



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
PAKISTAN TELECOMMUNICATION AUTHORITY  
HEADQUARTERS, F-5/1, ISLAMABAD

No: PTA/WAD/112/2021/490

20 July, 2021

Sub: Decision of the Authority regarding TIKTOK Application

Reference is made to order dated 08-07-2021 passed by the Hon'ble Sindh High Court at Karachi in WP No. 1457 of 2021 ("Court Order") wherein the directions were issued to PTA for removal of objectionable content on TIKTOK, the relevant excerpt of Court Order is reproduced herein below for ease of reference:

*"I would like to clarify that the PTA should make sure that all the videos uploaded on the various internet applications are properly filtered and are being timely removed. It is the responsibility of the PTA Authorities to make sure that the videos of above stated nature/category or that of like nature are firstly not uploaded and if uploaded the same shall be immediately removed"*

2. In respectful compliance of the Court Order, PTA vide its letter dated 13-07-2021 and 19-07-2021 respectively, requested TIKTOK to develop a mechanism to control indecent/immoral content including but not limited to removal of repeated violators from using TIKTOK, remove category of Love & Dating, restricting the usage of platform by underage users etc., however, no concrete steps have been initiated/intimated to PTA in this regard. Besides, a request to arrange a meeting with Senior Management of TIKTOK about content moderation issues was made by PTA, however the same has not been responded.

3. TIKTOK has failed to control the unlawful content despite the clear instructions of PTA issued under Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016 and the Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content (Procedure, Oversight and Safeguards), Rules 2020.

4. Considering the nature of the content being streamed through TIKTOK, the Authority deems it necessary to block the services of TIKTOK in Pakistan under Rule 6 (5) read with Rule 8 of the Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content (Procedure, Oversight and

Safeguards), Rule 2020 till removal of unlawful content and formulation of a comprehensive mechanism for proactive content moderation in accordance with the laws of Pakistan.

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**Muhammad Naved**  
Member Finance

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**Dr. Khawar Siddique Khokhar**  
Member Compliance

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**Maj General (R) Amir Azeem Bajwa**  
Chairman

**To:**

TIKTOK Application through Mr. Fahad Khan Niazi, Public Policy Manager, Pakistan  
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**CC:**

1. DG (WAD), PTA HQ Islamabad
2. Director to Chairman, PTA HQ Islamabad
3. DG (Coord), PTA HQ Islamabad
- ✓ 4. DG (L&R), PTA HQ Islamabad
5. SO to Member (Finance), PTA HQ Islamabad
6. SO to Member (Compliance), PTA HQ Islamabad