



Parliament
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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**Public Administration and
Appropriations Committee**

Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday February 08, 2017

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present at the meeting:

- Mrs. Brigid Annisette-George - Chairman
- Dr. Lackram Bodoie - Vice-Chairman
- Mr. Wade Mark - Member
- Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy - Member
- Ms. Allyson Baksh - Member
- Mr. Daniel Dookie - Member
- Ms. Nicole Olivierre - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

Auditor General

- Mr. Majeed Ali - Auditor General
- Mr. Gary Peters - Assistant Auditor General
- Ms. Lorelly Pujadas - Deputy Auditor General

Ministry of Finance

- Mr. Vishnu Dhanpaul - Permanent Secretary
- Ms. Michelle Durham Kissoon - Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Ms. Savitree Seepersad - Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.)

Comptroller of Accounts

- Ms. Catherine Laban - Comptroller of Accounts
- Mrs. Karen Seebaran-Timothy - Deputy Comptroller of Accounts

Central Tenders Board

- Mrs. Jenepha Khan - Director of Contracts
- Mrs. Shamdaye Singh-Ramdial - Deputy Director of Contracts (Ag.)

Ministry of Public Administration and Communications

- Ms. Joan Mendez - Permanent Secretary
- Mr. Kurt Meyer - Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.)

Public Management Consulting Division

- Ms. Savatri Balkaran - Director
- Ms. Alicia Wellington - Public Management Consultant

Public Service Academy

- Ms. Denise Phillip - Director
- Ms. Ajodia Rattansingh - Human Resource Advisor III (Ag.)

Service Commissions Department (SCD)

- Ms. Anastasius Creed - Director of Personnel Administration
- Mr. Feno Rampaul - Auditor I

Public Service Commission

- Ms. Maureen Manchouck - Chairman
- Mrs Parvatee Anmolsingh-Mahabir - Deputy Chairman

Key Issues Discussed:

- \$1.8 Billion spent under Minor Equipment Purchases during the period 2011-2015;

- The various Inventory Control Management issues which arose in the course of the Auditor General's annual audit of Ministries and Departments;
- The need for Ministries and Departments to have a properly functioning Internal Audit Departments to address Inventory Control issues;
- The measures taken to address the pervasive issues identified by the Auditor General's Department;
- The role of the Public Service Commission and Service Commissions Department in the System of Inventory Control;
- The lack of a standard System of Inventory Control;
- The possibility of a Circular being sent to Ministries and Departments to standardise the System of Inventory Control;
- The initiatives to improve the Inventory Control System through the implementation of an automated inventory system under the Integrated Financial Management Information System;
- The time-frame to implement interim measures in wake of Public Sector Financial Reform (3-5 years);
- The recommendations by the Auditor General's Department to improve the Inventory Control Management;
- The legislation prohibiting the implementation of proper Inventory Control measures;
- The Asset Management System being developed by the Ministry of Public Administration and Communications in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and the Auditor General's Department;
- The mechanisms in place to safeguard assets;
- The sanctions imposed on public officials who are in breach of the Exchequer and Audit Act and the Financial Regulations;
- The need for the Ministry of Finance to review the Exchequer and Audit Act and the Financial Regulations to complement modern times;
- The shortage of staff in the Ministry of Finance;

- The role of the Public Service Academy in training public officials in Accounting and Inventory Management;
- The various challenges experienced by the Public Service Academy in training officials;
- The challenges faced by the Service Commissions Department in filling vacant positions;
- The constant movement of Public Service officials and how this concern gives rise to issues of staffing and training;
- The role of the Public Management Consultancy Division (PMCD) in addressing staffing issues;
- The challenges faced by PMCD in attempting to establish positions/offices;
- The need to revise the compensation/classification packages;
- The procedure to dispose of unserviceable assets;
- The criteria to dispose of assets via sealed bid/open bid;
- The readiness of the Public Service for the pending proclamation and implementation of the Procurement Act;
- The organisational structure required to establish a Procurement Unit by March 31, 2017;
- The effect of the Procurement Act on the structure and staff of the Central Tenders Board;
- The training programmes being developed by the Public Service Academy re: the pending proclamation of the Procurement Act; and
- The need to revise other laws/rules to compliment the new procurement regime.

View the Hearing:

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EIApMjVzso>

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday February 15, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. (*in camera*). At this meeting, the Committee intends to consider outstanding Committee Reports.

PAAC Secretariat

February 9, 2017