



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES,
REGULATIONS & COORDINATION

SECRETARY

Islamabad the 28th April, 2022

Subject: ISSUES OF GOVT. OF SINDH PERTAINING TO PAKISTAN MEDICAL COMMISSION (PMC)

Dear Zulfiqar , *Assalamo Alaikum!*

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Thank you so much your D.O. letter number nil, dated 15.04.2022 which was received on 22.04.2022, highlighting various issues of Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) on behalf of Government of Sindh. The Government of Sindh had earlier highlighted these issues to the Prime Minister during his visit to Karachi on 13.04.2022 whereby the undersigned was tasked to evaluate these issues.

2. Preliminary evaluation of the issues raised by Government of Sindh has been done. The following aspects need to be highlighted to Government of Sindh for its consideration: -

- i. All provinces have nominated members to National Academic Board as required under the law, except Sindh and the seats are vacant since 2020. The Government of Sindh ought to finalize its nomination in order to be part of the decision-making process pertaining to various issues raised, such as pass percentage for MDCAT and MDCAT curriculum.
- ii. The pass percentage of MDCAT for 2022 admissions was fixed at 65%. 7811 candidates from Sindh qualified MDCAT securing 65% or higher against total allocated seats of 5540 in all Sindh Medical and Dental Colleges. Despite 7811 qualified candidates against 5540 seats, Sindh colleges have ended up with total vacancies of 962 seats including 189 in public medical and dental schools and 773 in private medical and dental schools. The Federal Government would like to understand the reason for these seats not being filled despite legible candidates available in the province itself.
- iii. The decision of MDCAT pass percentage at 65% for 2022 admissions has been upheld by a Larger Bench of Sindh High Court and Supreme Court of Pakistan. These august courts have also declared the Sindh Government's decision to reduce the MDCAT pass percentage from 65% to 50% as being of no legal consequence. As per Constitution of Pakistan, 1973, it is the mandate of Federal Government to determine standards of higher education, and the said decision of Government of Sindh was therefore struck down by the Courts.
- iv. It has been pointed out that during the exercise of formulation of curriculum for MDCAT all Higher Secondary School Boards except from Sindh participated.

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3. In view of the sensitivity of this matter and to better understand the position of Government of Sindh on the observation raised above with respect to the reservation expressed by Government of Sindh as enunciated in your D.O. letter number nil dated 15.04.2022, you and your team are requested to meet a team of PMC in my office on 13.05.2022 at Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, 3rd floor, Kohsar Block, Islamabad at 10 a.m. to come to a mutual understanding and resolution of issues raised by Government of Sindh.

Yours sincerely,

With regards,

(AAMIR ASHRAF KHAWAJA)

Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah,
Secretary,
Health Department,
Government of Sindh,
Karachi

Copy to:

- i. Chief Secretary, Government of Sindh, Karachi.
- ✓ ii. Dr. Arshad Taqi, President, Pakistan Medical Commission, Islamabad.
- iii. Mr. Ali Raza, Vice-President, Pakistan Medical Commission, Islamabad.

C.C.:

- i. Director to Minister, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Islamabad.
- ii. PS to Secretary, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Islamabad.