

AS
[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

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 (Ordinance No. XIII of 2002) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement. – (1) This Act may be called the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Act, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

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

(i) the existing clause (ha), shall be re-numbered, as clause (haa), and before clause (haa), re-numbered as aforesaid, the following new clause (ha) shall be inserted, namely:-

“(ha) “Correspondent” means one who contributes news or commentary to a publication (such as a newspaper) or a radio or television network often from a distant place;

- (ii) after clause (hc), the following new clause (hd) shall be inserted, namely:-

“(hd) “Employee” means an individual who works part-time or full-time under a contract of employment, whether oral or written, express or implied, and has recognized rights and duties; ”

- (iii) after clause (ka), the following new clause (kaa) shall be inserted, namely:-

“(kaa) “Journalist” means a person who writes news stories or articles for a newspaper or magazine or broadcasts them on radio or television;”

- (iv) after clause (ta), the following new clause (taa) shall be inserted, namely:-

“(taa) “Reporter” means a person employed by a newspaper, magazine, or television company to gather and report or broadcast news;”

3. Amendment of section 4, Ordinance No. XIII of 2002. - In the said Ordinance, in section 4, after sub-section (1), the following new sub-sections shall be inserted, namely: -

“(1A) The Authority shall be responsible for ensuring of signing, renewal and execution of valid contract between a channel and Correspondent, Employee, Journalist and Reporter.

(1B) The Authority shall be responsible for ensuring that the contract must include description of duties of employee and remuneration to be paid.”

4. Amendment of section 30, Ordinance No. XIII of 2002. - In the said Ordinance, in section 30, in sub-section (1), after clause (a), the following new clauses, shall be inserted, namely:-

“(aa) the channel/company has failed to maintain a valid contract and failed to ensure the compliance of the contract between channel and its employee;

(aaa) the channel/company has failed to pay any employee the due remuneration at due time;”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Although in the past few years the media industry of Pakistan has expanded but these days it is facing a slowdown. The brunt of which is faced by media employees, reporters, newscasters and correspondents etc., in the form of lay-offs, pay cuts and late or no payments of salaries. In some companies, employees have been forced to take pay cuts which they accepted without any resistance fearing the consequence of losing a job. Many news channels have discontinued primetime shows and downsized its employment. This resulted in massive unemployment and poverty.

2. Thus need is felt to comprehensively deliberate and legislate upon the exploitation of media employees by the channels and companies. The situation clamors to introduce the said bill.

3. The Bill has been designed to achieve the above said purpose.

**SENATOR FAISAL JAVED
MEMBER-IN-CHARGE**