

16

The Council 30 Dec. 2017

3.36 C/425/14.22 Inquiry Report on Loss of Trees in Kilinochchi Premises

The inquiry report on 'Loss of Trees and Unauthorized Removal of Them' from the Kilinochchi Premises in 2015' submitted by the Committee was circulated at the last meeting.

The Council having noted the contents of the Preliminary Investigation Report submitted by the committee decided to request the same committee to continue Preliminary Investigation in the light of following facts:

1. There was a report prepared by AIA on the matter after she was instructed by the Vice Chancellor to inquire and submit a report on above.
2. University Employees Union/University of Jaffna submitted a complaint raising the issue of loss of trees and requested to conduct an inquiry. Facts should be verified from Union representative on the issues raised by them and how and when they received the information in order to verify the same.
3. There was an inquiry held on 'Mr.K.Janatheepan, Supervisor (Maintenance), Gr.III, Kilinochchi Premises' conducted by Dr.Poongothai Selvarajan, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Business Studies, Vavuniya Campus. In the report Dr. Poongothai Selvarajan strongly recommended to conduct an independent Inquiry on the allegation of 'loss of trees' made by Mr.Janatheepan during the inquiry.
4. Statements of the Private Security Guards and officer in charge at the time of loss were taken. The reason needs to be found why the details were recorded in an informal way in separate registers at the Security Point by them and why they have not reported it to the management at that time although they have in possession of evidence. It was decided to inform the Security Firm (Mercantile Security Services Pvt. Ltd.) that they should take full responsibility for the lapses on their part as observed and make good the loss incurred by the University in this connection as soon as it is established and in the meantime it was decided to change the security guards concerned.
5. It was indicated that Head/Animal Science requested the Dean to remove trees to clear the land for development activities initially as mentioned by one of the accused. Therefore, facts should be verified from her too, formally and from those who held the position of Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture during the period immediately before, during and after the loss happened to verify the statements already given by the accused and witnesses.
6. All the other pertinent details that may be applicable to the matter can also be included in the investigation as far as necessary on the discretion of the committee in order to make the report more comprehensive and complete in this respect.

The Council also decided to interdict the following and serve a charge sheet to each of them as per requirements of the inquiry process before the commencement of the formal inquiry.

Mr.K.Janatheepan, Maintenance Supervisor
Mr.N.Sutharsan, Works Supervisor
Mr.K.Tharmaseelan, Caretaker

It was noted that a police entry should be lodged with the available details and decided to inform about this to the Central Environmental Authority.

Registrar, DR/Est.N.A, DR/Kili