

30. MAURITIUS BROADCASTING CORPORATION

- 30.1 The MBC offers a national public broadcasting service and it operates under the *aegis* of the Prime Minister's Office. The array of programmes are broadcasted in 12 languages via the 17 TV channels in Mauritius, four in Rodrigues, two in Agalega as well as through seven Radio channels.
- 30.2 In the context of the Present Review, the Staff Association of the MBC (MBSSA) was convened for a meeting at the Bureau on 05 February 2015. The Union members stated that since a new Management has been put in place, they would wish to discuss with the latter before submitting their proposals. So they requested that another meeting be fixed thereafter. Eventually a second meeting with the MBSSA was scheduled for 06 August 2015. The Union members stated that the memorandum submitted was prepared jointly with Management. However, in the absence of such averment from Management itself we did not make any assumption nor did we take any decision.
- 30.3 During the meeting with Management on 10 September 2015, many proposals were made and Management undertook to discuss same with the Union prior to resubmitting it to the Bureau. When the union's representatives were ushered in they were so informed and they concurred to such course of action.
- 30.4 On 03 November 2015, another meeting was held with Management/Union to listen to their joint submission. During the interaction between officers of the Bureau and the Union/Management many points were raised following which they decided to reconsider their submissions anew and to subsequently submit proposals. Thereafter, a joint submission was submitted to the Bureau at the end of January 2016.
- 30.5 It should be noted that:
- (i) the proposals of the MBC pertain to a complete overhauling of the whole structure in place while exercises of such a magnitude are not undertaken during Report time;
 - (ii) when the proposals were submitted at the end of January 2016, the drafting process was almost over and we were about to move on to the editing stage prior to the setting of salaries; and
 - (iii) the views of neither the parent Ministry nor the MCSAR had been obtained regarding the overall restructuring exercise.
- 30.6 Against such a background it was quasi impossible for the Bureau to come up with a Report where all the issues would have been addressed during this short lapse of time.

30.7 The Bureau has, therefore, with the concurrence of Management and Union jointly, decided to publish the Report for the MBC within a period of three months as from the date of publication of the main Report. However, the date of implementation would still be 01 January 2016 and employees would continue drawing the Cost of Living Allowance of Rs 250 or Rs 150 as applicable, as well as the Extra Remuneration payable for the year 2015 in addition to their basic salary in the 2013 structure.

