

PM&DC Hosts 13th Meeting of National Assembly Standing Committee on National Health Services to Discuss MDCAT and Health Sector Improvements

Islamabad 9th January 2025: Pakistan Medical and Dental Council hosted the 13th meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination on 9th January 2025 at PM&DC head office to consider different agenda items on health issues including Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT). The committee meeting was chaired by Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani, chairman of the committee.

Prof. Dr. Rizwan Taj President, PM&DC welcomed the committee and acknowledged the support of the honourable committee for their support and improving the standardisation of medical and dental education in the country.

Prof. Dr. Rizwan apprised that MDCAT 2024 stands concluded after retake by the Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU) on 30th December 2024 across AJK, GB, ICT, and international venues in Dubai and Riyadh. Out of 12,717 registered candidates, 12,582 appeared in the retake exam, 11,166 candidates (89.6%) qualified for MBBS, while 11,708 (93.97%) were eligible for the BDS program. Notably, one candidate achieved the highest score of 199 marks, and 329 candidates (2.58%) attained scores of 191 and above. The assessment reliability, measured by Cronbach's Alpha, was @ 0.97.

Earlier, the IBA Sukkur conducted an MDCAT retake on 8th December 2024, with 32,208 candidates (83.26%) appearing from 38,684 registrations. Of these, 13,718 (35.46%) were declared eligible for MBBS, and 16,072 (41.54%) for BDS programs. The highest score achieved was 192, obtained by four candidates.

Prof. Dr. Rizwan apprised the committee of the complete summary of the MDCAT examination 2024 held across the country wherein, in total, 167,772 candidates registered for the MDCAT 2024 in Pakistan, AJK, Gilgit Baltistan and international venues, competing for 20,347 MBBS and BDS seats across public and private medical institutions in Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Taj further informed that all admitting universities have been directed to expedite and complete the admission process as soon as possible and ensure that students can begin their medical education without further delay.

In conclusion Prof. Dr. Rizwan apprised the committee that an MDCAT Reforms Committee has also been constituted to enhance the transparency, efficiency, and fairness of the process for which three committee meetings have already been held which is looking after the Revision of the MDCAT Syllabus to ensure clarity and uniformity. Development of a Question Bank from a standardized syllabus. Restricting candidates to appear in the MDCAT only in their province or region of domicile and conducting MDCAT after the declaration of intermediate results for streamlined timelines. Implementing a centralized committee for paper drafting, transparency, and reduced human error, utilizing IT-based solutions for efficiency.

Members of the National Assembly (MNAs), Senior officials from the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination and its attached departments attended the meeting.