



## **Joint Select Committee on State Enterprises**

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# **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**held on Monday May 02, 2016**

*An Inquiry into the management and operations of  
the Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (UDeCOTT)*

### **1. Meeting**

1.1 A public hearing was held on Monday May 02, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:17 p.m. at the J. Hamilton Maurice Room at the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

### **2. Attendance**

2.1 The following Members of the Committee were present:

- Dr. Lester Henry (Vice-Chairman)
- Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Ancil Antoine, MP
- Mr. Adrian Leonce, MP
- Mr. Fazal Karim, MP
- Mrs. Cherrie-Ann Crichlow-Cockburn, MP
- Ms. Allyson Baksh
- Mr. Wade Mark

### **2.2 Witnesses who appeared**

The following officials of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MoHUD) and the UDeCOTT appeared before the Committee:

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ▪ Ms. Simone Thorne Mora Quinones | - Permanent Secretary, MoHUD  |
| ▪ Mr. Noel Garcia                 | - Chairman                    |
| ▪ Ms. Abena Richards              | - Chief Operating Officer     |
| ▪ Mr. Andre Ow Buland             | - Chief Financial Officer     |
| ▪ Mr. Chris Jagroop               | - Chief Construction Engineer |
| ▪ Ms. Kathryn Denbow              | - Chief Legal Officer         |

### **3. Key Issues Discussed**

- i) Strategic Plan
- ii) Challenges with preparing Audited Financial Statements
- iii) Untimely settlement of funds by Ministries/entities
- iv) Procedure used for the appointment of the current Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

- v) UDeCOTT's relatively high staff turnover
- vi) Vacancies
- vii) UDeCOTT staff complement doubled
- viii) Borrowing Status
- ix) Safety issues
- x) Site Visits
- xi) Status of hand over of some projects
- xii) Ensuring Transparency, accountability and value for money
- xiii) HYATT reserve funds
- xiv) Status of the Couva Children's Hospital
- xv) Status of Arima and Point Fortin Hospitals
- xvi) Red House Restoration Project
- xvii) UDECOTTs sources of funding
- xviii) Developing Small Contractors
- xix) Brian Lara Cricket Academy
- xx) Reputability of UDECOTTs Project Management
- xxi) Concerns of the First People
- xxii) Records Management and Storage
- xxiii) Relationship between UDECOTT and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
- xxiv) Adequacy of technical staff to execute projects
- xxv) Defects liability period

**5. View the Hearing:**

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

[https://youtu.be/6D\\_Mo8N\\_pZ4](https://youtu.be/6D_Mo8N_pZ4)

**6. Contact Information:**

You may contact the Committee's Secretary at [jscse@tparliament.org](mailto:jscse@tparliament.org) or 624-7275 Ext. 2828/2309.

Committees Unit  
May 03, 2016