



Government of Pakistan  
**PAKISTAN ELECTRONIC MEDIA  
REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

PEMRA Headquarters  
Building, Marve Area  
C-8/I, Islamabad  
Ph: 051-9101128  
Fax: 051-9101129



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Islamabad, 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2022

**All Satellite TV Channel Licensees**

**Subject: DIRECTIVES – DISCUSSIONS ON SUB-JUDICE MATTERS**

This is in continuation to the earlier directives/advice issued from time to time on the above cited subject matter.

2. It is once again reiterated that *Electronic Media (Programmes & Advertisements) Code of Conduct 2015 stipulates that "sub-judice matters can only be aired /discussed in informative manner and must be handled objectively. No such matter (in any manner) should be aired/ discussed which tends to prejudice the determination by a court, tribunal or any other judicial or quasi-forum."*
3. Furthermore, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan has also laid down certain principles with regard to discussion on sub-judice matters in its judgment passed in Suo Moto Case No. 28 of 2018 dated September 12, 2018 (reported as 2019 PLD SC 1) and the same was communicated to satellite TV channels on various occasions. All the licensees are obliged to comply with the provisions of PEMRA Act 2007, PEMRA Rules 2009, PEMRA Electronic Media (Programmes and Advertisements) Code of Conduct 2015, while airing content on sub-judice matters.
4. Therefore, all the licensees are again directed to ensure strict compliance to the Code of Conduct 2015 as well as principles laid down in the judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan while airing news, analysis and discussions in talk shows and current affairs programmes on sub-judice matters. Licensees are also obliged to warrant not only effective gate keeping mechanism but also sensitizing its news / program teams as well as guests to exhibit utmost care while discussing subject matter.
5. In case of any violation observed legal action under Section 27, 29, 30 and 33 of PEMRA Ordinance 2002 as amended by PEMRA (Amendment) Act, 2007 shall be initiated.
6. This issues with approval of the Chairman, PEMRA.

  
Director General  
(Operations-Broadcast Media)

**Copy for information:**

- i. Director General (Monitoring), PEMRA.
- ii. Director to the Chairman, PEMRA.
- iii. Director/Head Legal, PEMRA.