



Parliament
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Levels G - 8, Tower D
The Port-of-Spain International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road, Port-of-Spain
Telephone: (868) 624-PARL (7275)
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Public Accounts Committee

Public Hearing Summary Wednesday February 28, 2018

Inquiry Subject:

The Examination of the concerns raised in the Audited Financial Statements of the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) for the years 2009-2013.

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

- Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie - Chairman
- Mr. Taharqa Obika - Vice- Chairman
- Ms. Melissa Ramkissoon - Member
- Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy - Member
- Mr. Adrian Leonce - Member
- Mr. Randall Mitchell - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS)

- Mr. Lawford Dupres - Chairman
- Mr. Theodore Reddock - Executive Director
- Ms. Nadira Mohammed - Financial Comptroller
- Ms. Michelle Paterson - Head Strategic Human Resource
- Mr. Gerard Maxwell - Head Implementation Division
- Ms. Sydelle Marchan - Legal Officer
- Mr. Keith London - Marketing Officer
- Mr. Andre Ow Buland - Convener of the Audit & Finance Committee

Ministry of Trade and the Industry

- Mr. Norris Herbert - Permanent Secretary
- Mr. Dennis Scott - Manager of Alliances
- Ms. Trudy Lewis - Senior Economist (Ag.)



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- Mrs. Janice Parris - Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator

Key Issues Discussed:

1. The strategic role of the TTBS in the development of Trinidad and Tobago;
2. The TTBSs' budgetary allocation for fiscal year 2017/2018;
3. The measures in place for the TTBS to be self-sufficient;
4. TTBS' ability to generate foreign currency;
5. The value for money derived from TTBS' operations;
6. The TTBS' role in setting standards for the food industry;
7. The TTBS' collaborations with the Food and Drug Division of the Ministry of Health;
8. The standards in place for Tobago's tourism industry;
9. The accreditations and certifications of the TTBS' operations;
10. The reasons for high aged receivables and payables between the period 2009 to 2013;
11. The process for the certification and accreditation of medical laboratory;
12. The benefits generated from the TTBizlink System;
13. The absence of an Internal Audit Unit and Internal Audit Function;
14. The restructuring of the Accounting Unit;
15. The status of the payment of pensions and gratuities in a timely manner;
16. The TTBS' ability to enforce voluntary standards;
17. The strategies in place by the TTBS to generate additional revenue ;
18. The status of the TTBS' outstanding audited financial statements;
19. The investments taken with regard to standard sensitization, training and public education awareness programs by the TTBS;
20. The lack of a cost benefit analysis with regard to the outsourcing of TTBS' audit function;
21. The introduction of voluntary standards by medical laboratories;
22. The status of the implementation of a National Quality Policy;
23. The number of quality officers at the TTBS;
24. The role of the TTBS in boosting competitiveness in the commercial industries;



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25. The role of the TTBS in expanding the country's exporting capabilities;
26. The relationship between the TTBS and the Weights and Measures Inspectorate of the Central Administrative Services, Tobago; and
27. The level of autonomy required by the TTBS to increase its operational performance.

View the Hearing:

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

<https://youtu.be/QVkJIlgjAs>

PAC Secretariat
February 28, 2018