

MINUTES

Special meeting regarding FATA Quota Seats at
Pakistan Medical Commission, Mauve Area, G-10/4, Islamabad
dated 19.01.2021

Participants:

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| 1. Dr. Arshad Taqi | President, PMC |
| 2. Mr. Muhammad Ali Raza | Vice President, PMC |
| 3. Mr. Aamir Ashraf Khawaja | Secretary, NHR&C |
| 4. Mr. Aslam Kamboh | Secretary, SAFRON |
| 5. Mr. Syed Imtiaz H. Shah | Secretary Health, KPK |
| 6. Mr. Saeedullah Khan | Joint Secretary, NHR&C |
| 7. Mr. Agha Waseem Ahmad | Joint Secretary, SAFRON |
| 8. Mrs. Silwat Saeed | Special Secretary (Admn), SHC&ME, Punjab (Online) |
| 9. Prof. Sarosh Majid Salaria | Secretary Health, AJ&K (Representative) |
| 10. Dr. Hassan Jalil | Advisor HEC |
| 11. Mr. M. Arshad Khan | Director (Admission), KMU |
| 12. Dr. Shaista Zeeshan | Secretary, PMC |

Agenda: Allocation of FATA Quota Seats in Public Sector Medical & Dental Colleges of Pakistan

Discussion

The President PMC welcomed all the participants. The honorable guests were apprised that the purpose of conducting the special meeting to was to resolve the matter of doubling erstwhile FATA quota seats in the Medical and Dental Institutes of Pakistan. The matter of granting additional seats over and above the allocated strength of the colleges has been raised several times at various levels including Senate and National Assembly Standing Committee meetings. The President PMC informed that Pakistan Medical Commission allowed for the additional seats for the year 2020 over and above the allocated seats in public colleges however the admitting universities and provincial governments were categorically informed that from the session 2020-2021 these additional and all other quota seats shall be accommodated within the maximum allocated seats to the college and not over and above seats. President PMC

emphasized that admitting students over and above the allocated strength of the college will result in compromising the standards and quality of education. President insisted that the provincial governments must raise the capacity of their public sector colleges to accommodate the students of FATA and any other quotas.

The Vice President PMC briefed that the Federal Cabinet had directed to allocate quota seats in the institutes to accommodate the students from FATA however there were no directions to allocate these seats over and above the allocated strength of the college. He further stated that public colleges are owned by the Provincial Governments hence, any quota for public colleges is to be issued in consultation with the Provincial Governments if deemed necessary by the Federal Government. Moreover, as admissions to public medical and dental colleges is done by each Provincial Government through its notified university, it is for the Provincial Governments to implement any quota notified by the Federal Government. Pakistan Medical Commission is not the admitting agency for admissions to public medical and dental colleges and therefore, has no role to play in such admissions or enforcement of the quota.

The Vice President PMC further clarified that there can be no over and above seats allocated by PMC in any circumstances as the same would be a violation of the law. He also informed that as per Admission Regulations (Amended) 2020-2021 the requirement of 65% marks in F.Sc. and 60% marks in PMC NMDCAT examination are mandatory for admission in a medical or a dental college and obtaining a license after graduation. These conditions are applicable to admissions on all seats including quota seats and are mandatory.

It was suggested that the provincial governments may apply for enhancement of seats in the public colleges to accommodate these extra FATA Quota seats keeping in view capacity of their colleges. However, the institute shall have to submit an undertaking that it fulfill the standards and has the capacity to admit the extra students. All such admissions shall be considered as provisional admissions, subject to inspection / verification by the regulatory body. Moreover, the institute shall apply within 30 days for the inspection / verification. In case the institute fails to meet the criteria the extra seats will be denied and deemed cancelled.

The Secretary, M/o NHR&C agreed to the proposal and further emphasized that the provincial governments need to resolve the matter amicably so that in future this issue is not raised at any forum time and again. He advised that the provincial governments need to plan the seat distribution for their colleges and all such distribution must be judicious. Punjab health department was directed to apply to the provincial cabinet for approval of increase in seats by circulation.

The Secretary SAFRON appreciated the logic based solution suggested by PMC. He suggested that improvement in all segments like infrastructure, labs, faculty etc. of public sector colleges

must be assured before intake of any quota. He further suggested that the KP Provincial government in collaboration with KMU may frame the quota seat distribution plan before the admission process and communicate to all the Provincial Governments.

The Secretary Health, KPK gave presentation before the participants regarding proposed allocation of erstwhile FATA quota seats. He proposed that seats may be enhanced in public colleges such as Khyber Girls Medical College and Bacha Khan Medical/ Dental College keeping in view that these colleges have the capacity and have also been allocated budget by the provincial government. Moreover, he apprised that the KP Government has completed feasibility study for establishment of medical and dental colleges in Kurram, North & South Waziristan Agencies. These colleges will accommodate FATA students in future.

Final Decisions

1. PMC has no objection to any FATA Quota established by the Federal Government or implemented as the Provincial Governments subject to the said admissions not being 'over & above' the allocated strength of each student and the students admitted fulfilling the minimum merit benchmark for admission per F.Sc. and MDCAT.
2. KP Provincial government in collaboration with KMU to finalize the total quota seat distribution plan and communicate to all the Provincial Governments including the Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh and AJ&K under intimation to the Federal Government. All placements and admissions to be finalized **before 15th February, 2021**.
3. Each Public college which is to accommodate these FATA students (FATA quota seats) and is short of space in the current allocated seats, may if so required apply to PMC for enhancement of their existing allocated seats by the number of seats required to accommodate the additional FATA quota. If the enhancement sought is more than 10% of existing seats, the application for enhancement shall be accompanied with an undertaking that the college will be ready within 90 days for comprehensive inspection and enhancement at this time shall be subject to such inspection. PMC will process these applications within 3 days of receipt.
4. Each provincial health department shall where necessary obtain necessary approval from the provincial authority / cabinet for required enhancement of allocated seats in the identified public colleges.
5. KP provincial government to coordinate with all provincial governments regarding their allocated quota seats.
6. The admission and placement process on these quota seats must be completed before 15th February, 2021.

7. The minutes of this meeting be shared with all the Provincial Governments for necessary action.

Meeting came to an end with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



Secretary
Pakistan Medical Commission

