



PARLIAMENT

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Levels G - 9, Tower D

The Port-of-Spain International Waterfront Centre

1A Wrightson Road, Port-of-Spain

Joint Select Committee on State Enterprises

Public Hearing Summary

Monday June 5, 2017 at 10:28 a.m.

TOPIC:

Inquiry into the efficiency and effectiveness of the Educational Facilities Company Limited (EFCL) in managing the construction and repair of Government and Government Assisted Schools

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

- Mr. David Small Chairman
- Brig. Gen. (Ret) Ancil Antoine Member
- Ar. Adrian Leonce Member
- Mr. Fazal Karim Member
- Mr. Wade Mark Member
- Ms. Allyson Baksh Member

WITNESSES WHO APPEARED:

Officials from the Education Facilities Company Limited (EFCL):

- Mr. Clyde Permell Director, Board of Directors
- Mr. Denis Cox General Manager (Ag.)/
Chief Financial Officer

Officials from the Ministry of Finance:

- Ms. Lisa Phillips Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
Ministry of Finance
- Mr. Suresh Dan Business Analyst
- Mr. Lester Herbert Director, Central Audit Committee

- viii. The Ministry's strategy for managing the undue involvement of Board Members in the day to day running of State Enterprises.
- ix. The process from initiation of a project by the Ministry of Education, to the disbursement of funds from:
 - a. Ministry of Education to EFCL
 - b. EFCL and contractors.
- x. The issue of delayed disbursements from the Ministry of Education to pay contractors.
- xi. Clarification on what would be considered "misrepresentations" in the public domain, concerning the allegations made in the media.
- xii. Whether EFCL has a whistleblower policy.
- xiii. Whether there is truth to the allegations about the dismissal of EFCL's ICT Manager along with ten (10) other employees.
- xiv. Whether there is truth to the allegations that there is a level of discord between the Board of EFCL and the Management Team, and possibly Staff.
- xv. The actions taken following the recent media publications that have quoted, verbatim, correspondence between EFCL and the Office of the Parliament.
- xvi. The reasoning behind the heavy staffing of the Technical Services Department at EFCL, in light of the reduction in the workload.
- xvii. Whether the current overall staffing at EFCL is sufficient for the organization to achieve its goals and objectives.
- xviii. The issue of salary increases for certain members of staff during the last six to eight months.
- xix. Whether there is truth to the allegations that multiple contracts were awarded to various entities under the same parent company, Junior Sammy Group of Companies.
- xx. The protocol to be followed when there is a conflict of interest surrounding a Board decision and a member of the Board.
- xxi. Whether the prequalified list of contractors was recently updated.
- xxii. Verification that the Board of Tenders Committee has a representative from the Procurement Department.
 - a. Whether the Board of Tenders Committee always had a representative from the Procurement Department.
- xxiii. Concern whether proper procurement procedure has always been followed at EFCL.

- xxiv. Whether EFCL has a fraud policy.
- xxv. The amount of money owed to contractors by EFCL.
 - a. Whether any lawsuits have resulted as a result of monies owed.
 - b. Whether allegations that payments were expedited to certain companies are true.
- xxvi. The revenue sources of the Company.
- xxvii. Whether the Corporate Secretary has the power to issue contracts.
- xxviii. EFCL's projects in Tobago, and the role that the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) plays.
- xxix. Clarification concerning the allegations in the media concerning the Barrackpore Vedic Primary School.
- xxx. The Internal Auditor vacancy at EFCL.
 - a. Plans for filling the position.
 - b. EFCL's record with respect to submission of Internal Audit reports.

View the Hearing:

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lptgn_S1taw

Contact Information:

You may contact the Committee's Secretariat at jscse@tparliament.org or 624-7275 Ext. 2309/2527.

Committees Unit

June 13, 2017