

C/155/2023

Anonymous complaint from Staff of a District Council.

On 09th June 2023, this Office received an anonymous letter containing several allegations, including, staff being forced to perform tasks outside their scheme of service, construction materials procured by the Council used by Officers in the Public Health Department, for their personal use, forgery in attendance, etc.

The views of the Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management and the District Council concerned were sought and this Office was informed, on 30th June 2023, that an enquiry Committee had been set up to conduct a full investigation. The Ministry also stated that some of the allegations could be unfounded as the works mentioned, *viz*, masonry, carpentry, bar bending and electrical were performed by the Public Infrastructure Department, whereas, the accusations were against Officers who were posted in the Health Department.

On 22nd August 2023, this Office was informed by the Ministry that the District Council had reported as follows:

- (i) the masonry, carpenter, welding and electrical works were performed by the Public Infrastructure Department, thus the allegations made against the Public Health Officers were unfounded. The Public Health Department is mainly responsible for refuse collection service, market and fairs, cemeteries and trade fees. To ascertain the allegation of attendance forgery that "*ligne pour ligne les noms entrant correspondent a celles des noms sortant*" a sample check was carried out but no such practice was observed.
- (ii) Moreover, the daily tasks assigned were measured and certified by the Field Supervisor (Scavenging) and Health Inspectors to confirm effectiveness of responsibilities being carried out.
- (iii) No evidence was gathered regarding the allegation of Supervising staff giving lifts to female staff and going to 'pensionnats'; and
- (iv) One of the Officers named in the letter of complaint displays a positive attitude and is well respected at work.

This complaint being anonymous, the comments of the aggrieved staff could not be sought to cross-check the information provided.