



Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday March 29, 2017

Inquiry Subject:

The Examination of the concerns raised in the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial years 2014 and 2015 with specific reference to the Ministry of Health (MOH).

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

- Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie - Chairman
- Mr. Rodger Samuel - Vice- Chairman
- Dr. Lester Henry - Member
- Ms. Jennifer Raffoul - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

Ministry Of Health (MOH)

- Mr. Richard Madray - Permanent Secretary
- Ms. Dianne Dhanpath - Deputy Permanent Secretary
- Mr. Anthony Bailey - Facilities Manager
- Mr. Dalip Rajkumar - Accounting Executive I
- Ms. Sarita Ghouralal - Auditor III
- Mr. Asif Ali - Health Sector Advisor
- Ms. Rosey Sahatoo - Administrative Officer V
- Mr. Ronald Koylass - Project Manager, PMU
- Ms. Bhabie Roopchand - Legal Adviser
- Mr. Beesham Seetaram - Programme Administrator, EPP
- Mr. Lawrence Jaisingh - Director Health Policy Research and Planning
- Dr. Keven Antoine - Principal Medical Officer
- Ms. Veronica Pedro - Accountant II (Ag.)
- Ms. Jennifer Harvey-Bethel - Accountant III

Auditor General’s Department

- Ms. Gaitrie Maharaj - Assistant Auditor General
- Ms. Suzanne Rampersad - Audit Executive I (Ag.)

Key Issues Discussed

1. The main challenges experienced by the MOH;
2. The reasons and solutions to the structural issues existing at the MOH
3. The relationship between the Permanent Secretary and the Board of Directors at the Regional Health Authorities;
4. The status of the National Health Services Company Limited (NHSCL) and the contractual agreement with NIPDEC;
5. The reasons for the non-submission and late submission of audited financial statements by the RHAs to the Auditor General's Department(AGD);
6. The reasons for the high employee turnover and vacancies at the MOH;
7. The status of the overpayments;
8. The procurement policy utilized by the MOH;
9. The increase in the cost of renal dialysis between the period 2014 to 2015;
10. The measures in place to evaluate the effectiveness of outsourced dialysis treatments;
11. The deficiencies discovered in the site visits to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs);
12. The systems in place to address the pervasive issues identified in the Reports of the AGD;
13. The role of Permanent Secretary in ensure proper systems of accounting and supervision over the receipt of public revenue;
14. The status of the air conditioning and ventilation systems at wards 5 and 6 of the Sangre Grande Hospital;
15. The weaknesses of the Internal Audit System at the MOH;
16. The status of the National Oncology Center at Mt. Hope;
17. The status of the non-operational CT-Scanners at 3 major hospitals;
18. The recommendations of the PAC to assist the MOH in performing its duties and functions.

View the Hearing:

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

<https://youtu.be/bVIRoJf4yoY>

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday April 12, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. At this meeting, the Committee intends to examine the issues raised in the Audited Financial Statements of the Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA) for the years 2008 to 2013.

PAC Secretariat
March 29, 2017