



Public Hearing Summary **Wednesday February 21, 2018**

Inquiry Subject:

The Continuation of the Examination of the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheet and other Financial Statements of the National Training Agency (NTA) for the financial years 2008-2011.

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

- Mr. Wade Mark - Chairman
- Dr. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly - Member
- Mrs. Jennifer Baptiste-Primus - Member
- Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds - Member
- Mr. David Small - Member
- Mr. Foster Cummings - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

National Training Agency (NTA)

- Dr. Ruby S. Alleyne - Chairman
- Mr. Steve M.P. Arman - Chief Executive Officer
- Mr. Brian Bissessar - Senior Manager- Human Resources
- Mr. Anees Rahman - Corporate Legal Secretary
- Ms. Martha Prince - Senior Internal Auditor (Ag.)
- Mr. Anthony Singh - Senior Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
- Ms. Pauline Whiteman - Senior Manager, Programme Development and Management

Ministry of Education (MOE)

- Ms. Angela Sinaswee-Gervais - Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Mrs. Latta Tapsy Jahoor - Director, Finance and Accounts

Ministry of Finance – Investments Division

- Ms. Yvette Babb - Director, Social and Economic Transformation
- Ms. Mala Mohammed - Senior Business Analyst (Ag.)

Key Issues Discussed

1. The failure of NTA to submit Annual Business Plans to the MOE.
2. The lack of human resources of the Research, Planning and Technical Services Department of the MOE to provide oversight to State Agencies under the Ministry's purview.
3. The measures in place by the MOE to effectively monitor State Agencies under its purview.
4. The consideration to relocate the NTA to the MOE's Head Office at St. Vincent Street.
5. The challenges experienced by the MOE in the examination of NTA's audited financial statements and the measures in place to solve these challenges.
6. The role of the CEO in accounting for the operational and financial aspects of NTA's.
7. The failure of the company to submit its Audited Financial Statements in a timely manner.
8. The status of the Analysis of Internal Audit findings.
9. The effectiveness of NTA in the delivery of its services.
10. The approval process for overseas travel.
11. The exorbitant sum of funds expended on overseas travel and whether value for money was achieved.
12. The reasons for the purchase of 350 Kindle devices in fiscal year 2014.
13. The status of the NTA's operational costs and operating deficit for the period 2008 to 2017 and the mechanisms in place to address the operating deficit.
14. The absence of a succession plan at the NTA.
15. The gaps in the role and mandate of the NTA.
16. The mismanagement of the Universal Retirement Plan held at the Unit Trust Corporation.
17. The procurement system in place for sourcing and approving vendors.
18. The absence of systems in place for TVET and CVQ data collection.
19. The status of TVET certifications issued by NTA during the period 2014 to 2018.
20. The absence of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for granting staff loans.
21. The role of the Ministry of Finance- Investments Division in ensuring oversight of State Agencies under its purview.
22. The absence of procedures for justifying requests for overtime.
23. The challenges faced by the Chairman of NTA and the proposed solutions to address these challenges.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday March 7, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

View the Hearing:

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

<https://youtu.be/6WaAYfXPcQs>

PA(E)C Secretariat

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