



Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the PAAC, Fifth Session, 12th Parliament

Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday November 13, 2024

Inquiry Subject:

An examination of the Expenditure and Development Programme of certain key Divisions of the Tobago House of Assembly (THA).

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present at the meeting:

Mrs. Bridgid Mary Annisette-George	-	Chairman
Dr. Sharda Patasar	-	Member
Mr. Symon de Nobriga	-	Member
Mrs. Lisa Morris-Julian	-	Member
Mr. Hassel Bacchus	-	Member
Mr. Laurence Hislop	-	Member
Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy	-	Member

Witnesses who appeared:

Tobago House of Assembly (THA)

- Ms. Denise Toby-Quashie - Chief Administrator (Ag.)
- Ms. Melissa James-Guy - Administrator
- Mr. Armand Jackson - Director of Planning
- Ms. Cherece Wallace - Director, Land Management
- Ms. Ann-Marie deGazon - Director, Policy and Performance

Division of Finance, Trade and the Economy

- Ms. Shelly trim - Administrator (Ag.)
- Mr. Anslem Richards - Chief Technical Officer
- Mr. Carlos Hazel - Technical Advisor

Division of Infrastructure, Quarries and Urban Development

- Mr. Karl Murray - Administrator



- Ms. Sonia Davidson - Accounting Executive I (Ag.)
- Ms. Leecia Bennet-Douglas - Human Resources Officer II (Ag.)

Division of Tourism, Culture, Antiquities and Transportation

- Mr. Julian Skeete - Administrator
- Dr. Charleston Thomas - Technical Advisor-Culture
- Ms. Natalie James-Douglas - Human Resource Officer III (Ag.)
- Ms. Dahlia Ross-Blake - Management Accountant

Key Issues Discussed:

1. The development and implementation of the Strategic Selectivity Model (SSM) as the macro policy framework which will guide Tobago's sustainable development.
2. The SSM being a framework within the broader development construct for Tobago that operates as a performance management tool allowing for accountability, efficiency and effectiveness.
3. The SSM being used for the selection and prioritisation of projects.
4. The status of the development of the Strategic Selectivity Institutional Framework.
5. The conceptualisation of a Development Pathway as a replacement for the THA's Strategic Plan which had expired in 2019.
6. The implementation of the Developmental Pathway which entails the achievement of twelve (12) strategic goals and twenty-one (21) strategic objectives for the THA.
7. The status of the Mandate Letters for each of the THA's Divisions.
8. The status of a strategic plan for the Division of Infrastructure, Quarries and Urban Development (DIQUD) for 2021-2024.
9. The decommissioning of the Intelligent Island project and the lack of an ICT thrust for Tobago.
10. The partnership of the THA with the Ministry of Public Administration (MPA) to update the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS).
11. The status of outstanding development projects namely:-
 - Lammy Road Development project;
 - Lammy Road By-Pass;
 - Belmont Farmland Project;



- Shirvan road to Store Bay; and
 - Milford to Pigeon Point.
12. The responsibility of the DIQUD, under the Farmland Development Programme.
 13. The operations and development of the Project Management Office in the DIQUD.
 14. The decrease in the allocation under the rent/lease line item under the DIQUD regarding equipment for road development, rehabilitation and maintenance.
 15. The determination of the DIQUD to purchase equipment for the development, rehabilitation and maintenance of roadways in Tobago.
 16. The challenges encountered by the DIQUD regarding the purchasing equipment rather than renting/leasing.
 17. The need for the implementation of monitoring and evaluation performance indicators for the softer skill based projects.
 18. The status of the studies undertaken by the Division of Tourism.
 19. The status of the Gratuity payments for each Divisions of the THA.
 20. The status of the Productivity Council and the Research and Development Council.
 21. The human resource challenges experienced throughout the Divisions of the THA.
 22. The relationship between the THA and Service Commissions Department regarding the filling of vacant posts across the Divisions of the THA.
 23. The status of the Loan Guarantee Programme's.
 24. The status of the Tobago Training and Development Center.
 25. The existing relationship between the Tobago Tourism Agency Limited and the Division of Tourism, Culture, Antiquities and Transportation.
 26. The benefits derived from Official Overseas Travel by the Division of Tourism, Culture, Antiquities and.
 27. The status of the internal control mechanisms in place to prevent, detect and investigate instances of fraud at the THA.
 28. The status of the development of the following policies:-
 - Whistle-blower Policy;
 - Project Management Protocol;
 - Risk Management Policy; and
 - Fraud Policy.



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**Public Administration and
Appropriations Committee**

Next Meeting:

The next Public Hearing of the Committee will be held on **Wednesday, November 27, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.** At this meeting, the Committee will conduct an examination of the Ministry of Education on Sub – Head 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies, Sub – Head 09 Development Programme – Consolidated Fund and Infrastructure Development Fund for the Financial Year 2024 and 2025.

View the Hearing:

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_qr7c2xqGS4&t=4069s

**PAAC Secretariat
November 13, 2024**