



THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (NHRC)

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**The Editor in-chief
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PUBLIC RETRACTION ON FOROYAA'S PUBLICATION ON THE COMMISSION'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE FINANCE AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (FPAC)

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has noted with concern the headline published by Foroyaa Newspaper on Wednesday, 20 May 2026 captioned: **"NHRC Reports 71 Alleged Human Rights Violations as Audit Report Flags Financial Irregularities."**

The Commission wishes to clarify the proceedings that took place during its engagement with the Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) of the National Assembly on Tuesday 19th May, as the headline and report do not accurately reflect the discussions and clarifications provided during the session.

During the FPAC proceedings, the National Audit Office presented its audit opinion on the Financial Statements of the NHRC for the years ending 31 December 2021, 2022, and 2023. The auditors confirmed that the Financial Statements presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial position and transactions of the Commission, and that they were prepared in accordance with IPSAS Cash Basis Reporting standards, the Public Finance Act 2014, the Financial Regulations 2016, and the NHRC Act 2017.

The auditors raised three management observations during the session:

1. Fuel Coupons for the Internal Auditor

The auditors queried the allocation of fuel coupons annually to the Internal Auditor. In response, the Commission explained that the allocation was approved following internal deliberations, taking into account the specialised nature of the Auditor's functions, the level of responsibility attached to the role, and the need to facilitate the effective discharge of duties, including oversight and compliance-related engagements. The Commission further noted that the measure also forms part of efforts to retain critical expertise essential for strengthening institutional accountability, financial transparency, and compliance with the Paris Principles.

2. Private Number Plates for NHRC Vehicles

The auditors also raised an observation regarding the issuance of private number plates for certain NHRC vehicles. The Commission clarified that it had formally written to the Inspector General of Police requesting the plates as part of security measures introduced following an attack on the residence of a Commissioner. The Commission further explained that the issuance of the plates by the relevant authorities constituted approval, while acknowledging the auditors' recommendation for written confirmation.

3. Withholding Tax Remittances

The final observation related to the timing of withholding tax remittances. The Commission acknowledged the concern raised and informed the Committee that corrective measures have been instituted to ensure that withholding taxes are remitted promptly as they fall due.

At the conclusion of the session, members of the Committee commended the NHRC for its work and the overall management of its finances.

The Commission is therefore concerned that the publication failed to adequately reflect the explanations and clarifications provided during the proceedings. The NHRC remains fully committed to transparency, accountability, and prudent financial management, and encourages responsible and balanced reporting that reflects the full context of public proceedings.

In light of the foregoing, the NHRC respectfully urges Foroyaa Newspaper to review the publication and issue a public retraction/corrected report and headline that more accurately represent the FPAC proceedings.



Mr. Emmanuel Daniel Joof
Chairperson, NHRC