

"Things Fall Apart - Caribbean Export Style" Part II

An earlier article I wrote spoke to the financial and technical mismanagement of resources at Caribbean Export by two people, PCH and CM. A few of you asked “**why, in the face of such corruption, do respective governments, and the EU, unflinchingly continue to reward the poor performance, obvious abuse and the mindless squander of the European Union’s EDF coffers?**” To highlight the tip of that abuse iceberg, I mentioned the EU requirement that “any item which receives funding from the EU **MUST DISPLAY THEIR LOGO, PROMINENTLY!!** So Pamela, in removing the EU logo from the Nissan Leaf Electric Vehicle, displays her blatant disregard for said funding conditions.

A careful read of my 3 articles boils down to **Procurement and CE’s Circumlocutory practices**. Even if one overlooked previously stated ‘**wild west management practices**’ (i) using curse words or foul language to staff, (ii) dismissing 30 staff unfairly, (iii) unilaterally cancelling consultant contracts, (iv) thinking up extraordinary procedures for consultants/grant beneficiaries to void respective contracts and (v) ‘smashin up’ CE furniture (McNair), how does one sweep these actions under the carpet so easily **WITHOUT GOVERNMENT or AGENCIES DOING ANYTHING?**

Men love to say we women get “sidetracked by our emotions” but, no matter what your sex is, I believe that anyone would be justifiably angered by the abuse of female staff and Resources. As a woman, I feel disgusted by the thought of female staff hired as administrative assistants, to do Caribbean Export's work, but, in reality, to become meat for CE manager Chris McNair. As a woman with many divorced friends, and very fresh memories of many a marriage ended because of infidelity, we easily empathize with Sophia. A, formerly Mrs. C, especially when we see a woman, no less than a CEO in this sordid affair, taking EU money, \$600,000, and paying for this gigilo CEO of Ethnic Vision all I can say is he is a real dog to destroy his marriage running after some cosmetically tucked tummy and artificially tightened nuxkie, nuxkie catspraddled by years of wuk fuh wuk encounters. Poor Sophia.

Anyway I am going to leave all “this emotionalism” aside and “**follow the money.**”

Any Programme that Caribbean Export engages in is driven by two processes.

1. Multilateral and regional Donor Funding and
2. 15 Caribbean Member State Contributions

Under the first process, CE submits a project proposal with budget which is approved by the EU (or other multilateral suckers) prior to its approval/implementation. Money that is advanced under such a process is specifically allocated, so CE management can’t spend a cent under any other budget line. If one were to review the **RPSDP** contribution Agreement between CE and the EU for current 5 year programme, you see a detailed expenditure for pre-approved activities, so it begs the question how can CE deviate from that approved expenditure, for their own personal gain, and yet not be held accountable?

Under the second scheme, rather procedure, there is one critical difference which, interestingly enough, is the very process which is being abused by CE. CE submits a programme with a budget but, unlike the more stringent reporting and audited process of donor agencies, under this procedure, “contributions”, by respective parties, **are reimbursed**, on submission of invoices, and other so called verifiable documentation.

So if we accept the knowledgeable Watchman's comment that **the Governance and Oversight procedures**

have failed over the years, you would think that counterpart agencies, mindful of the prolific scams, would demand Audits to examine things like (i) “additional staff engagements” (and commensurate unjustified promotions) or (ii) confirm the fact that there are random salary increases for specific staff or (iii) the irregularity, and unilateral cessation, of contracts to beneficiaries and or service providers like the Island Life and replacement with Loverboy from Ethnic Vision?

While the CE 7 Pillars document speaks eloquently to **Equal rights** and “making no differentiation in respect of gender, skin colour, etc.,” that pretty document doesn’t capture how its ED after giving one of her former executive secretaries (who was close to retirement) a 3 Year contract, then fires her one year into that contract, and refuses to pay the poor retiree's severance! Not everyone earns \$35,000 a month nor can a retiree hire a lawyer to fight CE’s lawyers, pre retirement!

Few people would know, and **External Partners** would be amazed that, **no member of staff, certainly not the wuk for wuk specialists**, ever had a performance appraisals for the past 5 years! **Fewer people would know that the husband of the current executive assistant Roberta Reid, Adrian Reid, was the recipient of a DAGS grant, contrary to CE regulations on more than one family member being hired. These are the same rules that CFO A. Bradshaw enforced to fire another staff member daughter who was part of temporary staff. Less of the agencies still will care that said husband of the christian couple is short listed for the position of Business Development Officer at CE.**

Which brings me to **Respect of contractual and legal obligations**: The Audit, if it is established, would examine how obligations were/are upheld with respect the laws governing Barbados, the Dominican Republic and other territories. It might even shed some light on beyond the glaring % preponderance of non-Barbadian staffing and the overactive engagement of non-nationals. I have no brief for Island Life’s owner but If there is one contract that should be audited, in detail, it is **Island Life** contract. It chronicles the unfair advantage taken of a CARICOM firm at the eternal expense of its owner. That matter is so detailed that if CF could submit a copy of her matter to BU, it would show what really is going on at CE, and highlight what (inconsequential action) the EU Delegation is undertaking to address, or is that, cover it up?

Segregation of Duties. Well readers should have a word with Remy King, Ms A. Alleyne, Elliot **, soon to be compulsorily released Anthony Bradshaw and any of the other 30 staff released over the last 5 years under strange circumstances.

Information processing and Computerised Information Systems or how, with existing **IT controls, application controls, data integrity and audit trails** can a situation arise where, with the renewal of a key IT member of staff's contract, Seon Levius, his IT junior Jermain was asked to remove Seon from the communications network. It is the same CE modus of operations, fire anyone who is “too close to the email records”, or can’t be made a slave, as with recent **Purge of all 30 persons. But when Levius’ IT priveleges could not be revoked**, Seon was retained and is still there today in the same role. Seon, why you don’t release your copies of the incriminating email? I only recently heard about Allison Saunders and David Weeks, the fellow suing CARICOM. It would appear like if CE also stole some of their IT projects.

Prevention, detection and correction of errors, fraud and irregularities. This whole section should be titled **“Deceiving Everyone but we 3 thieves” (soon to be two2)** Suffice it to say that the regulations require processing of payments where all original documents are to be provided. That however has been fully compromised since specific officers in the organization (CE and PCH) have customarily had parties external to

the organization send in invoices or have personally doctored invoices that the auditors are subsequently fooled by.

Internal Audit Function and **SAGE ACCPAC ERP** are smartly subverted by this calculated collusion and approval of purchase orders based on coordinated quotes from external parties who are party to the collusion (that firm in St. Lucia **) notwithstanding the CE procedures in the CE Operations Manual itself a fairy tale story better named **“the Fox guarding the chickens** as told by **Coke Hamilton and Chris McNair**

External Auditing Function. Any reasonable person knowing this fairy tale story of **“the Fox guarding the Chickens would be inclined to believe that** an external audit would mean the engagement of a third party.

Wrong answer!! Unbelievably, the role of said third party is done by none other than **the Caribbean Export Development Agency itself** through its management and directors. **Imagine O.J. Simpson appointed to conduct his own defense and prosecution! Audits by Ernst Young are only conducted on “Financial Statements AFTER the doctoring has been done. E&Y do not see the actual empirical documents.**

Now here is a slow ball for you. The same Ernst Young whose former partner * sits on the board of the same Venture Capital entity now partnering with CE in its Entrepreneurship Scheme funded by the EU and the multilateral Dummies! Take note that** as the CE 7 Pillars document states “The Auditor Firm Ernst & Young is one of the ‘big’ five (5) international auditing firms and a member of the international accounting body which in turn is a member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC)” **In the face of this obvious conflict of interest and HR incest, the EU and these international Development Agencies seem to accept these Pamela and McNair machinations.**

Then we have the **Funds Framework** Simply put, this is the legal and regulatory framework through which (un)sound programming, (so-called) transparency, equal treatment (of Pamela’s friends), non-cumulation of grant funds (or newly incorporated companies of whom directors are previous grant recipients or past DAGS recipients), non-retro-activity (not to include unilateral rescinding of grants), co-financing (euphemism for beneficiaries get some money and me and Chris taking our share) and non-profit (if you don’t count “their cut”).

In Part III, I will detail the **Selection and Evaluation Procedures & Publications of Awards** (particularly those when a pretty beneficiary is involved and McNair is looking for “new meat” where the written notification procedure is ignored and a phone call to the pretty beach, this is what CM calls them, is made)

Though I promised to leave out our **“customary emotionalism”** I am afraid that the email that I will include, thanks to ***, is going to be **“very emotional”**