Public Hearing Summary
Monday June 05, 2017

Committee Members:
The following Committee Members were present at the meeting:

- Mrs. Bridgid Annisette-George - Chairman
- Dr. Lackram Bodoe - Vice-Chairman
- Mr. Maxie Cuffie - Member
- Mr. Wade Mark - Member
- Mr. Daniel Dookie - Member

Witnesses who appeared:
Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs (MSYA)

- Ms. Natasha Barrow - Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Ms. Denise Arneaud - Deputy Permanent Secretary
- Mr. Ian Ramdahin - Deputy Permanent Secretary
- Mr. Jairaj Balliram - Auditor III
- Mr. Anthony Blake - Head of Facilities Management
- Ms. Beatrice Ramlal - Administrative Officer V
- Ms. Dianne Rampadarath - Senior Planning Officer
- Mr. Patrice Charles - Director Physical Education & Sport
- Mr. Earland Kent - Director, Youth Affairs
- Ms. Sherry Ann Smith-Simmons - Director, Human Resource Services
Key Issues Discussed
Follow-up to First Report of the Committee

- Recommendation: Regularize Short term employment

1. The progress made in reducing the Ministry’s reliance on short-term employment;
2. The recruitment process used by the Ministry to hire contract employees;
3. The difference between short term employment and short term contract;
4. The reasons for persons being employed by Government Human Resource Services Company Limited (GHRS) prior to completion of the Ministry's rationalization of short term employment;
5. The MSYA non-compliance with the Minister of Finance’s directive to end short-term employment;
6. The status of the review and rationalization exercise;
7. The industrial relation practices followed with respect to the short term employees sent home as a result of the review and rationalization exercise;
8. Litigation faced by the MSYA as a result of persons being unemployed due to the review and rationalization exercise;
9. The impact of moving during the period September 2016 to February 2017 on the rationalization of short term employment;
10. The consideration of employing persons under Section 13(5) of the Public Service Regulations;
11. The reasons for differences amongst assumption dates for the 9 short term employees that were hired on contract;
12. The number of persons employed within the Physical Education and Sport Division; and
13. The human resource capacity of SporTT.

- Recommendation: Maintenance Plan for each facility

1. The employment of OJTs;
2. The absence of a National Sport Policy and strategic plan;
3. The absence of a maintenance plan for small sport facilities;
4. Maintenance plans were done as part of the scope of works for new sport facilities;
5. The lack of financial resources for maintenance of stadiums;
6. Maintenance of stadiums are done on a reactive rather than proactive basis; and
7. The rationale for differences in salary and transport amongst sport facility managers.
- **Recommendation: Site Visits**

1. The reasons for site visits not being conducted at the Basilon Youth Centre, the Malick Youth Centre and the Laventille Youth Centre;
2. The reason for the absence of official reports of site visits at the Ministry's facilities;
3. The absence of a policy that site visits are required;
4. The reasons for the disparity in the amount of site visits for certain facilities compared to other facilities;
5. The tracking mechanisms for operational and maintenance issues that are raised by managers of each facility in the absence of official reports; and
6. The processes in place to confirm site visits actually took place in the absence of an official report.

**Expenditure related to the Tobago Sport Awards**

1. The impact of three (3) additional persons on trip’s expenditure;
2. The rationale for the addition of two (2) administrative professionals to the trip;
3. The process to approve travel expenditure within Trinidad and Tobago and the absence of a travel expenditure ceiling;
4. The reasons for the Public Relations Officer II attending the trip rather than a senior person in the Communication Unit;
5. The state of the Dwight Yorke Stadium based on site visit;
6. The rationale for meeting on the 5th Caribbean Youth Leader Summit;
7. The reasons for choice of accommodation at Magdalena Grand versus other hotel accommodations;
8. The absence of a whistleblower policy within the Ministry;
9. The conditional estimate of $44 million prepared by a private company for works required at Dwight Yorke Stadium;
10. The rationale for renting vehicles verses utilizing vehicles from the Tobago House of Assembly or the Central Administrative Services, Tobago;
11. The follow up actions to be taken related to Dwight Yorke Stadium subsequent to the site visit; and
12. The short term gains to justify the total trip expenditure with respect to the:
   a. 5th Caribbean Regional Youth Leaders’ Summit
   b. Review and Development of the National Youth Policy;
   c. National Sport Policy/ Tobago Sport Policy;
   d. Caricom Youth Ambassador Programme;
   e. National Youth Organization Registration
   f. Overall State of Disrepair of the Dwight Yorke Stadium
View the Hearing:
The hearing can be viewed on our YouTube Channel, ParlView via the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DaO4Ol8fW0

Next Meeting:
The next Public Hearing of the Committee will be held on Wednesday June 14, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. At this meeting, the Committee intends to commence its examination of the Ministry of Education as it relates to Inventory Control, Internal Audit, Accountability and Transparency, Sub - Head 02 - Goods and Services and Sub - Head 03 - Minor Equipment Purchases, Sub - Head 04 - Current Transfers and Subsidies, Sub - Head 09 - Development Programme - Consolidated Fund and Infrastructure Development Fund for the Financial Year 2017.

PAAC Secretariat
June 6, 2017