

Editorial !

Welcome to the first issue of the PEMC half yearly newsletter.

The newsletter will keep you posted on the work of the Public Enterprise Monitoring Commission. We will also bring you any updates on the major happenings of the public enterprises themselves. In this issue and sub sequent one, a special column will be dedicated to the PEMC Act so that the readers get to know more about the functions, mandate and responsibilities of the Commission.



Message from CEO

It's already been one year since the enactment of the Public Enterprise Monitoring Commission Act 2013. The past year can be described as one filled with a mix of challenges and achievements. One of the main hindrances that persist is the timely reporting of some public enterprises (PEs) to the Commission. Nonetheless, during the next coming months, PEMC will continue to work closely with PEs so that they understand the obligations attached to submitting their monthly

and annual reports promptly. Despite the setbacks, the Commission remains focus on achieving its core mandate, whilst at the same time forging a partnership with the public enterprises. The Commission plans to meet with the PEs through meetings and forum so as to address ongoing issues and concerns.

I would like to thank all the PEs who has been giving us their support. I hope that we continue to work as a team so that together we can achieve much more not only for the organisations themselves but for the betterment of the country.

UPDATES APPOINTMENT OF NEW CEO

On the first of July 2013, the President appointed Ms. Sitna Cesar as the new head of the Public Enterprise Monitoring Commission (PEMC). Ms. Cesar was formerly the Comptroller-General in the Ministry of Finance, Trade & Investment, and has also worked as consultant to the same ministry.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES PEMC BILL

In March 2013, the National Assembly approved the establishment of the Public Enterprise Monitoring Commission. (PEMC) Currently there are twenty four state owned commercial Public Enterprises which has been

established using public financial resources. PEMC replaces what was formerly known as the Public Enterprises Monitoring Division set up in 2009 within the Ministry Of Finance. Whilst its main responsibilities remain more or less similar, the status as a Commission allows it to carry out its responsibilities in a more independent manner.

The Commission critical role is of making recommendations regarding the re-structuring, re-organising and monitoring of public enterprises so as to improve efficiency in the provision of essential services and ensuring that Government receives maximum returns on its investments.

QUIZ!

Test Your Knowledge

Answers at the back of page.2

QUESTION 1: Before becoming an independent Commission, what was PEMC called?

QUESTION 2: How many commercial public enterprises currently falls under the PEMC Act?

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: *"To monitor and evaluate the overall performance of Public Enterprises and to promote ethics of good governance in all their business transactions".*

TRAINING

A member of staff from the Commission (Mr. Jude Commettant) had the opportunity to further develop his skills through a training programme hosted by 'Intelligent Africa' in Namibia. The training course was entitled 'International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), Financial Statement Fraud and Governance. This took place from the 2nd to the 6th of September in 2013'.

- ◇ Ms. Roseline Houareau from PEMC attended a three day training in Dubai in International Corpo-

rate Governance in Dubai from the 3rd to the 5th June 2014. The training focused on :

- Corporate governance
- The Board
- Strategic Leadership and Risk Management
- Financial Stewardship and Accountability
- Leading, planning and improvement

The training was conducted by the CCL Academy . CCL is an accredited training provider for the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment and the Chartered Banker Institute.



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Staffs from the Commission visited the L'union Estate Company in February this year to participate in a meeting held at the Company. The discussions were primarily centred on facilitating the company's shift from its internal procurement system being governed by the Government's 'Procurement Act 2008', to having its own procurement regime fully administered by the company itself. The meeting was primarily between the management team of the company and staff from the Procurement Oversight Unit. It presented a chance for the Commission to keep abreast of major policy changes affecting the company as well as the opportunity to comment and contribute on the methodology being used to undertake the change for the wellbeing of the Company as a whole and ultimately the Government.



Visit to L'Union Estate

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KNOW MORE ABOUT THE PEMC ACT 2013

In this issue , readers will learn more of the main aims objectives of the PEMC as stipulated in the PEMC Act 2013.

The main aims of the PEMC are to :

- ◇ Ensure that Public Enterprises are properly controlled and managed for the purposes of better performance, transparency and accountability.
- ◇ Improve efficiency and competitiveness of the economy
- ◇ To foster and accelerate the macro-economic stability of the country and to provide for matters connected therewith

The main objectives of the Commission are to:

- ◇ Monitor and evaluate the overall performance of the Public Enterprises (PEs)
- ◇ Ensure efficient operation of PEs
- ◇ Promote ethic of good governance in all business transactions
- ◇ Give recommendations to improve performance of the public enterprises

QUIZ ANSWER

1. Public Enterprise Monitoring Division
2. 21



PEMC ORGANISED A FORUM

Chief executive, board chairpersons and finance officers of public enterprises met for a half day forum in August last year to learn more about laws and regulations that govern their operations. The Forum was launched by the Finance, Trade and Investment Minister Mr. Pierre Laporte. In his opening address, Mr. Laporte described the role of PEMC as that of a partner helping in the effort to bring more accountability and transparency to the people. Mr. Laporte pointed out that the government takes the management of public enterprises seriously and we all have to ensure that they are run in an efficient and transparent manner.

The OECD NETWORK on the Governance of State-Owned Enterprises in Southern Africa



Two staffs represented the Commission at the fourth meeting of the OECD Network on the governance of state-owned enterprises in Southern Africa.

The meeting was held in Swakopmund, Namibia on the 18-19 November, 2013. During the meeting of 2012, the State Owned Enterprise (SOE) Network for Southern Africa agreed to develop a set of regional guidelines governance for state owned enterprises governance.

A task force was established with the purpose of devising a draft guideline. Hence, the main purpose of the meeting in 2013 was the presentation of the draft to the Network at its annual meeting in Namibia. The meeting served as an opportunity for national delegations to provide comments on the draft.

National delegates also discuss the development of a company guidance for public enterprises concerning corruption and corporate ethics.

The meeting ended with a tour of the Namibian Port Authority facilities run by Namport (a PE) in Port Walvis Bay-Namibia's largest commercial port.



Know more about the SOE (State Owned Enterprise) Network for Southern Africa

Since 2007, in response to the need for improving the governance of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in the region, the OECD has been working with local partners to build the SOE Network for Southern Africa.

The Network held its first meeting in Cape Town, South Africa in May 2008, its second meeting in 2009 in Maputo, Mozambique, and was re-launched in 2012 in Midrand, South Africa thanks to funding support from the Norwegian Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The Network is the first regional cooperation of its kind to focus on SOE governance in the region and mainly covers the member economies of the SADC region. The Network aims to support reformers and policy makers in the region to enhance the performance of SOEs through governance improvements, while also taking into consideration structural policy challenges and pressing development priorities.



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