

MINUTES
8th MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
11 AUGUST, 2010
CONFERENCE ROOM
COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT

PRESENT: Richard Coles Chairman
Rev. Nicholas Sykes Member
Catherine Frazier Member
Alistair Walters Member

APOLOGIES: Sara Collins Member

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Deborah Bodden Manager
Michael Ebanks Analyst

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. Confirmation of previous minutes

The minutes of the 13th July, 2010 meeting was approved by the Commission.

3. Outstanding Business

a. Update on Mental Health Research

- i. The Secretariat reported to the Commission that research is on-going into the subject matter, and data gathering continues to progress through information exchange with various authorities relating to the topic.
- ii. Research by the Secretariat on the subject matter will continue with the intention of generating a synopsis of the current situation for the Commission to make a final decision regarding conducting a full investigation and preparing a report.

b. Public Education Campaign Ideas

- i. Members discussed various strategies / initiatives aimed at promoting awareness and understanding of human rights within the Cayman Islands in accordance with statutory obligation. The Commission remains cognizant of the various target audiences in relation to maximizing the outcome of education campaigns.

c. Organization of International Human Rights Day

- i. Members discussed events and communication strategies to bring about awareness of International Human Rights Day, which will be observed on Friday 10th December, 2010. The Commission's aim is to configure strategies to appropriately target various audiences using a wide range of resources and catalysts including, although not limited to, technology, radio, television, and the arts.

d. Training of Commission Members

- i. The Commission is waiting confirmation amongst members regarding scheduling of training. Presently, opportunities exist in at least two countries, and the Commission is keen on taking advantage of such opportunities as a means in which to enhance operational effectiveness and efficiency.

e. Response from Challenge Fund

The Commission received a response from the U.K. Department for International Development (Challenge Fund). The Commission was granted £9,400 to advance the awareness and understanding of human rights within the Cayman Islands.

f. Update on Appearance on Talk Live

The Chairman appeared as a guest on the morning radio show- Talk Live. For the duration of his appearance on the show Mr. Coles received questions and provided answers concerning human rights matters.

g. Update on Meeting between HRC Chairman and Director of Prisons (Northward)

- i. The meeting took place on Monday 9th August 2010.
- ii. The Chairman was made aware of the processes, procedures, and training within the prison as it relates to human rights compliance.
- iii. The Director conveyed that prison officials provide training in general for other jurisdictions in the region.
- iv. The Commissions Secretariat provided the prison with packets, containing formal HRC complaint forms and process guidelines, for use by Northward prisoners desiring to file a human rights complaint with the Human Rights Commission.
- v. The Chairman was advised by the Director that the prison utilizes a human rights manual in its operations as a guide to progressing operations toward full human rights compliance.

h. Judge Alone Trials

The Chairman mentioned that an additional response on the subject of Judge Alone Trials was sent to the Acting Attorney General. The letter sought to provide the Attorney General's Chambers with input as it relates to human rights concerns held by the Commission. All members had previously received a copy.

4. New Business

a. Constitutional Stipulations, "Prescribed by Law"

A letter from the Attorney General's Chambers on the subject matter was circulated to all members and response to the AG will be prepared following research into the matter.

b. Enquiry RE: Economic Human Rights

A letter was prepared by the Chairman in response to a query posed by a member of the public regarding the status of Economic Human Rights in the Cayman Islands. [A formal human rights complaint was not received by the HRC in relation to this query].

c. Enquiry RE: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

A response will be prepared by the Chairman in response to a query posed by a member of the public regarding the International Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights. Particularly, the letter shall clarify Part 3, Article 14, Item 7 of the ICCPR, which was the basis of the query. *N.B. – The ICCPR is an international treaty extended to the Cayman Islands. [A formal human rights complaint was not received by the HRC in relation to this query].*

d. Enquiry RE: Violation of Civil Liberties

Correspondence was exchanged between a member of the public and the Secretariat regarding a query into violation of civil liberties. [A formal human rights complaint was not received by the HRC in relation to this query].

e. Legal Sub-Committee Report on Persons with Disabilities

The draft report was received by the Commission, and although a formal request for constructive review was not received by the Commission, the Chairman asked members to peruse the document for feedback.

f. Appearance on Talk Today (6th September 2010)

The Commission was reminded of a scheduled appearance on Talk Today (Radio Cayman), which is to take place on 6th September 2010. The Commission is engaged in an education campaign to promote an understanding of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Appearances on Talk Today are scheduled for the first Monday of every month (indefinitely).

g. Response to Letter RE: CCTV

The Portfolio of Internal and External Affairs provided the Commission with a draft document pertaining to the operations of the proposed public system CCTV initiative. The Commission is engaged in a data-gathering process to research the human rights implications of a public CCTV system in the Cayman Islands. The Commission will prepare a formal response following a review of the draft CCTV Code of Practice.

5. Human Rights Complainants

The Commission discussed matter pertaining to complaints: 001/2010, 002/2010, 13/2010, 14/2010, 15/2010, 16/2010.

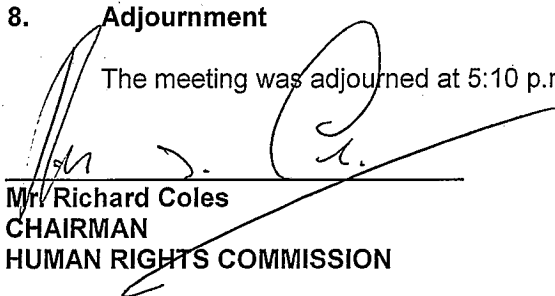
6. Items to be discussed at the next meeting

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th September, 2010 @ 3:30pm in the Commissions Secretariat Boardroom.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.



Mr Richard Coles
CHAIRMAN
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION