

PAKISTAN ELECTRONIC MEDIA REGULATORY AUTHORITY ISLAMABAD

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F. No. 1(05)/PR-2014

Dated. May 20, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

Reference to the Media talks held by three PEMRA Members namely Mr. Israr Abbassi, Mian Shams and Fareeha Iftikhar in front of PEMRA Headquarters today regarding the Geo issue.

PEMRA disowns the decisions announced by three Members of PEMRA regarding cancellation of Geo's licenses. The majority Authority Members in 95th meeting held on May 9, 2014 had decided to refer the case to the Ministry of Law for legal opinion. The decision of seeking opinion from law division was taken in all fairness to avoid any future legal consequences in such a critical issue.

The complaint against Geo Entertainment was already referred to the Council of Complaints Sindh. The CoC in its meeting called today has already recommended about status of Geo's license. The minutes of the CoC are awaited and the Authority would consider this matter in the next schedule meeting.

It is also clarified that today's meeting was called without following the laid down procedures and thus had no legal standing. According to Rule 3(4) of PEMRA Rules 2009, the Chairman or as the case may be more than half of the total members can call the meeting i.e. out of twelve members at least 07 members can call a meeting. This was an informal meeting attended by five members. The Executive Member was not even asked to officially convene the meeting and notify it through the Secretary to the Authority which is the set procedure.

The meeting convened by these members is without any official intimation or invitation to other members in accordance with the procedure.

The Authority committee is functioning and is exercising the power of Chairman in day to day affairs and taking decisions with requisite quorum.