



Public Hearing Summary
Wednesday February 13, 2019

Inquiry Subject:

The examination of the audited financial statements of the Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (PATT) for the period 2008 to 2011 and the Authority's expenditure and internal controls for the period 2008 to 2018.

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

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| • Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie | - | Chairman |
| • Mr. Taharqa Obika | - | Vice-Chairman |
| • Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy | - | Member |
| • Ms. Charisse Seepersad | - | Member |
| • Dr. Lester Henry | - | Member |
| • Mr. Adrian Leonce | - | Member |
| • Mr. Randall Mitchell | - | Member |

Witnesses who appeared:

Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (PATT)

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| • Ret. Colonel Lyle Alexander | - | Chairman |
| • Mr. Rabindra Jaggernauth | - | Chairman, Audit Committee |
| • Ms. Annabelle Sooklal | - | Commissioner |
| • Ms. Suzette Baptiste | - | Commissioner |
| • Mrs. Trudy Gill-Conlon | - | General Manager/Chief Executive Officer (Ag.) |
| • Mr. Curtis James | - | Executive Manager, Finance |
| • Mr. Kiran Dass | - | Chief Internal Auditor |
| • Mr. Jason Berkeley | - | Divisional Manager, Finance |

Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (PATT)

Ministry of Works and Transport

- | | | |
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| • Ms. Ethlyn John | - | Deputy Permanent Secretary |
| • Ms. Lisa Balkaran | - | Chief Planning Officer (Ag.) |
| • Mr. Rupert Ramharack | - | Organizational Performance
Management Specialist |

Key Topics Discussed:

1. The average income generated compared to the average cost incurred to operate the PATT on an annual basis.
2. The plans in place for the PATT to be profitable and become self - sufficient.
3. The proposed model to increase investments and to ensure the effective delivery of services by the PATT.
4. The oversight role of the PATT with regards to the Strategic Business Units (SBUs).
5. The ranking of the Port of Port of Spain (PPOS) in relation to other competitor Ports.
6. The use of ICTs to improve the PATT's efficiency.
7. The status of the funding requirement for the PPOS.
8. The reasons for increase in expenditure and the short fall in revenues for the years 2009 to 2019.
9. The need to create additional revenue streams.
10. The subvention received by the PATT.
11. The plans in place to decrease operating cost.
12. The challenges encountered in filling the vacant positions of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
13. The salaries and wages expenses as a percentage of total operating and administrative expenses.
14. The status of the PATT's outstanding audited financial statements.
15. The status of the PATT's Accounts Receivable and the measures in place to review the systems to address the high sum of accounts receivables and bad debts.
16. The status of the transformation of the SBUs.
17. The monitoring of the SBUs.
18. The challenges of the public model of management used by the PATT.
19. The possibility of managing the PATT through a Public Private Partnership.
20. The decline in export and transshipment cargo at the PPOS.
21. The decrease in the PPOS's market share.
22. The initiatives undertaken to increase arrivals of cruise ships.
23. The need for greater collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism with regard to cruise ship arrival.
24. The measures in palce to reduce overtime cost and improve the operations of the cruise ships business initiative;
25. The possibility of revising the PATT's employee loans policy.

Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (PATT)

26. The status of the policies in place for the payment of overtime and the measures in place reduce these payments.
27. The number of registered and unregistered workers employed by the PATT.
28. The investments needed to enable the PPOS to function more effectively.
29. The infrastructure improvements that need to be made.
30. The procurement of vessels for the Tobago ferry route.
31. The opportunities for growth at the Port of Scarborough.
32. The challenges encountered at the Port of Scarborough in relation to dredging works.
33. The lack of basic tariff enforcement.
34. The internal audit challenges faced by PATT and the measures in place to strengthen the internal control systems.
35. The oversight role of the Ministry of Works and Transport (MOWT).
36. The relationship between the MOWT and the PATT.

View the Hearing:

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

<https://youtu.be/rYLW4AgHOKc>

**PAC Secretariat
February 13, 2019**