

**C/239/2022**

**Anonymous Complaint regarding alleged malpractices at the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology**

On 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022, this Office received an anonymous complaint against the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology regarding an alleged abuse of power by one Director, resulting in cases of maladministration.

The comments of the Ministry were sought on the points raised and the following were noted:

(i) Employment of Directors on a contractual basis

The Ministry reported that it resorted to the employment on contract of Directors due to a shortage of staff and the fact that the scheme of service of Director was being reviewed. This Office also noted that the scheme of service had been prescribed and the vacancy had already been reported to the Public Service Commission.

(ii) Two parking slots being occupied by one Officer

Approval was obtained for the most senior Quality Assurance Officer/ Senior Quality Assurance Officer to be designated to give assistance in the conduct of the first phase of the SEACMEQ V international project. The SEACMEQ V project required a lot of booklet transfers from one Office to another, thus requiring an appropriate parking slot for the incumbent to facilitate the transfer of such booklets (in big boxes).

In this connection, the Officer was allocated a parking lot at Headquarters and shared office space with other technical staff. After completion of his part of the project, the Officer was reverted to the NPF Building at Rose Hill.

(iii) Selection of Officers for mission to Rodrigues, ADEA Conference 2022 and 'APPRENDRE' project

The Ministry was requested to submit a list of Officers in the cadres selected for the official mission to Rodrigues, ADEA Conference 2022 and "APPRENDRE" project, with details of their

seniority placing, conferences attended during the last 3 years as well as the respective selection criteria. After examining the documents submitted, it was noted that other Officers were also selected for the training whilst those named were selected for the ADEA Conference as they already had previous working experience.

In view of the justifications provided by the Ministry, no further scope of investigation in this matter was possible.