

Town Hall Q&A Follow Up

Here is a list of some of the questions from Monday's Town Hall meeting, and the answers.

- **What does the cancellation of the grant agreement mean for MBN, and do we currently have available funds?**
 - Under the CR passed by Congress, MBN is funded for the remainder of the fiscal year (through September 30). However, on March 15, MBN received notice from USAGM saying they had terminated our grant. We need Congress and the courts to demand that USAGM provide us with our Congressionally appropriated funds.
- **In the case of a layoff or shut down, the handbook discusses leave payout and severance payout. What is the legal status of those?**
 - The handbook is a policy guide for MBN employees. There are no legal issues involved.
- **What happens to the money in Flexible Spending Account (FSA)? Will the full amount still be available or will it be adjusted?**
 - In the event of a termination or closure, you should contact the plan administrator at 1-800-433-3539.
- **If MBN is shut down, will the Dubai team receive their salary for March? And will end-of-service payments be paid immediately to Dubai employees?**
 - If MBN shuts down, Dubai employees will receive payment for March. Regarding end-of-service payments, we are continuing to assess our financial situation and will determine the best course of action.
- **How can a non-confirmed political appointee hold MBN's grant hostage? Aren't we under the USAGM umbrella? Aren't we established by Congress?**
 - Yes, we are under the USAGM umbrella and yes, we operate with funds that are specifically appropriated to us by Congress. We believe that this action to cancel our grant is unlawful.
- **Can overseas contractors receive HR letters which details what their positions were and how long they worked for the company to help find new jobs in case we shut down?**
 - Yes. We'll do anything to help and support our employees and contractors.

- **Will we work until September?**
 - Congress has funded us through the end of the fiscal year (September 30). It is up to Congress and the Courts to make sure that the money appropriated to MBN is transmitted to MBN. However, even if we were to be able to operate until September, we can't preclude making staff cuts at some point in the future.

- **How long can we operate with our current funds?**
 - We know that we can get through the next couple of weeks. If the courts rule that what USAGM did is unlawful and USAGM restores MBN's funding to the continuing resolution level, we would operate until the end of the fiscal year (September 30th).

- **Can USAGM legally withhold funds authorized by Congress?**
 - No. USAGM does not have the authority to withhold funds appropriated to MBN by Congress; and no individual has the authority to cut our funding completely. MBN is working through multiple legal channels to address and correct this.

- **How long will we have our medical insurance?**
 - You have medical insurance through the end of any month during which you are employed by MBN. In a furlough, you are still considered an employee.

- **Will we be offering buyouts?**
 - No. We do not have the funds to offer buyouts.

- **Will Alhurra stop broadcasting on Sunday?**
 - During a furlough we will most likely keep operating in a limited capacity. We don't have the exact formula yet and are exploring all options to come up with a plan that makes the most sense.

- **If MBN doesn't win in court, when would we shut down?**
 - It depends on appeals process and our financial situation. We are doing everything we can to keep open.

- **If MBN has some funds now, and we get shut down, shouldn't that money be used for our leave payout and severance?**
 - If we were to get shut down now and we had money in the bank, we would want to distribute as much of that as possible to our employees for annual leave and severance. However, with the limited funds that we have, we could not come close to paying out annual leave and severance.

- **What will happen to our unused leave hours?**
 - Although it is not a good answer, if we were to shut down now, we wouldn't have the money to pay everyone's unused leave and severance.

- **In the case of a shutdown, can we get a copy of our immigration case from our immigration attorney?**
 - Yes. We will supply you with the waiver and I-360.

- **In the event of a shut down, will MBN provide me with flight tickets for me and my family to my home country?**
 - No, MBN is not able to provide this.

- **I live in Virginia; how can I contact my elected officials?**
 - Representative Don Beyer – serving Virginia's 8th district
 - Phone: 202-225-4376
 - [Contact | U.S. Representative Don Beyer](#)
 - See what the 8th district covers - [Virginia's 8th congressional district - Wikipedia](#)

 - Representative Gerry Connolly – serving Virginia's 11th district
 - Phone: 202-225-1492
 - [Contact | U.S. Representative Gerry Connolly](#)
 - See what the 11th district covers - [Virginia's 11th congressional district - Wikipedia](#)

 - Representative Eugene Vindman – serving Virginia's 7th district
 - Phone: 202-225-2815
 - [Representative Eugene Vindman |](#)
 - See what the 7th district covers - [Virginia's 7th congressional district - Wikipedia](#)

- Representative Suhas Subramanyam – serving Virginia’s 10th congressional district.
 - Phone: 202-225-5136
 - [Contact | Representative Suhas Subramanyam](#)
 - See what the 10th district covers - [Virginia's 10th congressional district - Wikipedia](#)
- See information on all of Virginia’s congressional districts
 - [Virginia's congressional districts - Wikipedia](#)
- Governor Glenn Youngkin
 - [Contact | Governor.Virginia.gov](#)
- Virginia Senator Tim Kaine
 - Phone: 202-224-4024
 - [Contact | U.S. Senator Tim Kaine](#)
- Virginia Senator Mark Warner
 - Phone: 202-224-2023
 - [Mark R. Warner](#)