



Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday December 07, 2016

Inquiry Subject:

The Examination of the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheet and other Financial Statements of the Community Based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (CEPEP) for the financial years 2009 - 2014.

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

- Mr. Wade Mark - Chairman
- Dr. Tim Gopeesingh - Vice- Chairman
- Mr. Foster Cummings - Member
- Mr. David Small - Member
- Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe - Member
- Mrs. Cherrie-Ann Crichlow-Cockburn - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

Community Based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (CEPEP)

- Mr. Keith Eddy - General Manager
- Ms. Jody David - Finance Manager
- Mr. Dominic Grell - Operations Manager
- Mr. David Roberts - Business and Entrepreneur
Development Manager
- Ms. Avelia Stewart - Human Resource Manager
- Ms. Margaret Sampson-Browne - Corporate Communications Manager

Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government

- Ms. Desdra Bascombe - Permanent Secretary
- Mr. Hilliufa Ali - Accounting Executive II (Ag.)

Ministry of Finance – Investments Division

- Ms. Sharon Mohammed - Senior Business Analyst
- Mr. Varuna Ramdial - Senior Audit Analyst

Key Issues Discussed

1. The role of the Permanent Secretary in ensuring accountability and transparency in monitoring and accessing the performance of CEPEP.
2. The role of the Investments Division in ensuring oversight and accountability in state enterprises.
3. The mandate and core function of CEPEP.
4. The role of the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government in assessing the effectiveness of the internal audit function at CEPEP.
5. The number of persons employed at CEPEP.
6. The number of contractors employed by CEPEP over the period 2008 to 2014.
7. The challenges faced by the new Management and the possible recommendations and solutions to eliminate those challenges.
8. The absence of an internal audit function at CEPEP.
9. The lack of value for money audit.
10. The absence of risk management processes and procurement policy.
11. Status of the audited financial statements for fiscal year 2015.
12. The selection process for contractors by CEPEP.
13. The remuneration package of CEPEP's new management team.
14. The rationale for relocating CEPEP's head office from Chaguanas to St. Madeline.
15. The lack of payment of statutory deductions by contractors.
16. The status of compliant/non-compliant contractors of the income tax laws.
17. The mechanism in place for collecting waste other than the use of garbage bags.
18. The status of CEPEP Maritime and CEPEP Agriculture.
19. The measures in place to protect workers against the risk health and safety issues.
20. The operational expenditure of CEPEP.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday January 18, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. to examine the Audited Financial Statements of Point Lisas Industrial Port Development Corporation Limited (PLIPDECO) for the period 2008 to 2014.

View the Hearing:

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

<https://youtu.be/oWXp521o86M>

**PA(E)C Secretariat
December 07, 2016**