

Short Essay.

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PEMRA and its implications in Pakistan

Outline.

A. Introduction

1. Key features of PEMRA
2. Thesis statement: PEMRA is regulatory established to keep a check on people, ^{and} ensure separation of roles

B. Implication of PEMRA in Pakistan.

1. Control over broadcast of contents
2. Shaping of public opinion
3. Censorship of antistate or anti-Islamic content
4. To keep a check over people.

C. Why PEMRA when there is ministry of Information and Broadcasting present?

1. To ensure separation of role.
2. To mitigate concentration of power.
3. Global practice.
4. ~~Keep~~ ^{To keep} treat media as an industry.

D. Conclusion

Introduction:

PEMRA was established in 2002 under PEMRA act ordinance. Its main functions were ~~to~~ to give licence to media channel under PEMRA. Secondly they worked on regulation of social media, radio and television broadcast. Thirdly its purpose is to monitor the activities on social media and TV channel. The ^{purpose} ~~order~~ is to check whether they are abiding to state laws or not. Last function is to sanction those media channels who are giving anti-state or ~~anti-state~~ anti-Islamic contents.

Although there was ministry of information and broadcasting ^{already} ~~is~~ present. The purpose of establishing PEMRA was to ensure separation of roles and mitigate power concentration in ministry of ~~power~~ information. PEMRA is a regulatory body.

established to keep a check on people and ensure separation of power and roles.

Firstly PEMRA's main purpose is to keep a control over broadcast of the content. The content must not include anything against Islamic values or state's narrative. PEMRA take into consideration any content spreading hate ~~speech~~ speech or containing copyright violation. Content spreading antidemocratic values is also prohibited as per PEMRA act ordinance. Sanction is ~~imposed~~ PEMRA regulates and monitors broadcasting on media channels and sanctions those who are not abiding to laws.

Secondly PEMRA shapes the opinion of people. It censors those broadcastings which can create

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late regarding state affairs. ~~and~~ It ~~against~~ the promotes narratives which are state sponsored. There are also accusation upon PEMRA that it is not functioning as a ^{common} regulatory body rather it is working as a politically influenced regulatory body. Oppositions usually accuses ruling party over using PEMRA for political censorship and media suppression. These type of activities by PEMRA shape opinion of people in favour of certain political ~~party~~ ~~other~~ parties.

Thirdly why there is need of PEMRA when ministry of information and Broadcasting was already present. The thing is that media is an industry which needs a proper regulatory system. Ministry of information and cannot act as regulatory body for media. Its purpose is

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to make law. PEMRA ensures people abide to those laws. In addition to that PEMRA was established to ensure separation of roles. Otherwise power would have been concentrated into the hands of ministry of information. Furthermore establishment of platforms like PEMRA is a global practice. USA has some platform with name FCC in order to regulate and monitor content over media.

Comprehensively it can be said that PEMRA is a body meant to regulate and monitor content over media. It sanctions those channels who spread anti-state or anti-Islamic materials. Throughout the time it is also used for political purposes and suppression. It was also used to build

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a positive perspective of people about certain political party while defying the other. Those who have come to power have used it for their political gains. However main purpose for its establishment was to keep a check on people. Moreover it is also a global practice to establish bodies like PEMRA irrespective of the presence of ministry of Information. The purpose is to ensure separation of roles and treat media as an industry. Industry which needs a regulatory body for checks and balances.