

Editorial

Stop Waste of Public Money!

The Palestinian people have had enough because of misuse of governmental vehicles. This comes in time we need to economize spend of public money and to steer it in order to put government plan into action, which meant to end occupation and build state of law and institutions.

SAACB has recently drafted a report on governmental vehicles and ended up with several recommendations, some of which were fulfilled, but the essence was not turned into workable decisions, which made misuse of these vehicles worse than ever, and so did for petrol.

President Office

Mr. President Receives 2008 Annual Report, 2009 2nd Quarterly Report



President of State Audit and Administrative Control Bureau Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Rub handed over Mr. President of PNA Mahmoud Abbas the 2008 annual report and first quarterly report of 2009. The hand-over took place on Saturday, September 12, 2009 at the president office in Ramallah, and it came as a commitment to SAACB Act No. 15 of 2004 (article 8). Dr. Abu-Rub reviewed annual report contents which concentrate on system control rather than individual control, and the quarterly report tackles need to privatize hajj services for the sake of better performance, and confining role of WAQF ministry in supervising hajj companies.

“Mr. President asserted that publishing reports is necessary for transparency reinforcement in all state institutions, and it is meant to show achievements and avoid deficiencies”, Dr. Abu-Rub said.

SAACB seeks to reinforce relationships with Arab supreme audit institutions through participation in contests held by the Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ARABOSAI). In this regard, SAACB has won the best essay prize in contest held by ARABOSAI ‘Financial Audit Journal’; the essay was about ‘performance of PNA general finance in 2008, and the need to multilateral and bilateral audit’.

The essay was written by Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Rub and Mr. Saleem Busaileh, and aimed at reviewing qualitative development in public money management, and demonstrating need to joint audit with Arab SAIs over financial and in-kind assistance granted to the Palestinian people so as to promote transparency and impartiality.

SAACB president also met with official and unofficial personalities including the Russian representative Mr. Sergey Kozlov, MOF undersecretary Mrs. Mona Masri, EU economic affairs manager Mr. Thomas Boyer and deans of economy and commerce faculties at the Palestinian universities.

Director General Office



- Commissioning Mr. Jamal Abu Baker to participate in an academic meeting in Lebanon about shift from item budget to program budget.
- Coordinating with internal and external bodies.
- Coordinating and deploying audit teams in ministry of finance.
- Following up work progress in all oversight and supporting directorates.
- Following up incoming and outgoing mail.
- Following up weekly action plans and monthly newsletter.
- Reviewing audit reports as the report review rapporteur.
- Supervising actions of local governance directorate fully.
- Holding several meetings with directorate managers.
- Participating in some meeting with personalities and foundation representatives such as the Russian representative, and visit to ministry of local governing.

SAACB & Decision Makers

Head of Fatwa & Legislation Authority Meets with SAACB Staff



Head of Fatwa and Legislation Authority Mr. Abdul Kareem Abu Salah visited on Wednesday, September 2, 2009 State Audit and Administrative Control Bureau H.Q. in Ramallah, where he met with staff and talked about problematic circumstances the Authority underwent after Gaza takeover, since Authority main offices are located there, and the West Bank had only a small inapt office which did not have adequate number of employees to carry out duties properly. Abu Salah added that despite all difficulties they managed to realize a handful of tasks such as reprinting the official gazette, ratifying laws and preparing law drafts.

“We, as national institutions, look at State Audit and Administrative Control Bureau as being capable of promoting these institutions to highest levels of credibility and transparency”, Abu Salah said.

SAACB president Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Rub said: “we are working to form relations network with all Palestinian institutions including Fatwa and Legislation Authority, and we voluntarily subjected ourselves to assessment”.

SAACB & Local Community

SAACB Holds Joint Workshop with TAGI



A workshop took place on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at State Audit and Administrative Control Bureau Ramallah H.Q. with participation of personnel from Talal Abu Ghazaleh International, which is the largest Arab group that undertakes accounting, administrative consultancy, training, intellectual property, legal services, information technology, capacity building and legal translation. Manager of TAGI regional office Mr. Jamal Milhem explained work nature the Group handles: “TAGI is the biggest amongst professional services firms, and work fields include accounting, internal and external audit, corporate governance, human resources and recruitment, e-governance, e-commerce, professional translation, oral interpreting, website Arabizing, intellectual property and IT strategic planning”. Mr. Milhem also said that TAGI has more than 2000 employee work in 71 regional offices in Europe, Asia and North America.

Manager of TAGI consultants Mr. Amjad Khalid and his assistant Mrs. Dalia Azzeh gave a presentation about Arab Society for of Certified Accountants, how to pass its exam and the membership terms.

College Deans Meet in SAACB



Deans of economy and law colleges at the Palestinian universities were invited to SAACB H.Q., where they met with Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Rub and a number of employees. Several topics were discussed concerning future cooperation with Palestinian universities in order to execute one of INTOSAI requirements, which emphasizes the necessity to communicate with high education institutions to promote quality of governmental audit.

Activities of Oversight Directorates

General Directorate for Security & Governance

- Finishing oversight reports such as those on preventive security, the Russian assistance, cabinet administrative commission, actions of General Personnel Council and a case at attorney general office.
- Taking part in some commissions such as report revision, procurement, courses, missions, and annual report.
- Receiving new employees.
- Drafting the directorate budget for 2010.
- Attending meetings with MOF undersecretary and head of Fatwa and Legislation Authority.

General Directorate for Infrastructure

- Finishing the comprehensive audit report on actions of Capital Market Authority (administrative and financial issues and auditing securities).
- Finishing an audit report on actions of civil defense.
- Auditing and following up indebtedness of West Bank water authority.
- Finishing comprehensive audit report on actions of ministry of public works, and another report about tender openings (8)
- Reviewing some reports through report review committee on Municipalities of Bala'a and Azzon, Beir Nabala local council, FATEN Foundation and permanent ministerial committee.
- Participating in meetings with SAACB president.

General Directorate for Economy

- Finishing a report about auditing outcomes on MOF departments.
- Attending tenders as an observer at some audited bodies and reporting outcomes.
- Holding directorate regular meetings.
- Resuming work of commissions formed by SAACB president (procurement, budgeting, receipt and creativity group).

General Directorate for NGOs

- Finishing audit at al-Haq Palestine, Palestinian Foundation for Loaning & Development (FATEN) and Arab Women Union Hospital/Nablus.
- Reviewing feedback to reports on Patient Friends Charitable Association, Khalil Abu Rayya Rehabilitation Center/Ramallah, Arab Center for Agricultural Development/Ramallah, Arab Women Union Hospital/Nablus and Arab Structural Project Society/Jericho.
- Preparing a memo about ‘preparation methodology of SAACB annual report’.
- Drafting the directorate budget for 2010.
- Meeting with directorate staff to discuss deployment of field teams and related activities.

General Directorate for Local Governance Bodies

- Auditing and reporting on municipalities of Qabatiya, Bala'a, Azzon and Ya'bad Electricity Authority.
- Auditing municipalities of Dura, Jericho, Huwara and Qalqilyah, in addition to Federation of local governing bodies and the Palestinian National Center for Agricultural Researches.
- Participating in tender openings as an observer at municipalities of Ramallah, al-Bireh and Jericho.
- Attending workshops and meetings arranged by SAACB.
- Drafting the directorate budget for 2010.
- Following up and reporting local bodies news to be taken into account in future audit plans.
- Participating in a reception of college deans.

General Directorate for Legal Affairs & Public Complaints

- Preparing a study about role of parliaments in supporting outputs of supreme audit institutions.
- Handling issue of personnel who worked under contracts or in projects at ministry of planning, water authority, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and Pall Tel Company.
- Follow up complaints at competent authorities and preparing legal consultations.
- Attending two workshops, one about disaster compensation fund and agricultural insurance, and the other one about financial disclosure bill.
- Holding a meeting with World Bank representatives to brief them about anticorruption mechanisms at P.N.A bodies.

General Directorate for Social & Cultural Services

- Accomplishing audit reports on Ramallah Hospital, central medical laboratories, foreign missions and scholarships, student lending fund, TAKAFUL (solidarity) fund, ministry of captives, ALQUDS Open University and the committee formed to dispose inedible flour (storehouses of ministry of social affairs).
- Attending 12 biddings as an observer at ministries of education and public works.
- Attending workshops of economy minister, TAGI and head of Fatwa and Legislation Authority.

Activities of Non oversight Directorates

Public Relations Unit

- Creating relationships with domestic bodies such as ministries and foundations.
- Issuing special brochure about SAACB achievements.
- Coordinating a media interview with Dr. Abu-Rub.
- Finishing draft of the unit budget.
- Conceiving the annual report.
- Participating in donor meeting to ministry of education.
- Offering congratulations and condolences according to occasion.

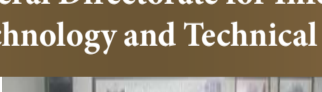
Internal Control Unit

- Auditing and examining a number of financial and administrative issues, and performance assessment, to ensure conformity to effective laws and regulations, such as financial transactions before and after disbursement.
- Checking transportation allowance.
- Examining monthly attendance and telephone registers.
- Checking commitment of audit teams to their plans.
- Examining and commenting on financial and administrative report of General Directorate for Financial & Administrative Affairs
- Finishing the unit budget draft of 2010.
- Participating in annual report drafting committee.
- Participating in regular meetings with Dr. Abu-Rub to follow unit actions.

Planning, Improvement & Capacity Development Unit

- Preparing an action plan to audit performance in ministries of interior and finance.
- Drafting an explanation for criterion 520 in order to get use of it, and drafting a guideline on oversight report assessment.

General Directorate for Information Technology and Technical Support



- Holding a workshop about institutional excellence and performance quality to inform staff about concepts and principles of quality development (conducted by engineer Abdullah Karsou).
- Finishing the electronic staff archive, and work is in progress to develop e-complaint archive system for Legal Affairs directorate.
- Finishing document order program to be integrated with movement system next month.
- Developing the internal correspondence system to include all SAACB directorates.

General Directorate for Financial & Administrative Affairs

- Drafting the directorate budget for 2010 and referring it to MOF after endorsement by Dr. Abu-Rub that concentrates on quality improving according to international quality standards.
- Coordination with MOF to install the new Bisan Enterprise Software that helps accelerating accomplishment of transactions.
- Concluding preparations to launch electronic vacation system which was developed in coordination with IT directorate.

Financial Report-September 2009

Total fund resources for September 2009 were 56450.26 NIS as an accumulated balance from August 2009, while expenses for were 22711.72 NIS, and they were divided into:

- Paid expenses: 10022.97 NIS.
- Due expenses: 12688.75 NIS.

Social News

Congratulations and condolences were provided to staff according to occasion.

