

MINUTES
#9 MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
13 DECEMBER, 2010
CONFERENCE ROOM
HE THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICES

PRESENT: Karin M. Thompson Chair
Nyda Mae Flatley Member
Pastor Winston Rose Member
Deborah Bodden Manager, Commissions Secretariat
Laura Jackson Analyst, Commissions Secretariat

APOLOGIES: Roy McTaggart Member
Hedley Robinson Member

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:55 pm. Pastor Rose opened the meeting with a prayer. The Chair then welcomed all members of the Commission.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 November, 2010 were approved.

3. Outstanding Business

a. Review of Draft #2 of the SPL Bill 2010

On the 23 November 2010, the Commission received the second draft of the SPL Bill previously requested from Mr. Simamba. The CSPL discussed the draft in detail and made amendments as appropriate. The amendments will be forwarded to the Legal Drafting Department and a final meeting will then be held between the Commission Chairman and the Legal Drafting Department.

b. CSPL Policy and Procedures Manual

The Commission discussed the current draft of the policy and procedures manual and agreed that any portions requiring amendment would be addressed following the receipt of the final draft of the SPL Bill as it remains pertinent that the relevant sections work in tandem with the new legislation.

c. CTC Appointment procedures

- i. As requested in the last meeting, Mr. Ronnie Dunn, Chair of the CTC was contacted for copies of any terms of reference/written policies used for the appointment of members to the CTC. Mr. Dunn stated that the appointment of the CTC is prescribed under section 41 (2) of the Financial Regulations (2008 Revision) of which he provided a copy.
- ii. The regulations state that any and all tenders submitted with a value of \$250,000 or more must be evaluated by a Central Tenders Committee comprising of *"the chief officer of the portfolio (or his nominee) as chairman; and such other persons as may be appointed, from time to time, by the Financial Secretary"*. In light of these limited requirements the Commission believes that specific qualifications required by members (i.e. specialized professional aptitudes that pertain to and facilitate effective evaluation of public tenders) should be implemented.

- iii. Copies of Mr. Dunn's correspondence and section 41 (2) of the Financial Regulations (2008 Revision) will be forwarded to all members for their records.

4. New Business

a. CSPL Training Opportunities

- a. The Secretariat updated the Commission as previously requested to their alternatives for training which includes: a workshop with Professor Jeffrey Jowell (based on his availability); Miss Nicola Williams (Complaints Commissioner); or Mr. Alastair Swarbrick (Auditor General). Each session could address different needs of the Commission.
- b. An alternative option would be to receive guidance and/or training from a representative of the Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute. The Commission however recognized that it will need to know the full scope of its powers conferred upon by the draft SPL legislation before committing to considering this opportunity.

5. Any other business

The CSPL's second report

The Commission discussed the timeline for the completion and submission of its second report to the Legislative Assembly. The proposed deadline for submission of this report is 31 January, 2011. All members are asked to review the work of the Commission over the last six months and come prepared to provide comments in the next scheduled meeting on 17 January, 2011.

6. Items to be discussed at next meeting

- i. Contents of the Second Report of the CSPL 2010
- ii. Final Review of draft SPL Bill 2010

7. Action List

The Secretariat will indicate and forward the proposed amendments to the draft SPL Bill 2010.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting of the CSPL will be held on 17 January, 2011 at 2:30 pm in the Commissions Secretariat boardroom.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm.



Karin Thompson
CHAIR
COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE