



Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday June 22, 2016

Inquiry Subject:

An examination of the Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Public Accounts of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year ended 30th September, 2014 and 2015 related to the Ministry of Finance.

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

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| • Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie | - | Chairman |
| • Mr. Rodger Samuel | - | Vice-Chairman |
| • Dr. Dhanayshar Mahabir | - | Member |
| • Ms. Marlene Mc Donald | - | Member |
| • Mr. Randall Mitchell | - | Member |
| • Mr. Lester Henry | - | Member |
| • Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy | - | Member |

Witnesses who appeared:

Auditor General's Department (AGD)

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| • Mr. Majeed Ali | - | Auditor General |
| • Ms. Gaitrie Maharaj | - | Assistant Auditor General |
| • Ms. Kumari Rampaul | - | Audit Senior (Ag.) |
| • Ms. Nicole Cockburn | - | Legal Officer |
| • Mr. Brian Caesar | - | Audit Executive II (Ag.) |

Ministry of Finance

- | | | |
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| • Mr. Maurice Suite | - | Permanent Secretary |
| • Mr. Nayak Ramdahin | - | Chairman, Board of Inland Revenue (Ag.) |

- Mr. Keshore Lutchman - Accountant IV, Board of Inland Revenue
- Mr. Glen Singh - Comptroller, Customs & Excise Division (Ag.)
- Ms. Sherma Thompson-Sukra - Accountant, Customs & Excise Division (Ag.)
- Ms. Lisa Phillips - PS in the Ministry of Finance, Investment Division
- Ms. Savitree Seepersad - Deputy Permanent Secretary, Strategic Management
- Ms. Yvonne Neemacharan - Deputy Permanent Secretary, Strategic Management and Execution Office
- Ms. Catherine Laban - Comptroller of Accounts
- Ms. Jocelyn Thomas-Vialmosa - Deputy Comptroller of Accounts (Ag.)

Key Issues Discussed:

- The role and responsibilities of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) in ensuring accountability and financial management of the financial affairs of the economy;
- The timeline and benefits of the implementation of Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS);
- The auditing relationship between the MoF and the Auditor General's Department (AGD);
- The mechanisms in place to rectify the issue of non-adherence to financial instructions and regulations at the Inland Revenue Division and Customs and Excise Division;
- The status of overpayments at Ministries and Departments and the systems in place for the recovery of overpayments;
- The AGD being prohibited from accessing revenue documents from the Board of Inland Revenue because of the secrecy provision of Section 4 of the Income Tax Act;
- The status with regard to the access to revenue documents from the Inland Revenue Division;
- The Status of the overdraft on the Exchequer Account and the inclusion of the negative net Government Treasury balance in the Statement of Public Debt;

- The training of staff at Ministries and Departments in financial regulations, succession planning and accounting;
- The status of the actions taken by the Accounting Officers to bring pension and leave records up to date;
- The auditing of the Inland Revenue Division;
- The auditing of the revenue collectible from royalties and share of profits from oil companies;
- Systems in place for monitoring and calculating revenue received;
- The penalties for persons not adhering to financial regulations and instructions;
- The measures in place to ensure that individuals pay their outstanding taxes in a timely manner;
- The status of the arrears for taxes on income and profit; and
- The challenges in servicing the public debt;

View the Hearing:

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

<https://youtu.be/0BKIZCM4oE>

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday July 13, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. (in camera).

PAC Secretariat

June 22, 2016