

# Summary of Proceedings Public Hearing

Joint Select Committee on Finance and Legal Affairs

Held on Friday March 23, 2018

**Subject matter:** An Inquiry into the Waste Management Policies and initiatives of the state.

**Venue:** A public hearing was held on Friday March 23, 2018 from 10:20 a.m. to 12:14 p.m. at the J. Hamilton Maurice Meeting Room, Mezzanine Floor, Office of the Parliament, Tower D, The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre, 1A Wrightson Road, Port-of-Spain.

### **Committee Members**

The following Committee Members were present:

- Ms. Sophia Chote SC (Chairman)
- Mr. Clarence Rambharat (Vice-Chairman)
- Mr. Taharga Obika,
- Mrs. Cherrie-Ann Crichlow-Cockburn, MP

## Witnesses who appeared

The following officials of the <u>Ministry of Planning and Development and the Environmental Management Authority</u> appeared:

Ms. Marie Hinds
Dr. David Persaud
Permanent Secretary (AG.)
Environmental Manager

• Dr. Marissa Gowrie Deputy Environmental Manager

• Ms. Andrea Julien Senior State Council

• Mr. Hayden Romano Managing Director, EMA

The following officials of the <u>Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Company Limited</u> (SWMCOL) appeared:

Mr. Ronald Roach Chief Executive Officer

• Mr. David Manswell General Manager, Communication Sales and

Marketing

Ms. Sylvia Derby General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
Ms. Maria Allong General Manager, Projects and Support Services

• Ms. Abigail Whitehall Corporate Project Administrator

The following officials of the Ministry of Public Utilities appeared:

• Mr. Gary Joseph Permanent Secretary

Ms. Beverly Khan Deputy Permanent Secretary
Ms. Melanie Phillip Senior Planning Specialist
Ms. Arlene Johnson-Lawrence Senior Project Manager

#### **Key Issues Discussed**

The following are the main issues highlighted during discussions with the **Ministry of Planning** and **Development and the Environmental Management Authority:** 

- i. A dry season assessment was being conducted on the level of contamination at the Guanapo Landfill;
- i. The last study into this country's solid waste disposal methods was conducted in 2010;
- ii. Waste management policies and objectives that have been included in macro level policy documents such as Vision 2030 and the Draft Revised National Environmental Policy (NEP);
- iii. The status of the Government's waste-to-energy initiative;
- iv. The initiatives being undertaken to reduce waste generation and to better manage waste;
- v. The lack of coordination among the stakeholders involved in waste management;
- vi. The absence of a single entity or Authority with overall responsibility for waste management;
- vii. The aims and objectives of the iCARE programme which is managed by the EMA;
- viii. The estimated timeframe for the completion of the Waste Rules in 2019;
- ix. The role and function of the EMA in relation to waste management and the authority's relationship with SWMCOL;
- x. The steps being taken by the EMA to provide additional and suitable recycling bins at schools and communities;

- xi. The status of the EMA's investigation into alleged breaches of environmental laws in Carlson Field;
- xii. The fact that the EMA's direct involvement in waste management initiatives has not adversely impacted its operational efficiency;
- xiii. The rationale for the EMA implementing the iCARE programme instead of SWMCOL;
- xiv. The entity with the responsibility for managing oil spills;
- xv. The EMA's inability to implement Section 61 of the Environmental Management Act;
- xvi. The collection and disposal of biomedical waste;
- xvii. The channels through which the public can get information on the proper disposal of the various types of waste; and
- xviii. The initiatives being implemented to combat the creation of ad-hoc landfill sites.

# The following are the main issues highlighted during discussions with the **Trinidad and Tobago** Solid Waste Management Company Limited (SWMCOL):

- i. The need for a Waste Management Authority with the overarching responsibility for waste management;
- ii. The status of SWMCOL's efforts in filling vacancies;
- iii. SWMCOL's lack of resources to effectively and efficiently manage landfill sites;
- iv. SWMCOL's initiatives to reduce fires at landfill sites;
- v. The use of a separate private facility for the collection and disposal of biomedical waste;
- vi. The level of waste generation in Trinidad and Tobago;
- vii. The initiatives being undertaken to recycle and reprocess tires for its use in downstream products;
- viii. The mechanisms in place to track the importation and movement of toxic chemicals;
- ix. The channels through which the public can get information on the proper disposal of the various types of waste; and
- x. The initiatives being undertaken to separate waste at source.

The following are the main issues highlighted during discussions with the **Ministry of Public Utilities:** 

- i. The status of the Waste Recycling Bill; and
- ii. The initiative being undertaken to manage waste in the work place via the Public Sector Recycling Programme.

This public hearing can be viewed on demand via our YouTube Channel.

https://youtu.be/yFwGGzbJGZY

**Contact the Committee's Secretary** 

jscfla@ttparliament.org or 624-7275 Ext. 2282/2277/2284

Committees Unit

Thursday March 29, 2018.