



Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday March 16, 2016

Inquiry Subject:

The Examination of the Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Special Audit of the School Nutrition Programme managed by the National Schools Dietary Services Limited (NSDSL).

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

- Mr. Wade Mark - Chairman
- Mr. Tim Gopeesingh - Vice- Chairman
- Mr. Foster Cummings - Member
- Mrs. Jennifer Baptiste-Primus - Member
- Mr. David Small - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

Auditor General's Department

- Mr. Majeed Ali - Auditor General
- Ms. Jaiwantie Ramdass - Assistant Auditor General
- Ms. Cyntra Neemarcharan - Assistant Audit Director
- Mrs. Theodora Lewis-Johncilla - Audit Senior
- Ms. Nicole Cockburn - Senior Legal Officer

National School Dietary Services Limited

- Ms. Stacy Barran - Chief Executive Officer
- Ms. Vanesa Martina - Programme Manager (Nutrition Services)
- Ms. Indra Mootoo - Accountant
- Ms. Karen Lewis- Baptiste - Zonal Manager (Operations)

Ministry of Finance –Investment Division

- Ms. Yvette Babb (Ag.) - Director, Social and Economic Transformation

- Ms. Chintamani Sookoo - Director, Agro- based Manufacturing and Services Sector (Ag.)
- Mr. Dennis Cox - Senior Investment Portfolio Analyst
- Mr. Suresh Dan - Business Analyst

Ministry of Education

- Ms. Gillian Macintyre - Permanent Secretary
- Ms. Harrilal Seecharan - Chief Executive Officer
- Mr. Dipnarine Mungal - Director, Finance and Accounts Division
- Ms. Ashram Deoraj - Director, Schools Supervision
- Mr. John Roopchan - Director , Curriculum Planning Division
- Ms. Lisa Henry David - Director, Education Planning Division

Key Issues Discussed:

The following key issues were discussed:

1. The Investment Division of the Ministry of Finance is responsible for the corporate governance of state enterprises and the respective line Ministry is responsible for operational issue of the state enterprises.
2. The Auditor General identified the School Nutrition Programme for special audit based on the high allocation of resources and public outcry.
3. The definition of a State Enterprise is a company that the government owns 51% or more of the shares.
4. The oversight mechanisms used by the Investment Division to monitor State Enterprises.
5. The financial model developed by Pricewaterhousecoopers Limited to determine the price to produce meals.
6. The correlation between the use of local produce food and low consumption of meals.
7. The procurement of caterers follow the process of open tendering.
8. The issue of wastage was explained by officials of NSDSL and steps were implemented to reduce the level of wastage of meals.
9. The restructuring of the Strategic Plan and key performance indicators which is required to improve the objectives of (NSDSL).
10. The status of the implementation of the recommendations provided by the Auditor General's Department.

View the Hearing:

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TRJNxgpNe0>

Next Meeting:

The next Public Hearing of the Committee will be held on Wednesday April 6, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. At that meeting the Committee intends to examine the issues raised in the Audited

Financial Statements for the Evolving Technologies and Enterprises Development Company Limited (eTECK).

PAC Secretariat
March 16, 2016