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**Summary of Proceedings**

**Public Hearing**

**Joint Select Committee on Finance and Legal Affairs**

Held on **Friday March 23, 2018**

**Subject matter:** An Inquiry into the Waste Management Policies and initiatives of the state.

**Venue:** A public hearing was held on Friday March 23, 2018 from 10:20 a.m. to 12:14 p.m. at the J. Hamilton Maurice Meeting Room, Mezzanine Floor, Office of the Parliament, Tower D, The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre, 1A Wrightson Road, Port-of-Spain.

**Committee Members**

The following Committee Members were present:

- Ms. Sophia Chote SC (Chairman)
- Mr. Clarence Rambharat (Vice-Chairman)
- Mr. Taharqa Obika,
- Mrs. Cherrie-Ann Crichlow-Cockburn, MP

**Witnesses who appeared**

The following officials of the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Environmental Management Authority appeared:

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|----------------------|------------------------------|
| • Ms. Marie Hinds    | Permanent Secretary (AG.)    |
| • Dr. David Persaud  | Environmental Manager        |
| • Dr. Marissa Gowrie | Deputy Environmental Manager |
| • Ms. Andrea Julien  | Senior State Council         |
| • Mr. Hayden Romano  | Managing Director, EMA       |



- xi. The status of the EMA's investigation into alleged breaches of environmental laws in Carlson Field;
- xii. The fact that the the EMA's direct involvement in waste management initiatives has not adversely impacted its operational efficiency ;
- xiii. The rationale for the EMA implementing the iCARE programme instead of SWMCOL;
- xiv. The entity with the responsibility for managing oil spills;
- xv. The EMA's inability to implement Section 61 of the Environmental Management Act;
- xvi. The collection and disposal of biomedical waste;
- xvii. The channels through which the public can get information on the proper disposal of the various types of waste; and
- xviii. The initiatives being implemented to combat the creation of ad-hoc landfill sites.

The following are the main issues highlighted during discussions with the **Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Company Limited (SWMCOL)**:

- i. The need for a Waste Management Authority with the overarching responsibility for waste management;
- ii. The status of SWMCOL's efforts in filling vacancies;
- iii. SWMCOL's lack of resources to effectively and efficiently manage landfill sites;
- iv. SWMCOL's initiatives to reduce fires at landfill sites;
- v. The use of a separate private facility for the collection and disposal of biomedical waste;
- vi. The level of waste generation in Trinidad and Tobago;
- vii. The initiatives being undertaken to recycle and reprocess tires for its use in downstream products;
- viii. The mechanisms in place to track the importation and movement of toxic chemicals;
- ix. The channels through which the public can get information on the proper disposal of the various types of waste; and
- x. The initiatives being undertaken to separate waste at source.

The following are the main issues highlighted during discussions with the **Ministry of Public Utilities**:

- i. The status of the Waste Recycling Bill; and
- ii. The initiative being undertaken to manage waste in the work place via the Public Sector Recycling Programme.

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This public hearing can be viewed on demand via our YouTube Channel.

<https://youtu.be/yFwGGzbJGZY>

**Contact the Committee's Secretary**

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*Committees Unit*

*Thursday March 29, 2018.*