



**TRANSPARENCY
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28th March 2022

TIP22/0328/1B

The Governor,
State Bank of Pakistan
I. Chundrigar Road, Serai Quarter,
Karachi

(Reminder)

Subject: Wrong color of National Flag printed on Currency Notes

Dear Sir,

On 16th March 2022, I have sent my observation/complaint that the color of Pakistan flag printed on the currency notes is red, whereas according to law, the color of Pakistan National Flag is dark green.

Despite the passage of more than 10 days, I have not received any response to my complaint from your office, not even an acknowledgement that my complaint has been received.

Justice Ali Baqar Najafi of Lahore High Court has given the following verdict in WP 59314/2017 dated 29.6.2021, according to which printing of flags in different colors, other than its original scheme, and on distorted shaped portraits to be considered defilement (**Annex-A**).

“9. According to the National Flag Protocols prescribed officially, it must not touch the ground, shoes or feet or anything unclean and must not be flown in the darkness and must not be marked with anything (including words, numerals or images) and when raised or lowered it must be saluted by all in uniform and the others must stand in attention. It must not fly or be displayed upside down or with a crescent and star facing left. It must not be displayed where it is likely to get dirty. It must not be set on fire or trampled upon. It must not be buried or lowered into a grave. In the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 section 123-B defines the defilement of the national flag an offence punishable with 3 years’ imprisonment. Obviously, the printing of flags in different colours, on distorted shaped portraits, in ugly cartoons, its disgraceful imprint on cloths undermine the national dignity may be considered defilement.”

This is also to point out that the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, in section 123-B (quoted below) defines the defilement of the national flag as an offence punishable with three-year imprisonment.

Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, Section 123 B is quoted below.

123B Defiling or unauthorisedly removing the National Flag of Pakistan from Government building, etc.:

Whoever deliberately defiles the National Flag of Pakistan, or unauthorisedly removes it from any building, premises, vehicle or other property of Government, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.



It is once requested to the Governor State Bank of Pakistan to examine the complaint, and if it is found to be correct, immediately take action to reprint currency notes with Pakistan flag in officially specified Green & White color, according to specification. All existing currency notes shall also be replaced and issued, without any cost.

SBP must hold all officials accountable for this grave mistake of printing Pakistan Flag in wrong color.

Regards,


Syed Adil Gilani,
Managing Director

Copies forwarded for action under their mandate to,

1. PSPM, PM House, Islamabad
2. Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Revenue, Islamabad
3. MD Printing Corporation of Pakistan, Islamabad
4. Registrar, Supreme Court of Pakistan

Lahore High Court

Miss Shakeela Rana Advocate v. Govt. of Pakistan etc. W.P. No. 59314/2017

Mr. Justice Ali Baqar Najafi <https://sys.lhc.gov.pk/appjudgments/2021LHC3849.pdf>

Facts:

In this writ the petitioner has sought the prohibition of printing the National Flags in multiple colours except the original green and white colour. Printing of different portraits, cartoons on the National Flag and printing of flag on trousers etc. have been asserted as against the dignity of the National Flag.

Issue: Analysis:

What are the official protocols to protect the dignity of the National Flag of Pakistan?

Our Parcham (flag) stands for freedom, liberty and equality for those who owe allegiance to it. It protects the legitimate rights of every citizen and upholds the integrity of the State of Pakistan. It is a mark that helps in maintaining peace throughout the world. It represents a State which has no special privileges or special rights for any particular community or interest but a State where citizens will have equal rights and equal opportunities and their share in privileges will be proportionate to their corresponding responsibilities.

As to the specification, the Pakistani Flag is a dark green, rectangular flag in the proportion of 3 x 2 with a white vertical bar, showing white crescent in the center and a five-pointed heraldic star. The size of the white portion is 1/4th size of the flag. Since the mast, the remainder is 3/4th being dark green. The dimensions of the five-pointed white heraldic star are determined by drawing a circle with radius equal to 1/10th of the width of the flag.

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