

THE COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
2nd MEETING OF 2012
MINUTES
19th MARCH, 2012
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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

APOLOGIES: N/A

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:
Deborah Bodden Manager, Commissions Secretariat

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:35pm. 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 9 January, 2012 were approved.

3. Outstanding Business

a. Fourth Report of the Commission

Members were advised that the Fourth Report was submitted for tabling on 17 February, 2012 however it has not yet been tabled as the Legislative Assembly (LA) had not yet held a session. The Manager asked whether the Commission would like to seek legal advice on the way in which reports are submitted to the LA as the Manager has been made aware that the reports are brought to Cabinet prior to being laid in the house. The concern in this process is that the Constitution requires the Commission "...to report to the Legislative Assembly..." and as such it is felt that all members of the House should receive the report simultaneously.

b. SPL Bill

Members were advised that the Chairman is in the process of providing answers and considering changes to the Bill based on feedback received. Once this is completed she will forward this for consideration to the Attorney General's Chambers.

c. FOI

The application of the Freedom of Information Law (FOI Law) has been the subject of discussion since the very first meeting of the Commission. The legal advice provided on the matter is that the commissions created under the 2009 Constitution are not included in the entities and as such not covered by the FOI Law.

It is nevertheless recognized and accepted that the Commission, being one of the institutions created to support democracy is by its very nature charged with the duty of promoting openness

and transparency. It is also accepted that the exclusion of bodies such as this Commission could not have been a deliberate decision on the part of the Legislature. The Commission now seeks to remedy the existing anomaly to allow the Commission to be expressly brought under the operations of the FOI Law subject to the inclusion of the requisite exemptions as contemplated thereunder.

4. New Business

Meetings with Stakeholders

The Chairman continues to meet with various stakeholders in an effort to gather information on the differing remits of the Commission. Discussions have taken place regarding procurement as well as on rules and proposed statutory framework and the on-going review of statutes of proposed legislation. The Chairman has suggested the Commission host a roundtable meeting to facilitate conversations in an effort to advance the Commission's mandate in regards to procurement. The Manager has been asked to make sure arrangements inviting those persons identified as key to the procurement process.

5. Items to be discussed at next the meeting:

- a. Submission of the Fourth Report of the Commission;
- b. Status of draft SPL Bill; and
- c. Roundtable discussion.

6. Action List

The Secretariat will:

- a. request legal advice on the issue related to the submission of Commission reports;
- b. draft a letter to the Governor re: FOI; and
- c. will begin organising a roundtable discussion as outlined above.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting of the CSPL will be held on 16th of April, 2012 at 2:30 pm.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.



Karin Thompson
CHAIRMAN
COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE