



**PAKISTAN ELECTRONIC MEDIA
REGULATORY AUTHORITY
ISLAMABAD**

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No.13(99)/OPS/2018/.....

25th May, 2018

Chief Executive Officer
M/s Labbaik(Pvt.) Ltd. (*Bol News*),
Karachi

**Subject: PROHIBITION ORDER UNDER SECTION 27 OF PEMRA ORDINANCE
2002 AS AMENDED BY PEMRA (AMENDMENT) ACT 2007**

Whereas, during the regular monitoring of the channel transmission, it has been observed that "*Bol News*" is airing programme titled "*Ramzan Main Bol*" hosted by *Dr. Aamir Liaquat Hussain*.

2. Whereas, on 24.05.2018, in one of the segment of the above programme named "*Aalim Kay Bol*", Dr. Aamir Liaquat Hussain took a video call from Gujrat, India, wherein the caller questioned about the Caliphate of Hazrat Ali, RA. This content was aired live, un-edited and without any delay.

3. Whereas, after taking this call Dr. Aamir Liaquat Hussain, questioned Dr. Zakir Niak, intentionally and unnecessarily maligned last Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), through such words which any sensible Muslim, cannot even think about and the same cannot be even written here in this letter. This act of Dr. Aamir Liaquat Hussain is merely for creating sensation in order to achieve the maximum rating / viewership and vested interest, through unwarranted drama on the basis of religion and hurt the sentiments of different sects and public at large

4. Whereas, after this incident Dr. Aamir Liaquat Hussain, quit the show leaving the live platform for the guests Ulemas who exchanged quite harsh arguments referring to some conspiracy. The incumbent who took over the show after Dr. Aamir Liaquat Hussain aired the controversial clips of Dr. Zakir Naik, wherein he questioned the last Prophethood of Muhammad (PBUH).

Electronic Media (Programmes and Advertisements) Code of Conduct 2015:

3. Fundamental principles:- The licensee shall ensure that:-

(1) No content is aired which -

(a) is against the **Islamic values**, ideology of Pakistan or founding fathers of the nation including Quaid-e-Azam and Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal;

(d) passes **derogatory remarks about any religion**, sect, community or uses visuals or words contemptuous of **religious sects and ethnic groups** or which promote communal and sectarian attitude or disharmony;

(f) contains **abusive comment** that incites hatred and contempt against any individual or group of persons, on the basis of race caste, nationality, ethnic or linguistic origin, color, **religion**, sect, gender, age, mental or physical disability;

(h) is likely to incite, aid, abet, glamorize or justify violence, commission of any crime, terror or leads to serious public disorder;

(l) is defamatory as defined in the law for the time being in force;

4(10). News and current affairs programmes:- The licensee shall ensure that its representatives, hosts and producers of the programme shall discuss and review the contents of the programme prior to programme going on air / being recorded, and ensure that its contents conform to, in letter and spirit, this Code of Conduct.

10. Religious tolerance and harmony:- Licensee shall ensure that:-

(1) the programmes aired by it do not contain **any derogatory statement or visual which is likely to lead to bias, hatred or disharmony with reference to any religion, sect, community or ethnic group.**

(3) no programmes or comment is aired which **incites or condones acts of violence and encourages violation of law in the name of religion, sect, community or ethnic group or any other pretext.**

17. Monitoring committee:- Licensee shall comply with this Code and appoint an in-house monitoring committee under intimation to the PEMRA to ensure compliance of the Code.

23. Hate speech:- (1) Licensee shall ensure that hate speech by any of its employees or any guest in a programme is not aired.

(2) The licensee shall not relay allegations that fall within the spectrum of **hate speech**, including calling someone anti-Pakistan, traitor, or **anti-Islam.**

(3) Where hate speech is resorted to by any guest, the channel and its representative must stop the participant and remind him and the audience that no one has the authority to declare any other citizen as a Kafir or enemy of Pakistan, Islam or any other religion.



5. Whereas, Dr. Aamir Liaquat Hussain on the same day in his other programme titled "*Aisa Nahi Chalay Ga*" again aired the video clip of Dr. Zakir Naik, containing controversial material about the Prophet (PBUH).
6. Whereas, instead of showing restraint on this very sensitive matter, Dr. Aamir Liaquat Hussain, has continuously discussed the same even today on 25th May 2018, by criticizing different religious beliefs without considering the consequences of such unwarranted discussion.
7. Whereas, from the content aired during the different programmes narrated above, hosted by Dr. Aamir Liaquat Hussain, it appears that "*Bol News*" has no Editorial Oversight over content of the programmes hosted by Dr. Aamir Liaquat Hussain, as he is misusing / abusing the platform without adhering to the provisions of PEMRA laws.
8. Whereas, the aforesaid content is in violation of Section 20(b), (c) (f) of PEMRA Ordinance 2002 as amended by PEMRA (Amendment) Act 2007, Rule 15(1) of PEMRA Rules 2009 and Clauses 3(1)(a), 3(1)(d), 3(1)(f), 3(1)(h), 3(1)(l), 4(10), 5, 10, 17 & 23 of Electronic Media (Programmes and Advertisements) Code of Conduct, 2015 read with Section 27 of PEMRA Ordinance 2002 as amended by PEMRA (Amendment) Act 2007. The above provisions of PEMRA laws are reproduced hereunder:

Section 20 of PEMRA Ordinance 2002 as amended by PEMRA Amendment Act 2007

20. Terms and conditions of licence.- A person who is issued a licence under this Ordinance shall.-

(b) ensure preservation of the national, cultural, social and religious values and the principles of public policy as enshrined in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;

(c) ensure that all programmes and advertisements do not contain or encourage violence, terrorism, racial, ethnic or religious discrimination, sectarianism, extremism, militancy, hatred, pornography, obscenity, vulgarity or other material offensive to commonly accepted standards of decency;

(f) comply with the codes of programmes and advertisements approved by the Authority and appoint an in-house monitoring committee, under intimation to the Authority, to ensure compliance of the Code;

Rule 15(1) of PEMRA Rules 2009

Programmes and advertisement content.- (1) The contents of the programmes and advertisements which are broadcast or distributed by the broadcast media or distribution service operator, shall conform to the provisions of Section 20 of the Ordinance, these rules, the code set out in the Schedule-A and terms and conditions of the licence.




Explanation:- Hate speech includes any expression that may incite violence, hatred or discrimination on the basis of religion, ethnicity, colour, race, gender, origin, caste, mental or physical disability.

9. Therefore, the competent authority in exercise of delegated powers of the Authority vested in Section 27(a) of the PEMRA Ordinance 2002 as amended by PEMRA (Amendment) Act 2007, hereby prohibits programmes titled "**Ramzan Main Bol**" and "**Aisa Nahi Chalay Ga**" hosted by Dr. Aamir Liaquat Hussain on "**Bol News**" with immediate effect for thirty days i.e **24.06.2018**. Moreover, Dr. Aamir Liaquat Hussain, shall not appear on "**Bol News**" or any other Satellite TV Channel in any manner whatsoever.

10. In case of non-compliance of the above prohibition orders, the Authority shall proceed against "**Bol News**" or any other channel, where Dr. Aamir Liaquat Hussain appears in any manner whatsoever, under Section 30 of PEMRA Ordinance 2002 as amended by PEMRA (Amendment) 2007, which inter-alia includes suspension or revocation of Licence.

11. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.


(MUHAMMAD TAHIR)
General Manager
(Operations-Broadcast Media)

Copy for information:

1. Director General (Monitoring), PEMRA.
2. General Manager (M & PR), PEMRA.
3. Regional General Manager, PEMRA, Karachi.
4. Head (Legal), PEMRA.
5. GM to Executive Member, PEMRA.
6. Database Administrator (Operations Wing).