

**Hector Kobbekaduwa**

**Agrarian Research and Training Institute**

**Implementation of the Recommendations of  
Committee on Public Enterprises**

**Meeting held on July 25, 2017**

**The First Session of the Eighth Parliament**  
**Committee on Public Enterprises**

**97th meeting held in fifth committee room at 2.30 pm on July 25, 2017**

**Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute**

|    | <b>Facts Discussed</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Recommendations by the Committee<br/>on Public Enterprise</b>                                                                                           | <b>Present Situation and the Progress<br/>regarding the Recommendations of<br/>the Committee on the Public<br/>Enterprise</b>                                       |
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| 01 | <p><u>Composition of Board of Directors</u></p> <p>The committee inquired as to why the secretary of the state ministry was functioning as the chairman of the Board of Governors since the secretary of the ministry in charge of the subject of agriculture should be the Chairman of the Board of Governors as per the Act of the Institute.</p> <p>The Secretary to the Ministry stated that since the subject of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute had been placed under the Ministry of Agriculture by Gazette Extraordinary No. 1986/6 dated 26 September 2016, the Secretary of the State Ministry had been appointed as Chairman of the Board of Governors.</p> | <p>In order to preempt any problematic situation in future, consulting the Attorney General's Department regarding the legal situation in this regard.</p> | <p>As per the instructions given by the Attorney General, Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture is serving as the Chairman of the Board of Governors by now.</p> |

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| 02 | <p><u>Non-functioning of the Internal Audit Committee</u></p> <p>The Committee inquired about the non-issue of any audit query for a period of nearly six months due to the internal audit division being non-functional.</p> <p>The Director/ Chief Executive Officer said that the Internal Auditor had been released from the service until an inquiry was held consequent to an issue that arose at the commencement of the year 2017 and added that the report of the Ministry of Public Administration had been received as of now and action would be taken accordingly.</p> | Pay special attention to this matter and take necessary actions. | <p>Apart from the inquiry held by the Ministry about an issue (misconduct) regarding the Internal Auditor, a formal domestic inquiry has also been conducted in the year 2018. According to its observations and conclusions, allegations raised against the Internal Auditor were observed and those observations and conclusions were sent to the board meeting held on October, 2018 by preparing a board paper under the No. 367 to take necessary disciplinary action.</p> <p>As per the decisions taken by the Board of Governors, instructions have been given to issue a warning letter to her and file it in her personnel file.</p> <p>This issue has solved by taking necessary actions according to that and audit queries are doing duly by her as of now.</p> |
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| 03 | <p><u>Breaching of contracts by foreign scholarship recipients</u></p> <p>The committee inquired about a sum of Rs 15,992,125 receivable from foreign scholarship holders for the breach of contracts who had followed post graduate courses in foreign universities.</p> | <p>The Director/ Chief Executive Officer said that there only remained 10 scholarships holders as of now and that two of them had reached a settlement on the payments and a ruling in favour of the institution had been received following consultation with the Attorney General's Department in respect of two others and that strategic action was expected to be adopted for the recovery of dues from the remaining six.</p> | <p>There is a receivable amount of Rs 15,387,987.91 from nine foreign scholarship holders as at December 31, 2018.</p> <p>The amount of two foreign scholarship holders out of these nine, is receiving from guarantors. One of the foreign scholarship holders, Ms. A. C. K. Sepala has paid until January , 2018 in installments. A reminder was sent by the Attorney General to Ms. A. C. K. Sepala to recover the remaining amount.</p> <p>The court verdict of the case which was filed to recover the remaining foreign scholarship debtors balance of Rs 5,226,878.10 of Mr. Gamini Wickramasinghe has given favourable for the institute. This has forwarded to the Attorney General to get a Writ to recover this amount from him.</p> <p>It has decided at the 370th board meeting to publish a newspaper article including the information of these foreign scholarship debtors.</p> |
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| 04 | <p><u>Director's quaters being used by external parties</u></p> <p>The Committee inquired about giving the official quaters of the director to an external party for residence without levying a rent and without approval.</p> <p>The Director/Chief Executive Officer said that the quaters had been given temporarily to a coordinating secretary of the Minister as the director was not occupying it in year 2015 and that he had asked as of now vacate the quaters.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Correcting this situation as soon as possible.                        | External party settled at the official quaters of the director has left as of now and all the payments of housing rents, telephone bills, electric bills and water bills have recovered relevant to the time of residing.                                       |
| 05 | <p><u>Purchasing computers</u></p> <p>The Committee inquired about the purchase of 17 computers at a cost of Rs. 1.7 million in 2015 from an institution rejected by the Technical Committee, defects in those computers and no servicing them during the prescribed period in terms of service contracts.</p> <p>The Director/ Chief Executive Officer stated that this purchase was made on the recommendation of the registrar of the institute.</p> <p>The Committee expressed its displeasure over the involvement of an external party in making decisions about purchases despite their being a technical committee in the institute.</p> <p>The Secretary of the Ministry said that action would be taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future.</p> | Submitting a report in this regard to the Committee within two weeks. | These computers were purchased as per the recommendations of the Procurement Committee of the Department. Steps have taken to carry out procurement activities of our institute in compliance with rules and regulations of the Code of Procurement Guidelines. |

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| 06 | <p><u>Use of organic fertilizer</u></p> <p>The Director General of the Department of Agriculture said that the Hector Kobbekaduwa Institute only conducts agrarian research and technical researches were conducted by the Department of Agriculture and that awareness had been created amongst public that it was advisable to use less amounts of chemical fertilizers with organic fertilizer.</p> <p>The Director General of the Department of Agriculture further said that scientific researches were being conducted to wean farmers off chemical fertilizer and encourage them to use organic fertilizer.</p> |  | <p>Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute is an institute that conducts socio-economic research in the fields of agrarian and rural development. Hence, this institute does not conduct technical research.</p> <p>This institute has published three socio-economic research reports in the field of organic fertilizer.</p> <p>Titles of those research reports are as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. කාබනික පොහොර භාවිතයේ ඇති විභවතා සහ ගැටළු: Sinhala research report - 2009</li> <li>2. කාබනික පොහොර නිෂ්පාදනය හා භාවිතය: Sinhala research report – 2012</li> <li>3. Municipal Solid Waste Composting : Potentials and Constraints : English Report - 2015</li> </ol> |
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