



IHC to hear contempt petition filed by PMDC registrar today

[Ikram Junaidi](#) April 06, 2020

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court will hear a contempt petition filed by the registrar of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) today (Monday).

An application filed by the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) claiming the appointment of the registrar is illegal has also been merged with the contempt plea.

The PMDC was dissolved by a presidential ordinance promulgated on Oct 19, 2019, which paved the way for the establishment of the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC). On Oct 20, the NHS ministry sealed the PMDC building and terminated the services of 220 members of its staff, retaining only class four employees.

The building was opened again when the PMC was formed.

On Feb 11 this year, the IHC declared the ordinance “null and void” and restored the PMDC and the services of its sacked employees.

Application filed by NHS ministry claiming registrar’s appointment is illegal merged with contempt plea

Rather than implement the court decision, the ministry sealed the PMDC building again and stopped council employees from entering.

The government also appealed the decision before a division bench but was not successful in getting the decision suspended or obtaining a stay, while PMDC employees filed a contempt petition.

While hearing the contempt petition, a bench comprising Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani on March 30, gave the government an hour to open the PMDC and warned that the concerned officials could be imprisoned.

Although the ministry issued a letter regarding the unsealing of the building, it did not let the PMDC registrar or employees in for three days.

The ministry has now filed a petition claiming the registrar’s appointment is illegal, while the registrar has filed an application stating that the government did not implement the court order even after a decision on the contempt application.

Justice Kayani will hear the case on Monday.

PMA criticises govt attitude regarding PMDC

The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has expressed concern regarding the government's attitude after PMDC employees were not allowed to work despite orders from the IHC.

PMA Secretary General Dr Qaisar Sajjad said: "We regretfully say that government is not implementing the decision of the IHC and PMDC is not being restored. The head office and regional offices of PMDC are closed. The situation is creating miseries for medical professionals. Now at this point doctors are fighting on front line with coronavirus in Pakistan, but their registration with PMDC has expired."

Dr Sajjad said the PMA believes the government should implement the IHC verdict immediately and open the PMDC head office in Islamabad as well as the regional offices in the provinces.

He said the PMDC registrar should be allowed to resume duties with a third of the council's staff because of the coronavirus situation, so that day-to-day issues facing medical professionals can be resolved.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1546738/ihc-to-hear-contempt-petition-filed-by-pmdc-registrar-today>

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Govt's reluctance to restore PMDC may jeopardise career of thousands of doctors

KARACHI: Expressing serious concerns over the federal government's reluctance to restore the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) despite court orders, health practitioners working in different capacities in the health sector said the situation has not only jeopardized the career of thousands of doctors in and outside Pakistan but also weakened efforts to fight coronavirus pandemic.

They demanded that the government immediately implement the verdict of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) and open PMDC's head office in the federal capital and all its regional offices so that doctors could renew their licences and fresh graduates could start their house jobs and become part of the workforce.

"It's a very serious matter. Right now, around 15,000 fresh MBBS graduates across the country, who could have played a vital role in the fight against coronavirus, are sitting at home because they can't start their house job for which they need to get registered with the PMDC," said Jinnah Sindh Medical University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Tariq Rafi.

Health system may lose 15,000 house officers

Besides, he said that the health system would be losing services of another 15,000 doctors whose house job would end soon.

"To start practice as a doctor, these house officers need to get registered with the regulatory body. But, since PMDC is non-functional, they would be out of the health system," Prof Rafi explained.

Health experts say bureaucracy misguiding prime minister on the issue

The country was already facing an acute shortage of doctors and not making use of available workforce would greatly weakened Pakistan's fight against coronavirus, he added.

Other doctors shared similar concerns and said the prevailing situation had also put at risk professional careers of doctors whose registration with the PMDC needed renewal.

"Thousands of qualified postgraduates are waiting for their registration process. Thousands of Pakistani doctors working abroad are also distressed because they can't get their registration

and certificates renewed for continuation of their jobs. The respect Pakistani doctors are getting abroad is due to their registration with the PMDC only,” said Dr Qaiser Sajjad of the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA).

Doctors, he said, were deeply concerned over the attitude of the government, which was not ready to unseal the PMDC building even after the March 30 strict orders of the IHC.

‘Bureaucracy only hurdle in PMDC restoration’

Referring to the court’s orders issued on a contempt of court application filed by PMDC employees, he said the bench had given an hour to the government to open the PMDC and warned of sending officials concerned behind bars.

“Even then, only the PMDC registrar was allowed to visit his office for less than an hour and no employee was allowed to enter the building. The registrar was then forced to leave his office,” he said, citing media reports.

“The situation is very unfortunate. The prime minister also holds the portfolio of the health minister and the PMA believes that bureaucracy is misguiding him. The bureaucracy is the only hurdle in the restoration of PMDC,” Dr Sajjad said.

The PMDC, along with the Council of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan and Pakistan Medical Research Council, came into being in 1962 through an act passed by the assembly.

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[Our Correspondent](#)

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PMA flays govt for not de-sealing PMDC building

LAHORE: The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) is concerned over the attitude of the government for not de-sealing the PMDC building even “on the strict orders of Islamabad High Court on March 30, 2020.”

“Due to this attitude of the government the regulatory body for registration of doctors and medical education is still non-functional,” said Dr SM Qaisar Sajjad, secretary general of PMA (Centre), in a statement here on Sunday.

On a contempt of court petition moved by the employees of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC), a bench comprising Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani of IHC while hearing the contempt plea for not complying the court orders, gave an hour to the government to open the PMDC building and warned of sending the officials concerned behind bars, said the PMA secretary general, adding that even then only the registrar of PMDC was allowed to visit his office for less than an hour and no employee was allowed to enter the building. The registrar was then forced to leave his office.

After that, the Ministry of Health never allowed Registrar Brig (R) Hafizuddin Ahmed Siddiqui to enter his office by keeping PMDC Head Office in Islamabad closed, the PMA office-bear said.

The registrar, PMDC, on Friday filed a contempt petition against the federal government before the Islamabad High Court (IHC), he said, adding this situation was very unfortunate; it seemed there was no rule of law in the country.

Prime Minister of Pakistan also holds the portfolio of health minister. PMA believes that bureaucracy is misleading the prime minister which is the only hurdle in restoration of PMDC. Doctors of the country are of the belief that the government of Tehreek-e-Insaf will provide justice to them but, unfortunately, the things are going in the opposite direction, the PMA secretary general said.

He said “We regretfully say that the government is not implementing the decision of the Islamabad High Court and PMDC is not being restored. The head office and regional offices of PMDC are closed. The situation is creating miseries for medical professionals.”

Now at this point doctors are fighting on frontline with coronavirus in Pakistan, but their registration with PMDC has expired, he said, adding that thousands of registration cases were pending. Approximately 15,000 fresh graduates are also waiting for their provisional registration to start their house jobs. These fresh graduates, if given provisional registration, could become part of the medical force fighting against coronavirus. Thousands of qualified postgraduates are also waiting for their registration. Thousands of Pakistani doctors working abroad are also very distressed because they are not getting their renewal of registration and good standing certificate for the continuation of their jobs, Dr SM Qaisar Sajjad said.

He said, “PMA believes that the government should immediately implement the verdict of the Islamabad High Court and open the head office of PMDC, Islamabad and the regional offices in the provinces.”

He said the PMDC Registrar should be allowed to take up his duties with one third of his office staff because of the coronavirus situation, so that day to day issues of medical professionals could be resolved.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/640054-pma-flays-govtfor-not-de-sealing-pmdc-building>