



Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday February 6, 2019

Inquiry Subject:

The examination of the audited financial statements of the Cocoa Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (CDCTTL) for the period 2014 to 2016.

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

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| • Mr. Wade Mark | - | Chairman |
| • Dr. Tim Gopeesingh | - | Vice Chairman |
| • Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds | - | Member |
| • Mrs. Cherrie-Ann Crichlow-Cockburn | - | Member |
| • Mr. Foster Cummings | - | Member |

Witnesses who appeared:

Cocoa Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

- | | | |
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| • Mr. Winston Rudder | - | Chairman |
| • Ms. Jacqueline Rawlins | - | Director |
| • Mr. Leon Granger | - | Chief Executive Officer |
| • Ms. Mala Partap | - | Chief Operations Officer/
Secretary |

Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

- | | | |
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| • Ms. Lydia Jacobs | - | Permanent Secretary |
| • Ms. Albada Beekham | - | Director, Research Division |
| • Mr. David Ram | - | Director (Ag.), Regional
Administration North |
| • Ms. Theresa Rosemond | - | Technical Officer, Crops
Research, Research Division |
| • Ms. Jaiwantee Samsoundar | - | Agricultural Officer I,
Research Division |
| • Mr. Chris J. Ramkissoon | - | Planning Officer, Agricultural
Planning Division |

Ministry of Finance – Investments Division

- Ms. Jennifer Lutchman - Deputy Permanent Secretary
- Mr. Ryan Maharaj - Senior Business Analyst (Ag.)
- Ms. Salie Ramesar - Business Analyst

Key Topics Discussed:

1. The history of the CDCTTL;
2. The non-commercial nature of the CDCTTL's activities;
3. The core functions of the CDCTTL;
4. The reduction in the metric tonnes of cocoa produced;
5. The CDCTTL's non-adherence to the procedure for the submission of Audited Financial Statement for the year 2017;
6. The strategic role of cocoa in the development of the economy;
7. The difference between the mandate of the CDCTTL and its predecessor, the Cocoa and Coffee Industry Board (CCIB);
8. The reasons for the key positions of accountant, internal auditor, market research officers being vacant at the CDCTTL;
9. The absence of an internal audit and risk management function;
10. The status of the \$13 million dollar inherited from the CCIB;
11. The annual volume of world cocoa production;
12. The distinction between fine or flavor cocoa and bulk cocoa in terms of quality and price;
13. Trinidad and Tobago's status as a fine or flavor cocoa producer;
14. The status of the National Strategic Plan for the Cocoa Industry of Trinidad and Tobago (NCSP);
15. The status of the approval of the CDCTTL's Strategic Plan;
16. The operationalization of the Draft Strategic Plan by the Company in contravention of the provisions of the State Enterprises Performance Monitoring Manual;
17. The effect of budget constraints on the Company's work programme;
18. The potential for development of the domestic value added industry;
19. The challenge of increasing production while maintaining high quality of cocoa;
20. The role of the CDCTTL regarding exported cocoa beans;
21. The sharp decline in national cocoa production in comparison to the twentieth (20th) century;
22. The national cocoa production targets over the next ten (10) years;
23. The risk of fraud occurring as a result of the non-separation of duties perform by the Chief Operation Officer;
24. The regulation of the industry;
25. The reasons for the increase in rent paid for the Company's current location;
26. The reasons for the increase in janitorial services expenditure for the period 2015 to 2016;
27. The number of registered cocoa farmers in Trinidad and Tobago;
28. The amount of land used for the cultivation of cocoa in Trinidad and Tobago;
29. The Farmer's Field School Initiative;

30. The Compliance with European Union (EU) cocoa import regulations on cadmium content;
31. The Certification Mark and Certificates of Origin issued by the CDCTTL;
32. The challenges of institutional credibility / visibility;
33. The Company's allocation on the expenditure item 'donations and sponsorships';
34. The resuscitation of the cocoa industry;
35. The reasons for requesting an increase in subvention although the company has retained unspent balances;
36. The circumstances and factors which prompted the decision of CDCTTL to relocate its Office to Mulchan Seuchan Road, Chaguanas which resulted in a significant increase in rent;
37. The training programme in cocoa husbandry for Community-Based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (CEPEP) workers;
38. The aim and cost of the National Cocoa Awards competition;

View the Hearing:

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

<https://youtu.be/N3oUxlh3150>

PA(E)C Secretariat

February 7, 2019