



CARRIACOU & PETITE MARTINIQUE FESTIVALS BOARD

Report prepared by The Integrity Commission

Executive Summary

The Office of the Integrity Commission (“the Commission”) was set up to ensure integrity in public life. The Commission is the lead agency in Grenada responsible for the anti-corruption system. This includes receiving and investigating complaints regarding any alleged breaches of the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act No. 24 of 2013 (“PCA”) or the Integrity in Public Life Act No. 24 of 2013 (“IPLA”).

Complaint

On December 19, 2019, Ms. Valerie Thompson, Social Activist (“the Complainant”) who resides in Carriacou, sent to the Commission a complaint pursuant to the Integrity in Public Life Act No. 24 of 2013 (“IPLA”).

The complaint was with respect to the operations and management of the Festivals Board. The Carriacou and Petite Martinique Festivals Board was established by Act No. 14 of 2015, The Carriacou and Petite Martinique Festivals Act (CPMFA).

The functions of the Festivals Board include:

- a. Coordinate, promote and facilitate all public festivals;
- b. Conduct any activity or business related to the promotion of public festivals;
- c. Advise the Minister on the development of public festivals and cultural activities;
- d. Engage in any activity which it thinks necessary for the proper discharge of its functions (Section 4 CPMFA).

In reviewing the Complaint, the Commission identified the following seven issues:

1. Whether the representative of the Petite Martinique festivals sits lawfully on the Festivals Board;
2. Whether Ms. Indra Scott has the requisite qualifications to sit on the Festivals Board;
3. Whether the Festivals Board is properly constituted;
4. Whether Conflict of Interest issues arose from the appointment of the Minister’s sister to the Festivals Board;
5. Whether the Chairman of the Festivals Board engaged in “insider trading” by providing services from his company to the Festivals Board;

Executive Summary

6. Whether the Minister has too much power under the Act;
7. Whether the Festivals Board has a duty under the Act to provide Financial Reports to the public following the conclusion of festivals.

In reviewing the complaint, the Commission found that many of the issues while being valued as important concerns and issues of transparency, did not really fall in the ambit of corrupt practices ‘per se’.

Some of the actions may lead to conflicts of interest and acts conducive to corruption if they are not adequately addressed and the necessary steps and procedures put in place. Hence the proposed recommendations.

Summary Recommendations

The Commission proposes the following main recommendations, among others:

1. Consideration should be given to naming the Petite Martinique Regatta Festival as a National Festival based on the interpretation of the Carriacou and Petite Martinique Festivals Act.
2. Persons in Public Life who have responsibility for appointing persons to Boards, Committees and Positions should refrain from appointing as far as possible, close family members to positions which can result in apparent conflicts of interest.
3. The Commission proposes to give guidance to the Festivals Board on the establishment of a Conflict of Interest Management Policy so as to ensure that public trust and confidence are preserved and enhanced.
4. It would be useful to sensitize the public during meetings on the powers of a Minister as legislated. The term Minister means a Minister in Cabinet and therefore Cabinet approval is required for decisions/actions taken by the Minister.
5. For the duration of Mr. Stafford’s tenure as Chairman, to avoid conflict of interest and a perception of “insider trading”, he should always recuse himself from any decision making process with respect to issuing of contracts for event services, so that the Board is in compliance with the Procurement and Disposal of Property Act.
6. The Festivals Board, as a public body, should release statements or reports to the public and/or stakeholders, following the conclusion of all festivals. The reports should contain an

Executive Summary

assessment of achievements, a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats), the names of the winners (if there are prize winners) and a revenue/expenditure statement.