



## **Public Hearing Summary**

Wednesday June 28, 2017

### **Inquiry Subject:**

The Examination of the concerns raised in the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year 2016 with specific reference to the Ministry of Finance.

### **Committee Members:**

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

- Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie - Chairman
- Mr. Rodger Samuel - Vice- Chairman
- Ms. Jennifer Raffoul - Member

### **Witnesses who appeared:**

#### **Ministry Of Finance**

- Mr. Vishnu Dhanpaul - Permanent Secretary
- Ms. Lisa Ann Phillips - Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Investments Division
- Ms. Suzette Lee Chee - Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Economic Division
- Ms. Michelle Durham- Kiss - Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Office of the Permanent Secretary
- Ms. Savitree Seepersad - Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Office of the Permanent Secretary
- Ms. Yvonne Neemacharan - Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Strategic Management Office
- Mr. Glen Singh - Comptroller of Customs and Excise (Ag.)
- Ms. Sherma Thompson-Sukra - Accountant IV Customs and Excise Division
- Ms. Karen Seebaran- Timothy - Deputy Comptroller of Accounts, Treasury Branch
- Ms. Vashti Maharaj - Treasury Director
- Ms. Jenepha Khan - Director of Contracts, Central Tenders Board

- Mr. Nayak Ramdahin - Commissioner of Audit and Compliance
- Ms. Allison Raphael - Chairman, Inland Revenue Division

#### **Auditor General's Department (AGD)**

- Ms. Lorelly Pujadas - Deputy Auditor General, Ag Auditor General
- Ms. Jaiwantie Ramdass - Assistant Auditor General, Ag. Deputy Auditor General
- Mr. Gary Peters - Assistant Auditor General
- Ms. Gaitrie Maharaj - Assistant Auditor General
- Ms. Nela Dwarika-Ali - Audit Director
- Ms. Nicole Cockburn - Legal Officer
- Ms. Jacqueline De Gannes - Audit Executive I
- Mr. Brian Caesar - Audit Executive II (Ag.)

#### **Key Issues Discussed**

1. The status of the implementation of the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS);
2. The implementation and integration of the Integrated Human Resource Information System (IhRIS);
3. The procurement structure of the public service in preparation for the proclamation of procurement law;
4. The status of the Public Financial Management System reform;
5. The reasons for the delays in the processing of pension and leave claims;
6. The weakness in the internal control system;
7. The possible solutions to reduce the delays in the processing pension and leave files;
8. The impact of the high staff turnover at the MOF;
9. The status of State Entities submitting financial reports and other documents in a timely manner;
10. The technological improvements needed to reduce the backlogs in financial information processing;
11. The mechanisms in place to review and rectify the pervasive issues at the Inland Revenue Division and Customs and Excise Division;
12. The technological challenges experienced by the MOF;
13. The Status of Public-Private Partnership projects;
14. The recognition of the improvements of the Inland Revenue Division on revenue collection;
15. The steps to improve the tax collection system; and
16. The status of the level of borrowing and debt management on the economy.

**View the Hearing:**

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

<https://youtu.be/4IhPuggdgG8>

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday September 13, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. At this meeting, the Committee intends to examine the issues raised in the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial years 2016 with specific reference to the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries.

**PAC Secretariat  
July 3, 2017**