

DAWN

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A contract pilot's plea

AFTER a long process of educational and skill check tests and training sessions etc I was selected as a cadet PIA pilot, with the proud feeling that we are serving the nation.

But now it seems PIA does not reckon the contract pilots as an asset, though it is facing shortage of pilots.

In its recent tussle with the Pilots Association, which demanded regularisation of pilots inducted in 2005, the management has posed as if contract pilots do not possess the required qualifications, and gave an impression that confirming the services of such pilots

will be a security risk.

One wonders why should contract pilots face such bias. They follow the same roadmap of becoming a pilot as do others: after matriculation with science group at the minimum age of 16 years they have to get a registration in a flying club, medical from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), student pilots licence from the CAA, flying training, etc.

This is eligibility for job in PIA. In short, we, as contract pilots, have to be the best for the toughest job.

Having all pre-requisites fulfilled, we as contract pilots go through the toughest

selection process, that is entry in PIA: written test, interview, flight test, psychiatrist test, medical, merit, entry into PIA as a cadet pilot, police/TB clearance, conversion training in PIA as a first officer and after every six months recurrent training.

But a contract pilot is not entitled to become a member of the Pakistan Airlines Pilots Association.

It is also mentioned in our contract with the airline that no salary raise will be given to contract pilots (being given to regular employees).

It is worth mentioning here that when 6,000 broth-

ers and sisters have just been confirmed, regularisation of 87 pilots will not overburden the organisation.

It is also interesting to note that we, the contract pilots, have been flying with PIA for the last three years as first officers on ATR and Boeing 737 aircraft on international as well as domestic flights while not a single captain ever complained about us being a security risk.

It is sheer injustice that the management discourages contract pilots.
A CONTRACT PILOT
Karachi

روزنامہ نوائے وقت

کراچی۔ لاہور۔ راولپنڈی / اسلام آباد۔ ملتان

اتوار 22 رمضان المبارک 1430ھ 13 ستمبر 2009ء

پی آئی اے کے ایم ڈی کو نوٹس

کراچی (وقائع نگار) سندھ ہائی کورٹ نے سیکریٹری ڈیفنس اور پی آئی اے چیفنگ ڈائریکٹر کو نوٹس جاری کرتے ہوئے جواب دہل کرنے کی ہدایت کی ہے۔ سندھ ہائی کورٹ کے جج کے روپرو پالپا کی جانب سے دائر آئین درخواست سماعت کے لئے چیئرمین پی آئی اے ایم ڈی پی آئی اے اور سیکریٹری دفاع سمیت دیگر کو فریق بنایا گیا ہے۔ عدالت نے مدعا علیہان کو نوٹس جاری کرتے ہوئے مزید سماعت آئندہ تاریخ تک ملتوی کر دی ہے۔