

12. Challenges faced by The Environmental Commission

Staffing remained the key challenge faced by the Commission at the end of 2007. The Commission continues to function without a Research Officer. This long standing vacancy in the court's establishment remains unfilled due to the current remuneration package being offered for this position not being competitive with similar posts in other organizations. The Commission is currently exploring avenues for addressing this. During the year 2007 several other posts in the original organizational structure of the Commission remained staffed by temporary or acting appointees.

The size and composition of the court's administrative staff continues to present a challenge to the most efficient administration of the organization, that is the requirement to comply with increasingly sophisticated financial and administrative policies being implemented throughout the public service. These policies are quite often designed bearing in mind the organizational structure of larger Ministries and Departments of Government which have specialized staff for each administrative function. The limited staff of the Environmental Commission is thus required to multi-task with individual members of staff being required to perform several duties, each of which would be performed by a separate individual in a larger organization.

Throughout 2007 the Commission continued to function without its full complement of Members, there remaining two vacancies, that is the Members with knowledge of or experience in Natural Sciences and Social Sciences. The projected workload of the Commission in coming years however indicates that this position is untenable. The avoiding of situations of potential conflicts of interest of Members of the Commission in matters filed with the Court also requires that consideration ultimately be given to expanding the Bench.