

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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From: Financial Secretary

To: Supervising Officers-in-Charge of Ministries/Departments and Accounting Officers

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT KIT (FM KIT)

Financial Instructions

Setting up of a Public Sector Task Force (PSTF)

As you are aware, the setting up of a public Sector task Force (PSTF) was announced as a budget measure in the budget speech 2013 so as to improve control on public expenditure.

2. In this respect, the following provisions are being made in the Financial Management Kit (Volume I)-

- (a) A committee to be known as the Public Sector Task Force (PSTF) is being set up to identify weaknesses in the management of public funds, to propose remedial actions and to report on progress achieved.
- (b) The PSTF will operate within the Office of Public Sector Governance (OPSG) and will be headed by a senior officer of the OPSG. It shall comprise four independent members appointed by the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of Civil Service.
- (c) The PSTF shall, in consultation and agreement with the Supervising Officer of the Ministry/Department, –
 - (i) identify the weaknesses in the management of public funds from reports of the Internal Control Cadre, the Audit Committee, the National Audit Office and the Public Accounts Committee;

- (ii) draw up a priority list of changes to be implemented by the Ministry and Department to improve the management of public resources;
 - (iii) define a strategy and prepare an implementation plan within 3 months of the publication of the Director of Audit's Report for remedial action of the weaknesses and for preventing the recurrence of such weaknesses;
 - (iv) recommend changes in systems and procedures and, where necessary, changes in legislation; and
 - (v) monitor the implementation plan referred to in paragraph (iii) and the changes required referred to in paragraph (iv).
- (d) The PSTF shall submit reports with recommendations on the progress of work to the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of Civil Service through the Director, OPSG. The Secretary to Cabinet and Head of Civil Service, where necessary, will take appropriate action as per the provisions of the Section 22 (b) of the Finance and Audit Act.

A. Mansoor

(A. Mansoor)
Financial Secretary