



Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday May 11, 2016

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

- Mrs. Brigid Annisette-George - Chairman
- Dr. Lackram Bodoie - Vice-Chairman
- Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy - Member
- Ms. Allyson Baksh - Member
- Mr. Maxie Cuffie - Member
- Mr. Clarence Rambharat - Member
- Mr. Wade Mark - Member
- Ms. Melissa Ramkissoon - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

Ministry of Public Utilities

- Mr Vishnu Dhanpaul - Permanent Secretary
- Ms Vashti Shrikrisen Singh - Deputy Permanent Secretary
- Ms Anika Farmer - Director Legal Services
- Ms Beverley Quamina - Acting Head Economic Research
Policy Planning Unit
- Ms Mauricia Pegus - Manager Customer Service Unit
- Mrs Arlene Johnson Lawrence - Senior Project Manager
- Ms Alisia Quacoo - Director Monitoring and
Evaluation
- Ms Pamela Lachman - Accounting Executive I
- Ms Carol Babb - Auditor II
- Mr Ronald Roach - Chief Executive Officer,
SWMCOL
- Mr Kelvin Ramsook - General Manager T&TEC
- Mr Naresh Sukhram - General Manager Finance, TTPost

- Mr Alan Poon King - Chief Executive Officer WASA
- Mr Rixon Boodoo - Finance Manager CEPEP
- Mr Rondell Donawa - Corporate Secretary CEPEP

Key Issues Discussed:

Development Programme: Consolidated Fund and Infrastructure Development Fund

- The impact of the realignment of the Ministry;
- The accountability of the Permanent Secretary;
- Enhanced monitoring and surveillance within the Ministry and agencies falling under its purview;
- Readjustment to PSIP based on 7% budget reduction;
- External and domestic financing available to the Ministry and agencies under its purview;
- T&TEC expansion of generating capacity in Tobago;
- WASA road restoration in Tobago;
- Criteria for the carry of funds from previous financial years;
- Status of the National Street Lighting Programme;
- Lighting of Parks and Recreational Grounds: status, maintenance, criteria for selecting parks and grounds, and mechanisms in place to conserve energy;
- The monitoring and evaluation of projects by the Ministry;
- Site Visits: frequency, reports and findings;
- Measures in place to mitigate leaks - WASA;
- Update on the power outage on May 11, 2016 and the capacity of TGU;
- The rehabilitation of the Guanapo Landfill and construction of a Leachate Treatment Plant;
- Measures for detecting fraud at the Ministry and agencies under its purview;
- Status update on the Internal Audit Unit;
- Status of the Postal Sector and S42 Addressing System;
- Public Awareness of Programmes of the Ministry and its agencies e.g. water tank project, utilities bill assistance;
- Recycling initiatives and the need for national policy on recycling;
- The outstanding Audited Financial Statements of WASA;

Current Transfers and Subsidies

- Status update on the Water Resource Management Unit;
- New Strategic Plan and return to the original mandate of CEPEP;

- Government's mandate to incorporate CEPEP into the agriculture sector;
- Self-funding agencies under the purview of the Ministry: National Maintenance Training and Security Company Limited (MTS), Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (TSTT), Regulated Industries Commission (RIC);
- T&TEC and WASA's overall debt profile;
- \$250Mn owed to contractors by WASA;
- WASA's involvement in the end of the moratorium on hunting; and
- Update on 67 fraudulent cheques issued by WASA.

View the Hearing:

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FcrNsNA8yGE>

Next Meeting:

The next Public Hearing of the Committee will be held on Wednesday May 25, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. (*in camera*) and 2:30 p.m. (*in public*). At that meeting the Committee intends to examine of the 2016 expenditure of the Office of the Prime Minister, the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, the Elections and Boundaries Commission and Personnel Department under the following sub-heads, where applicable:

- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies;
- 09 Development Programme–Consolidated Fund; and
- Infrastructure Development Fund.

**PAAC Secretariat
May 12, 2016**