



Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday April 25, 2018

Inquiry Subject:

The Continuation of 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
- Mrs. Jennifer Baptiste-Primus - Member
- Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds - Member
- Mr. David Small - Member
- Dr. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly - Member
- Mrs. Cherrie-Ann Crichlow-Cockburn - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

National Commission for Self-Help Limited

- Mr. Edgar Zephyrine - Chairman
- Ms. Janice Phillips - Administrative Head
- Mr. Vincent Graham - Director
- Ms. Kendra Thomas-Long - Corporate Secretary/ Legal Advisor
- Mr. Gary Romain - Senior Project Officer
- Ms. Nicola Humphrey-Hamilton - Head of Finance
- Ms. Avel 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 major challenges faced by NCSHL over the period 2008 to 2015.
2. The purpose of the various bank accounts held by the Commission at the First Citizens Bank.
3. The correlation between the cash balances and the number of grants issued.
4. The capacity of the Internal Auditor to effectively perform the functions of internal auditing.
5. The status of the recommendations made in the Human Resources Department Audit Review in the year 2017.
6. The failure of the Management team to respond to the recommendations made in the Human Resources Department Audit Review in the year 2017.
7. The oversight role of the Ministry of Finance-Investments Division in assessing the human resources' capacity within the NCSHL.
8. The lack of approval from the Line Ministry with respect to the withdrawal of funds from the Abercrombie Account at First Citizens Bank.
9. The status of Bad Debts.
10. The process of implementing a policy to safeguard assets against theft.
11. The status of the \$11Mn debt inherited by the Board upon its appointment in the year 2015.
12. The reasons for the refusal of suppliers to acknowledge Purchase Orders made by NCSHL.
13. The clarification of the term 'Directors' Other Expenses'.
14. The reasons for the absence of the Corporate Secretary at the 28th Meeting of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee held on April 18, 2015.
15. The reasons for the disbursement of funds to individuals.
16. The basis for seeking contractors to provide assistance to communities with infrastructural projects as opposed to utilising technical capacity within the NCSHL.
17. The payments made to contractors in relation to the mandate of the NCSHL.
18. The status of the actions taken to address the non-approval of the creation of several positions that were not included in the approved Organisational Structure.
19. The number of grants issued by the NCSHL over the period 2015 to present.
20. The deviation of the Commission from its original mandate.
21. The role of the Corporate Secretary in providing guidance to the Board of Directors.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday May 2, 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/n-2-8E9XdrQ>

PA(E)C Secretariat

April 25, 2018