



Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday April 3, 2019

Inquiry Subject:

The examination of the audited financial statements of the Trinidad and Tobago Creative Industries Company Limited (CreativeTT) for the financial years 2014 and 2015.

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

- Mr. Wade Mark - Chairman
- Dr. Tim Gopeesingh - Vice-Chairman
- Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds - Member
- Ms. Amrita Deonarine - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

Creative Industries Company Limited (Creative TT)

- Mr. Calvin Bijou - Chairman
- Mr. Rajkavir Singh - Director
- Ms. Dionne Mc Nicol Stephenson - Director
- Mr. Antonio Maharaj - Finance Manager (Ag.)
- Ms. Gina Ottley - Corporate Secretary
- Ms. Dianne O'Neil - Human Resource Manager
- Ms. Lisa Daniel - General Manager, Fashion TT
- Ms. Melissa Jimenez - General Manager, Music TT

Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)

- Ms. Frances Signoret - Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Mr. Randall Karim - Director, Policy and Strategy
- Mrs. Susan Singh-Seerattan - Senior Economist
- Mr. Mario Romany - Industry Specialist
- Mrs. Hema Sharma - Project Officer
- Mr. Dennis Scott - Senior Business Analyst

Ministry of Finance – Investments Division (MOF-ID)

- Ms. Jennifer Lutchman - Deputy Permanent Secretary

Trinidad and Tobago Free Zones Company Limited (TTFZ)

- Ms. Chintamani Sookoo - Director (Ag.)
- Ms. Kimberlene Pascall - Business Analyst (Ag.)
- Ms. Nisa Churaman - Senior Audit Analyst

Key Topics Discussed:

1. A breakdown of the subventions granted to CreativeTT during fiscal 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019;
2. The status of the submission of CreativeTT's consolidated financial statements to Parliament for the financial years ended 2016, 2017 and 2018;
3. CreativeTT's compliance to the reporting mechanisms set out in the State Enterprise Performance Monitoring Manual
4. The accomplishments and constraints in the operationalization of the strategic rubric established to oversee the subsidiaries CreativeTT;
5. The reduced size of the governance structure of Creative TT – by virtue of its Board of Directors comprising three (3) Directors as opposed to six (6);
6. The rationale for three (3) specific projects which were undertaken by CreativeTT , that is, Decibel 2014, Value Chain Investment Programme and FashionTT Capacity Building Workshop, having an actual cost which exceeded its estimated cost;
7. The collaborative efforts made with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, ExporTT and InvesTT to achieve greater efficiency at CreativeTT;
8. The foreign exchange earning capacity of CreativeTT;
9. CreativeTT's goal of a two percent (2%) diversification of the national Gross Domestic Product;
10. The challenge faced by CreativeTT in its data collection integrity;
11. The absence of a Strategic Plan of CreativeTT;
12. The timeframe for completion and implementation of a Strategic Plan for CreativeTT;
13. The main factors which determined and justified the need to rationalize the CreativeTT and its three (3) subsidiaries Film TT, Fashion TT and Music TT into one (1) company;
14. The status of the Rationalisation Paper submitted to the MTI in 2015 for approval;
15. CreativeTT's ability to improve capacity, competency, income sustainability and economic independence of the creatives who have graduated from its development programs;
16. CreativeTT's contribution to job creation over the last three (3) years by industry;
17. The number of fashion designers who have the capacity and competencies to meet the standards of the international fashion industry;
18. The attempts made by MusicTT to promote Soca as a distinct category of music on international music download applications;
19. The initiatives implemented by FilmTT to market and brand Trinidad and Tobago as a filming destination to international film producers and companies;
20. The efforts made to ensure that the CreativeTT's program accreditations met international industry standards;

Trinidad and Tobago Free Zones Company Limited (TTFZ)

21. The collaborative efforts made by Creative TT, Music TT, Film TT and Fashion TT with the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) to develop new creative programs to attract and retain prospective creatives;
22. The number of students enrolled at UWI and UTT pursuing programmes relating to film, fashion and music;
23. The proposed establishment of three (3) strategically located schools across Trinidad and Tobago that will be mandated to primarily aid the development and training of students in the Fashion, Film and Music fields;
24. The initiative taken by Film TT in the creation and implementation of a filming permit system which aims at generating revenue for filming done within the jurisdiction of Trinidad and Tobago;
25. MusicTT's process of subsidising the performances of musicians and artistes based on specific tiers (for instance, solos, duets, trios, bands etc.);
26. The prospect of collaborating with the Ministry of Tourism to create a live music district and other events to attract the patronage of the tourists arriving on cruise ships;
27. The number of individuals who participated in the Savile Row Bespoke Tailoring Programme;
28. The need for the issuance of certification to the participants of the Savile Row Bespoke Tailoring Programme;
29. The differing fees attached to the local and international participations of the Savile Row Bespoke Tailoring Programme;
30. The creation of a Lookbook to showcase the twenty-seven (27) persons who received training under the Savile Row Bespoke Tailoring Programme;
31. The need for CreativeTT to promote the use of local music, fashion and film personnel to the international film producers who chose Trinidad and Tobago as their film location;
32. The mechanisms in place to ensure the designers whose work meets international standards don't lose the local aesthetic appeal of their apparel designs;
33. The interim strategies used by FashionTT to promote its work in the absence of the full operationalization of its website;
34. The efforts made to recruit an Internal Auditor;
35. The need of CreativeTT to establish a fraud policy;
36. The discontinuance of the practice in hiring an external body to record of Board Minutes;

View the Hearing:

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

https://youtu.be/S_nFrxE00kE

PA(E)C Secretariat

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