



CLARIFICATION: The Nation article titled “PMC Mocks Rules by Recognising Postgraduate Foreign Qualifications” published on 9 May, 2021 is factually incorrect and grossly misrepresents facts.

On the 9th of May 2021, an article titled *“PMC Mocks Rules by Recognising Postgraduate Foreign Qualifications”* appeared in both the print and online version of The Nation is factually incorrect.

Dr. Anees-ur-Rehman did not favour his own children or approved their postgraduate foreign qualifications. The respective reporter reached out to the VP PMC for a comment and was facilitated with the facts of the matter however, he choose to NOT include PMC’s response denying these baseless allegation. The claims made in the article are outright false statements.

The relevant facts are;

- Dr. Rehman’s daughter has a 3-year full time MDS (Paediatric Dentistry) from university of Hong Kong and holds a Membership in paediatric dentistry from Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh.
- Dr. Rehman’s son is a Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry from Hungary and holds a Masters in Conservative Dentistry from University College London.
- All are full-time courses and both are qualified dentists with relevant additional qualifications recognized by PMC and such qualifications are applicable to any dentist applying.
- These qualifications are equivalent to qualifications previously recognized by PM&DC and were not new qualifications which were specially recognized by PMC for a specific applicant.
- Under the PMC Act 2020 there exists no “SRC”. The SRC was a committee that used to exist previously under the PM&DC Ordinance. Hence, it is factually incorrect that an “SRC” has been held in January 2021 or at any time since 24th September 2020 after the promulgation of the PMC Act 2020.
- A large number of applications for registration of post graduate dental qualifications were pending for a considerable period when PMC took over in October 2020.
- A special committee was formed with leading dental practitioners as members and was headed by Dr. Rehman as a member of the Council to assist the Licensing Department to review all the pending applications and to assess which could be processed based on past recognition of qualifications and the criteria for foreign qualifications recognized by PMC.
- The committee undertook the assessment and finalized those applications which could be processed based on qualifications which met the recognized standards. The assessment process was based on the qualification and not the particular applicant.
- To ensure the highest level of transparency and avoid any conflict, Dr. Rehman removed himself from the assessment process of the Committee when the qualifications which would affect his children came up for consideration.
- The qualifications held by Dr. Rehman’s children are internationally recognized qualifications and recognized by the relevant international regulators. These are recognized in Pakistan and are not particular to Dr. Rehman’s children.

The Nation’s correspondent, Mr. Rahul Basharat, reached out to the VP PMC for a comment regarding PMC Council member Dr. Anees Rehman and his children’s recognition of their postgraduate foreign qualifications. Furthermore, he inquired about the SRC meeting held on January 24, 2021. However, despite getting a response from VP PMC categorically denying the facts put forth by Mr. Rahul Basharat and explaining the reasons, Mr. Basharat proceeded with publishing a factually inaccurate story, furthermore adding a misleading, slanderous title. The copies of the whatsapp



communication between Mr. Basharat and PMC are available for the record. Unfortunately the journalist and the Nation have showed a complete lack of journalistic ethics and integrity in this matter. The story is manifestly representative of vested interests seeking to malign PMC and its Council members.

In the event the appropriate steps are not forthcoming the Pakistan Medical Commission will be taking legal recourse against Mr. Basharat and the Nation for defamation, dissemination of false information and concealing of information received from the Pakistan Medical Commission.