



## **Public Hearing Summary** **Wednesday May 24, 2017**

### **Inquiry Subject:**

The Examination of the concerns raised in the Audited Financial Statements of the Land Settlement Agency (LSA) for the financial years 2008 and 2009.

### **Committee Members:**

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

- Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie - Chairman
- Mr. Rodger Samuel - Vice- Chairman
- Ms. Jennifer Raffoul - Member
- Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon - Member

### **Witnesses who appeared:**

#### **Land Settlement Agency (LSA)**

- Mr. Ossley Francis - Chairman
- Mr. Hazar Hosein - Chief Executive Officer
- Ms. Lorraine Heath - Corporate Secretary
- Ms. Oma Moonoo - Senior Accountant
- Ms. Marissa Edmund - Assistant Accountant
- Mr. Satchdanand Bassaw - Senior Design Engineer

#### **Ministry Of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD)**

- Ms. Marion Hayes - Permanent Secretary
- Ms. Goomatee Maharaj - Auditor II (Ag.)

#### **Auditor General’s Department**

- Mr. Shiva Sinanan - Assistant Auditor General
- Ms. Cheryl Wright - Acting Audit Director

### **Key Issues Discussed**

1. The regularization of eligible squatters on State lands;
2. The challenges faced in the regularization of eligible squatters;
3. The mandate of the LSA;

4. The status of the LSA's operations from 1998 to present;
5. The number of squatting households on State Lands;
6. The clarification of 'corrective works' on squatter sites;
7. The status of the projects executed under the IDB Loans;
8. The role of the LSA with respect to new squatting households;
9. The selection process for the firms contracted to provide supervisory consulting services;
10. The LSA's technical capacity to undertake engineering services in-house;
11. The cost to develop a squatting lot;
12. The purpose of the allocation of funds to the institutional strengthening in the Greater Port-of-Spain area;
13. The outcome of the regularization of squatting study conducted on the Greater Port-of-Spain area;
14. The risks encountered by LSA personnel when entering squatter communities;
15. The status of the Land for the Landless Program;
16. The total sum of funds spent on the Land for the Landless Program;
17. The number of sites developed and distributed under the Land for the Landless Program;
18. The process used to prioritize site development;
19. The status of LSA's internal audit function;
20. The number of personnel employed by the LSA;
21. The reasons for Certificate of Comfort squatter information being unverifiable;
22. The lack of procurement strategies at the LSA;
23. The status of the money owed to contractors;
24. The relationship between the LSA and the Housing Development Corporation;

**View the Hearing:**

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

<https://youtu.be/2awvr9KdGgI>

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday June 14, 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 Year 2016.

**PAC Secretariat  
May 25, 2017**