



Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday April 27, 2016

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

- Mrs. Brigid Annisette-George - Chairman
- Dr. Lackram Bodoie - Vice-Chairman
- Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy - Member
- Ms. Nicole Olivierre - Member
- Ms. Allyson Baksh - Member
- Mr. Maxie Cuffie - Member
- Mr. Wade Mark - Member
- Ms. Melissa Ramkissoon - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

Industrial Court

- Mr. Noel Inniss - Registrar
- Ms. Kathy-Ann Alexander-Fraser - Assistant Registrar
- Ms. Youland Robinson - Court Administrator
- Ms. Lydia Glasgow - Accounting Executive I
- Ms. Yvienne Lawrence - Communications Officer
- Mr. Roger Belcon - Information Tech. Specialist
- Ms. Hetty Burke - Auditor I

Key Issues Discussed:

- Current status of the upgrading of the Court's Website;
- Status of the Tobago Office of the Industrial Court;
- Possibility of acquiring accommodation from the Supreme Court in Tobago;
- The sum of funds allocated for the Tobago office project;
- Role of the Accounting Officer in NIPDEC'S tendering process;

- Internal Controls put in place for ensuring projects are completed within budget and within schedule;
- Mechanisms used to prevent, detect and investigate fraudulent activities;
- Initiatives in place for greater accessibility to the Court for persons residing in Tobago;
- Training of staff for the Internal Audit and its current functions;
- Function of the Internal Audit Unit and the projected expansion of staff; and
- Issues and outcomes of the Internal Audit Reports.

Tax Appeal Board

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| • Mr. Dushant Persad Maharaj | - | Registrar |
| • Mrs. Gayvelle Davis | - | Librarian II |
| • Mr. Keith Joseph | - | Information Tech. Specialist |

Key Issues Discussed:

- Current challenges faced by the Department;
- Reasons for upgrading the Library;
- External stakeholders of the Board and the benefits of upgrading the Library for these stakeholders;
- Issues of limited manpower in the Department and the Library; and
- The Internal Audit function and prevention and detection methods for fraud.

Environmental Commission

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| • Ms. Gizel Thomas-Roberts | - | Registrar |
| • Ms. Stacy Alleyne | - | Administrative Officer II (Ag.) |
| • Ms. Chrysten Dalrymple | - | Accounting Assistant (Ag.) |
| • Mr. Troy Roberts | - | Information Tech. Consultant |

Key Issues Discussed:

- Existence and transference of funds for on-going and new projects;
- Possibility of establishing an independent Accounting Unit;
- Outsourcing of Internet Service Providers instead of utilising the Government's "backbone" to reduce costs;
- Projects started for 2016;
- Expansion of the Department to two offices; and
- The relationship between the Industrial Court Audit unit and the Commission.

Integrity Commission

- Ms. Jasmine Pascal - Registrar (Ag.)
- Ms. Isha George - Accounting Assistant
- Ms. Petal Alexander - Legal Officer II
- Ms. Adella Ramroop - Legal Officer II
- Mr. Mervyn Crichlow - Manager, Corporate Communications
- Mr. Richard Frederick - Director Of Investigations
- Mr. Christopher Ramsey - Director of Compliance
- Ms. Candice Young - Senior Human Resource Analyst
- Mrs. Natasha Elder St. Louis - Information Tech. Specialist/Webmaster

Key Issues Discussed:

- The origin of the \$500,000 allocation for the Drafting of Whistleblower Protection Legislation;
- Cost and current status of the Whistleblower Unit;
- Initiatives being taken to educate the general public about the Integrity in Public Life Act (IPLA);
- Measures implemented to help Trinidad and Tobago to become corruption free;
- Status of the amendments being made to the IPLA;
- Additional accommodation for new staff in order for the Department to effectively function;
- Internal Audit Unit, reports and its functions; and
- The Department's employment and transition policies.

Next Meeting:

The next Public Hearing of the Committee will be held on Wednesday May 11, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. (*in camera*) and 2:30 p.m. (*in public*). At that meeting the Committee intends to examine of the 2016 expenditure of the Ministry of Public Utilities under the following sub-heads:

- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies;
- 09 Development Programme–Consolidated Fund; and
- Infrastructure Development Fund.

PAAC Secretariat
April 28, 2016