

Most Immediate

E-Message

From: Pahic Canberra
To: Foreign Islamabad
No. PR-1/2025
Date: 2 December 2025

Foreign Secretary from High Commissioner

Reptd to: (i) AS (FMO) (ii) AS (Admin)

Reference Mission's letter No. PR-1/2025, dated 27 October 2025, conveying consent of the undersigned for participation in the 124th National Management Course (NMC) to be held from 5th January to 8th May, 2026.

2. I have come to know that the Ministry has not considered the undersigned for participation in the above mentioned course, despite the fact that I am the senior most officer who is due to complete mandatory training course. In this regards, I would like to submit the following:

- (i) I have assumed the responsibility of High Commissioner in Canberra on 02 October, 2025. I presented the working copy of my credential on 3 October. Since then, I have actively engaged with the Australian officials in various departments including DFAT, Members of Federal and State Parliaments and various segments of Pakistani diaspora including students. For this purpose, I have also visited Sydney, Melbourne and Wollongong many times.
- (ii) Presently, I am fully settled and functional. I have established my working relations with my Australian counterparts and businessmen at various levels.
- (iii) Since it is the start of summer season in Australia, therefore most of the government officials and Members of parliament are planning to avail their annual holidays in conjunction with the school holidays till early February. Pakistani community members are also proceeding to Pakistan during these months.
- (iv) During the vacations, it is practically impossible to hold any meaningful meeting in Canberra or any other major city. As the Ramazan will start on 20th February, any bilateral high-level engagement is unlikely till the end of March 2026. As such, there is no high level visit or meeting is planned in the first half of next year.
- (v) Australian officials during their meetings have indicated their intention to hold the high level meetings namely Senior Official Talks; Meeting of Joint Working Group or Border management & Transitional Crime; Pakistan Australia Defence & Security Talks; 1.5 Track Security Dialogue and Meeting of Joint Trade Committee (JTC) in the second half of 2026. Preparations are already underway to hold these meetings.

- (vi) The Mission in collaboration with members of Pakistani diaspora and businessmen is planning to hold large scale events in August 2026 in various cities of Australia to celebrate National Day and promote Pakistani Mangoes. To this end, initial preparations are in final stages.
- (vii) On a personal note, It may be mentioned that I am the senior most officer in BS-20 who has not completed the NMC. My batchmates, even 3 year juniors to me, are promoted to BS-21 early this year. In case, if I am not nominated for the upcoming NMC, I would miss the opportunity to be considered for promotion in the next CSB to be held in 2026. As I am due to superannuate in April 2031, my career progression will be seriously jeopardized, if I have to wait for the CSB to be held in 2027/2028.
- (viii) It may be mentioned that according to the criteria conveyed by Establishment Division for the nomination to NMC, the officers to be considered in order of seniority and the officers otherwise senior to them must not be ignored. Subsequently, a certificate is to be submitted that no junior officers has been nominated for the course. This is in line with the Prime Minister's directive issued vide D.O. Letter No. 5/11/200-T-II/T-I, dated 10 June 2014.

3. I would like to submit that my participation in the forthcoming NMC will have minimal impact on my official duties. On the contrary, if I attend the next NMC starting in July 2026, my absence would adversely impact the planned activities of the Mission.

4. In view of the above, it is therefore requested that the Ministry may nominate the undersigned to attend the forthcoming 124th NMC scheduled to start on 5 January 2026.

Respectful Regards



(Irfan Shaukat)