



Joint Select Committee on Land and Physical Infrastructure (including Land, Agriculture, Marine Resources, Housing, Public Utilities, Transport and Works)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARING

held on Tuesday June 07, 2016

An Inquiry into Land Tenure in Trinidad and Tobago

1. Meeting

1.1 A public meeting was held on Tuesday June 07, 2016 from 10:05 a.m. to 11:35 a.m. at the J. Hamilton Maurice Room at the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

2. Attendance

2.1 The following Members of the Committee were present:

- Mr. Stephen Creese (Chairman)
- Mr. Rushton Paray, MP (Vice-Chairman)
- Mr. Darryl Smith, MP
- Dr. Lovell Francis, MP
- Mrs. Glenda Jennings-Smith, MP
- Mr. Hafeez Ali
- Mr. Daniel Solomon

3. Entities

3.1 Representatives from the Land Settlement Agency appeared before the JSC on Land and Physical Infrastructure.

4. Key Issues Discussed

- (i) The status of amendments to “The State Lands Act”.
- (ii) The position of the L.S.A with reference to persons who lived on State Land for Over thirty (30) years who have Certificate of Comfort.
- (iii) The de-reservation of State Land.
- (iv) The frequency of the advertisements of illegal squatting on State Lands.
- (v) The measurement of expenditure from advertising the LSA’s legal position of not having the power to destroy squatter’s homes.
- (vi) The relationship between the Commissioner of State Lands and the LSA.
- (vii) The effectiveness of follow-up meetings between the Regional Corporations, The Commission of State Lands and the LSA.

- (viii) Between 2009 and 2012 approximately fifty-five thousand (55,000) families occupied state lands - How will the LSA deal with this situation.
- (ix) Pricing policy for existing holders of COC to pay for marketable leases.
- (x) The time frame for the clearing of leases by the Commissioner of State Lands.
- (xi) A special unit to monitor and patrol new incidences of squatting.
- (xii) The level of coordination between the LSA, COSL and the Regional Corporations in connection with squatting.
- (xiii) The creation of a designated land court to effect the issue.
- (xiv) The LSA, the EMA and hillside squatting.
- (xv) Linkages between the LSA and other agencies.
- (xvi) The issue of possible duplication of applications by HDC and LSA.

5. View the Hearing:

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

<https://youtu.be/rZ4ZKEdI58E>

6. Contact Information:

You may contact the Committee's Secretary at jsclpi@tparliament.org or 624-7275 Ext. 2828/2284/2283.

Committees Unit
Tuesday June 7, 2016