



Joint Select Committee on State Enterprises

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARING

held on Monday May 09, 2016

An Inquiry into the management and operations of the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago (NGC)

1. Meeting

1.1 A public hearing was held on Monday May 09, 2016 from 10:22 a.m. to 12:01 p.m. at the J. Hamilton Maurice Room at the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

2. Attendance

2.1 The following Members of the Committee were present:

- Mr. David Small (Chairman)
- Dr. Lester Henry (Vice-Chairman)
- Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Ancil Antoine, MP
- Mr. Fazal Karim, MP
- Mrs. Cherrie-Ann Crichlow-Cockburn, MP
- Ms. Allyson Baksh
- Mr. Wade Mark

2.2 Witnesses who appeared

The following officials of the NGC appeared before the Committee:

- Ms. Olave Maria Thorne - President
- Mr. Ronald Adams -VP, Gas Transmission & Distribution
- Mr. Narinejit Pariag -VP, Finance & Information Management
- Mr. Frank Look Kin -Consultant
- Mr. Patrick Bynoe -Snr. Manager Engineering Services
- Mr. Danford Mapp Sen. Manager Construction Services (AG)
- Ms. Lisa Burkett Manager, Corporate Communications (AG)
- Ms. Reya Bholai- Legal Counsel Contract

3. Key Issues Discussed

- i) The Strategic Direction of the Company for the next five years.
- ii) Appointment of a new President
- iii) The role of the Gas Aggregator.
- iv) Waste Water Recycling Plant.
- v) NGC/CNG project.

- vi) Re-aforestation programme
- vii) Activities to develop competitiveness in upstream and downstream?
- viii) The major contributor to NGCs staff turnover rate.
- ix) NGCs succession plan.
- x) Challenges facing the NGC that impacts on its growth and objectives in the Strategic Plan 2016-2020.
- xi) New capital investments to address the gas shortage in 2017/2018.
- xii) The use of small gas pools to obtain gas so that gas can be managed at an economical price.
- xiii) Whether NGC is adequately equipped to achieve its strategic objectives given that some employees were in acting positions.
- xiv) NGCs dividends policy which allows for the payment of up to 99% of its profits in dividends.
- xv) NGC-SIS Wastewater project, the issues surrounding the failed project and its current status.
- xvi) Annual Administrative Reports for 2014 and 2015.
- xvii) NGC's review of the Beetham Wastewater Project including the cost to complete the project which is owned by the Company. NGC has not invested in Africa and is still searching the market.
- xviii) Gain Share Payments to NGC Employees.
- xix) The number of employees at the NGC who received Gain Share Payments.
- xx) The number of employees impacted by the freeze in salary.
- xxi) The ability of the NGC to divert cargo. In terms of its LNG cargo the Company only has data for Trains 1 and a percentage of Train 4. Annually NGC has three cargoes under its remit.
- xxii) The factors that contributed to the high level of profit after tax in 2013.
- xxiii) The number of industrial relations disputes before the courts.
- xxiv) The number of CNG stations and their locations and plans for future stations.
- xxv) The total debt owed to NGC and the measures being taken to recover the debt.
- xxvi) The key role of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and their level of growth in terms of their spending.
- xxvii) The status of the Liquid Fuel Pipeline project.
- xxviii) BP TROP with NGC.
- xxix) Information on gas leaks and their impact on neighbouring communities.
- xxx) The Cove Point Facility, the contract between NGC and T&TEC.
- xxxii) TGU invoice aging debt to NGC.

5. View the Hearing:

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBHA8PtU11A>

6. Contact Information:

You may contact the Committee's Secretary at jscse@tparliament.org or 624-7275 Ext. 2828/2309.

Committees Unit
May 09, 2016