEMRA Chairman has initiated issuing all notices, advices and warnings etc. to PEMRA Licensees in Urdu for easy understanding of stakeholders and masses. Every PEMRA action and initiative is also being regularly updated on PEMRA's social media accounts as well as PEMRA website (www.pemra.gov.pk). A snapshot of first ever PEMRA Advice to TV channels in Urdu is given here.



APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIRMAN PEMRA

Mr. Absar Alam took the Charge of PEMRA as its 8th Chief on December 1, 2015. He was warmly welcomed by all the officers and officials upon his arrival at PEMRA Headquarters, Islamabad.

In his maiden remarks, Mr. Absar Alam pledged to evolve PEMRA as a vibrant and effective regulator in all essence. He said that he believes in Freedom of Expression and Speech as enshrined in the Article 19 of the Constitution of Pakistan and would, therefore, prefer consultative approach to take along all stakeholders so that the impending challenges, regulatory / tariff issues etc could amicably be addressed consensually. At the same time, there would be no compromise on writ of the Authority.

Chairman said that PEMRA should not be perceived as some kind of martinet, imposing arbitrary sanctions on media but, at the same time, its regulatory arm should come to motion if one is not ready to adhere to consultative process. He said that regulator should be polite but firm in all its endeavors.

He also emphasized on the need of focusing on technological shifts in electronic media so that the stakeholders could be motivated and educated to imbibe latest technologies and trends in electronic media in Pakistan. In this regard, the Chairman also advised holding a 'national level conference' of all stakeholders to seek consensus on Code of Conduct, safeguarding our socio-religious & cultural values and law of the land.

PEMRA's ENFORCEMENT DRIVES

Taking cognizance of the gross violations, PEMRA issued about 50 notices, advices and warnings to TV channels on serious violations including airing of indecent, objectionable and abusive remarks, non-implementation of effective time delay mechanism, editorial boards and In-House monitoring committees.

MEETINGS

NEW PEMRA CHIEF VISITS PEMRA REGIONAL OFFICE KARACHI

The Chairman PEMRA along with other senior management visited PEMRA Regional Office Karachi on December 21, 2015. Regional General Manager PEMRA Sindh gave detailed presentation about his region including the revenue targets, recoveries, enforcement measures and impediments etc. Officers and officials of PEMRA sub-offices including Hyderabad and Sukkur were also present in the meeting.

The Chairman directed all the officers to work with greater zeal and commitment to restore the positive image of PEMRA in the eyes of general public and stakeholders. He said that PEMRA may dispel its impression of an ineffective regulator and there is need of building confidence and interaction with stakeholders to correct the paths of industry.



MEETING WITH OFFICE BEARERS OF PAKISTAN ADVERTISERS SOCIETY (PAS)

The office bearers of Pakistan Advertisers Society (PAS) called on Chairman PEMRA at Regional office Karachi on 21st December 2015. Chairman urged the representatives to play their constructive role to devise the advertisements content in line with our socio-cultural norms and the Code of Conduct.

PAS delegate comprising Mr. Khurram Koraishy (Chairman PAS), Mr. Amir Paracha (Vice Chairman PAS), Mr. Aly Mustansir (Chairman Standing Committee PAS) and Mr. Qamar Abbas (Executive Director PAS) ensured their full support to PEMRA in complying to the Code of Ethics.



COUNCIL OF COMPLAINTS KARACHI MEETS CHAIRMAN PEMRA

The Chairman PEMRA during his visit of Sindh Regional Office, Karachi held a meeting with the Chairperson and Members of PEMRA Council of Complaints, Karachi on Dec 21, 2015. The Chairman PEMRA emphasized them to play active role in redressing public complaints against electronic media. He said that role of Councils is becoming increasingly important due to proliferation of media and its associated shortcomings. He also urged Councils to play role in policy making of PEMRA.



MEETING WITH CABLE OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF PAKISTAN (CAP)

The Chairman PEMRA presided a meeting with the office bearers of Cable Operators Association (CAP) at PEMRA Regional Office Karachi on December 22, 2015. Cable Operators informed about their problems in implementing the digitalization deadline. Draft Signals Providers Network (SPN) policy was also discussed at length and the concerns of the cable operators were noted.

Chairman PEMRA assured the cable operators to meet all their genuine demands under the law, however, in return they would also have to comply with the laws and would shun all illegal activities including excessive CD channels, pirated content, distributing illegal channels through illegal Indian DTH. Chairman agreed to reasonably review the deadline for digitalization keeping in view the genuine impediments.



OFFICE BEARERS OF UNITED PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION (UPA) CALL ON CHAIRMAN PEMRA

A delegation of United Producers Association visited PEMRA Regional Office Karachi to meet the Chairman PEMRA on Dec. 22, 2015. The Chairman emphasized on the quality of the content of programs and desired that UPA may play their constructive role in producing quality content that suit to our socio-cultural and religious values.

UPA representatives shared their genuine challenges and demanded PEMRA to take measures to control the influx of excessive foreign content in order to promote local industry and talent. They also expressed their reservations on pirated content and infringement of their copy rights mostly by the cable operators.

Chairman appreciated the role being played by the UPA in introducing quality dramas, films and music in Pakistan and ensured all possible support to them under PEMRA laws. He encouraged them to regularly interact with PEMRA to suggest the ways and means of tackling the challenges of PEMRA and the industry.



FM RADIO LICENSEES MEET CHAIRMAN PEMRA

A delegation of PEMRA licensed private FM Radios called on Chairman PEMRA, Mr. Absar Alam at Regional Office Karachi on December 22, 2015. They shared their problems and challenges and urged PEMRA in facilitating FM radio sector through relief in fees / tariffs. The Chairman assured them to consider their genuine demands and resolved to work for betterment of FM radio sector in Pakistan.



MEETING WITH PAKISTAN BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION (PBA)

The Chairman and other senior PEMRA management held a meeting with the office bearers of Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) at Karachi on December 22, 2015.

Important issues on both sides were discussed and it was agreed that PBA will support PEMRA to curb irregularities in electronic media. It was also decided that PBA Members will play their role in formulation of Editorial Boards and In-House Monitoring Committees to filter the objectionable content before its telecast.

REGIONAL GENERAL MANAGERS CONFERENCE AT PEMRA REGIONAL OFFICE, LAHORE

RGMs Conference was held at PEMRA Regional Office Lahore on November 10, 2015. Regional General Managers briefed about progress/ performance of their respective regions vis-à-vis targets achieved and enforcement measures taken so far. The Chair directed all RGMs to ensure zero tolerance against violation of PEMRA laws and to build positive image of PEMRA in the eyes of public and stakeholders.



COUNCIL OF COMPLAINTS MEETING AT ISLAMABAD

30th Meeting of the Council of Complaints, Islamabad was held at PEMRA Headquarters Islamabad on Dec. 30 & 31, 2015.

Major recommendations of the Council meeting include:

- The Council afforded last opportunity of hearing to M/s Galaxy Broadcast Network (Pvt.) Ltd, / (Channel-92) amid their non-appearance despite summoned twice on violation of programming mix.
- Fine of Rs. one lac was recommended against M/s Aurora Broadcasting (Pvt.) Ltd. for not observing approved programme mix by Dawn News English channel.
- Revocation of licences of M/s Tilton (Pvt.) Ltd, (Sohni Dharti) and M/s Rohi Entertainment Company (Pvt.) Ltd., / Rohi TV was recommended due to default and non-compliance to PEMRA Laws.
- A complaint lodged by a citizen against Geo News, ARY News, Express News, Samaa News and Others for maligning the Armed Forces of Pakistan was deferred being the sub-judice matter before the Hon'ble Lahore High Court.
- On another complaint against M/s Hum Network for illegal change in management, the Council recommended bringing PEMRA laws in conformity with the Listed Companies Ordinance.

- Senator A. Rehman Malik's complaint against News One TV channel alleging false allegations against him and his political party was dismissed as not being pressed after multiple opportunities of hearings to complainant.
- Meanwhile, Mr. Amjad Ali Afridi, Secretary to the Council apprised the Council that 12 out of 25 cases decided in the last meeting have been implemented / disposed of that included the renewal of licence of including matter relating to M/s World Call (Pvt) Ltd, Bol News & Bol Entertainment, complaint of the Geo TV against some cable operators, complaint of the Tahafuz e Zindagi Foundation against TV channels for crime shows, complaint of Collective Organization for Music (Right) in Pakistan (COMP) & All Music Performers Pakistan Society (AMPPS) against TV channels for airing excessive foreign content, M/s Central Media Network (Pvt.) Ltd./ Value TV for violation of programming mix, and the complaint of HUNCH Welfare Foundation against indecent and anti-national Indian content.
- The Council also noted implementation position on the complaints of M/s Total Care against programme GEO FIR, vulgarity on TV channels, complaint of Provincial Disaster Management Authority against Dawn TV and compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Islamabad High Court, Islamabad in Writ Petition Titled Iqrar-ul-Hassan Vs. FOP. The Council also recommended to transfer the complaint of Mr. Mehfooz Yar Khan, Authorized President of Amnesty International against Television Media Network (Pvt.) Ltd. (TMNL) for airing excessive foreign content to Council of Complaints Karachi as the complainant resides at Karachi.
- On the request of relevant parties, the Council deferred the complaint of Hafiz Ehtasham against ARY News for airing false news and the complaint of Aviation Division for taking disciplinary action against Mr. Mubashir Luqman of ARY News for maligning the government functionaries, till next meeting.
- Similarly, the complaint of Mr. Akhtar Shah (Advocate) against Mr. Hamid Mir (Anchorperson) Geo News for his conduct during the program Capital Talk was disposed off as the complaint has already been taken up by the Council of Complaints at Lahore. While the complaint of Human Rights Cell against ARY Music Channel was dismissed due to on-appearance of complainant.
- A complaint of Assistant Professor, Political Science, LUMS Lahore against the programme titled "At Q with Ahmed Qureshi" aired on Express News for maligning him was deferred till next meeting.
- Roze TV was 'Censured' for inviting a banned outfit individual in its talk show and was also advised to install time delay mechanism at earliest. A similar advice for all TV channels was also recommended to abstain from projecting banned outfits and individuals.
- Case against Capital TV for telecasting programmes in violation of Section 19 of the Constitution of Pakistan was adjourned till next meeting. Similarly, the complaint lodged by Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan, MNA/Parliamentary Secretary Finance & Economics against Geo News for false & derogatory breaking News against him and his family was also deferred till next meeting.
- The apology of Channel-92 was accepted in complaint lodged by Mr. Akhtar Javed, Deputy Director (Monitoring), MOIB&NH for misreporting about WAPDA and PEPCO while a similar complaint against Dunya News was deferred till next meeting on request of the channel.
- The request of M/s Bangial (Pvt) Ltd, Rawalpindi for issuance of Tehsil-wise cable TV licence for Tehsil Sohawa, Jehlum was disposed off with recommendation to issue the licence to the company.
- The Council also recommended immediate action to close illegal Broadcasting Business in Lahore in the name of SABZBAAT/SBN.

COUNCIL OF COMPLAINTS MEETING AT KARACHI

Major recommendations of the Council meeting include:

26th Council of Complaints meeting held on 29th December, 2015 at PEMRA Regional office Karachi

- The Council disposed off the complaint of M/s. Independent Media Corporation Pvt. Ltd., (Geo TV) being not maintainable on the grounds that there is no provision in PEMRA laws which binds Cable operators to place a particular channel in a particular number whereas, no contract has been signed between M/s Independent Media Corporation Pvt. Ltd. (IMC) and Cable TV operators for the placement of Geo TV channels in a particular (desired) number.
- The Council recommends that M/s Recorder Television Network (Pvt.) Ltd., (Aaj TV) must clear the remaining dues of six months to Mr. Aamir Ali S/o Mr. Amanat Ali as per Rs. 75,000/- per month after deduction of 10% applicable tax within two weeks of issuance of the notice to the Channel.
- Imposed fine of Rs. 100,000/- on M/s Mehran Media (Pvt.) Ltd. for changing shareholding without approval of the Authority.
- The Council recommended final extension of one month for launching non-commercial FM radio of MAJU, otherwise the case will be processed for cancellation of the license.

COUNCIL OF COMPLAINTS MEETING AT LAHORE

56th meeting of the Council of Complaints, Lahore was held at PEMRA Regional Office Lahore on 15-12-2015.

Major recommendations of the Council meeting include:

- Recommended Rs. 50,000/- fine on ARY News for non-payment of the fine imposed in the 55th meeting of CoC Lahore.
- Fine of Rs. 10,000/- was imposed on M/s Millat Channels for non-appearance.
- Recommended fine of Rs. 30,000 on Channel 24 for non-appearance before Council.
- Recommended fine of Rs. 30,000 on M/s Interact (Pvt.) Ltd for non-appearance.
- Recommended fine of Rs. 30,000 on M/s Total Media (Pvt.) Ltd. for non-appearance.
- Fine of Rs. 30,000 was recommended on M/s Fortune Marketing (Pvt.) Ltd (DIN News) for non-appearance.



COUNCIL OF COMPLAINTS MEETING AT PESHAWAR

58th meeting of Council of Complaints Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was held on Thursday, October 22, 2015 PEMRA Regional Office Peshawar.

Major recommendations of the Council meeting include:

- Fine of Rs.500,000/- was imposed on Khyber News TV channel on a complaint of intrusion into personal life and defamation of a respected citizen.

VISITS

GERMAN AMBASSADOR MS. LAPEL INA MEETS CHAIRMAN PEMRA

German Ambassador to Pakistan, Ms. Lapel Ina visited PEMRA Headquarters on 16-12-2015 to meet and greet the Chairman PEMRA, Mr. Absar Alam. She congratulated him on his appointment as Chairman PEMRA and expressed hope that the media in Pakistan would further flourish and behave responsibly under his able management.



CEO, PTCL MR. WALID IRSHAID & SR. VICE PRESIDENT PTCL MR. SIKANDAR NAQI CALL ON CHAIRMAN PEMRA

Mr. Sikandar Naqi, Senior Vice President, PTCL visited PEMRA Headquarters, Islamabad to meet the Chairman PEMRA on 15-12-2015. He congratulated him on assuming the charge as new PEMRA Chief.



POLITICAL COUNCILOR MS. JENNIFER COLE FROM BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION VISITS PEMRA

Ms. Jennifer Cole, Political Councilor, British High Commission, Islamabad visited PEMRA Headquarters on 15-12-2015 to greet Mr. Absar Alam on his appointment as Chairman PEMRA. Media related different issues were discussed in the meeting. The Chairman PEMRA presented souvenir to the honorable guest.



STUDY TOUR OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF 18TH SENIOR MANAGEMENT COURSE (SMC) ON 04-12-2015

A batch of 18th Senior Management Course (SMC) visited PEMRA Headquarters on December 04, 2015 as a part of their training. Participants were given detailed presentation about the role, functions and achievements of PEMRA. The queries of participants with regard to various regulatory aspects of PEMRA and media were also answered.



CHINESE AND SRI LANKAN DELEGATIONS VISITED PEMRA HEADQUARTERS, ISLAMABAD

Foreign delegations from China's Broadcasting Sector and the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Sri Lanka visited PEMRA Headquarters, Islamabad on November 24, 2015 and December 08, 2015 respectively. Mr. Kamal Uddin Tipu, former Executive Member welcomed the delegations and briefed them about PEMRA's mandate, functions, role and state of private electronic media in Pakistan. The delegations appreciated PEMRA's role in regulating the electronic media. The delegations appreciating the conducive and liberalized regulatory regime also expressed their intent to invest in electronic media sector in Pakistan. PEMRA Souvenirs were also presented to Heads of the delegations.



LICENSING ACTIVITIES

PEMRA AWARDS LANDING RIGHT PERMISSION

PEMRA awarded Landing Right Permission to 06 foreign channels namely Animal Planet, Ten Sports, BBC World News, AXN on 30-11-2015 and Cartoon Network & CNN on 15-12-2015 in a brief ceremony held at PEMRA Headquarters Islamabad.



PEMRA AWARDS FM RADIO LICENCES

PEMRA awarded two FM Radio Licenses, one Commercial and one Non-Commercial for Swat and Larkana in a brief ceremony held at its Headquarters on November 12, 2015. The non-commercial FM license for Swat city was awarded to University of Swat, whereas, the commercial FM radio license for Larkana city was awarded to M/s Tower Media (Pvt.) Ltd.



SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

PEMRA - BBC HELD JOINT SEMINAR ON "FUTURE OF FM RADIOS"

Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) in collaboration with BBC organized one day Seminar on the topic of "Future of FM Radio in Pakistan" at PEMRA Headquarters, Islamabad on October 12, 2015. A large number of stakeholder and panelists from private FM Radios, Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC), Advertising Agencies, Print and Electronic media attended the seminar. Mr. Kamal Uddin Tipu, Executive Member PEMRA, in his welcome note, pondered light on FM radio broadcasting sector in Pakistan. He was of the view that FM Radios are contributing positively in spreading information, education and entertainment at grass root level and are consequently creating awareness in society.



LECTURE ON NAB'S AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAM ON CORRUPTION AND CORRUPT PRACTICES IN GOVT. OFFICES

PEMRA invited Ms. Aliya Rashid, Director General (Awareness & Prevention), National Accountability Bureau (NAB) at PEMRA Headquarters, Islamabad on November 4, 2015 for delivering lecture / presentation to PEMRA officers and staff on various forms of corruption and the means of prevention. PEMRA employees were informed and briefed about the integrated awareness and prevention campaign launched by the NAB to curb the menace of corruption in society.



TRANSITIONS:

Following transfers & postings have been made in PEMRA;

- Haji Adam, General Manager was transferred and posted from Policy Wing to Monitoring Wing.
- Mr. M. Amin Marwat, Executive Secretary was transferred and posted from Chairman's Secretariat to HR wing.
- Rana M. Ahmed Mustafa, Assistant General Manager was transferred and posted from Media & PR wing Headquarters to Sub-office Faisalabad.

LEGAL MATTERS

During the last three months i.e. from October to December 2015; 09 litigations were disposed off in Islamabad and Lahore High Courts in favour of PEMRA. Brief of disposed off cases is as follows:

Sr. #	Court Name	No. of Cases Disposed Off	Remarks
1.	Islamabad High Court	03	Disposed off in favor of PEMRA
2.	Lahore High Court	06	



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SAY NO TO CORRUPTION



Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority

Headquarters, Mauve Area, G-8/1, Islamabad.

+92 (51) 9107151-3 - Call Center: **0800-73672 (TOLL FREE)**

www.pemra.gov.pk