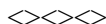


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OF THE GAZETTE OF PAKISTAN PART-II

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, BROADCASTING
AND NATIONAL HERITAGE



Islamabad March 06, 2015

NOTIFICATION

S.R.O. 3(8)/2015:- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 24 of the Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance, 2002 (XCVII of 2002), the Press Council of Pakistan, with the approval of Federal Government, is pleased to make the following Regulations, namely:-

1. Short title and commencement.(1) These Regulations may be called the Press Council of Pakistan Regulations, 2015.

(2) They shall come into force at once.

PART-I

PRELIMINARY

2. Definitions.-(1) In these regulations, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

(a)“Committee” means a committee constituted by the Council under section 16 of the Ordinance for the purposes of inquiry into a complaint or to perform such other functions as may be assigned to it;

(b)"complainant" means a person or authority making a complaint to the Council regarding a newspaper, news agency, editor or journalist, in terms of section 10 of the Ordinance;

(C)“Convener” means a person so appointed by the Council to convene and chair its meetings;

(d)"matter" in the case of complaints in terms of section 10 means an article, news-item, news-report, or any other matter which is published by a newspaper or appears on a website of newspaper and news agency or transmitted by a news agency by any means whatsoever and includes a cartoon, picture, photograph, strip or advertisement;

(e)"Ordinance" means the Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance, 2002 (XCVII of 2002) ;

(f)“person” includes a newspaper, news agency, editor, journalist, individual, institution, Federal Government, Provincial Government, local government and organization or political party; and

(g)“sub-committee” means a sub-committee constituted by the Council or the Chairman in consultation with the Convener of the committee for the purpose of a task under the Ordinance.

(2). The words and expressions used in these regulations but not defined herein shall have the same meanings as are assigned to them in the Ordinance.

PART-II

Complaints

3. Contents of complaint.- Where a person makes a complaint to the Council in respect of the publication or non-publication of any matter in any newspaper or news agency, under section 10 of the Ordinance, he shall file the complaint in duplicate in the Form as annexed and submit it to the Council either online or by email, fax or post with sufficient copies for the respondents listed therein and shall,-

- (a) furnish the name and address of the person against whom the complaint is preferred and in cases where the complaint relates to the publication of matter in a newspaper or to the transmission by a news agency, submit along with the complaint a cutting of the matter complained of in original or a self-attested copy thereof and such other particulars as are relevant to the subject matter of the complaint;
- (b) where the complaint is in respect of non-publication of matter, furnish the original or a self-attested copy of the matter, non-publication of which is complained of (English translation of the matter if it is in vernacular);
- (c) state in what manner the publication or non-publication of the matter complained of is objectionable within the meaning of section 10 of the Ordinance;
- (d) prior to filing the complaint before the Council, draw the attention of the concerned person to the matter appearing in the newspaper etc., or to the non-publication thereof which, in the opinion of the complainant, is objectionable and he shall also furnish to the person concerned the grounds for holding such opinion. The complainant shall, along with the complaint, provide a copy of the letter written by him to the concerned person together with a copy of the reply, if any, received by him;

- (e) in case where the complaint is that an editor or a journalist has committed any professional misconduct, other than the way of the publication or non-publication of any matter in a newspaper, the complainant shall set out clearly in detail the facts which according to him justify the complaint and the provisions of clause (d) shall also apply to such complaints; and
- (f) submit all other relevant facts before the Council;

4. Written Statement.-As soon as possible, and in any case not later than fifteen days from the date of receipt of a complaint, a copy thereof shall, under the direction of the Chairman, be sent to the person, against whom the complaint is made requiring the said person, to file written statement within thirty days.

5. Filing of written statement.-(1)The person against whom the complaint is made shall, within thirty days from the date of receipt of the copy of the complaint as mentioned in regulation 4, submit written statement to the Council.

(2)The complaint and written statement, if found in order, shall, with the approval of the Council or the Committee constituted for the purpose under section 16, if any, be referred to the Commission formed under sub-section (1), section 9 of the Ordinance for inquiry and decision.

(3)In case no written statement is received within thirty days prescribed, the Council may proceed with the complaint.

(4) A copy of the written statement if received shall be forwarded to the complainant.

6. Power to call for additional information, etc.- The Commission may after considering the complaint and written statement, call for such additional information or documents relevant to the subject-matter of the case as it may consider necessary from the party or any other person concerned.

7. Rejection of complaint of the same nature previously inquired into.- Where at any time in the course of the inquiry into a complaint it appears that the subject-matter of the complaint is substantially the same and between the same parties as, or has been covered by any former complaint dealt with by the Council under these regulations, the Commission shall hear the complainant, if he desires to be heard and also if the Commission considers it necessary, and the person against whom complaint is made and pass such as it considers appropriate.

PART-III

Meetings

8. Meetings of the Council and Commission, etc.-(1)The Chairman shall ensure due compliance with the provisions of the Ordinance, rules and regulations madethereunder.

(2) The Chairman shall coordinate the functions of the Committees and sub-committees of the Council.

(3) The Chairman shall convene a meeting of the Council either on his own accord or, on request of one half of its total membership.

(4) The Council shall hold not less than four meetings in a calendar year and may meet as often as it deems fit and necessary in order to carry out its functions provided in the Ordinance or regulations.

(5) The agenda and notice of the time, date and place of the meeting shall be circulated among the members at least one-week prior to the date of the meeting:

Provided that for disposal of urgent matters requiring immediate decision, the agenda and notice may be circulated among the members through phone, fax or email.

(6) All proceedings of the meetings of the Council or Committee or subcommittee shall be recorded by the Registrar or any officer authorized by the Chairman and such minutes shall be laid before the next meeting of the Council or Committee or sub-committee, as the case may be, for approval and confirmation.

(7) The business of a committee or sub-committee shall be transacted in a meeting of the Committee or sub-committee. The decisions shall be taken by a majority of the members present.

(8) If in the opinion of the Chairman, it is expedient to transact business to obtain views of its members by circulation he may do so and take a decision accordingly provided that the members are unanimous in their views. The decisions so taken shall be deemed to have the same force as taken in Committee or Council.

(9) When a meeting of the Council is adjourned for want of quorum, the quorum for an adjourned meeting shall be one-fourth of the total membership.

9. Power to take notice.-The Chairman may on his own motion take notice of any matter which falls within the ambit of clauses (ii) and (iii) of sub-section (1) and sub-section (2) of section 8 of the Ordinance in order to take necessary steps or measures in this regard and he may refer the matter to the Council with his reasons in writing for further action.

Part IV

Miscellaneous

10. Appeal.-The Appellant Committee hearing the appeal, may condone the delay and entertain the appeal if sufficient cause is shown.

11. Members having personal interests not to take part.-No member of the Council, Commission, Committee or sub-committee shall take part in the proceedings of any complaint under consideration of the Council, Commission, Committee or sub-committee if he is personally interested directly or indirectly in its decision.

12. Award of Compensation.-The Commission may direct any person to pay to an aggrieved person by way of compensation an amount not less than ten thousand rupees:

Provided that this will not debar the person concerned to claim any damages as admissible under the law.

(Zaigham Abbas)
Assistant Director (P-II)

**The Manager,
Printing Corporation of Pakistan Press,
Karachi-5.**

Copy to:

1. Chief of Staff of the President, President's Sectt. Islamabad
2. The Secretary to the Prime Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Islamabad
3. Chairman, HEC, Islamabad
4. Chairman, Press Council of Pakistan, Islamabad
5. Attorney General of Pakistan, Islamabad
6. Secretary, Senate Sectt. Islamabad
7. Secretary, National Assembly, Islamabad
8. Secretary, Wafaqi Mohtasib Sectt. Islamabad
9. All Federal Secretaries, Govt. of Pakistan, Islamabad
10. All Provincial Chief Secretaries, Lahore/Peshawar/Karachi/Quetta
11. Chairman, National Commission on the Status of Women in Pakistan, Ibid
12. Vice Chairman, Pakistan Bar Council, Islamabad
13. Registrar, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad
14. Registrar, High Court, Punjab/Sindh/KPK/Balochistan
15. President, CPNE.
16. President, APNS
17. President, PFUJ
18. AGPR, Islamabad
19. All Media Chiefs/Wings of M/o IB&NH.
20. Registrar, Press Council of Pakistan, Islamabad
21. DMO, M/o IB&NH
22. DSO, M/o IB&NH
23. PS to AS, M/o IB&NH
24. PA to DG (IP), M/o IB&NH
25. PS to Joint Secretary, M/o IB&NH
26. All DSs/SOs, M/o IB&NH
27. PIO, PID,
28. General Files

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