



**Parliament**  
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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**Public Administration and  
Appropriations Committee**

## **Public Hearing Summary**

**Monday June 05, 2017**

### **Committee Members:**

The following Committee Members were present at the meeting:

- Mrs. Bridgid Annisette-George - Chairman
- Dr. Lackram Bodeo - Vice-Chairman
- Mr. Maxie Cuffie - Member
- Mr. Wade Mark - Member
- Mr. Daniel Dookie - Member

### **Witnesses who appeared:**

#### **Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs (MSYA)**

- Ms. Natasha Barrow - Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Ms. Denise Arneaud - Deputy Permanent Secretary
- Mr. Ian Ramdahin - Deputy Permanent Secretary
- Mr. Jairaj Balliram - Auditor III
- Mr. Anthony Blake - Head of Facilities Management
- Ms. Beatrice Ramlal - Administrative Officer V
- Ms. Dianne Rampadarath - Senior Planning Officer
- Mr. Patrice Charles - Director Physical Education & Sport
- Mr. Earland Kent - Director, Youth Affairs
- Ms. Sherry Ann Smith- Simmons - Director, Human Resource Services

## **Key Issues Discussed**

### Follow-up to First Report of the Committee

#### *- Recommendation: Regularize Short term employment*

1. The progress made in reducing the Ministry's reliance on short-term employment;
2. The recruitment process used by the Ministry to hire contract employees;
3. The difference between short term employment and short term contract;
4. The reasons for persons being employed by Government Human Resource Services Company Limited (GHRS) prior to completion of the Ministry's rationalization of short term employment;
5. The MSYA non-compliance with the Minister of Finance's directive to end short-term employment;
6. The status of the review and rationalization exercise;
7. The industrial relation practices followed with respect to the short term employees sent home as a result of the review and rationalization exercise;
8. Litigation faced by the MSYA as a result of persons being unemployed due to the review and rationalization exercise;
9. The impact of moving during the period September 2016 to February 2017 on the rationalization of short term employment;
10. The consideration of employing persons under Section 13(5) of the Public Service Regulations;
11. The reasons for differences amongst assumption dates for the 9 short term employees that were hired on contract;
12. The number of persons employed within the Physical Education and Sport Division; and
13. The human resource capacity of SporTT.

#### *- Recommendation: Maintenance Plan for each facility*

1. The employment of OJTs;
2. The absence of a National Sport Policy and strategic plan;
3. The absence of a maintenance plan for small sport facilities;
4. Maintenance plans were done as part of the scope of works for new sport facilities;
5. The lack of financial resources for maintenance of stadiums;
6. Maintenance of stadiums are done on a reactive rather than proactive basis; and
7. The rationale for differences in salary and transport amongst sport facility managers.

*- Recommendation: Site Visits*

1. The reasons for site visits not being conducted at the Babilon Youth Centre, the Malick Youth Centre and the Laventille Youth Centre;
2. The reason for the absence of official reports of site visits at the Ministry's facilities;
3. The absence of a policy that site visits are required;
4. The reasons for the disparity in the amount of site visits for certain facilities compared to other facilities;
5. The tracking mechanisms for operational and maintenance issues that are raised by managers of each facility in the absence of official reports; and
6. The processes in place to confirm site visits actually took place in the absence of an official report.

Expenditure related to the Tobago Sport Awards

1. The impact of three (3) additional persons on trip's expenditure;
2. The rationale for the addition of two (2) administrative professionals to the trip;
3. The process to approve travel expenditure within Trinidad and Tobago and the absence of a travel expenditure ceiling;
4. The reasons for the Public Relations Officer II attending the trip rather than a senior person in the Communication Unit;
5. The state of the Dwight Yorke Stadium based on site visit;
6. The rationale for meeting on the 5th Caribbean Youth Leader Summit;
7. The reasons for choice of accommodation at Magdalena Grand versus other hotel accommodations;
8. The absence of a whistleblower policy within the Ministry;
9. The conditional estimate of \$44 million prepared by a private company for works required at Dwight Yorke Stadium;
10. The rationale for renting vehicles versus utilizing vehicles from the Tobago House of Assembly or the Central Administrative Services, Tobago;
11. The follow up actions to be taken related to Dwight Yorke Stadium subsequent to the site visit; and
12. The short term gains to justify the total trip expenditure with respect to the:
  - a. 5th Caribbean Regional Youth Leaders' Summit
  - b. Review and Development of the National Youth Policy;
  - c. National Sport Policy/ Tobago Sport Policy;
  - d. Caricom Youth Ambassador Programme;
  - e. National Youth Organization Registration
  - f. Overall State of Disrepair of the Dwight Yorke Stadium

**View the Hearing:**

The hearing can be viewed on our YouTube Channel, ParlView via the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DaO4O18fW0>

**Next Meeting:**

The next Public Hearing of the Committee will be held on Wednesday June 14, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. At this meeting, the Committee intends to commence its examination of the Ministry of Education as it relates to Inventory Control, Internal Audit, Accountability and Transparency, Sub - Head 02 - Goods and Services and Sub - Head 03 - Minor Equipment Purchases, Sub - Head 04 - Current Transfers and Subsidies, Sub - Head 09 - Development Programme - Consolidated Fund and Infrastructure Development Fund for the Financial Year 2017.

**PAAC Secretariat**

**June 6, 2017**