



Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday June 27, 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 Chaguaramas Development Authority (CDA) for the years 2008 to 2014.

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

- Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie - Chairman
- Mr. Taharqa Obika - Vice-Chairman
- Mr. Randall Mitchell - Member
- Mr. Adrian Leonce - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

Chaguaramas Development Authority (CDA)

- Mr. Robert Cezair - Board Member
- Ms. Wendy Inniss- Demas - Board Member
- Mrs. Deowattee Dilraj- Batoosingh - General Manager (Ag.)
- Mr. Wayne Lewis - Financial Consultant

Ministry of Planning and Development

- Ms. Joanne Deoraj - Permanent Secretary
- Ms. Melanie Noel - Director Human Resources
- Ms. Indra Jaikaran - Auditor II
- Mrs. Jacqueline Weekes-Penco - Director Planning Unit
- Ms. Andrea Julien - Senior State Counsel

Auditor General's Department (AGD)

- Mr. Shiva Sinanan - Assistant Auditor General
- Mr. Riaz Ali - Assistant Audit Director
- Ms. Cyntra Neemarcharan - Assistant Audit Director

Key Topics Discussed:

1. The status of the CDA's outstanding financial statements;
2. The status and the composition of debt owed by the CDA;
3. The strategies in place to manage debt and improve the sustainability of the CDA;
4. The measures in place to reduce operational cost;
5. The proposed establishment of the Chaguaramas peninsula as a National Park;
6. The new infrastructural works conducted to improve Chaguaramas' attractiveness;
7. The costs incurred to rebrand Chaguaramas as a leisure and commercial destination;
8. The strategies in place to enhance tourism and commercial services and activities;
9. The prospect of the creation of a Tourism Unit to handle all leisure activities and recreational sites at the CDA;
10. The status of the CDA's rent receivables and collection initiatives implemented as of June 2018;
11. The sanctions in place to address outstanding rent payments;
12. The absence of a formal rent settlement policy at the CDA;
13. The CDA's desired business model;
14. The strategies in place to increase accommodation across the Chaguaramas peninsula;
15. The number of lessees and the number entered into for the years 2015 to 2018;
16. The highest and lowest lease rental payments per month;
17. The non-adherence to the International Accounting Standards (IAS);
18. The role of the Ministry of Planning and Development in addressing the CDA's lack of an internal audit Unit and function and the non-adherence to the (IAS);
19. The pervasive weaknesses in the CDA's financial management process and the steps taken to address this issue;
20. The reasons an asset revaluation exercise has not been conducted since 1991;
21. The percentage of CDA's debt for litigation cases;
22. The reasons for the use of recurrent expenditure for developmental projects;
23. The reason for the opening of a US dollar account and the status of the funds deposited into this account;
24. The reasons for the fluctuations in the revenue for the years 2008 to 2014;
25. The CDA's submission of Board minutes to the Ministry of Planning and Development;
26. The non-receipt of government subventions by the CDA;
27. The role of the Ministry of Planning and Development in the provision of oversight for projects managed by the CDA;
28. The CDA's approach to increasing industrial lease tenancy;
29. The prospect of the CDA income generation from tenants who own/operate marinas;
30. The business activities expected from the three leases entered into for the years 2015 to 2018 by the CDA ;
31. The measures in place to strengthen the CDA's procurement strategies; and

Chaguaramas Development Authority

32. The CDA's approach towards strengthening partnerships and customer relations.

View the Hearing:

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

<https://youtu.be/ntb9gg6W4Lc>

**PAC Secretariat
June 27, 2018**