



Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday December 13, 2017

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present at the meeting:

- Mrs. Bridgid Annisette-George - Chairman
- Dr. Lackram Bodoie - Vice-Chairman
- Mr. Ronald Huggins - Member
- Mr. Wade Mark - Member
- Ms. Jennifer Raffoul - Member
- Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy - Member
- Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Ancil Antoine - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

Ministry of Public Utilities (MPU)

- Mr. Gary Joseph - Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Ms. Beverly Khan - Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Ms. Carol Ann Babb - Auditor II (Ag.)
- Ms. Pamela Lachman-Ramdial - Accounting Executive I (Ag.)
- Ms. Alisia Quaccoo - Director, Monitoring and Evaluation
- Ms. Anika Sarah Farmer - Director, Legal Services
- Ms. Mauricia Pegus - Manager, Customer Service
- Ms. Arlene Johnson-Lawrence - Senior Project Manager

Ms. Marion Hayes	-	Director, Human Resource Management Unit
Dr. Ellis Burris	-	Chief Executive Officer, Water and Sewerage Authority
Mr. Kelvin Ramsook	-	General Manager, Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission
Mr. George Alexis	-	Managing Director (Ag.)
Mr. Ronald Roach	-	Chief Executive Officer, Solid Waste Management Company
Ms. Arlene Collis	-	Senior Economist

Key Issues Discussed

Follow-up to First PAAC Report of the Committee

- Recommendation: Prepare a Fraud Policy

1. The Anti-Fraud Policy;
2. The referral to the Anti-Fraud Policy in preparation of cheques;
3. Status update of the issue of the (67) fraudulent cheques;
4. Recovery of monies from the fraudulent cheques;
5. Persons implicated in the matter of fraudulent cheques; and
6. Confidence in the ability of the WASA to prevent the recurrence of fraud.

- Recommendations: That all risks involved in the increased reliance on the TGU plant be identified.

1. Clarification on the risk involved should any of the steam turbines at TGU trip;
2. Construction of a second double circuit line from La Brea to Ghandhi Village; and
3. Risks involved with the delivery of service to customers as a result T&TEC's reliance on Trinidad Generation Unlimited Plant.

- Recommendations: Implementation of cost effective measures to ensure Assistance Programmes are delivered efficiently;

Embark on an aggressive Public Awareness Campaign to ensure widest possible use; and

Conduct site visits to homes of beneficiaries,

1. Constituency Sensitization Training at Constituency Offices;
2. The Memorandum of Understanding regarding the TTConnect platform;
3. Status of public outreach Events for fiscal 2017;
4. The impact of the Public Education Programmes;
5. The status of the Utility Assistance Programme;
6. Beneficiaries of the Utility Assistance Programmes as at July 31, 2017;
7. Criteria for accessing the Solar Panel Assistance Programme;
8. Collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development Culture and the Arts;
9. The development and implementation of the Residential Electrification Assistance Programme (REAP); and
10. Cost effective measures used in the implementation of Programme Administration.

Follow-up to Third Report of the Committee

- Recommendation: Provide a progress report of Inventory Exercise by June 30, 2017; and

Provide a progress report on the tagging of all Inventory by June 30, 2017

1. The status of the Inventory Exercise;
2. The delay in the completion of the Tagging Exercise;
3. The audit of the Inventory Register;
4. The form of tagging used;
5. The plans for verification of the items tagged and the existence of the tags;
6. Measures to monitor the movement of Inventory; and
7. Safeguarding assets and monitoring of the Electronic Surveillance System.

Statement of Expenditure as at July 31, 2017

Consolidated Fund

1. Clarification on all Variances stated under Item 05 - Economic Infrastructure, Fuel and Energy

Project 581 – National Street Lighting Programme

1. The number of street lights erected for the 2017 fiscal year; and
2. The areas where lights were erected in Trinidad and Tobago for the 2017 fiscal year.

Project 597 – Electrification Programme

1. Scope and status of the programme; and
2. The rationale for the increase in allocation for the month ending July 31, 2017;

Infrastructure Development Fund

Project 006 - Multi-Phase Wastewater Rehabilitation Programme

1. The status of the project;
2. The increase in allocation for the project; and
3. The scheduled completion date of the project.

Project 008 - South West Sewerage Upgrade – Phase I

1. The status of the project as at July 31, 2011;
2. The reasons for the increase in allocation for this project; and
3. The scheduled completion date for the project.

Issues Arising from the Standing Finance Committee

Street Lighting Programme

1. The description of the partnership with the T&TEC to alleviate the wastage of power at Recreation Grounds and Parks;
2. The development of Public Education initiatives to inform the public of the new energy conservative-type activities; and
3. The systems in place to identify blown street lights around Trinidad and Tobago.

Water Resource Management Unit

1. Major causes of water leaks;
2. The measures in place to partner with the Fire Service to ensure fire hydrants are fixed in a timely manner;
3. Policies and processes to detect and repair leaks across Trinidad;
4. Introduction of a Non-Revenue Reduction Programme under the PSIP;
5. Water wastage per year;

6. The introduction of a Rapid Response Unit; and
7. The WASA App.

Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Company Limited

1. Waste collection and management in Trinidad and Tobago;
2. The bulk of waste in Trinidad; and
3. Recycling in Tobago.

Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission

1. The execution of surveys to determine the number of citizens or households not accessing the electricity grid;

Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA)

1. The use of truck borne water;
2. Cases currently before the court against WASA;
3. The \$1 billion dollars owed to contractors; and
4. The court ordered \$1.1 Million to be paid by WASA; and
5. Responsiveness of WASA to public complaints.

Rent and Leasing of New Property

1. The monthly sum of rent paid by the Ministry;
2. Rent for fiscal 2017;
3. The leasing of One Alexandra Place;
4. The challenges encountered due to the re-location of the Ministry in September, 2017;

Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation

1. Refurbishment and construction plans of the TTPost;
2. Availability of funds;

View the Hearing:

The hearing can be viewed on our YouTube Channel, ParlView via the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktddnxm5Tto>

Next Meeting:

The next Public Hearing of the Committee will be held on **Thursday December 28, 2017** at 2:30 p.m. At this meeting, the Committee intends to conduct a Follow-up inquiry on the recommendations from the Third and Fourth Reports of the PAAC and the corresponding Ministerial Responses.

PAAC Secretariat
December 14, 2017