



Thirteenth Meeting of the PAAC, Third Session, 12th Parliament

Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday February 8, 2023

Inquiry Subject:

A follow-up inquiry on the maintenance of community swimming pools by the Ministry of Sport and Community Development.

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present at the meeting:

- Mrs. Bridgid Annisette-George, MP - Chairman
- Mrs. Lisa Morris-Julien, MP - Member
- Mr. Laurence Hislop - Member
- Mr. Hassel Bacchus - Member
- Mr. Symon De Nobriga, MP - Member
- Ms. Amrita Deonarine - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

Ministry of Sport and Community Development (MSCD)

- Mrs. Beverly Reid-Samuel - Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Mr. Gabre Jesu McTair - Director, Physical Education and Sport
- Mr. Wilfred Fullerton - Technical Director

The Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (SporTT)

- Ms. Ansuya Babwah - Head, Accounts
- Mr. David Ince - Head, Facilities

Ministry of Finance – Investments Division

- Mr. Ryan Maharaj - Senior Business Analyst
- Ms. Sharon Mohammed - Director Agro-based, Manufacturing and Services Sector



Key Issues Discussed:

1. The community swimming pools under the purview of the MSCD and the activities offered to the public;
2. The MSCD strategic partnership with the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (TTDF) to manage and oversee the facilities and coordinate the activities at the Maloney, Laventille and Morvant Community Swimming Pools;
3. The current refurbishment and re-opening of the Siparia, Diego Martin and La Horquetta Community Swimming Pools in March 2023;
4. A status overview of the Couva Community Swimming Pool and need to conduct a detailed structural assessment report by a Senior Structural Engineer to determine whether to repair or replace said pool;
5. The potential revenue generating capacity of the Community pools based on the model of the Couva and Diego Martin Swimming Pools;
6. The late receipt of funds from the Ministry of Finance and the MSCD's attempts to improve this situation by submitting requests for funding in a timelier manner;
7. The MSCD's use of a public survey to identify the public's request for the community pools to be opened for longer hours and on weekends and the Ministry's inability to do so due to insufficient manpower;
8. The repairs and refurbishment works at the Diego Martin Community Swimming Pool will continue after its reopening in March 2023 without disrupting the public.
9. The implementation of the MSCD's Preventative Maintenance Plan to effectively identify and address issues as they arise;
10. The Community pools the Preventative Maintenance Plan was tested on;
11. The measures instituted to ensure the older pools receive the same robust maintenance monitoring as those managed by the TTDF;
12. The need for the MSCD to include a maintenance checklist as part of the execution of the Preventative Maintenance Plan;
13. 921 persons have accessed the Cocoyea Community Swimming Pool since it was reopened in January 03, 2023;
14. The MSCD identifies the following challenges that have affected its service delivery: staff vacancies, requests for longer pool hours and the late receipt of funds;
15. The contract manager for the following services - security, janitorial and maintenance and service providers operating at all of the Community Pools is SporTT;
16. The MSCD's inability to settle its aged payables in relation to community pools due to the non-facilitation of requests for supplementary funds;
17. The accrual of telecommunication debt at the community swimming pools by the administrative staff assigned to each facility;
18. The permanent and contracted staffing complement at the Physical Education and Sport Division (PESD) of the MSCD;
19. The PESD's coaching complement and the functions they execute;
20. The development of a priority listing to fulfil the payment of salaries and wages;
21. The challenges experienced trying to procure pool related chemicals from local suppliers;



22. The reasons for the MSCD only procuring a three-month supply of chemicals at a time;
23. The MSCD's intention to create a vendor prequalification list using the Office of Procurement Regulation's depository and the criteria that will be required to gain prequalification;
24. The MSCD's intention to submit a Note to Cabinet on the fee structure to be implemented at each sporting facility under its purview;
25. The informal mutually beneficial partnership that previously existed with a private entity that utilised the Diego Martin Community Swimming Pool;
26. The receipt of proposals from private entities and swim clubs to utilise the community pools to administer programmes not provided by the MSCD;
27. The MSCD's need to consider how best to facilitate private requests to utilise the community swimming pool without disrupting its regular learn to swim and community programmes;
28. The efforts made to formalise the provision of security and janitorial services at each swimming pool;
29. Whether community engagement could exist to include community involvement in the maintenance and running of the community pools;
30. The need to develop a pool utilisation policy to ensure private pool utilisation does not disrupt and monopolise pool use and the timeline for the development of said policy;
31. A status update of all the concerns observed during the Committee's site visits to the Cocoyea and Morvant Swimming Pools;
32. The timeline for the procurement of a new sump pump for the Cocoyea Pool and the Cocoyea Pool needing to borrow chemicals from the Sangre Grande pool in January 2023;
33. The existence of a risk management plan at each pool but the need to develop emergency response plans in the event of an emergency; and
34. How information on the reopening of the Siparia, Diego Martin and La Horquetta Community Swimming Pools would be disseminated and when schools would be approached to register for the learn to swim programmes.

Next Meeting:

The next Public Hearing of the Committee will be held on **Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.** At this meeting, the Committee intends to will commence an inquiry into the provision of flood relief grants by the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS).

PAAC Secretariat

February 24, 2023