Public Hearing Summary
Wednesday February 08, 2017

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

- Mrs. Brigid Annisette-George  -  Chairman
- Dr. Lackram Bodoe  -  Vice-Chairman
- Mr. Wade Mark  -  Member
- Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy  -  Member
- Ms. Allyson Baksh  -  Member
- Mr. Daniel Dookie  -  Member
- Ms. Nicole Olivierre  -  Member

Witnesses who appeared:

Auditor General

- Mr. Majeed Ali  -  Auditor General
- Mr. Gary Peters  -  Assistant Auditor General
- Ms. Lorelly Pujadas  -  Deputy Auditor General

Ministry of Finance

- Mr. Vishnu Dhanpaul  -  Permanent Secretary
- Ms. Michelle Durham Kissoon  -  Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Ms. Savitree Seepersad  -  Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
Key Issues Discussed:

- $1.8 Billion spent under Minor Equipment Purchases during the period 2011-2015;
• The various Inventory Control Management issues which arose in the course of the Auditor General’s annual audit of Ministries and Departments;
• The need for Ministries and Departments to have a properly functioning Internal Audit Departments to address Inventory Control issues;
• The measures taken to address the pervasive issues identified by the Auditor General’s Department;
• The role of the Public Service Commission and Service Commissions Department in the System of Inventory Control;
• The lack of a standard System of Inventory Control;
• The possibility of a Circular being sent to Ministries and Departments to standardise the System of Inventory Control;
• The initiatives to improve the Inventory Control System through the implementation of an automated inventory system under the Integrated Financial Management Information System;
• The time-frame to implement interim measures in wake of Public Sector Financial Reform (3-5 years);
• The recommendations by the Auditor General’s Department to improve the Inventory Control Management;
• The legislation prohibiting the implementation of proper Inventory Control measures;
• The Asset Management System being developed by the Ministry of Public Administration and Communications in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and the Auditor General’s Department;
• The mechanisms in place to safeguard assets;
• The sanctions imposed on public officials who are in breach of the Exchequer and Audit Act and the Financial Regulations;
• The need for the Ministry of Finance to review the Exchequer and Audit Act and the Financial Regulations to complement modern times;
• The shortage of staff in the Ministry of Finance;
The role of the Public Service Academy in training public officials in Accounting and Inventory Management;

The various challenges experienced by the Public Service Academy in training officials;

The challenges faced by the Service Commissions Department in filling vacant positions;

The constant movement of Public Service officials and how this concern gives rise to issues of staffing and training;

The role of the Public Management Consultancy Division (PMCD) in addressing staffing issues;

The challenges faced by PMCD in attempting to establish positions/offices;

The need to revise the compensation/classification packages;

The procedure to dispose of unserviceable assets;

The criteria to dispose of assets via sealed bid/open bid;

The readiness of the Public Service for the pending proclamation and implementation of the Procurement Act;

The organisational structure required to establish a Procurement Unit by March 31, 2017;

The effect of the Procurement Act on the structure and staff of the Central Tenders Board;

The training programmes being developed by the Public Service Academy re: the pending proclamation of the Procurement Act; and

The need to revise other laws/rules to compliment the new procurement regime.

**View the Hearing:**
The hearing can be viewed on our YouTube page via the following link:
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EIAPlVzso](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EIAPlVzso)
Next Meeting:
The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday February 15, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. (in camera). At this meeting, the Committee intends to consider outstanding Committee Reports.

PAAC Secretariat
February 9, 2017