Public Hearing Summary
Wednesday January 25, 2017

Inquiry Subject:
The Examination of the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheet and other Financial Statements of the Ministry of Education (MOE) for the financial years 2014 and 2015

Committee Members:
The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:
- Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie - Chairman
- Mr. Rodger Samuel - Vice-Chairman
- Dr. Lester Henry - Member
- Mr. Jennifer Raffoul - Member
- Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

Ministry of Education
- Ms. Angela Sinaswee-Gervais - Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Ms. Sharon Ashman-John - Deputy Permanent Secretary
- Ms. Shobha Jaisir - Deputy Permanent Secretary
- Mr. Dipnarine Mungal - Director of Finance and Accounts
- Ms. Lisa Henry-David - Director of Education
- Ms. Kear Williams - Director of Human Resources
- Mr. Ashram Deoraj - Director of School Supervision
- Ms. Christine Sahajad - Administrative Officer IV
- Ms. Anjanie Samaroo - Auditor III

Auditor General
- Mr. Gary Peters - Assistant Auditor General
- Mr. Brian Caesar - Audit Executive II
- Ms. Sita Lewis - Audit Executive I
Key Issues Discussed

1. The role of the Permanent Secretary in ensuring the transparency and accountability of public funds;
2. The weakness of the internal audit system at the Ministry;
3. The initiatives to strengthen the internal audit function;
4. The systems in place to address the pervasive issues identified in the Report of the Auditor General;
5. The reasons and solutions to the issue of overpayments;
6. The recommendations for the Public Accounts Committee to assist the Ministry in performing its duties and functions;
7. The challenges and recommendations for the submission of pension and leave records for auditing in a timely manner;
8. The status of the Ministry in becoming automated;
9. The challenges of schools gaining national sponsorships from partnering with locally based businesses;
10. The measures in place to improve the role of the Ministry in the oversight and monitoring functions of transportation for students;
11. The reasons for the lack of site visit;
12. The status of the contractual agreement between the Ministry, PTSC and Maxi-Taxi concessionaires;
13. The number of personnel at the Ministry;
14. The mechanisms in place to evaluate and monitor the number of trips made by PTSC and Maxi-Taxi concessionaires;
15. The reasons for the large expenditure on school furniture; and
16. The main areas of concern and recommendations by the Auditor General’s Department;

View the Hearing:
The hearing can be viewed on our YouTube page via the following link:
https://youtu.be/rrEp1u6bC_Y

Next Meeting:
The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday February 8, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.