

THE COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE

7th MEETING OF 2011

MINUTES

18 JULY, 2011

CONFERENCE ROOM

COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT

PRESENT:	Karin M. Thompson	Chair
	Nyda Mae Flatley	Member
	Hedley Robinson	Member
	Roy McTaggart	Member
	Pastor Winston Rose	Member

APOLOGIES: N/A

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Josephine Hislop	Analyst, Commissions Secretariat
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1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:40pm. Pastor Rose opened the meeting with a prayer and the Chairman then welcomed all members of the Commission.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 June, 2011 were approved.

3. Outstanding Business

a. Obtaining Public Input

The Chair advised members of the recent communications received from various media outlets and reiterated the need to ensure that the press and public are provided with a means of ascertaining the precise functions of the Commission and the manner in which these functions are being fulfilled.

A discussion ensued on the various ways that the public may be provided with the opportunity to provide input and establish meaningful dialogue to assist the Commission in fulfilling its constitutional mandate.

It was suggested that regular appearances on the local radio shows may prove an effective means of allowing the public to interact directly with members of the Commission.

It was also suggested that an area on the website could be created to solicit public feedback. It was agreed that members would provide their additional thoughts on this topic prior to the next meeting.

b. Update on SPL Bill 2011 [Fourth Draft]

As a follow up to the meeting with Sir Jeffrey Jowell on the 22nd June 2011, Members were advised that the Chairman had met with the Secretariat to finalise the recommendations that have been put forward by the Commission in relation to the provisions to be included in the draft SPL Bill. The Chairman asked that special recognition and thanks be recorded in respect to the valuable assistance provided by Mr. Gough to the Commission in this regard. The Chairman also acknowledged the positive support given by the Governor and Deputy Governor. Members were reminded by the Chairman that the Commission can only make recommendations for the provisions to be included in the proposed legislation to support standards of integrity and competence for those in public service. The Chambers of the Honourable Attorney General is responsible for the drafting of the legislation and the Legislature must pass the Law.

4. Any other business

a. Auditor General's Report

The Chairman confirmed that a copy of the Auditor General's report on the management of procurement practices had recently been received and welcomed the views of the other Commission members. It was agreed that the carefully considered and detailed findings contained in the report will be utilised to assist the Commission in the fulfilment of its constitutional mandate to review and establish procedures for the awarding of all public contracts.

b. Appointment of Persons to Statutory Boards

Members were reminded that as part of its ongoing review of the current policies and procedures for procurement by the Government the Commission has sought to define the role and relationship of the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) and the terms of reference of its members.

It was agreed that the recommendations of the Commission regarding the appointment of members of the CTC will no doubt also apply to the appointment of members to other statutory boards which has a direct bearing to the remit of the Commission as expressly stated in s.117(8)(e) of the 2009 Constitutional Order.

The Chairman noted that the Secretariat had provided her with the requested compilation of Government bodies which have statutory guidelines for appointment. The Chair posed three areas of consideration for the members to consider in terms of the Commission fulfilling their remit:

- (i) The existing frame work or the lack thereof;
- (ii) The need for uniform legislation; and
- (iii) The requirement for a clear code of conduct for members on all boards which would supplement the statutory criteria.

There was a clear consensus on the part of the members that the application of a clear code of conduct founded upon the seven "Nolan" Principles which have been adopted and restated by the Commission in its first report is essential. The Chairman also added that the requirement of a register of interests and clear guidelines could also prove to be an essential tool to reinforce the appointment process and promote transparency. The Chairman asked members to give these matters further consideration and be prepared to provide their input at the next meeting.

5. Items to be discussed at next the meeting

- a. Submission of third report
- b. Follow up on overall procurement process with regard to the AG recommendations;
- c. The Nolan Principles and their correlation to appointment of statutory boards; and
- d. Obtaining public input.

6. Action List

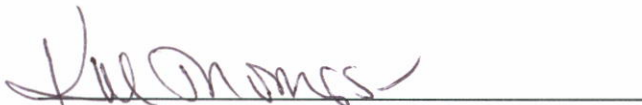
- a. Members will turn their minds to how the Nolan Principles will assist the appointment process to Statutory Boards.
- b. The Secretariat will research the laws and guidelines of appointment to statutory boards in other jurisdictions.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting of the CSPL will be held on 15 August, 2011 at 2:30 pm in the Commissions Secretariat boardroom.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20pm.



Karin Thompson
CHAIRMAN
COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE