

## PRESS RELEASE

KARACHI: November 28, 2016: As a regulator, PEMRA's responsibility is to promote media and to regulate it.

This requires a balancing act, where regulator must carefully calibrate the penalties that the law has provided.

PEMRA has taken the drastic step of shutting down two member channels of PBA, Din News and Neo News. One for a month and the other for a week.

These are extreme and harsh penalties. PBA condemns this harsh move.

Suspending a TV channel's license is equal to killing it. It seriously threatens the channel's existence and also impacts thousands of its employees and their families whose livelihood is connected to it.

The balance between freedom of speech and responsibility is everyone's responsibility including and especially the regulator who in this case, by rushing to close down the channels, seems to have lost all balance.

PEMRA's drastic step therefore is bad for the industry and PBA strongly condemns it.

Sincerely for,  
Pakistan Broadcasters Association  
Muhammad Ali Butt  
Executive Director