



PAKISTAN OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT PROMOTERS ASSOCIATION (POEPA)

License No. 02 by: Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25th Jan 2023 AT 2:00 PM AT POEPA HEAD OFFICE ISLAMABAD.

Respected Members,

The meeting Chaired by the Chairman, **Mr. Aijaz Ahmed** was held in the Meeting Room of POEPA Head office, **ISLAMABAD** on **Wednesday, 25th Jan, 2023**. Following officials and members had participated in the meeting:-

1. **Mr. Aijaz Ahmed** (Chairman)
2. **Mr. Hafiz Faheem Iqbal** (Senior Vice Chairman)
3. **Mr. Asad Hafeez Kiyani** (Vice Chairman)
4. **Mr. Shakeel Ahmed Abbasi** (Member, E .C)
5. **Mr. Khawaja Khalid Ayaz** (Member, E .C)
6. **Mr. Waris Ali Khokhar** (Member, E .C)
7. **Mr. Syed Nizar Shah** (Member, E .C)
8. **Mr. Abdul Rasheed Bhatti** (Member, E.C)
9. **Mr. Murad Ghalib** (Member, E.C)
10. **Mr. Babar Feroz** (Member, E .C)
11. **Mr. Ahmed Khan** (Member, E.C)
12. **Mr. Qaiser Ali** (Member, E.C)
13. **Mr. Malik Nauman Akram** (Member, E.C)
14. **Mr. Ashraf Khan Bilal** (Member, E.C)
15. **Mr. Nawaz Khan** (Member, E.C)
16. **Mrs. Rukhsana Asghar** (Member, E .C)
17. **Mrs. Sofia Iqbal** (Member, E .C)
18. **Mr. Shahbaz Zeb Khan** Secretary General, POEPA





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The meeting deliberated on the following agenda items:-

AGENDA NO.1	APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS & MINUTES OF MEETING DEC 2022
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Decision:

The first order of business was to approve the accounts and minutes of the previous meeting held in December 2022, the executive committee discussed and approved the accounts and minutes of the previous meeting held in DEC 2022. This means that the committee reviewed and confirmed the accuracy of the financial records and the summary of events and decisions made at the previous meeting.

AGENDA NO.2	ISSUES RELATED TO SAUDI CONSULATE & EMBASSY
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The committee engaged in a comprehensive discourse on the complexities surrounding the Saudi Consulate and Embassy. The Chairman provided an update on the persistent endeavors being undertaken to establish a systematic approach for the issuance of registration. He highlighted that the organization was leaving no stone unturned in its efforts to reach the desired outcome expeditiously and was utilizing every available resource, including reaching out to the Prime Minister's office.

Furthermore, the Chairman reported that he was closely working with the Karachi Consulate to address the challenge of the backlog of passports. He had also written a letter to the relevant authorities, urging them to remove the condition of a quota and revert to the previous practice of accepting an unlimited number of passport submissions. The committee acknowledged the efforts of the Chairman and expressed its hope that the situation would be resolved soon.

AGENDA NO.3	MATTER OF AMENDMENTS IN THE EMIGRATION RULES
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Decision

The committee constituted chaired by Mr. Aqeel Awan in the previous meetings was given the deadline till 31st January to complete its task and send a draft of proposals of all necessary amendments to the Ministry OPHRD for the further action upon it with a request to expedite the matter of amendments in the emigration rules, which is an important component to streamline and abolish the outdated rules,





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creating hindrances in the process of ease of doing business. Mr. Shakeel Ahmed Abbasi was assigned to use his reference to expedite the approval of amendments in the Emigration Rules.

AGENDA NO.4	QVC RELATED MATTERS
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Decision

The Chairman informed the committee members of the successful resolution of the backlog of QVC appointments following the concerted efforts of POEPA. He noted that the appointments will now be scheduled on a weekly basis in accordance with the volume of traffic. The Chairman emphasized the tireless efforts of POEPA in addressing the issue and expressed hope that this new arrangement would provide a more efficient and streamlined process for the appointments going forward.

AGENDA NO.5	FINAL DECISION OVER POEPA REGIONAL OFFICES
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Decision

The final decision regarding the POEPA regional offices was discussed and the following appointments were made:

The final resolution for the appointment of regional offices of POEPA was addressed during the meeting. A thorough deliberation was held to determine the most suitable candidates for each office, in order to effectively resolve the prevailing issues.

- **For the Rawalpindi office**, Mr. Nawaz Khan was selected to take the lead in resolving the matter of illegal occupancy, through negotiations with Aftab Khan. He was tasked to report back to the executive committee at the next meeting with a comprehensive update on the progress.
- **For the Peshawar office**, a team of three members of executive committee, comprising of Mr. Nawaz Khan, Mr. Qaiser Ali, and Mr. Syed Nizar Shah, was selected to handle the process of selling the office. They were entrusted with the responsibility of settling all outstanding liabilities, and depositing the remaining amount into the official POEPA account.
- **With regards to the Karachi office**, Mr. Aijaz Ahmed committed to depositing the rent of Rs. 50,000 per month starting from January 2023. Additionally, he pledged to finalize a rent agreement, which would be signed by the Secretary General on behalf of POEPA.

AGENDA	GERRY'S OFFICE IN MULTAN
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NO.6	
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Decision

The issue of **Gerry's office in Multan** was brought up, and it was reported that efforts were underway to resolve the matter with the higher management of Gerrys, with updates expected soon.

AGENDA NO.7	SAUDI MEDICAL TEST VALIDITY REDUCES TO 60 DAYS
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Decision

The discussion was centered on the recent reduction in the validity period of the Saudi medical test from 90 days to 60 days. The members of POEPA expressed their concerns regarding the financial burden this change would impose on the already struggling intending emigrants. The Chairman was tasked to draft a letter to the General Health Committee (GHC), respectfully requesting a review of the decision to reduce the time limit. The letter would highlight the financial burden this reduction would place on the intending emigrants, who would be forced to pay exorbitant fees for repeated medical tests in case of delays in the endorsement of visas or expiration of the initial medical test. The committee emphasized the need to advocate for the well-being of the emigrants and reduce the financial strain on their already challenging journey.

AGENDA NO.8	ABL/BANK SERVICE CHARGES
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Decision:

The issue of service charges by ABL was discussed, and it was reported that the State Bank of Pakistan's department of Pakistan Remittance Initiative had been approached for a uniform policy for all scheduled banks. The State Bank stated that it could not direct or interfere with the reduction of service charges, but all scheduled banks were bound to provide the service of depositing BCs. The POEPA had shared the focal person of all scheduled banks to address the bank-related problems faced by the OEP community and encouraged the OEPs to opt for less expensive options. In this regard, a comprehensive proposal was drafted and sent to the State Bank of Pakistan, highlighting the negative impact of high service charges on the OEP community and requesting a review of the existing policies. The Chairman of the committee assured the members that POEPA would continue its efforts to address the challenges faced by the OEPs and strive to promote their interests.

AGENDA	SECRETARY GENERAL REQUEST FOR SALARY APPRAISAL
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NO.9	
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Decision:

The Secretary General's outstanding performance, dedication, and hard work were praised and recognized by the executive committee. The committee members acknowledged the challenges faced by him in performing his duties, especially in light of the current economic and inflationary conditions. The Secretary General's tireless efforts to ensure the smooth functioning of the organization and the protection of the rights of the Overseas Employment Holders were commendable. The executive committee noted that the Secretary General's salary increase was in line with the increased responsibilities and the inflationary pressure in the economy. The executive committee therefore, with a unanimous vote, decided to increase his basic salary to One hundred & ten thousand rupees (Rs. 110,000) along with a medical allowance of ten thousand rupees (Rs. 10,000) to acknowledge his outstanding performance and to provide him with the necessary financial support to continue performing his duties with dedication and commitment.

AGENDA NO.10	ANNUAL SALARIES INCREMENT
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Decision:

The executive committee, after a thorough examination of the prevailing inflationary conditions, reached a unanimous decision to grant a 20% increase in the salaries of all other employees for the year 2023. This decision reflects the committee's recognition of the economic hardships faced by the staff and its commitment to compensating their hard work and dedication. The increment is a testament to the executive committee's unwavering commitment to supporting its employees and acknowledging their contributions to the organization.

CC:

1. Regulator TOs, Directorate General of Trade Organization.
2. All members of the Executive Committee.



(Shahbaz Zeb Khan)
Secretary General.

