



Public Hearing Summary **Wednesday May 10, 2017**

Inquiry Subject:

The Examination of the concerns raised in the Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial statements of the Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA) for the years 2008 to 2013

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

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

Witnesses who appeared:

Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA)

- Ms. Esme Rawlins-Charles - Chairman
- Dr. Rameshwar Maharaj - Chief Executive Officer
- Ms. Yolande Benjamin - General Manager Finance
- Mr. Narine Singh - General Manager Operations
- Mr. Roland Jack - General Manager Human Resources
- Mrs. Anita Rampaul- Mohammed - General Manager Legal and Corporate Affairs (Ag.)
- Dr. Jason Ettienne - Specialist Medical Officer- Accident & Emergency Department
- Mr. John Pouchet - Internal Auditor
- Mr. Peter Ramdass - Manager Quality
- Ms. Amy Ali Manager - Para Clinical Services
- Mr. Keston Daniel - Research Officer
- Ms. Saskia Ramkissoon-Bain - Research Officer

Ministry Of Health (MOH)

- Mr. Richard Madray - Permanent Secretary

- Ms. Dianne Dhanpath - Deputy Permanent Secretary
- Dr. Vishwanath Partapsingh - Principal Medical Officer
- Ms. Sarita Ghouralal - Auditor III
- Mr. Asif Ali - Health Sector Advisor
- Ms. Bhabie Roopchand - Legal Adviser
- Mr. Lawrence Jaisingh - Director Health Policy Research and Planning

Auditor General's Department

- Mr. Shiva Sinanan - Assistant Auditor General
- Mr. Cyril Barran - Assistant Audit Director

Key Issues Discussed

1. The geographic area under the ERHA's jurisdiction;
2. The number of institutions under the ERHA's purview;
3. The number of medical staff employed by the ERHA;
4. The main challenges experienced by the ERHA;
5. The efficiency of the services provided at the various healthcare facilities under the ERHA's purview;
6. The ability of the Sangre Grande Hospital to handle emergency situations;
7. The resources available to the ERHA to meet its vision;
8. The number of special investigations requested and the process involved when prioritizing special investigations ;
9. The number of Internal Audit staff employed at the ERHA;
10. The challenges faced by the Internal Audit Unit (IAU);
11. The implementation of the Financial Management Informations System (FMIS) and its' impact on the ERHA's audit work;
12. The reasons for the high turnover of management staff at the ERHA;
13. The number of vacant positions at the ERHA;
14. The risks experienced by the Authority with respect to medical negligence claims, lack of pharmaceuticals, breaches in contracts and OSHA compliance;
15. The verification and tagging of fixed assets;
16. The persons responsible for the signing and verification of the fixed asset stock count sheets;
17. The status of the Internal Fraud and Whistle-Blowing Policies at the ERHA;
18. The recurring problems discovered by the Auditor General Department's during the auditing of the Authority;
19. The nature and status of the 25 million allocated for capital project development at the ERHA;

20. The systems in place at the ERHA to assure accountability and value for money with the use of public funds;
21. The role of the Permanent Secretary in ensuring transparency and accountability of public funds; and
22. The recommendations of the PAC to assist the MOH in performing its duties and functions.

View the Hearing:

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

<https://www.youtu.be/AYsrA5KC8sI>

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday May 24, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. At this meeting, the Committee intends to examine the issues raised in the Audited Financial Statements of the Land Settlement Agency for the years 2008 and 2009.

PAC Secretariat

May 10, 2017