Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Information Technology
((IT & Telecom Division)

No.5-1/2005-DFU

ISLAMABAD, MAY 25, 2012

SUBJECT: POLICY DIRECTIVE FOR EFFECTIVE MONITORING & CONTROL OF OBNOXIOUS CONTENT (BLASPHEMOUS & PORNOGRAPHIC) OVER INTERNET IN PAKISTAN

The unchecked and free flow of blasphemous and pornographic content at mass level through internet in Pakistan is in direct friction with the basic principles of Islamic way of life as reflected in the Objectives Resolution as well as the Articles 19 and 31 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Such obnoxious content also creates immense discomfort and dismay among the people of Pakistan besides shaking the very fabric of our socio-religious values. Furthermore, several petitions have also been filed in the superior judiciary whereby the Courts have expressed their concerns over this and directed GoP to address these issues more effectively. Therefore, it is imperative to have a sustainable solution to continuously monitor and control the display of blasphemous and pornographic content over internet in Pakistan without compromising the scope of Article 19 of the constitution that guarantees right to freedom of speech and expression, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of the glory of Islam etc.

1. In view of the foregoing, the Federal Government is pleased to issue the following directives for compliance by the Pakistan Telecommunications' Authority (PTA):

2. PTA to establish at the earliest a dedicated unit while allocating appropriate funds/budget and human resources, supported by the state of the art
technical solutions and upgraded call center, with the mandate to take
requisite measures for proactively and independently blocking the websites
displaying the blasphemous and pornographic content;

ii. It must be ensured that any system procured as per para 2 (i) does not
interfere with the rights of the citizens as envisioned in the Objectives
Resolution and Articles 19 and 31 of the Constitution of Pakistan or misused
by anyone for political gains. The focus of this system shall remain
"blasphemous and pornographic" content.

iii. Concurrently, the Inter-Ministerial Committee already constituted for
evaluation of websites will also continue its mandated work as per the ToRs.

3. This Policy Directive is issued with the approval of Minister for Information
Technology for the implementation with immediate effect.

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CC:
1. Secretary General to the President, President Sectt, Islamabad.
2. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Prime Minister Sectt. Islamabad.
3. Secretary, Cabinet Division, Pak Sectt. Islamabad.
5. PSO to Minister for Information Technology
6. PSO to Secretary, Information Technology
7. Member (Telecom), MOIT
8. Member (Legal), MOIT