



Public Hearing Summary
Wednesday April 18, 2018

Inquiry Subject:

The Examination of the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheets and other Financial Statements of the National Commission for Self-Help Limited (NCSHL) for the financial years 2008 to 2015.

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

- Mr. Wade Mark - Chairman
- Dr. Tim Gopeesingh - Vice Chairman
- Mrs. Jennifer Baptiste-Primus - Member
- Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds - Member
- Mr. David Small - Member
- Dr. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

National Commission for Self-Help Limited

- Mr. Edgar Zephyrine - Chairman
- Ms. Janice Phillips - Administrative Head
- Mr. Vincent Graham - Director
- Mr. Gary Romain - Senior Project Officer
- Ms. Nicola Humphrey-Hamilton - Head of Finance
- Ms. Avanel Hendricks - Accounts Manager
- Ms. Lyriss Alexander - Grants Coordinator
- Ms. Anyesha Khan- Hamid - Internal Auditor

Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts

- Ms. Angela Edwards - Permanent Secretary
- Mr. Sookdeo Sankar - Planning Co-ordinator
- Ms. Desiree Modeste-Bascombe - Research Officer

Ministry of Finance – Investments Division

- Ms. Yvette Babb - Director, Social and Economic Transformation
- Ms. Kimberlene Pascall - Business Analyst (Ag.)
- Mr. Khemkaran Kissun - Senior Audit Analyst

Key Issues Discussed

1. The reasons for the absence of the Corporate Secretary/ Legal Advisor at the public hearing.
2. The failure of the NCSHL to seek approval from the Line Ministry, the Investments Division and the Public Management Consulting Division (PMCD) for the creation of several positions that were not included in the approved Organisational Structure.
3. Clarification was sought for the term “Administrative Leave”.
4. The reasons for the suspension of the Chief Executive Officer.
5. The failure of the Commission to submit Board Minutes to the Line Ministry within the stipulated deadline dates.
6. The process used to appoint the Administrative Head to perform the duties of the Chief Executive Officer.
7. The substantive position of the Administrative Head and the remuneration package paid to the Administrative Head, whilst performing the duties as Chief Executive Officer.
8. The role of the Chairman in the daily operations of NCSHL.
9. The payment of acting allowance to contract officers.
10. The frequency of Board meetings.
11. The role of the Corporate Secretary/ Legal Advisor.
12. The Commission’s disregard for several policies outlined in the State Enterprises Performance Monitoring Manual.
13. The status of the Strategic Plan for the period 2018 to 2021.
14. The procurement process used for the selection of a consultant to formulate the strategic plan for the period 2018 to 2021.
15. The urgent need for Line Ministry and the Ministry of Finance- Investments Division to strengthen their oversight role of State Enterprises.
16. The inability of the Commission to fulfil the majority of requests for grants received from applicants.
17. The number of contracts issued by the NCSHL from 2015 to present.
18. The core activities of the Commission for the period 2015 to present.
19. The dysfunctional organisational structure existing at the NCSHL.
20. The status of debts owed to suppliers and the measures in place to manage debts.
21. The status of cash-in-hand and at Bank as at September 30, 2015.
22. The status of the working relationships between the Board of Directors and Management team of the Commission.
23. The policy for the distribution of cellular phones and laptops to all Board Members without Cabinet approval.
24. The number of Internal Fraud allegations at the NCSHL.
25. The status of the recommendations made in the Internal Audit reports.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday April 25, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

View the Hearing:

The hearing can be viewed on our YouTube page via the following link:

<https://youtu.be/F9TIpJUsvCg>

PA(E)C Secretariat
April 18, 2018