

**C/215/2024**

**Own Motion - Anonymous complaint against a senior officer of the District Council of Back River**

On 13 August 2024, our Office received an anonymous complaint on alleged wrongdoings of a senior officer of the Black River District Council and the oppression faced by the employees of the Council.

The Internal Control Unit (ICU) of the Ministry of Local Government carried out an enquiry and its findings and recommendations are as follows: -

- i). regarding the allegation that Council's vehicle was being used by the senior officer for her personal errands, it has been proposed that the signatures of both the officer effecting the travelling and the Controlling Officer be inserted in the vehicle log book;
- ii). a blood pressure apparatus purchased for the Welfare Department was not available for verification on 10 December 2024 and was produced for verification on 13 December 2024. It was recommended that Government assets should be readily available for verification to any inspection teams;
- iii). accusations of bribery, modification and tampering of official records, leakage of information and any alleged collusion between the senior officer and other personnel of the Council, the ICU recommended that the matter be referred to the relevant competent authority for further investigations;
- iv). administrative and HR matters have to be looked into by the Ministry;
- v). a digital camera make Nikon Z50 was purchased for the Chief Executive's Department; and
- vi). the remaining allegations could not be verified due to inadequate information.

In the circumstance, the Ministry of Local Government would request the Chief Executive of the Council to implement the recommendations of the ICU. The other allegations were reported to be vague and unfounded by the Ministry but would be looked into for appropriate remedial actions as appropriate.

We sincerely hope that the sender of the anonymous letter visits our website, and take cognizance of the information provided.