



## BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE OF PAKISTAN MEDICAL COMMISSION

In the matter of

Complaint No. Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari (14162-N)

Mr. Ali Raza	Chairman
Dr. Anis-ur- Rehman	Member
Dr. Asif Loya	Member

*Present:*

Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari (14162-N)	Respondent
Hearing dated	10.12.2021

### I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

1. Brief facts of the case are that on 25.02.2019, Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari S/o Muhammad Jahangir Khan applied for registration/recognition of his additional qualification i.e. FCPS (Ophthalmology) on the basis of Election Letter bearing No. F-1-2/Exam-Jan-2019/CPSP/188-P, dated 12.02.2019 issued by College of Physician & Surgeon Pakistan (CPSP). Verification Department of erstwhile PM&DC vide letter No PG (VC).1-G-2018(14162-N)/383 dated 27.02.2019 sought verification of Election Letter of FCPS (Ophthalmology) from CPSP.
2. In response to the said letter Chief Controller of Examinations CPSP, Karachi vide CPSP office letter No. F-1-1/EXAM-19/CPSP/2103-A dated 21.03.2019 informed that the Election Letter bearing No. F-1-2/Exam-Jan-2019/CPSP/188-P, dated 12.02.2019 is fake and fabricated.

3. Subsequently, Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari visited the then Compliance (Complaint) Department of PM&DC on 09.04.2019 around 01:43 pm and was alleged to have stolen the original file in connivance with some employees of PM&DC which contained documents relating to his fake FCPS Election Letter/documents along with original application submitted by him for recognition/registration of additional qualification in PM&DC. Irrespective of whether Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari stole the file, the file and the original documents stood removed from the PM&DC record on 09.04.2019.
4. The relevant employees of PM&DC were proceeded against post an inquiry into the incident and were terminated as a consequence.

#### **Decision/Directions of Council dated 02.05.2019**

5. The matter was placed before the Council of PM&DC in its meeting dated 02.05.2019. The Council directed as under:

*"It was decided that an FIR be registered against doctor who has stolen the file of his fake additional qualification registration and authorization of FIR be sought from President. The Admin Officer will register the FIR against doctor immediately. Furthermore, the license of Dr. Lashari be suspended pending a Show Cause to be issued to him and a hearing held by the Disciplinary Committee to consider a permanent penalty."*

#### **Registration of FIR**

6. In compliance of directions of the Council of PM&DC, FIR No. 143/2019 dated 07.05.2019 was lodged by Admin Officer PM&DC at P/S Ramna, Islamabad against Dr. Atif Jahagir under section 380 PPC. Later on, learned Judicial Magistrate Section 30, Islamabad, vide order dated 21.12.2019 acquitted Dr. Atif Jahagir of the charge of theft of documents as a consequence of the prosecution / PM&DC being unable to present any evidence.

#### **Decision/Directions of Council dated 18.05.2019**

7. The matter was again placed before the Council of PM&DC in its meeting dated 18.05.2019. The relevant portion of the minutes of the Council meeting is reproduced as under:

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*Decision of the Disciplinary Committee in the matter of Complaint No. Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari (14162-N)*

*“It is informed that in compliance of the Council 195<sup>th</sup> Session dated 02.05.2019, Admin section PM&DC has lodged a FIR against the accused doctor.*

*It was further informed that Dr. Atif Jahangir has been bailed out by the Court. Now the question is that we have not taken any regulatory action against him. It was decided that his registration would be suspended immediately and show cause notice would be served mentioning why his registration should not be cancelled permanently.”*

## II. SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

8. In compliance of decision of the Council Show Cause Notice dated 13.06.2019 was served to Dr. Atif Jahangir in the following terms:

- You applied registration of additional qualification i.e. FCPS (Ophthalmology) from CPSP vide bank receipt No. B11580839 dated 02.02.2019.
- Upon verification, CPSP declared your Election Letter of FCPS (Ophthalmology) as Fake and the file was forwarded to compliance department for initiation of Disciplinary action against you.
- You visited PM&DC compliance (complaint) department on 09.04.2019 at 09:34am & 01:43pm and managed to steal the concerned file of your fake additional qualification from the compliance department of PM&DC following an FIR No.143/19 dated 07.05.2019 in P.S Ramna, Islamabad was lodge against you.
- The competent authority has taken serious notice of your act and your license to practice has been suspended on account of aforementioned misconduct.
- You are hereby required to submit a reply to this show cause notice within 07 days as to why your name should not be permanently removed from the Register of medical practitioners.

## III. REPLY TO SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

9. Dr. Atif Jahangir after over two years submitted his reply on 23.09.2021 wherein he stated that he did not submit any fake documents rather his documents were manipulated by one of the PM&DC employees to get financial gains. He further submitted that FIR No. 143/19 dated 07.05.2019 in Police Station Ramna, Islamabad lodged against him was properly contested and subsequently after hearing the arguments of his counsel, the learned Ilaqa Magistrate PS Ramna acquitted him from the charge. He submitted that his license to practice should be restored which was suspended without any plausible justification.

#### IV. HEARING

10. After completion of codal formalities, the matter was fixed for hearing before the Disciplinary Committee on 10.12.2021. Notice dated 29.11.2021 was issued to Dr. Atif Jahangir directing him to appear before the Disciplinary Committee for hearing on 10.12.2021.
11. Dr. Atif Jahangir appeared before the Disciplinary Committee on the date of hearing.
12. At the start of hearing Respondent Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari submitted that he did not apply for recognition of his postgraduate qualification. He stated that he applied for recognition of experience only. The Committee confronted him with application dated 25.02.2019 submitted by him to the PM&DC for registration of post graduate qualification which he admitted and stated that the said application was submitted by him. The application admittedly was for recognition of postgraduate qualification and not experience as falsely stated by Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari.
13. When the Committee confronted him with the Election Letter bearing No. F-1-2/Exam-Jan-2019/CPSP/188-P, dated 12.02.2019 and asked whether he filed this letter before the PM&DC for recognition of additional qualification, his first reaction was negative. He was further asked whether he ever got registered as faculty with College of Physician and Surgeons Pakistan, he replied no. This further falsified his earlier statement before the Committee that he had applied for experience, as in the absence of being a faculty there can be no reason for applying for faculty experience.
14. Later during the course of hearing, Respondent Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari requested the Committee to allow him to narrate his story. He stated that he cleared his FCPS part-I examination in 2011. He also presented a copy of letter No. 1-2/Exam-2011/CPSP/345-A dated 10.06.2011 issued by CPSP. He further stated that he appeared in FCPS part II examination twice but failed. This fact has also been confirmed by the CPSP. He admitted before the Committee that he filed fake Election Letter bearing No. F-1-2/Exam-Jan-

2019/CPSP/188-P, dated 12.02.2019 along with application dated 25.02,2019 for recognition of additional qualification. When CPSP confirmed that Election Letter bearing No. F-1-2/Exam-Jan-2019/CPSP/188-P, dated 12.02.2019 submitted by him for registration of additional qualification is fake and bogus, he bribed staff of Disciplinary Department named as Shahab who helped him to remove his file from the record. He submitted his apology to the Disciplinary Committee for his wrong doing.

15. Respondent Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari further stated that he underwent training at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital and KRL hospital. He produced before the Disciplinary Committee two experience certificates issued by Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital and KRL Hospital. However, he had no satisfactory answer to queries raised by the Disciplinary Committee as to why training at two different institutions when each had a separate CPSP program.

## V. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

16. Perusal of record reveals that Dr. Jahangir Lashari submitted an application dated 25.02.2019 for recognition of additional (postgraduate) qualification along with the Election Letter bearing No. F-1-2/Exam-Jan-2019/CPSP/188-P, dated 12.02.2019. The said application was confronted to Dr. Jahangir during the course of the hearing and he admitted that he had filed the same. The said Election Letter bearing No. F-1-2/Exam-Jan-2019/CPSP/188-P, dated 12.02.2019 was sent for verification to the College of Physician and Surgeons Pakistan by the verification department of PM&DC vide letter dated 27.02.2019. Dr. Muhammad Sharif, Chief Controller of Examinations CPSP, Karachi vide CPSP office letter No. F-1-1/EXAM-19/CPSP/2103-A dated 21.03.2019 informed that the Election Letter bearing No. F-1-2/Exam-Jan-2019/CPSP/188-P, dated 12.02.2019 is fake and fabricated.
17. During the hearing Respondent Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari admitted that he submitted a fake Election Letter bearing No. F-1-2/Exam-Jan-2019/CPSP/188-P, dated 12.02.2019, for placement of the same as postgraduate qualification on his license.
18. The Respondent Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari therefore, admittedly made a false statement in his reply submitted on 23.09.2021. He also made false statements during the hearing regarding

submission of Election Letter bearing No. F-1-2/Exam-Jan-2019/CPSP/188-P, dated 12.02.2019 however, later on admitted that he filed the said letter along with application for recognition of additional postgraduate qualification.

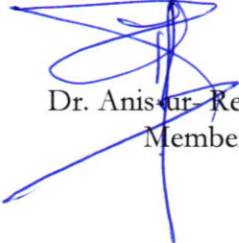
19. The fact that Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari admittedly submitted the application for recognition of postgraduate qualification when aware that he had not qualified his postgraduate CPSP program represents a clear intent to commit fraud while relying on a forged document and in doing so presented forged and fabricated documents to a public authority i.e. PM&DC. In addition Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari admitted to bribing atleast one ex-employee of PM&DC to obtain an illegal benefit and in pursuance of his intended fraud. The fraud sought to be committed by Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari amounts to falsely acquiring recognition of a non-existent postgraduate qualification which if he had managed to acquire would entitle him to represent, again falsely, to patients that he was qualified to treat them as an ophthalmologist. His conduct represents not only a patent absence of his duty and obligation as a doctor to be truthful and honest and place his patients health and safety first and foremost but further admits to his absolute lack of integrity. In effect Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari was admittedly willing to falsely represent himself as qualified in a particular field when he had failed to acquire such qualification to the direct detriment of unwitting patients who would stand to suffer at being treated by a non-qualified doctor. The very intent of Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari in this matter violates the most fundamental obligation imposed upon a medical practitioner when licensed and it is not only necessary but mandatory to protect the people of Pakistan from such practitioners lacking basic integrity and place their personal interests above and beyond the health and interests of the patient.
20. The conduct of Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari as medical practitioner is against the mandatory norms of ethics and falls under the category of major offences as provided in Regulation 13 (a) of Pakistan Medical Commission (Enforcement) Regulation, 2021. In view of the forgoing, on the basis of available record, admission and statements made by the Respondent Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari the Disciplinary Committee decides to impose a major penalty as prescribed under Regulation 13 (a) (ii) and his license to practice bearing no. 14162-N stands cancelled permanently.

21. Further, under Section 34(3) of the Pakistan Medical Commission Act, 2020 it is provided that whoever attempts to get registered with the Authority as a medical practitioner without possessing recognized medical qualification shall be guilty of an offence of fraudulent registration. Section 34 is reproduced in its relevant part:

**Section 34(3) - PMC Act**

*Whoever falsely gets registered with the Authority as a registered medical or dental practitioner without possessing recognized medical or dental qualifications or attempts to get registered with the Authority as a registered medical or dental practitioner without possessing recognized medical or dental qualifications, shall be guilty of an offence of fraudulent registration, punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years or with fine which may extend to ten million Rupees but shall not be less than five million Rupees or with both.*

22. Abovementioned facts present a case of an admitted attempt to get fraudulently registered as a specialist without having requisite recognized medical qualification which is hence triable by the Medical Triable. It is imperative that such cases are tried to protect the primary stakeholder being the people of Pakistan and such practices on the part of some medical practitioners and persons be strictly acted against and accounted for. Therefore, in addition to the major penalty imposed, the case of Dr. Atif Jahangir Lashari is referred to Medical Tribunal for further proceedings under the Medical Tribunal Act, 2020 and the Authority is directed to prosecute the same before the Tribunal.

  
Dr. Anis ur Rehman  
Member

  
M. Ali Raza  
Chairman

  
Dr. Asif Loya  
Member

Dated: 26 January, 2022