

**2nd MEETING OF 2012
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MINUTES
7 MARCH, 2012
CONFERENCE ROOM
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

PRESENT: Richard Coles Chairman
Sara Collins Member
Rev. Nicholas Sykes Member
Alistair Walters Member

APOLOGIES: Cathy Frazier Member

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Deborah Bodden Manager, Commissions Secretariat
Michael Ebanks Analyst, Commissions Secretariat

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m.

2. Confirmation of previous minutes

The minutes of 1 February 2012 were confirmed.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

a. Qualifications / Requirements for Human Rights Mediators

The sub-committee on the matter provided a framework outlining potential criteria for volunteer mediators. All members are now asked to provide feedback on the framework so that a public application process can be undertaken to select the three members which will form the HRC's mediation group.

b. ICTA

The Chairman and one member met with the Deputy Commissioner of Police (RCIPS) to discuss RCIPS policies on interception of telecommunications. Overall, the Commission agreed the document is in compliance with human rights standards. HRC was concerned to note that the Audit Committee has yet to be appointed and the Commission will write to the Governor urging the Governor in Cabinet to appoint the Committee as soon as possible.

c. Cuban Migrants Policy

A sub-committee on the subject matter was scheduled to meet with the Chief Immigration Officer on 6 March 2012 however that meeting was re-scheduled for a later date. The Sub-Committee has indicated that they will be considering Migrant Policies as a whole and not just the issue as it relates to Cuban nationals.

d. Freedom of Expression versus Parliamentary Privilege

The HRC has concluded a research report on the subject matter and has now asked that the Secretariat provide copies to the relevant parties and place it on their website.

4. New Business

a. Good Governance Fund

The HRC notes the opportunity to apply for funds from the UK Good Governance Fund and is exploring various possibilities for which funds may be applicable.

5. Human Rights Complaints

a. Human Rights Complaint 001/2012

The Commission reviewed this complaint and requested the Secretariat follow up with gathering relevant information to assist in determining whether this case should be considered.

b. Human Rights Complaint 002/2012

The Commission will review this complaint.

6. Any other Business

Amendment to PSML

In response to the HRC's concerns that they have limited power to compel any person to do anything and the possibility that this sometimes affects their ability to receive information from public officers in investigating complaints of alleged breaches, the Honourable Attorney General has indicated that consideration could be given to amend the PSML to assist in this respect. The Secretariat will indicate the Commission's interest in such an amendment.

Mahogany Estates Appeal Hearing

HRC member Nicholas Sykes informed the Commission that the matter of the Mahogany Estates appeal hearing was re-scheduled from 13 February, 2012 to 13 March, 2012.

Minutes of the Deputy Governor and Chief Officers' Meeting

The HRC was pleased to note the Deputy Governor's meeting minutes of 27 February 2012 in which all Chief Officers were requested to engage in a process of revising and drafting policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the Bill of Rights.

Prison Inspection Scheduled for Cayman Islands

The HRC has become aware, through the media, that "Governor Duncan Taylor, at the request of the Portfolio, invited the UK prisons inspectorate to conduct a full inspection of Northward and Fairbanks Prisons. A team of two inspectors have been on island this week to do some preliminary assessments and a full inspection is scheduled to take place early in the 2012/13 budget year." (Cayman Compass, 2 March 2012). The HRC will correspond with the Chief Officer for the Portfolio of Internal and External Affairs to arrange a meeting with the team of inspectors during their visit to the Cayman Islands to discuss human rights with regard to the prisons.

7. Action Items

The HRC agreed to embark on a research project considering what implication each right has to Government.

8. Items to be discussed at the next meeting

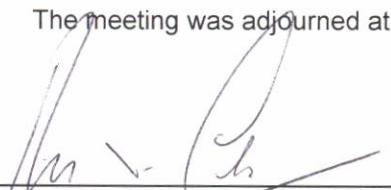
- a. Finalisation of Human Rights Mediator Requirements
- b. Response to ICTA Correspondence
- c. Migrant Policy
- d. Opportunities for Good Governance Fund
- e. Response to request to meet with Prison Inspection Team
- f. Implication of Rights

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 2nd May, 2012 @ 3:30 pm.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.



Mr. Richard Coles
CHAIRMAN
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION