

PUBLIC ENTERPRISES PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE

Report of the Portfolio Committee on Public Enterprises on the “International Executive Short Course on Public Sector Reform” in Australia and New Zealand, dated 15 November 2006

The Portfolio Committee on Public Enterprises, having delegated Mr Zunaid Kotwal MP to attend the “International Executive Short Course on Public Sector Reform” in Australia and New Zealand reports as follows:

1. An International Executive Short Course on Public Sector Reform was held in Australia and New Zealand from ? to ? October, 2006. The organizers of this programme, were Aus-HS ?, Australian Habitat Studies. The director is, Dr, Behnam Ta’i. Mr Victor Greenspoon who was the chief co-ordinator, is currently serving as Aus-HS Training co-ordinator in Thailand and has extensive experience in international capacity building programmes.
2. The course was attended by about 40 delegates mainly from India, South Africa, Nigeria, Phillipines, and Malaysia. The Portfolio Committee on Public Enterprises decided that Mr Zunaid Kotwal should participate in the course. The Portfolio Committee on Social Development decided that Mr Tshililo Michael Masutha should attend the course.
3. The aim of the course was to educate participants from the various spheres of government on how to practice good governance. Good governance is only attainable if the various government departments implement systematic and renewed public sector reform.
4. The presentations on the various sectors were delivered by a host of Australian and New Zealand professors. Dr.Ta’I, the Chief Director of the entire course delivered a presentation on good governance which focused primarily on leadership, and how good political leadership inevitably downstreams to good governance. The overall message of the presentation stressed eight key characteristics that underlined a good leader in any sphere of government. These were participation, accountability, transparency, responsibility, efficiency, consensus

orientation, following the rule of law, equitable and inclusive and lastly responsiveness.

5. The programme included a tour of Sydney to view the level and quality of development of the host city. A lengthy presentation on the history, geography, economy, government and people of Australia was offered by Professor Peter Murphy, the Dean of the Faculty of the Built Environment Centre at the University of New South Wales.
6. An in-depth presentation on capacity building was delivered by Dr. Behnam Ta'I and this module proved to be very beneficial in identifying key areas that need attention at the various levels of government. The objective of capacity building is the need for human resources to be adequately trained and built as a prerequisite for reform and good governance.
7. Professor Percy Allan, a graduate in management and a professor in public policy at the School of Business and Government at the University of Canberra, has 18 years working experience at the Treasury of New South Wales. One of his responsibilities was reformation of the State's financial management framework to achieve world best practice. He has helped national and local governments in China, India, Thailand and Indonesia in the areas related to public sector management and financial reforms. His presentation on the Australian Public Sector Management is key for other countries to look into and perhaps use certain aspects for implementation.
8. Professor Percy Allan discussed Performance Management Principles in government by outlining four key issues, planning, acting, monitoring and reviewing, as the basis of a sound system. Undoubtedly, if implemented correctly, this system makes for workable government through various sectors. However, it must be stressed that all levels and spheres of government have to be adequately educated and trained.
9. A field visit to a housing showcase and Olympic site was also undertaken to view and observe the quality of Australian infrastructure. This event concluded the five day presentation in Sydney, Australia. All participants thereafter departed for Auckland, New Zealand for the continuation of the programme.

understand the public sector, the need for reform and different types of reform. He outlined possible reform in the context of good governance and thereby set strategies.

12. The conclusion of the three day Auckland included an extensive tour of the city, followed by the presentation of certificates. The course proved to be both stimulating and equally rewarding.