



Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms



07 April, 2010

Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms
Circular Letter No 20 of 2010
E/437/1/01 V2

From: Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms

To: Supervising Officers i/c Ministries/ Departments

Departmental Whitley Council

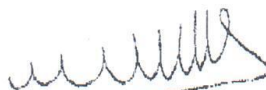
It is viewed with concern that in spite of repeated advice to Ministries/ Departments to hold regular Departmental Whitley Council meetings, representations are still being received from staff associations to the effect that requests for meetings to discuss departmental issues are not being entertained.

2. As you are aware, the Departmental Whitley Council was established through Regulations made under the defunct Industrial Relations Act. However, we have been advised by the Attorney General's Office that Regulations made under that Act are deemed to be in force provided they are not inconsistent with the provisions of the Employment Relations Act.

3. The Employment Relations Act which replaces the Industrial Relations Act provides for the setting up of a negotiating body at the level of each Ministry/Department upon the strength of a Procedure Agreement. Given that the Procedure Agreement has not yet been finalized and in view of the fact that the Regulations still stand good, it is fully incumbent upon Supervising Officers to abide by the provisions of the Whitley Council Regulations and to hold regular meetings with staff associations concerned. Such meetings help to establish sound dialogue and a harmonious relationship between management and staff associations and inevitably contribute to address and resolve labour issues and grievances.

4. Supervising Officers are, therefore, strongly urged to proceed accordingly. Departmental Whitley Council meetings should be chaired by the Supervising Officer or by a senior officer not below the level of a Principal Assistant Secretary with delegated powers to take decisions.

5. I rely on your usual understanding and co-operation.



(S. Seebaluck)

Senior Chief Executive

Copy to: Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service