



Public Hearing Summary **Wednesday January 25, 2017**

Inquiry Subject:

The Examination of the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheet and other Financial Statements of the Ministry of Education (MOE) for the financial years 2014 and 2015

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

- **Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie** - Chairman
- **Mr. Rodger Samuel** - Vice- Chairman
- **Dr. Lester Henry** - Member
- **Mr. Jennifer Raffoul** - Member
- **Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy** - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

Ministry of Education

- **Ms. Angela Sinaswee-Gervais** - Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- **Ms. Sharon Ashman-John** - Deputy Permanent Secretary
- **Ms. Shobha Jaisir** - Deputy Permanent Secretary
- **Mr. Dipnarine Mungal** - Director of Finance and Accounts
- **Ms. Lisa Henry-David** - Director of Education Planning Division
- **Ms. Kear Williams** - Director of Human Resources
- **Mr. Ashram Deoraj** - Director of School Supervision
- **Ms. Christine Sahajad** - Administrative Officer IV
- **Ms. Anjanie Samaroo** - Auditor III

Auditor General

- **Mr. Gary Peters** - Assistant Auditor General
- **Mr. Brian Caesar** - Audit Executive II
- **Ms. Sita Lewis** - Audit Executive I

Key Issues Discussed

1. The role of the Permanent Secretary in ensuring the transparency and accountability of public funds;
2. The weakness of the internal audit system at the Ministry;
3. The initiatives to strengthen the internal audit function;
4. The systems in place to address the pervasive issues identified in the Report of the Auditor General;
5. The reasons and solutions to the issue of overpayments;
6. The recommendations for the Public Accounts Committee to assist the Ministry in performing its duties and functions;
7. The challenges and recommendations for the submission of pension and leave records for auditing in a timely manner;
8. The status of the Ministry in becoming automated;
9. The challenges of schools gaining national sponsorships from partnering with locally based businesses;
10. The measures in place to improve the role of the Ministry in the oversight and monitoring functions of transportation for students;
11. The reasons for the lack of site visit;
12. The status of the contractual agreement between the Ministry, PTSC and Maxi-Taxi concessionaires;
13. The number of personnel at the Ministry;
14. The mechanisms in place to evaluate and monitor the number of trips made by PTSC and Maxi-Taxi concessionaires;
15. The reasons for the large expenditure on school furniture; and
16. The main areas of concern and recommendations by the Auditor General's Department;

View the Hearing:

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

https://youtu.be/rrEp1u6bC_Y

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday February 8, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

**PAC Secretariat
January 25, 2017**