

SENATE OF PAKISTAN



**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH
SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION**

ON

**THE POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE REGARDING "IMPROVEMENT IN THE
NATIONAL CONTROL LABORATORY" RAISED BY SENATOR DILAWAR
KHAN AND REFERRED BY THE HOUSE ON 3RD JUNE, 2021 FOR
CONSIDERATION AND REPORT"**

PRESENTED BY

SENATOR DR. MUHAMMAD HUMAYUN MOHMAND

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION ON "IMPROVEMENT IN THE NATIONAL CONTROL LABORATORY" RAISED BY SENATOR DILAWAR KHAN AND REFERRED BY THE HOUSE ON 3RD JUNE, 2021 FOR CONSIDERATION AND REPORT

1, Senator Dr. Muhammad Humayun Mohmand, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, have the honour to present, on behalf of the Committee, this report on the "Improvement in the National Control Laboratory" raised by Senator Dilawar Khan and referred by the House on 3rd June, 2021 for consideration and report.

2. The Composition of the Standing Committee is given as under:-

1.	Senator Dr. Muhammad Humayun Mohmand	Chairman
2.	Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
3.	Senator Fawzia Arshad	Member
4.	Senator Dr. Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur	Member
5.	Senator Sana Jamali	Member
6.	Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
7.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
8.	Senator Jam Mahtab Hussain Dahar	Member
9.	Senator Khalida Ateeb	Member
10.	Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi	Member
11.	Senator Hafiz Abdul Karim	Member
12.	Senator Muhammad Asad Ali Khan Junejo	Member
13.	Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member
14.	SAPM to National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination.	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Committee discussed the matter in its visit on 04th August, 2021, which was attended by the following:

1.	Senator Dr. Muhammad Humayun Mohmand	Chairman
2.	Senator Dr. Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur	Member
3.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
4.	Senator Khalida Ateeb	Member
5.	Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi	Member
6.	Senator Hafiz Abdul Karim	Member
7.	Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member
8.	SAPM on National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination.	Ex-Officio Member

4. The Committee discussed the agenda on its meeting held on 15th July, 2021. The Committee members expressed their reservations regarding appalling and deteriorating situation of such an importance Institution. The Committee Members recommended that there is need to upgrade the level of Institute in order to get WHO recognition so that locally produced vaccines and medicines can be standardized and exported. Furthermore, the

Chairman decided to visit the Institute and observe the situation. The SAPM agreed and stated that the future course of action on improvement of National Control Laboratory can be chalked out as per recommendations and observations of the Committee.

2. During the inspection the Chairman said that the laboratories does not give reflection of a standard lab. He highlighted the issues such as spaces in labs' doors, the placement of equipments and exposure of opened wires. Senator Zarqa Taimur Suharwardy observed that there was not any instruction for SOPs for safety protocols on the wall and she inquired why the others were being allowed to enter the Bio level two lab.

3. The Committee conducted its visit of National Control Laboratory for Biologicals on 4th August, 2021 and discussed the matter in detail. The Committee inspected the NCLB. After the inspection of lab the Committee was briefed by the Officials. The Chairman inquired the reasons the laboratories do not have the latest and upgraded equipments according to modern times. Senator Zarqa Taimur Suharwardy asked the CEO about status of machines and equipments. The CEO NCLB briefed that to fill the gap the USP Consultant was requested for gap assessment report which was done and the report submitted. The Director NCLB briefed that all the major equipments are fine but there is dearth of human resources.

4. The Committee asked about timeline to improve the all important issues of NCLB. The Committee was briefed that it may take up to six months to improve the standard and quality of NCLB including the HR resources, infrastructure maintenance, purchasing of chemicals, revamping and installation of equipments. The Committee was further informed that NCLB needed 100 million rupees for to improve the infrastructure and revamping the Labs. The Chairman directed to take all steps and report the progress to the Committee.

5. The CEO said that the WHO and other donors have been requested for the support and they are ready to assist. He further said that the NCLB has received five international appreciations. The Committee directed to provide those appreciation reports along with audit report.

6. The Committee was briefed that lab has dearth of staff. The Chairman inquired the reason of dearth of staff and step taken so far to fill the gap. The Chairman further inquired about the way to hire the staff without delay and directed the Ministry to take necessary steps to hire the staff and report back the matter to the Committee within a month. He further said that the Committee would assist and help the Ministry and NCLB to improve its standard and quality.

7. Senator Rubina Khalid asked about the details of international agencies approached for funding to improve the infrastructure and revamping of lab and detail about the estimated cost for improving the NCLB. The CEO agreed to provide the detail about it. The Chairman directed that the Committee should be informed about the steps taken on the recommendation of the Committee within three months.

8. The Chairman inquired about the case of spurious drug in Namak Mandi Peshawar. The Committee was informed that the Chief Drug Inspector has been asked to conduct survey about the spurious drug and report it back. In addition, it was added, a meeting was conducted with all of four Chief Drug Inspectors and they were asked to extend the investigation towards the manufacturing and selling area of drug. While discussing the issue of spurious drug, the CEO informed that the National Task Force, combining all the four provinces, under the banner of DRAP has been formed which has so far conducted about sixty thousand inspection for last three years. The Chairman appreciated the creation a platform of national level to inspect and improve the drug related matter in the country. He directed to provide the detail of report on

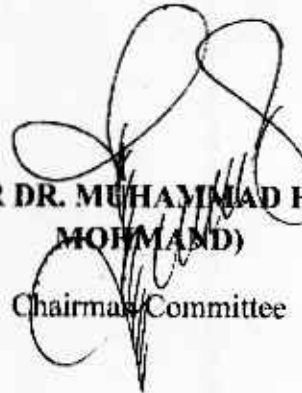
National Task Force and inspection conducted by it in detail. The Committee further decided to have a detailed briefing on the National Task Force and its inspections.

9. The Chairman inquired about the mechanism to ensure the transparency in inspection of the drug manufacturing. The Chairman directed that a mechanism should be developed at the pharmacy level to check the sale of spurious drug on urgent basis. The Chairman further directed NCLB to provide future timeline/strategy plan to the Committee to reach out at level three for testing and recommendation to can Committee help to improve the quality and standard of test. He further said that the Committee would help the NCLB to enhance its capacity and quality as per international standard.



(AYAZ AHMED SOOMRO)

Secretary Committee



**(SENATOR DR. MUHAMMAD HUMAYUN
MOHMAND)**

Chairman Committee