



Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday May 9, 2018

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 Chaguanas Borough Corporation (CBC) for the years 2008 to 2011.

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

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| • Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie | - | Chairman |
| • Mr. Taharqa Obika | - | Vice- Chairman |
| • Ms. Melissa Ramkissoon | - | Member |
| • Mr. Adrian Leonce | - | Member |
| • Dr. Lester Henry | - | Member |

Witnesses who appeared:

Chaguanas Borough Corporation (CBC)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| • Mr. Raymond Seepaul | - | Chief Executive Officer |
| • Mr. Gopaul Boodhan | - | Mayor |
| • Ms. Geeta Pooran - Rampersad | - | Accountant II |
| • Mr. Roddy Beharry | - | Planning Officer |
| • Mr. Boniface Ogoma | - | Engineering & Survey Officer |
| • Ms. Farzana Rafeeq | - | Corporate Secretary |
| • Mr. Andell Paramsook | - | Councillor |

Ministry of Rural Development & Local Government (MRDLG)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|
| • Ms. Desdra Bascombe | - | Permanent Secretary |
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Auditor General's Department (AGD)

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| • Mr. Louis Hernandez | - | Deputy Auditor General |
| • Mrs. Simone Wajadali | - | Assistant Audit Director |



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Public Accounts Committee

Key Topics Discussed:

1. The CBC's recent accomplishments;
2. The challenges experienced by the CBC with respect to street vending;
3. The oversight role of the MRDLG;
4. The status of the CBC's outstanding financial statements;
5. The frequency of staff changes at the CBC;
6. The deficiencies in the internal audit capacity at the municipal corporations and the MRDLG;
7. The strategies in place for financial and compliance control at the municipal corporations;
8. The recommendations proposed by the AGD with respect to the lack of policies and procedures in place at the CBC;
9. The pervasive issues encountered by the CBC;
10. The impact of the absence of established cashier positions at the CBC for the collection of fees;
11. The reasons for the non-capitalization of fixed assets and the measures in place to rectify this issue;
12. The financial constraints affecting the CBC's general operations;
13. The absence of a Project Management unit at the CBC;
14. The reasons for the variations with respect to projects undertaken by the CBC;
15. The absence of succession planning at municipal corporations;
16. The process in place for the compilation of a list of projects or programmes at the CBC;
17. The status of the Local Government Reform;
18. The measures in place for the CBC to be self-sufficient;
19. The measures in place to address the rampant criminal activity in certain communities and the protection fees paid by contractors;
20. The relationship between Town and Country Planning and the CBC; and
21. The status of the CBC's Emergency Risk Management Plan.

View the Hearing:

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89B7J9lInD4>

PAC Secretariat
May 9, 2018