



Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday January 24, 2018

Inquiry Subject:

The Examination of the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheet and other Financial Statements of the National Training Agency (NTA) for the financial years 2008-2011.

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

- Mr. Wade Mark - Chairman
- Dr. Tim Gopeesingh - Vice Chairman
- Dr. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly - Member
- Mrs. Cherrie-Ann Crichlow-Cockburn - Member
- Mrs. Jennifer Baptiste-Primus - Member
- Mr. Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds - Member
- Mr. David Small - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

National Training Agency (NTA)

- Dr. Ruby S. Alleyne - Chairman
- Mr. Brian Bissessar - Senior Manager- Human Resources
- Mr. Anees Rahman - Corporate Legal Secretary
- Ms. Martha Prince - Senior Internal Auditor (Ag.)
- Mr. Anthony Singh - Senior Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
- Ms. Pauline Whiteman - Senior Manager, Programme Development and Management
- Mr. Steven Bujhawan - Administrative Officer

Ministry of Education

- Ms. Angela Sinaswee-Gervais - Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Mrs. Geeta Maharaj - Director, Finance and Accounts
- Ms. Carol Bickram - Director (Ag.) Research, Planning and Technical Services

Ministry of Finance – Investments Division

- Ms. Jennifer Lutchman - Deputy Permanent Secretary
- Ms. Yvette Babb - Director, Social and Economic Transformation
- Ms. Annabella Sawh - Business Analyst (Ag.)
- Mr. Inshan Mohammed - Senior Audit Analyst

Key Issues Discussed

1. The mandate of the NTA;
2. The effectiveness of the NTA in its delivery of services;
3. The relevance and viability of the NTA;
4. The inability of the CEO to attend the 25th meeting of the PAEC;
5. The status of the Audited Financial Statements for the financial years ended 2012-2017;
6. The oversight role of the Ministry of Education in ensuring the timely submission of Audited Financial Statements by the NTA;
7. The reasons for the change in the external auditor;
8. The difference between the NTA and other training agencies;
9. The major stakeholders of the NTA;
10. The reasons for the increase in staff over the period 2008-2011;
11. The status of the NTA's draft Strategic Plan for the period 2018-2022;
12. The status and approval of NTA's Organisational Structure;
13. The number of vacant positions at the NTA;
14. The policy with respect to acting appointments for members of staff in managerial positions;
15. The policy with respect to the utilisation of vacation leave;
16. The achievement of the strategic goals and objectives of the NTA over the period 2008-2011;
17. The reasons for the increase in salaries, overseas travel and conference expenses over the period 2008-2011;
18. The status of the recommendations made in the Internal Audit report and the reasons for management's non-adherence to these recommendations;
19. The lack of an approved vendor list;
20. The number of training and skill centers that were established by the NTA;
21. The mechanisms in place to promote technical and vocational skills.
22. The absence of a risk management policy, a fixed asset policy and a fraud policy;
23. The increase in operating cost in relation to the decreasing government subvention;
24. The measures in place to address the ongoing deficit;
25. The status of the investigation into the NTA's pension plan.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday February 21, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

View the Hearing:

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

https://youtu.be/bCtYZOk8w_8

PA(E)C Secretariat
January 24, 2018