



Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday April 13, 2016

Inquiry Subject:

The examination of the issues raised in the Audited Financial Statements of the Tobago House of Assembly for the period 2006 to 2007 and the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2014 related to the Tobago House of Assembly.

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

- Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie - Chairman
- Mr. Rodger Samuel - Vice-Chairman
- Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon - Member
- Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy - Member
- Dr. Lester Henry - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

Tobago House of Assembly (THA)

- Mr. Raye Sandy - Chief Administrator
- Mrs. Claire Davidson-Williams - Administrator, Finance and Enterprise Development
- Mrs. Esther Pilgrim-Soanes - Director, Finance & Enterprise Development
- Ms. Petal Roberts - Senior Finance Analyst
- Ms. Shelly Trim - Budget Analyst IV
- Mr. Bobby Andrews - Planning Coordinator

Auditor General's Department

- Mr. Gary Peters - Assistant Auditor General
- Mrs. Denese Toby-Quashie - Assistant Auditor General

Key Issues Discussed:

The following key issues were discussed:

- The challenges to prepare and submit Audited Financial Statements to the Auditor General;
- The mechanisms implemented by Tobago House of Assembly (THA) to ensure that Audited Financial Statements were submitted to Parliament in a timely manner;
- The steps taken to address the findings and recommendations of the Auditor General Report;
- The Human resources challenges faced by the THA;
- The steps taken for the repayment of loans to Assemblymen and Contracted Officers of the THA;
- The status of the Comprehensive Economic Development Plan for 2013 - 2017;
- The state of affairs of the Tobago House of Assembly's finances;
- The challenges to prepare pension and leave records and the efforts being made to prepare these record within six (6) months of retirement;
- The steps taken for the settlement of outstanding invoices to suppliers;
- The policy for the submission of supporting documents and records of transactions to the Auditor General for audit;
- The role, function and effectiveness of the Accounting Officer, Administering Officers and Liaison Officers;
- The maintenance of a fixed asset register;
- The status of internal control and internal audit;
- The steps taken to introduce an Asset Management System by 2017; and
- The mechanism put in place to monitor and evaluate projects.

View the Hearing:

The hearing can be viewed on our YouTube page via the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxIAwMrl3BE>

Next Meeting:

The next Public Hearing of the Committee will be held on Wednesday May 11, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. At that meeting the Committee intends to examine the issues raised in the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year 2014 with regard to the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries.

PAC Secretariat

April 13, 2016