

PAKISTAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



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Hon. Editor The Medical Gazette
Dr. Muhammad Nasir Sulaiman

July 18, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

An Emergent Central Council Meeting of Pakistan Medical Association was held through Zoom on 17th July 2020. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Ikram Ahmed Tunio, President PMA Centre and moderated by Dr. S. M Qaisar Sajjad, Secretary General PMA Centre. The meeting was attended by Dr. Salma Aslam Kundi President Elect PMA Centre (Abbotabad), Dr. Ashraf Nizami, Immediate Past President PMA Centre (Lahore), Dr. Qazi M WQasiq, Treasurer PMA Centre (Karachi), Dr. Amir Saleem, Joint Secretary PMA Centre (Kasur), Dr. Saeed Ahmed, Joint Secretary PMA Centre (Quetta), Dr. Sahibzada Masood –us- Syed, President PMA Punjab (Lahore), Dr. Kamran Ahmed, General Secretary PMA Punjab (Lahore), Dr. Shahid Shaukat Malik, General Secretary PMA Lahore, Dr. Abdul Ghafoor Shoro General Secretary PMA Karachi, and Central Councilors from all over Pakistan participated in the meeting.

Issue of PMDC, Covid-19 situation in Pakistan and upcoming conferences of PMA were on agenda and were discussed at large.

Participants of the meeting expressed their reservations over the affairs of PMDC. They stated that any move against PMDC will be strictly opposed. The Secretary General, Dr. S.M Qaisar Sajjad informed the meeting that PMA has written a letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan through its President and Secretary General. Purpose of the letter was to draw the attention of the Prime Minister towards the issue of Pakistan Medical & Dental Council. Dr. Ikram Ahmed Tunio, President PMA Centre said we have shown our concerns over the government's plan to once again dissolve PMDC and bring back Pakistan Medical Commission and Medical Tribunal. Government is prepared to present the draft bills in the joint parliamentary session and will try to get it passed to make it a law. We have mentioned in the letter that PMC was dissolved by the Islamabad High Court and the court also declared the establishment of the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) as illegal and unlawful. (Copy of the letter is attached herewith)

Dr. Ashraf Nizami and other participants reiterated that PMA and its sister organizations had declared PMC and Medical Tribunal as an illegal document. We believed that both had a lot of flaws and would be disastrous not only for the doctors' fraternity but the medical education and healthcare of the country. PMA Rejected these controversial ordinances right from the day these were promulgated.

Participants of the meeting expressed that government's fresh move against PMDC is the result of direct interference of the Prime minister office. They want to bring the regulatory body under their influence and control. Under PMDC Ordinance 1962 the body is empowered as autonomous and independent regulatory whereas government wants to make it weaken and dependent.

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Participants of the meeting were of the view that after the establishment of PMC doctors who are registered by PMDC will face problems again, their member ship will be at stake. The doctors in the country and abroad will become “unregistered doctors” in the absence of PMDC. Hence their jobs will be at risk. Our recognition with international institutions like, International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA), World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) and Directory of Organizations that recognize/Accredit Medical Schools (DORA) is through PMDC which will suffer.

The meeting demanded Prime Minister to let the PMDC work as an autonomous and independent body to save the future of medical education and health delivery system in Pakistan. PMA also demanded not to change the name of the regulatory body because internationally we are known by PMDC. Thousands of our doctors working abroad will also suffer if the name of the body is changed.

The meeting also expressed its concerns over the Covid-19 situation in Pakistan. According to the official information the number of deaths and Patients is decreasing down where as reality is that people are not going for corona test. The meeting suggested the government to increase the testing capacity to get the real picture of the situation. Secretary General informed the council that PMA has also written a letter to Prime Minister about our fears of Coronavirus in coming days. The cases may increase during our upcoming festivals of Eid-ul Azha, Independence Day, Muharram and Rabi – ul – Awal. In this regard PMA has suggested the Prime Minister to form a uniform policy and implement it strongly throughout the country to control the spread of Corona virus. The Participants of the meeting stressed upon the government to implement SOPs strictly during upcoming religious festivals.

The meeting also requested General Public to adopt Preventive measures, Keep social distance, wear mask and regularly wash/sanitize your hands. Upcoming conferences of PMA were also discussed in the meeting. The 3rd Pak – China Med Cong was scheduled to be held from 27th to 29th November 2020 at Lahore. Dr. Ashraf Nizami President PMA Lahore informed the meeting that he has written a letter to Chinese Medical Association and we will decide after their response.

34th Biennial Medical Conference of PMA Centre was scheduled to be held from 18th to 20th December 2020 at Quetta. After discussion it was decided that future of conference will be decided in September after monitoring the Covid-19 situation in the country.

Dr. S.M.Qaisar Sajjad
Secretary General
Pakistan Medical Association (Centre)

