



Parliament
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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**Public Administration and
Appropriations Committee**

Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday, January 09, 2019

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present at the meeting:

- Mrs. Bridgid Annisette- George - Chairman
- Dr. Lackram Bodoie - Vice-Chairman
- Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy - Member
- Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Ancil Antoine - Member
- Mr. Clarence Rambharat - Member
- Mr. Wade Mark - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT)

- Mrs. Sonia Francis-Yearwood - Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Ms. Dhanmattee Ramdath - Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Ms. Chandrani Jagrup - Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Mr. Navin Ramsingh - Director, Highways Division (Ag.)
- Mr. Hayden Phillip - Programme Director, PURE
- Ms. Shelly Ayow-Lovell - Accounting Executive II
- Ms. Marissa Chattergoon - Auditor III
- Ms. Olive Tyrrell Moore - Director, Human Resource
- Ms. Esther Farmer - President, NIDCO
- Mr. Steve Garibsingh - Vice-President, Engineering
- Mr. Wayne Koylass - Chief Planning Officer (Ag.)

- Ms. Trudy Gill-Conlon - General Manager, Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago

Key Issues Discussed

General Issues

1. The range of services provided by the Ministry;
2. \$3.5 billion allocated to MoWT for the financial year 2018-2019:
 - a. \$2.5 billion - Recurrent Expenditure
 - b. \$1.2 billion - Consolidated Fund and Infrastructure Development Fund;
3. The Ministry's capital programme comprising 81 projects:
 - a. Consolidated Fund - 49 projects
 - b. Infrastructure Development Fund - 32;
4. Projects aimed at strengthening the National Transportation Framework;
5. MoWT's role in ensuring efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency with regard to operations; and
6. The reasons for the delay in the construction of the Curepe Interchange.

Accountability and Transparency

1. The role of the Ministry as it relates to the entities under its review;
2. Findings of the last monthly report submitted in December 2018;
3. Instances of the Ministry's inability to pay contractors;
4. The tardiness of State Enterprises in submitting Administrative Reports to the Ministry;
5. Initiatives for reducing expenditure;
6. Cold-in-Place Recycling being utilised to repair roads with a 30% reduction in expenditure in road rehabilitation works;
7. Asphalt being the most expensive component in road works;
8. The use of recycled aggregate products resulting in the reduction in the use of asphalt;
9. Commencement of pilot project utilising new technologies;
10. Cabinet approval for contractors to import Bitumen;

11. PURE Unit doing all project management and consultancy in house;
12. \$22 million allocated to the Coastal Monitoring project;
13. The status of the legislation for the establishment of red light and spot camera enforcement systems;
14. Establishment of a Traffic Enforcement Unit within the Ministry;
15. The deployment of spot cameras;
16. 72 traffic violations captured per day at the pilot red-light site on Wrightson Road;
17. The Ministry's Rolling Work Programme 2018-2020;
18. Challenges in acquiring the relevant skills set as it relates to auditing;
19. Policy and legislation for Cold Stacking ;
20. No recent instances of conflicts of interest at the Ministry;
21. Receipt of Compliance and Special Reports from the Internal Audit Unit;
22. 12 active Coastal projects;
23. Data to be collected on the level of coastal erosion;
24. 1.94 million registered vehicles in Trinidad and Tobago;
25. Amendments to the Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Act, Chap 48:50 which focuses on road safety and compliance;
26. The rationale for the inspection of vehicles; and
27. Follow-up conducted post-construction by the Ministry.

Ministerial Response to the Fourth Report of the PAAC on the System of Internal Audit

1. The staff complement of the Internal Audit Unit (22 with 1 vacancy).

Recurrent Expenditure Allocation

002- Highways

1. Road Condition Surveys conducted every 2 years;
2. The cost associated with the maintenance of cable barriers;
3. 3-year programme to replace cable barriers with concrete barriers;

4. Additional funding provided to address the backlog of routine work as it relates to road conditions;
5. 127 Projects under the Highway Division and the MoWT's 5-year Highway Maintenance Programme;
6. Backlog of projects due to the untimely release of funds;
7. Pothole patching gangs within the Ministry (8 currently with an intention to increase to 16);
8. The joint effort between the Ministry and WASA to repair road damage;
9. The Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI) conducting a feasibility study on the use of old motor vehicles tyres as material for road repairs; and
10. 90% completion of project to address flooding in the Port of Spain.

005- Drainage Division

1. Major watercourses under the Ministry's preview;
2. Other agencies dealing with watercourses and channels;
3. The Ministry's role with regard to improper drainage and flooding;
4. The role of the Drainage Division as relates to land development approvals;
5. The Town and Country Planning Division and the Regional Corporations' role in land development approvals;
6. The policy governing the storage of storm water;
7. The Drainage Division role in land development and its guidelines for developers; and
8. The Division's plan to strengthen its capacity as it relates to its role when flooding occurs.

005- Wharves Division

1. Rental of Maxi Taxis to transport employees of the Port Authority and its cost effectiveness; and
2. The process of selection of Companies under this sub-item.

Development Programme- Consolidated Funds

1. Six-month delay in the contract for the removal and disposal of wrecks and derelict vessels; and
2. Funding for the Curepe Interchange under the Infrastructure Development Fund (project 260).

Next Meeting:

The next Public Hearing of the Committee will be held on **Wednesday, January 23, 2019**, at 1:30 p.m. At this meeting, the Committee intends to commence its inquiry into the East Port of Spain Development Company.

PAAC Secretariat
January 22, 2019