



16<sup>th</sup> May 2022

TIP22/0516/1A

Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel,  
Federal Minister,  
Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination,  
Islamabad.

**Subject: Complaint on an illegally engineered shortage of paracetamol to create space for a new, high-dosage variant of the medicine, which is injurious to health of citizens and being sold at three times higher price.**

Dear Sir,

Transparency International Pakistan has received a complaint an illegally engineered shortage of paracetamol in Pakistan to create space for a new, high-dosage variant of paracetamol, which is injurious to the health of citizens and being sold at three times higher price.

The complainant has made the following allegations that;

- For more than a year, Pakistan has been continuously facing a shortage of paracetamol painkillers. This shortage is being artificially created by the pharmaceutical companies to pave the wave for a new, high-dosage variant of the paracetamol medicine.
- The new variant i.e. Panadol 665mg, which is banned in the world, is injurious to the health of people, but is being sold in Pakistan.
- The price of Panadol 500mg tablet is Rs1.70 whereas the 665mg variant of Panadol is being sold for as high as Rs5.68.
- In the last four years, the price of Panadol 500mg tablet has already increased from Re0.90 to Rs1.70 which means the new variant is being sold at an exorbitant price of more than 500%.
- **By increasing the price of Panadol and other such tablets, the producers are likely to generate Rs17.095 billion in annual profit.**
- Allegation of involvement of high level government functionaries is also been reported in newspapers of 6 May 2022 (**Annex-A**).

#### **Transparency International Pakistan Comments**

Transparency International Pakistan has examined the complaint and prima facie complainant allegations seem to be correct. It may be noted that Paracetamol 665mg is banned across Europe and in different countries and will bring serious health implications for the Pakistani citizens.



### Transparency International Pakistan Recommendations

Transparency International Pakistan request the Federal Minister National Health Services Regulations and Coordination to examine the allegations and if found to be correct, take immediate action to give relief to the citizens of Pakistan, as the paracetamol 500mg price will be reduced by at least over 500% for the citizens along with its proper availability in the market.

Transparency International Pakistan is striving for cross the board application of Rule of Law, which is the only way to stop corruption, and achieve against Zero tolerance against corruption.

Regards,

Ms. Yasmeen Lari  
Sitara-e-Imtiaz, Hilal-e- Imtiaz  
Chairperson  
Transparency International Pakistan

Justice (Rtd) Nasira Iqbal  
Vice Chair, Sitara-e-Imtiaz  
Transparency International Pakistan

Copies forwarded for the information with request to take action under their mandate to:

1. Prime Minister of Pakistan, PM House, Islamabad (for personal action)
2. CEO Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan, Islamabad
3. Chairman, NAB, Islamabad
4. Registrar, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad