

## COMMUNIQUE

### **The Indian Ocean Dental School & Hospital (former Mauras College of Dentistry)**

Following recent press reports, the Tertiary Education Commission (the Commission) wishes to bring the following clarifications.

- (i) In August 2003, the R. F. Gandhi A. K. Trust, India was authorised to operate the Mauras College of Dentistry and Hospital and Oral Research Institute (trading name later changed to Indian Ocean Dental School and Hospital, IODSH) in Mauritius. The Mauras College was affiliated to the Bhavnagar University (now known as M K Bhavnagar University), India.
- (ii) One of the governing conditions of the authorisation imposed by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research at the time of setting up of the Mauras College, was that, should the College cease to operate in Mauritius, the existing students would be given the opportunity to complete their course at the Trust's College, Manubhai Patel Dental College, in India at no extra costs to the students. Manubhai Patel Dental College is also affiliated to M K Bhavnagar University.
- (iii) The College has been subject to several quality assurance exercises by the Commission since 2008. Important shortcomings, including shortage of staff, were observed and remedial actions were recommended. However, these shortcomings persisted. On this basis, the College was not authorized to enroll students till 2010.
- (iv) In May 2013, the Commission again withheld its authorisation to the College to enroll new students as it failed to comply with the Clinical Training Framework for Dental Education
- (v) On 7 February 2014, the M K Bhavnagar University, India decided to de-affiliate the IODSH for prospective students in 2014 but to maintain its affiliation for existing students, until they completed the BDS programme.
- (vi) For the past few months, the Commission has received complaints from staff of the IODSH for non-payment of salaries.
- (vii) On 13 October 2015, the Commission held consecutive meetings with Mr Johri, the Chairman of the College and existing students of Year IV and Year V of the IODSH. The latter was no longer providing dental classes and training to existing students.
- (viii) Invoking the governing condition attached to the initial condition on which authorisation was granted to the R. F. Gandhi A. K. Trust at the time of setting up, the Commission suggested that existing students should pursue their studies in India, at no additional cost to them.
- (ix) On 14 October 2015, the Chairman of IODSH informed the Commission that the IODSH is not ceasing its operations but is taking the necessary steps to transfer existing students to complete their Internship and the Year 4 at Manubhai Patel Dental College, Vadodara, at no additional cost to the students.
- (x) Consequently, the press reports to the effect that the IODSH has been de-registered by the Commission are improperly informed, false, groundless and misleading.

**The Tertiary Education Commission**  
**22 October 2015**