

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A
Bill

further to amend the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority

Ordinance, 2002

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002 (XIII of 2002) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. Short title and commencement. - (1) This Act shall be called the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 6, Ordinance No. XIII of 2002.— In the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002 (No. XIII of 2002), hereinafter referred to as "the said Ordinance", in section 6,-

(a) in sub-section (3), for the words "Federal Government", the words "Prime Minister" shall be substituted; and

(b) in sub-section (4A), for the commas and words, "by the division to which business of this Ordinance stands allocated," the words "Prime Minister" shall be substituted.

3. Amendment of section 7, Ordinance No. XIII of 2002.—In the said Ordinance, in section 7, for the words "Federal Government", the words "Prime Minister" shall be substituted.

4. Amendment of section 20, Ordinance No. XIII of 2002.—In the said Ordinance in section 20, in clause (e), for the words "Federal Government or the Authority in the manner indicated by the Government", the words "Secretary of the Division to which the business of this Ordinance stands allocated or the Authority in the manner indicated by the Secretary" shall be substituted.

5. Amendment of section 26, Ordinance No. XIII of 2002.—In the said Ordinance, in section 26, for the words "Federal Government", wherever occurring the words "Prime Minister" shall be substituted.

6. Amendment of section 39, Ordinance No. XIII of 2002.—In the said Ordinance, in section 39, after the word "the", occurring for the second time, the word "Federal" shall be inserted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA), working under the administrative control of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as detailed in the Rules of Business-1973: Schedule-II: Item No. 16: Entry-13(i) (c), is responsible for regulation of electronic/ broadcast media in the country. PEMRA is governed by PEMRA Ordinance, 2002, as amended by PEMRA (Amendment) Act, 2023.

2. In light of the Supreme Court's decision in the Mustafa Impex Case, the Federal Cabinet, in Case No. 419/19/2017, dated 08-09-2017, directed that all Ministries/ Divisions should, in consultation with the Law and Justice Division, make amendments in respective Acts/ Rules and replace the words "Federal Government" with appropriate authorities. The Federal Cabinet reiterated its earlier directions in Cases No. 241/15/2018, dated 12-04-2018 and No. 64/05/2022, dated 15-02-2022, so that Cabinet is not further burdened with routine cases.

3. On the direction of the Cabinet, this Ministry initiated the process of examining PEMRA Ordinance, 2002, as amended by the PEMRA (Amendment) Act, 2007, and referred the draft PEMRA (Amendment) Act, 2022 to the Law and Justice Division for vetting. The said case was put on hold as during the same time period, major amendments in the PEMRA Ordinance, 2002 in the form of PEMRA (Amendment) Act, 2023, were under consideration. However, even after the major amendments through PEMRA (Amendment) Act, 2023, amendments with regard to replace the words "Federal Government" with appropriate authorities could not be properly addressed. Therefore, in compliance of with the directions of the Federal Cabinet, issued in Case No. 147/17/2025, dated 16.07.2025, the process to replace the words "Federal Government" with appropriate authorities in PEMRA Ordinance, 2002, as amended by PEMRA (Amendment) Act, 2023, was re-initiated and subsequently the draft PEMRA (Amendment) Act, 2025 was approved and ratified by CCLC and Federal Cabinet respectively.



(Atta Ullah Tarar)

Minister for Information & Broadcasting