

## Report on Inaugural Ceremony of NABs Forensic Science Lab



NABs Forensic Science Lab was inaugurated on 20th October, 2015 by the Chairman NAB, Mr Qamar Zaman Ch. The Lab has been established by Training and Research Division, NAB HQ at G-6, Islamabad. Deputy Chairman NAB, Mr. Imtiaz Tajwar, representatives of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Australian Embassy and senior officials of NAB attended the ceremony.

In his welcome address, Director General, Training and Research NAB, Mr. Husnain Ahmad said that the idea of establishing NABs own forensic lab was firstly conceived during Pakistan Forensic Leadership Forum at Punjab Forensic Science Agency, Lahore on 29-30 May, 2013 organized by Australian Federal Police stands materialized with the help of Australian Federal Police.

He said that NAB followed up the initial idea with Australian Federal Police, who agreed and offered their sponsorship for technical and financial support in the establishment of NAB FSL. During the 19th DG's Conference, the responsibility was entrusted to T&R division and accordingly, it was principally decided that



the Lab shall work under T&R Division. Although, initially, it was planned to only establish a Digital Forensic Section, however, keeping in view the operational requirement of NAB, the scope of NAB's FSL was expended to Questioned Documents Examination and Fingerprint Analysis, as well. Accordingly the NAB FSL was established with state of the art equipment to cater the requirement of all the three sections, i.e., Digital Forensic Section, Questioned Documents Examination Section and Fingerprint Analysis Section.

He said that in Digital Forensics, the lab has:

1. Cellebrite 4PC: with its software and various types of cables to carry out Mobile Forensics for nearly all types including SIM and Mass Data forensics.
2. Mobidit Software is also available at the lab that can also be used for Mobile Forensic for capabilities not available in other software.
3. X-ways software is used for most of the Computer Forensic analysis. It helps us keep the integrity of the digital data evidence in the court due to its standard working environment.
4. iCare data Recovery is a strong tool used for Data Recovery of deleted, formatted data, which can be later be passed to the X-ways for forensics.
5. Internet Evidence Finder (IEF) is available at the lab that can perform forensic of Internet artifacts such as Whatsapp, Facebook etc.
6. FTK Imager is a basic tool to create an Image of the digital device as to keep integrity a forensic expert cannot work on actual evidence item.



He said that in the Questioned Documents Examination Section, the lab has:

1. ESDA Lite is used to develop indented writing and fingerprints which are not visible to the naked eye and after processing they can be recovered and stored permanently.
2. Stereo Compound Microscope is a wonderful tool that can enhance the size and hence can help compare the minute aspects / security features or patterns of handwriting, security documents, signatures etc.
3. Comparison Microscope is used to work simultaneously on microscopic features of sample and Questioned signatures, handwritings, security documents and many other such comparisons, side by side.

4. Fingerprint Comparison System is basically used for fingerprint forensic however the software has the capability to be used for analysis of handwriting or signature comparison.

The software and equipment mentioned in the Questioned section is also used in the Fingerprint Forensic. However, we further have Latent Fingerprint Kit which is used to develop and capture Latent fingerprints for comparison purpose.

It was further mentioned that Ministry of Interior, after a thorough consultation with Ministry of Law, has recently notified lab as officially designated laboratory for the purpose of adducing evidence in courts and has empowered our lab to conduct analysis and examine digital media devices (Computers, Cell Phones, Digital Storage Devices etc), Question Documents and Fingerprints. The prerogatives of appointments of experts rest with NAB. Accordingly, regular officers of NAB have been especially trained and posted in the required fields.



While explaining the benefits DG T&R informed that the lab will end up dependability on other labs for forensic examinations. It will also address the delay factor in getting reports from other labs. Most importantly, it will provide reality based findings and will help in maintain confidentiality in our investigative work. The lab, in addition to meeting NABs professional requirements, will also provide forensic services to other law enforcements agencies in the specified fields.



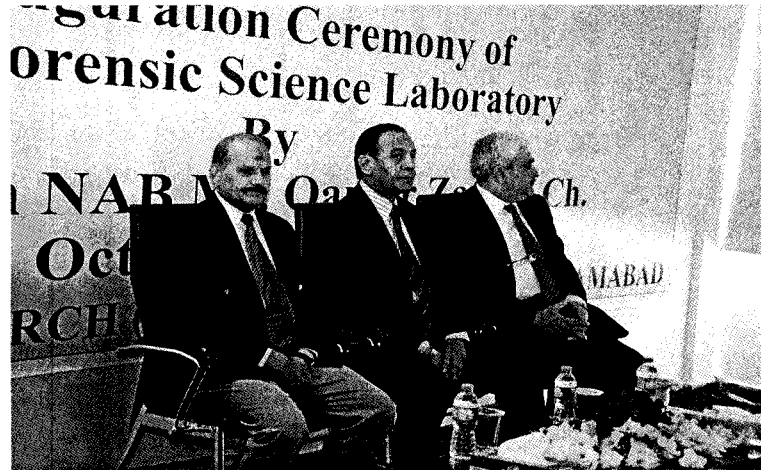
The Chairman NAB Mr. Qamar Zaman Chaudhary Chairman, while addressing on the occasion as Chief Guest said that with the help of properly functioning forensic Lab, investigation Officers (IOs) probing different high profile corruption cases will be able to produce better and quick results for NAB. Currently, NAB is taking help from other investigating agencies to meet its needs in the cases where help of forensic experts is needed.

He said the Forensic Science Lab (FSL) is established in NAB Rawalpindi with three sections i.e. Digital Forensics, Fingerprint Forensics and Questioned Documents. Establishment of Forensic Lab will help in retrieving of documents from electronic devices like Cell Phones, Computers, iPads and networks and its preservation, to determine authorship of questioned

hand writing, identity questioned typescripts and printed documents, to detect forgeries in questioned documents, to determine interpolation, additions or overwriting and substitution of papers, and to work on Questioned Fingerprints for comparison and/or identification purposes.

The Chairman further disclosed that NAB has cleared 92 % backlog of cases which have been pending for an extended period of time. He said around 1133 cases were lying in old pending list but a deadline for processing pending cases was set (June 30, 2015) and 74 per cent out of total were cleared in all shapes and forms in July this year.

The Chairman said thanks to Bureau's work force which worked diligently and achieved 92 per cent clearance of backlog till first week of October while remaining cases required further time and assured these would also be cleared soon. Enumerating the achievements and initiatives of NAB, the Chairman said the NAB is striving to rid the nation of corruption and corrupt practices by adopting zero tolerance policy across-the-board.



He said a concept of combined investigation Team (CIT) has been introduced as investigation officers and prosecution are working as a team to ensure transparency and unbiased investigations. He said a system had been formulated to standardize selection of cases. Priority is being given to cases as per the nature, the amount involved and number of affected persons, he said.

He said corruption is a plague that has a wide range of corrosive effects on societies. Historically, it is evident that only those nations have developed and remained successful who have rooted out the menace of corruption and injustice from their societies. "In a similar manner, if we in Pakistan want to become a developed nation it can only be possible if we uproot corruption from our society and show zero tolerance against corruption," he added.

The Chairman said the experience of 15 years of NAB has shown that struggle against corruption is not the fight of one man, one institution rather the responsibility lies on every citizen. "We can only win this war through collective efforts of all segments of society. We need to show cooperation and spirit to fight the monster of corruption," he said. Mr. Qamar Zaman Chaudhry, Chairman NAB said special emphasis was being laid on setting up character building societies in educational institutes across the country to build an effective edifice against corruption

He said NAB has emphasized importance of students and given them an important role in fight against corruption and added in this respect NAB has signed a MoU with Higher Education Commission (HEC).

As per MOU, NAB has started developing Character Building Societies (CBS) in the Universities, Colleges and Schools with the purpose to create awareness amongst the students regarding the adverse affects of corruption and spread the message in their homes and communities and build alliances to tackle this monster at the grass root level.

He said NAB is trying to create awareness among the people about effects of corruption. It is encouraging that for the first time anti corruption has been made a part of development agenda in the context of governance. "Our experience at fighting corruption has led us to understand that enforcement alone cannot be cure to corruption. It requires a coordinated and a concerted effort with a three pronged strategy of Awareness, Prevention and Enforcement," he said. The Chairman said the responsibility to educate the public on ill effects of corruption and to make it aware of its adverse effects lies greatly with the media. It is heartening to see that media is playing a proactive role in this drive.



He said under its proactive approach, NAB has been engaging different governmental and non-governmental organizations and civil society in its fight against corruption and to help disseminate "Say no to corruption" message from their respective platforms.