Joint Select Committee on State Enterprises

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARING

held on Monday May 02, 2016

An Inquiry into the management and operations of
the Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (UDeCOTT)

1. Meeting

1.1 A public hearing was held on Monday May 02, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:17 p.m. at the J. Hamilton Maurice Room at the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

2. Attendance

2.1 The following Members of the Committee were present:

- Dr. Lester Henry (Vice-Chairman)
- Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Ancil Antoine, MP
- Mr. Adrian Leonce, MP
- Mr. Fazal Karim, MP
- Mrs. Cherrie-Ann Crichlow-Cockburn, MP
- Ms. Allyson Baksh
- Mr. Wade Mark

2.2 Witnesses who appeared

The following officials of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MoHUD) and the UDeCOTT appeared before the Committee:

- Ms. Simone Thorne Mora Quinones - Permanent Secretary, MoHUD
- Mr. Noel Garcia - Chairman
- Ms. Abena Richards - Chief Operating Officer
- Mr. Andre Ow Buland - Chief Financial Officer
- Mr. Chris Jagroop - Chief Construction Engineer
- Ms. Kathryn Denbow - Chief Legal Officer

3. Key Issues Discussed

i) Strategic Plan
ii) Challenges with preparing Audited Financial Statements
iii) Untimely settlement of funds by Ministries/entities
iv) Procedure used for the appointment of the current Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
v) UDeCOTT’s relatively high staff turnover
vi) Vacancies
vii) UDeCOTT staff complement doubled
viii) Borrowing Status
ix) Safety issues
x) Site Visits
xi) Status of hand over of some projects
xii) Ensuring Transparency, accountability and value for money
xiii) HYATT reserve funds
xiv) Status of the Couva Children’s Hospital
xv) Status of Arima and Point Fortin Hospitals
xvi) Red House Restoration Project
xvii) UDECOTTs sources of funding
xviii) Developing Small Contractors
xix) Brian Lara Cricket Academy
xx) Reputability of UDECOTTs Project Management
xxi) Concerns of the First People
xxii) Records Management and Storage
xxiii) Relationship between UDECOTT and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
xxiv) Adequacy of technical staff to execute projects
xxv) Defects liability period

5. **View the Hearing:**

The hearing can be viewed on our YouTube page via the following link:
https://youtu.be/6D_Mo8N_pZ4

6. **Contact Information:**

You may contact the Committee’s Secretary at jscse@ttparliament.org or 624-7275 Ext. 2828/2309.

Committees Unit
May 03, 2016