

LA/C/60/2022

Alleged Malpractices at Notre Dame Village Council

On 14 November 2022, this Office received an anonymous complaint regarding malpractices at Notre Dame Village Council, such as, irregular opening and closing time, poor treatment of members of the public attending events organized thereat and the financing of those events.

The complaint was referred both to the District Council of Pamplémousses and the Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management. On 09 January 2023, the Council reported that an internal enquiry was conducted and the following was *interalia*, reported:

- (i) On 15 September 2022, a meeting was held at the Village Hall regarding the organization of a football tournament;
- (ii) No political meetings are held at the Village Hall;
- (iii) The Village Hall sometimes remains open till late under the responsibility of the Chairperson of the Village Council or any other Councillor delegated by him, for training of the local residents for Billiard and Table Tennis;
- (iv) No foul language is used at the Village Hall as far as possible;
- (v) The Councillors very often organise activities out of their own contributions and sometimes sponsorship in kind is received since the budget of the Village Council is not sufficient to cater for all activities,

The Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management re-submitted the same report to this Office and added that it was already in presence of the anonymous letter.

Since there was not enough evidence to substantiate the allegations made, this Office had no alternative than closing the case after receipt of the comments of both authorities. It is nonetheless hoped that the enquiry will draw attention of the concerned persons to the fact that any malpractice will be investigated.