

**AZAD GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
LAW, JUSTICE, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS
DEPARTMENT MUZAFFARABAD**

Dated: 11th October, 2018

No. LD/Legis-Act/158-68/2018. The following Act of Assembly received the assent of the President on the 4th day of October 2018, is hereby published for general information.

(ACT VII OF 2018)

**An
Act**

to amend the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Press Foundation Act, 2003

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Press Foundation Act, 2003 (Act XVII of 2003), in the manner hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and Commencement.**- (1) This Act may be called the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Press Foundation (Amendment) Act, 2018.
 - (2) It shall come into force at once.
2. **Amendment of Section 2, Act XVII of 2003.**- In the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Press Foundation Act, 2003 (Act XVII of 2003), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in Section 2, following amendments shall be made:-
 - (i) After clause (g), the following new clauses (ga) and (gb) shall be added:-
 - “(ga) “Media Groups” means and includes a Daily, Daily Newspaper, Newspaper, Weekly, Weekly Magazine, News Agency/organization, National Daily, Electronic Media, Periodical and any other Media organization validly registered, accredited or enlisted with Directorate General of Public Relations/ Information Department media list;
 - (gb) “Journalist” means and includes an editor, news reporter, correspondent or photojournalist (cameraman) etc., of a Media Group;”
 - (ii) For clause (h) following shall be substituted:-

- “(h) “Member of the Foundation” means a State Subject of Jammu and Kashmir working as a Journalist of a Media Group who has been accredited as such by the Directorate General of Public Relations/Information Department and who regularly contributes toward the Press Foundation Fund;” and
- (iii) After clause (h) as amended above, the following new clause (ha) shall be added:-
- “(ha) “Press Club” means a Press Club validly registered, accredited or enlisted as per prescribed procedure with Directorate General of Public Relations/Information;”
3. **Amendment of Section 3, Act XVII of 2003.-** In the said Act, in Section 3, in sub-section (2), after the word “competent”, the words “ to examine the cases and recommend to the Government” shall be inserted.
4. **Substitution of Section 4, Act XVII of 2003.-** In the said Act, for Section 4, following shall be substituted:-
- “4. **Qualification for grant of Accreditation Card.-** Any Journalist of a Media Group seeking accreditation from the Government shall be required to fulfill the following conditions:-
- (i) He shall be a State Subject of Jammu and Kashmir or a National of Pakistan working as a Journalist in Azad Jammu and Kashmir;
- (ii) he shall possess a valid appointment or authority letter/order authorizing him to perform duties as Journalist of a Media Group;
- (iii) he shall not engage himself in any other business or profession which in the judgment of the Committee compromises his status as a Journalist;
- (iv) he is graduate from a recognized university having at least three years experience at the time of filing application which enable him to fulfill professional obligations as a Journalist; and

(v) he is not more than 45 years of age.”

5. **Substitution of Section 6, Act XVII of 2003.**- In the said Act, for Section 6, following shall be substituted:-

“6. **Powers and functions of the Foundation.**- (1) The Foundation shall examine the cases received for registration as a Member and, on the recommendation of the Board shall issue membership card to the person who fulfill prescribed criteria.

(2) The Foundation shall be responsible,-

(a) to provide low cost accommodation to the Members;

(b) to extend and improve medical facilities for the Members and their dependants;

(c) to provide grants in case of death of any of the beneficiaries;

(d) to register the Press Clubs and media organizations in the manners as may be prescribed in the Regulations and to provide grants to them when received from the Government:

Provided that all grants in aid or any other grant announced by the Government for any Media Group or Press Club shall be distributed through the Foundation;

(e) to make and notify the categories of Journalists in the manners as may be prescribed in the Regulations;

(f) to provide grants in case of marriage of the daughter and son of deserving Members; and

(g) to do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to carry out the purposes and objectives of the Foundation.”

6. **Amendment of Section 8, Act XVII of 2003.**- In the said Act, in Section 8, in sub-section (1) following amendments shall be made:-

(i) In clause (d), after the words “Secretary Finance”, the words “or his nominee, not below the officer of BPS-19” shall be added;

- (ii) for clause (f), following shall be substituted:-
“(f) One member from each district elected by the Members of the Foundation;”
- (iii) after clause (f) substituted as above, following new clause (fa) shall be added:-
“(fa) two members elected by such Members of the Foundation who are working in Pakistan as editors or bureau chief or representative of a Media Group.”
7. **Amendment of Section 10, Act XVII of 2003.**-In the said Act, in Section 10, in sub-section (1), for the existing proviso following shall be added:-
“Provided that the Chairman shall call the meeting of Board on written request of one half of the members of Board within thirty days.”
8. **Amendment of Section 11, Act XVII of 2003.**- In the said Act, in Section 11, following amendments shall be made:-
(i) In sub-section (1), in the proviso to clause (b), after the words “more than once” the words “in a year” shall be added; and
(ii) sub-section (2) shall be omitted.
9. **Amendment of Section 15, Act XVII of 2003.**-In the said Act, in Section 15, for the words “every month”, the words “every year”, shall be substituted.
10. **Addition of new Section 15-A, 15-B and 15-C, Act XVII of 2003.**- In the said Act, after Section 15, following new Sections 15-A, 15-B and 15-C shall be added as under:-
15-A. Registration of Media Organizations and Press Clubs.-All the Media Organizations and Press Clubs shall be registered with the Foundation in the manners as may be prescribed in the Regulations.
15-B. Observance of Code of Conduct.- (1) All the Media Groups and Press Clubs shall observe code of conduct laid down in the Regulations and its violation shall be punishable as may be prescribed.
(2) All the fines imposed under this Section shall be credited to the Fund.

15-C. Monitoring Committee.- (1) The Board shall constitute a Monitoring Committee for one year, with the approval of the Government, consisting of following:-

- (i) Any member of BoG nominated by the Chairman Chairman
- (ii) One member from Accreditation Committee nominated by the Chairman Member
- (iii) Information officer of District Concerned Member
- (iv) A Senior Journalist from Division concerned nominated by the Chairman Member
- (v) Assistant Foundation Member/Secretary

(2) The Monitoring Committee shall inquire into the cases received from the Board in respect of violation of code of conduct and shall submit its recommendations to the Board proposing fine within 45 days in the manners as may be prescribed in the Regulations:

Provided that the Board may, on the request of Monitoring Committee, extend this period up to such extend as it may deem fit.

(3) The Monitoring Committee shall perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the Board under the Regulations.”

Sd/-
(Ch. Muhammad Nawaz)
Section Officer (Legislation)