

# Encashment and Pension Commutation Affectees Group - UAP (EPCAG-UAP)

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(Press Release)

## **Agriversity professors denied retirement liabilities**

The Encashment and Pension Commutation Affectees Group - UAP (EPCAG-UAP) issued final notice to Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Peshawar, Prof Jehan Bakht for payment of retirement liabilities within a month period, otherwise aggressive alternative strategies would be adopted to get their due rights. Such strategies may bring a bad name for the University and UAP administration would be responsible for such unwanted consequences.

It was decided in a meeting of EPCA Group held on 9-8-2021, in continuation of the minutes of the previously held 10 meetings issued from 17-3-2020 up to 19-5-2021 and the Appeal to the Chancellor UAP/Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa dated 19-5-2021.

The UAP has failed to pay the commutation and other retirement liabilities of the Group in spite of lapse of more than two years of retirement, although they are bound to pay the same within two weeks of retirement as per directives of the Supreme Court of Pakistan endorsed by the Government of Pakistan Finance Division vide office memorandum No. F-11(1)-Reg.6/2013 dated 3-5-2013. Such liabilities were not paid in spite of payment of huge amounts to powerful people like the Vice Chancellor UAP, etc, out of turn.

The faculty members have faced a prolonged delay in payment of the commutation and other retirement liabilities by the University, although the Supreme Court of Pakistan vide Judgement in Civil Appeal No.48/2013, endorsed by Government of Pakistan, Finance Division F-(11)1-Reg-/2013 dated 3-5-2013 to all government departments and agencies has ordered that:

***“they shall not cause unnecessary hurdles or delay in finalizing the payment of retirement benefits cases; in future and violation of these directions shall amount to criminal negligence and dereliction of the duty assigned to them”.***

It was added that any delay in the finalization of such cases brought to the notice of the Supreme Court, the head of the concerned department shall be held liable for Contempt of Court.

Ten meetings of the affected faculty members were held under the “Encashment and Pension Commutation Affectees Group - UAP (EPCAG-UAP)” and the Vice Chancellor was requested to take the issue seriously but without any productive outcome.

The retired faculty members having served the Nation for more than three decades in BPS-18 to BPS-21 with national and international recognition, have to take care of their deteriorating health conditions, construction of houses for their families and wedding arrangements of their kids. Commutation is the only hope for such people and its unlawful delay has damaged their social and economic status in the Society.

The University has been receiving pension grants along with regular budget, special grants from the Higher Education Commission Islamabad/Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and receipts under students’ admissions. However, these funds could not be efficiently managed, leading to the present crisis. Peshawar High Court has advised for bail out packages for various universities.

In a meeting of KP Governor with the Vice Chancellors financial problems of the universities were discussed ([Business Recorder, 17-5-2021](#)). He said that as a chancellor he is committed to bring positive change in higher educational institutions (UAP and others) in providing quality standard education to our young generation. He added that VC is a very responsible post and they should take the responsibility in a real sense. The KP government had approved Rs800 million for Peshawar University initially, and two installments worth Rs270 million have already been received, which helped in overcoming financial problems ([The News, 21 May, 2021](#)). The federal government is likely to release Rs1 billion to the university as supplementary grant, which would greatly help the institution repay the loans it has taken during the last several years for payment of staff salaries.

The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was requested vide an Appeal that commutation and pension liabilities of the undersigned may please be released immediately. The Vice Chancellor UAP may take the issues of the retired faculty members seriously as per directive of the Governor and on the analogy of VC Peshawar University.

A special grant of Rs. 83.56 million was demanded for paying the pending pension and commutation liabilities to the retired faculty member on immediate basis.

Support of the Agricultural University Teachers Association (AUTA) is highly acknowledged for supporting these endeavours of EPCA Group.



Prof Dr M Subhan Qureshi

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