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Students need PMDC nod to study in China, CARs

■ Admission only to be allowed in WHO-approved colleges ■ Kyrgyz govt formally asks Pakistani students to return and resume studies

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Any Pakistani student desiring to pursue post-graduate medical or dental education from an institution in China or the Central Asian Republics (CARs) will now have to approach the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) for the issuance of a no-objection certificate in this regard.

Talking to Daily Times, PMDC Registrar Dr Ahmad Nadeem Akbar said intending students would have to provide detailed documentary information regarding the qualification and the course, as well as the institution he or she intended to join abroad.

He said that as per rules, a student was eligible to pursue medical or dental education if he or she had obtained at least 60 percent marks in the Intermediate (pre-medical) examinations.

Dr Nadeem said the NOC would only be given to students who studied at medical institutions included in the World Health Organisation (WHO) directory of medical schools.

The PMDC official said if an intending student fulfilled the council's criteria and if the course and the standard of institutions abroad were acceptable

to the PMDC, the candidate would be issued an NOC for applying for admission abroad in that particular institution.

Earlier in the day, the government of Kyrgyzstan formally asked all Pakistani students who were studying in various institutions of the country to return to their institutions and resume their studies. During the Kyrgyz crisis last month, 247 Pakistani students returned to Pakistan to escape ethnic clashes.

According to official sources, the government of Kyrgyzstan has decided to reschedule the examinations of the students to September 10-15.

Kyrgyz Ambassador Nuran S Niyazaliev presented a memorandum letter in this regard to the PMDC registrar, claiming that the situation in the Kyrgyz Republic was now stable. The letter said the government of Pakistan had been informed about the situation and Kyrgyzstan had adopted a new democratic constitution and elected Roza Otunbayeva as its president on June 27, so the law and order situation was satisfactory.

PMDC Registrar Dr Nadeem confirmed receiving the memorandum letter from the ambassador of Kyrgyzstan, who himself visited the council to invite

Pakistani students to return to the republic to continue studies.

Nadeem said the letter would be submitted to the PMDC executive committee, which would make a decision on the matter by July 31. Committee members include PMDC President Dr Syed Sibtlul Hasnain, Vice President Dr Asim Hussain, Dr Masood Hameed Khan, Dr Rafique A Memon, Dr Laiq Hussain, Dr Inayatullah Rehman, Dr Rashid Jooma and Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan.

The formal announcement has lifted the shroud of uncertainty over the fate of the students enrolled in Kyrgyzstan, who had expressed their reservations over an entry test being planned for them to get admission in the country's medical colleges. Each year, 3,350 students get admission in various government medical colleges across the country, while 525 are admitted to government dental colleges.

It is expected that due to limited seats in government medical colleges, the concerned authorities are likely to request the parents of the returning students to send them back abroad, so that maximum opportunity is provided to students appearing for this year's entry tests.