

**Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts Review of the 2011 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Iqaluit, Nunavut
April 15, 2011**

**ᓇᐅᑦᑎᑦᑲᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ ᓂᓴᓂᑦᑭᑦ ᐸᐅᓂᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ
ᑭᓄᐅᑦᑲᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ ᑲᑎᓂᓄᑦᑭᑦ
ᑦᑭᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ ᑲᓇᑭᑦ ᑭᓄᐅᑦᑭᑦ ᑦᑲᐅᓄᓄᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ
2011-ᑦ ᐅᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑭᑦ ᓄᓇᑭᑦ ᓂᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ
ᐸᑦᑲᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ, ᓄᓇᑭᑦ
ᐸᐅᐸᑦ 15, 2011**

Members Present:

Moses Aupaluktuq
Ron Elliott
John Ningark
Johnny Ningeongan
Allan Rumbolt
Fred Schell, Co-Chair
Louis Tapardjuk
Jeannie Ugyuk

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Staff Members:

Alex Baldwin
Stephen Innuksuk

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Interpreters:

Naimie Kilabuk-Bourassa
Mali Curley
Mary Nashook

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Witnesses:

Ronnie Campbell, Assistant Auditor General
Michelle Salvail, Principal
Susan Gomez, Director
Peter Ma, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services
Raj Downe, Assistant Deputy Minister of Programs and Standards
Rian Van Bruggen, Director of Policy and Planning

ᐸᑦᑲᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ ᐸᓄᓄᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ:

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>>Committee commenced at 9:00

>>ᑲᑎᓂᓄᑦᑭᑦ ᐸᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ 9:00-ᑦ

Chairman (Mr. Schell): Good morning. Welcome everybody. We will start with a prayer. Mr. Ningark.

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>>Prayer

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With respect to going forward and looking at caseload standards and workload and things like that, I indicated yesterday that we have an individual who is now in the position of the executive director of child and family services. That young lady there is Lynn MacKenzie and she is the one sitting next to Norm.

In terms of capacity and in terms of addressing some of these compliance type issues, I think we have a team in place now that can go forward in this respect. It's certainly my expectation that this will happen and those two individuals are actually already ensuring that this is happening. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, we've got all of these different layers of bureaucracy where you've got the social worker, you've got the frontline worker who is there on the ground, and then you've got all of these other people above. You mentioned earlier about how sometimes there is oversight.

In case the oversight happens again, because again we're talking about and it came out very clear in the Auditor General's report where you have children under 10 years old getting STDs and stuff like that, and I think everyone here wants to see stuff like that stop, who oversees these? Is it yourself and the Minister or is there another layer of bureaucracy there as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ma.

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My staff at the table can correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe Ms. MacKenzie, the executive director, reports to Raj Downe,

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ᐱ (ᑐᓄᓐᓂᓄᓂᓗ): ᓁᓄᓄᓄᓂᓗ ᓐᓂᓄᓂᓗ ᓐᓂᓄᓂᓗ ᓐᓂᓄᓂᓗ ᓐᓂᓄᓂᓗ ᓐᓂᓄᓂᓗ ᓐᓂᓄᓂᓗ ᓐᓂᓄᓂᓗ ᓐᓂᓄᓂᓗ ᓐᓂᓄᓂᓗ.

specific mention of a community that they think is really well structured in that respect and functioning well. So certainly that could be a model that we could look at and other committees could look at as well. Currently the department provides \$10,000 a year to each community to support these types of activities, so obviously the math is simple. For the current year budget, it would \$250,000.

So if you would like more information, I can certainly provide that, but that gives you a bit of a sense of what we're actually doing in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, definitely. I don't know if now would be the time to give that information, but yes, if we could get more detailed information in terms of what specific programs. Again, I know there is the Public Health Strategy, which seems to be there but slowly, I think it was 2007, and there still is not much work being done on that, but it would be nice to know what your department is doing.

Getting back to your answer to my question about the directive in the files, in keeping with making sure I stay on top of it, you said it was a directive. To me, a directive is just an email that is sent out to all of the social workers. Is there a cut-off date or a time that "As of September 1, we will be going back around and checking all of your files and they need to be updated" or is it just, "We will send out the email and there, we've done our due diligence and now everything will be fine"? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ma.

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In a small scale figuration like those of Inuit that are characterized by face-to-face interaction and by low level of differentiation, beliefs, views, norms, and values tend to be incorporated into the personality structure of the people in a largely congruent manner in these regulations. Most or all Members share the same or similar values and norms. Now, in going through this, we do have a situation in Nunavut where we are a small scale figuration. We know everybody in the community, so we kind of expect how we should conform to our normalcy.

So I was trying to get some clarification if, indeed, legislation was drafted. I don't know, but I think I'm gearing towards looking at a completely new piece of Act and do away with the old Act in some way because we are dealing with a situation, we're dealing with our own people in communities, and I would like to take ownership and control of the problem.

Unless Inuit take control and ownership of their own problems without the influence of an existing Act, the existing Act will not allow us to take control and ownership of our problems because we're constantly being reminded that we're breaking the law. We're constantly reminded that this is not the way to do it. The law says, "This is the way." The Act says, "This is the way you're going to do it. I don't care about your culture. The Act is the governing document and that's what we're doing." So that's what we're up against.

I'm just trying to make it clear in my mind. In drafting legislation, do we really need to go through defining Inuit cultural and societal values so that we can accommodate social workers who originally come from outside the jurisdiction? So that's why I was asking. It

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<p>Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Salvail.</p> <p>Ms. Salvail: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the course of our audit, in the files that we examined, we saw one instance where a child has been put in foster care with an extended family, and then what happened was there was a family incident in that foster care family. In that case, the social worker was made aware of that fact very quickly, and then took the child out and placed them in another foster home.</p> <p>Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.</p> <p>Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now my other question is for the Department of Health and Social Services, Government of Nunavut witnesses. Criminal record checks are performed by the RCMP. Have RCMP officials raised any concerns with their ability to conduct the required criminal record checks in a timely manner? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ma.</p> <p>Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I'm not aware of anything at this point in time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.</p> <p>Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.</p> <p>Mr. Ningark: Will the Deputy Minister endeavour to find out and get back to us on this question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ma.</p> <p>Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I could do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.</p> <p>Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to direct my</p>	<p>ርዚካሊት ለጥቅም ላይ የወጣው ማህበራዊ ልምድ ሊሆን ይችላል።</p> <p>ልማት: ማህበራዊ ጥያቄዎች።</p> <p>ካርድ (ጋራ): ማህበራዊ ልምድ ሊሆን ይችላል። ርዕይ ማህበራዊ ልማት ለጥቅም ላይ የወጣው ማህበራዊ ልምድ ሊሆን ይችላል። ማህበራዊ ልማት ለጥቅም ላይ የወጣው ማህበራዊ ልምድ ሊሆን ይችላል።</p> <p>ልማት (ጋራ): ማህበራዊ ጥያቄዎች። ማህበራዊ ልማት ለጥቅም ላይ የወጣው ማህበራዊ ልምድ ሊሆን ይችላል።</p> <p>ሙሉ (ጋራ): ማህበራዊ ልምድ ሊሆን ይችላል። ማህበራዊ ልማት ለጥቅም ላይ የወጣው ማህበራዊ ልምድ ሊሆን ይችላል። ማህበራዊ ልማት ለጥቅም ላይ የወጣው ማህበራዊ ልምድ ሊሆን ይችላል።</p> <p>ልማት (ጋራ): ማህበራዊ ጥያቄዎች። ማህበራዊ ልማት ለጥቅም ላይ የወጣው ማህበራዊ ልምድ ሊሆን ይችላል።</p> <p>ሙሉ (ጋራ): ማህበራዊ ልምድ ሊሆን ይችላል። ማህበራዊ ልማት ለጥቅም ላይ የወጣው ማህበራዊ ልምድ ሊሆን ይችላል። ማህበራዊ ልማት ለጥቅም ላይ የወጣው ማህበራዊ ልምድ ሊሆን ይችላል።</p> <p>ልማት (ጋራ): ማህበራዊ ጥያቄዎች። ማህበራዊ ልማት ለጥቅም ላይ የወጣው ማህበራዊ ልምድ ሊሆን ይችላል።</p> <p>ሙሉ (ጋራ): ማህበራዊ ልምድ ሊሆን ይችላል። ማህበራዊ ልማት ለጥቅም ላይ የወጣው ማህበራዊ ልምድ ሊሆን ይችላል። ማህበራዊ ልማት ለጥቅም ላይ የወጣው ማህበራዊ ልምድ ሊሆን ይችላል።</p> <p>ልማት (ጋራ): ማህበራዊ ጥያቄዎች። ማህበራዊ ልማት ለጥቅም ላይ የወጣው ማህበራዊ ልምድ ሊሆን ይችላል።</p>
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this particular issue. What I can tell you is that in the short term, we hope that we can have this completed within this fiscal year. As to the reasons why, I actually don't know and I can certainly get back to you on that, but at this point in time, I would rather move forward and deal with the issue rather than what has happened in the past, I guess. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to my colleague here, Mr. Ningark, who had also served in the NWT legislature, and during the NWT days, as you know, it has been noted that basic information on such indicators as communicable diseases, chronic diseases, and issues such as teen pregnancy were tracked regularly with updates published periodically in a newsletter. My question, Mr. Chairman, to the department is: why did the Government of Nunavut not continue with the same system of collecting and reporting health data? Just out of curiosity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ma.

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know the answer to the Member's question. With that said, there is a renewed vigour, shall we say, to ensure this information is collected and that this information is, in fact, analyzed and that, in fact, this information is actually reported upon.

It is something I have already spoken to our new chief medical officer of health about. As most of you know, Dr. Sobol recently retired and Dr. Geraldine Osborne, who was, at the longest of time, the deputy or the assistant chief medical health officer, is in this new role. I know this is something that she has certainly identified as

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ግሳጽ (ጋንታባህ): ናይሚታይ፡ ገዢ ልዩ ልዩ ነው።

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something that's going to go to the Quality of Life Committee? Will you invest in a computer system that helps track and monitor these things or is it hiring more staff? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ma.

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is, in fact, an existing electronic system. The issue revolves around implementation. We do not need the assistance of others within the government; actually this is strictly internal to the department, so to speak. As I indicated, we have established a working group within the department. Some of the actions that we have taken took place since the report. We have piloted forms and a database is actually being built now.

As I indicated earlier, the eHealth system has been the priority of the department. Fairly or unfairly, this part of the operations has been neglected. However, having said that, as I indicated earlier, this is a priority now within the current fiscal year. We hope to have a lot of this completed by this fiscal year. Certainly you can hold my feet to the fire when I give you the action plan if it's not done during this fiscal year. You can certainly ask me more questions after the fact. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Ma was mentioning that there is a system in place. It sounds like they're tweaking it a little bit to include a database. Obviously there are missing components to it if it's having things fall through the crack. You mentioned the idea of where the problem lies is the actual implementation. If you could expand on what the department is

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ጠቅላይ ሚኒስትር: (ጋኅታባባ): ፍጹም ሲሆን፣ ገዢ ሲሆን።

ፊ (ጋኅታባባ): ፍጹም ሲሆን፣ ልማት ለማድረግ የሚያስፈልጉትን ሰጠሁ ርዕይ ለሰጠሁ ማህበራዊ ክፍት ማድረግ አለብኝ። ለሰጠሁ ማህበራዊ ክፍት ማድረግ አለብኝ። ለሰጠሁ ማህበራዊ ክፍት ማድረግ አለብኝ። ለሰጠሁ ማህበራዊ ክፍት ማድረግ አለብኝ።

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ጠቅላይ ሚኒስትር: (ጋኅታባባ): ፍጹም ሲሆን፣ ገዢ ሲሆን።

ፈጠራዊ (ጋኅታባባ): ፍጹም ሲሆን፣ ልማት ለማድረግ የሚያስፈልጉትን ሰጠሁ ርዕይ ለሰጠሁ ማህበራዊ ክፍት ማድረግ አለብኝ። ለሰጠሁ ማህበራዊ ክፍት ማድረግ አለብኝ። ለሰጠሁ ማህበራዊ ክፍት ማድረግ አለብኝ። ለሰጠሁ ማህበራዊ ክፍት ማድረግ አለብኝ።

kinds of things are not being used, especially for the non-Inuit social services, because they're controlled from Iqaluit.

The person who has the authority doesn't go to the communities and make very important decisions without getting close to the people themselves or even to the social workers. They can go through the hamlet councils. This has to be looked at. We all realize what our problems are. If we had better coordination, then we can solve this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That was a comment there. I have no more other names, so I'll ask the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services if he has any closing statements.

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in fact, I do. I know I have a reputation of being long-winded, so I'll try to keep to the point.

First of all, maybe what I would like to start with is summarize what I have heard from Members today. The first comment that I would like to make is the advice that came here at the very end in terms of your concluding comments are things that I will take to heart. You are the ones who are in your communities, in your constituencies, you know what's going on, so it's very important that we listen to you in that regard and I really appreciate the comments you made in that regard.

One thing that's come out to me loud and clear is Inuit societal values. So we will keep that obviously in the forefront and not in the back.

I think a number of Members have discussed training and employment opportunities, so that's something that I

ᐃᐱᐱᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐃᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ. ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐃᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐃᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ. ᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐃᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ. ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ.

ᐃᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ.

ᐃᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ (ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ): ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ. ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ. ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ. ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ.

ᐱ (ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ): ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ, ᐃᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ. ᐃ, ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ. ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ.

ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ. ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ. ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ. ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ.

ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ. ᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠᐠ.

