



JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON

NATIONAL SECURITY

REPORT OF THE
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

SECOND SESSION (2016/2017) OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

ON

*Inquiries Conducted During the
First Session (2015/2016), Eleventh Parliament*

Current Membership

The Committee comprises the following members:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP | Chairman |
| 2. | Mr. Prakash Ramadhar, MP | Vice-Chairman |
| 3. | Mr. Faris Al-Rawi, MP | Member |
| 4. | Ms. Nicole Olivierre, MP | Member |
| 5. | Mr. Michael Coppin | Member |
| 6. | Mr. Nigel De Freitas | Member |
| 7. | Mr. Taurel Shrikissoon | Member |
| 8. | Mr. Wayne Sturge | Member |

Secretariat Support

The following officers were assigned to assist the Committee:

- Mrs. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel Secretary
- Mr. Brian Caesar Assistant Secretary
- Mr. Johnson Greenidge Assistant Secretary
- Ms. Chantal La Roche Legal Officer II
- Ms. Roxanne Fournillier Research Assistant
- Mr. Brian Lucio Research Assistant

Publication

An electronic copy of this report can be found on the Parliament website:
http://www.ttparliament.org/committee_business.php?mid=19&id=235&pid=28

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Secretary
Joint Select Committee on National Security
Office of the Parliament
Levels G-9, Tower D
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road Port of Spain Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Tel: (868) 624-7275 Ext. 2226/2232 **Fax:** (868) 625-4672

Email: jcnationalsecurity@ttparliament.org

REPORT

OF THE

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

ON

**INQUIRIES CONDUCTED DURING THE FIRST SESSION (2015/2016), ELEVENTH
PARLIAMENT**

**THE INQUIRY INTO THE OPERATIONS OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FORENSIC SCIENCE
CENTRE AND THE ISSUE OF DNA SAMPLING IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**THE FOLLOW-UP INQUIRY INTO THE STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE PCA AND THE
TTPS INTO THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE DAY OF “TOTAL POLICING” ON MARCH 23,
2015**

**A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO PRISON SECURITY AND THE STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION
INTO THE
PORT-OF-SPAIN PRISON BREAK OF JULY 24, 2015**

Date Laid in HOR: 09/11/2016

Date Laid in Senate: 15/11/2016

HOR Paper No:

Senate Paper No:

PARL No: 14/3/43

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Term
COP	Commissioner of Prisons
DCOP	Deputy Commissioner of Prisons
PA	Prisons Administration
PSC	Public Service Commission
DPA	Director of Public Administration
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
ISO	International Standards Organization
IEC	International Electro Technical Commission

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....	4
1. INTRODUCTION	7
Committee Mandate and Establishment	7
Powers of the Committee	8
Inquiries.....	8
2. THE INQUIRY INTO THE OPERATIONS OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTRE AND THE ISSUE OF DNA SAMPLING IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	9
Objectives of the Inquiry	9
Conduct of the Inquiry.....	9
Submissions and Evidence	9
Issues Raised.....	11
Findings to Date	11
Recommendations to Date	13
Conclusion	14
3. THE FOLLOW-UP INQUIRY INTO THE STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE PCA AND TTPS INTO THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE DAY OF “TOTAL POLICING” ON MARCH 23, 2015	15
Background.....	15
Objectives of the Inquiry	16
Conduct of the Inquiry.....	16
Submissions and Evidence	16
Issues Raised.....	17
Findings to Date	18
Conclusion	18
4. A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO PRISON SECURITY AND THE STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE PORT-OF-SPAIN PRISON BREAK OF JULY 24, 2015.....	19
Objectives of the Inquiry	19
Conduct of the Inquiry.....	19
Submissions and Evidence	19

Issues Raised.....	20
Conclusion	21
5. WORKPLAN FOR THE CURRENT SESSION	22
APPENDIX 1.....	24

1. INTRODUCTION

Committee Mandate and Establishment

1.1 The Joint Select Committee on National Security is established by Standing Orders 103 and 93 of the House of Representatives and the Senate respectively and is mandated to consider, from time to time, and report to the Parliament whenever necessary, on all matters related to the national security policy of Trinidad and Tobago. In particular, the Committee is authorized to examine:

- a) the security, safety and protection of citizens;
- b) the working relationships between the various agencies involved in intelligence gathering, and how they collect, coordinate, analyse and disseminate information and how these functions might be enhanced; and
- c) the mechanisms to review the performance and activities of the various agencies involved in National Security and critical infrastructure.

1.2 By motions approved in the House of Representatives and Senate on November 13, 2015 and November 17, 2015, respectively, the following members were appointed to serve on the **Joint Select Committee on National Security**:

Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP	Chairman
Mr. Faris Al-Rawi, MP	Member
Ms. Nicole Olivierre, MP	Member
Mr. Prakash Ramadhar, MP	Member
Mr. Michael Coppin	Member
Mr. Nigel De Freitas	Member
Mr. Taurel Shrikissoon	Member
Mr. Wayne Sturge	Member

1.3 At its first meeting held on December 02, 2015 Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds and Mr. Taurel Shrikissoon were elected to serve as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. However, Mr. Shrikissoon resigned the office of Vice-Chairman on the afternoon of December 02, 2015. Mr. Prakash Ramadhar was elected to the vacant office of Vice Chairman on September 14, 2016.

1.4 The Committee held nine (9) meetings over the course of the First session, Eleventh Parliament. The attendance record is attached to this Report.

Powers of the Committee

1.5 By Standing Orders 101 of the Senate and 111 of the House of Representatives the Committee has the power, *inter alia*:

- a. to send for persons, papers and records;
- b. to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House;
- c. to adjourn from place to place;
- d. to report from time to time;
- e. to appoint specialist advisers either to supply information which is not otherwise readily available, or to elucidate matters of complexity within the Committee's order of reference;
- f. to communicate with any other Committee on matters of common interest; and
- g. to meet concurrently with any other Committee for the purpose of deliberating, taking evidence or considering draft reports.

Inquiries

1.6 Over the course of the last session, the Committee was engaged in three (3) inquiries regarding matters of National Security, namely:

- i. The inquiry into the operations of the Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre and the issue of DNA sampling in Trinidad and Tobago;
- ii. The follow-up inquiry into the status of the investigation of the PCA and the TTPS into the events surrounding the day of "total policing" on March 23, 2015; and
- iii. A preliminary inquiry into prison security and the status of the investigation into the Port-of-Spain prison break of July 24, 2015.

1.7 The Committee has also written to the Minister of National Security on the matter of the National Security Policy of Trinidad and Tobago and is awaiting a copy of this policy.

1.8 Pursuant to its power to report from time to time, this report seeks to provide the House of Representatives and Senate with information on the status of each of these inquiries, including the issues that engaged the Committee and recommendations to date. This report also provides information on additional work that the Committee proposes to undertake in the current session.

2. THE INQUIRY INTO THE OPERATIONS OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTRE AND THE ISSUE OF DNA SAMPLING IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Objectives of the Inquiry

2.1 The Committee agreed that the following will comprise the objectives of the inquiry:

1. **To gain an understanding of the operations of the Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre (TTFSC);**
2. **To identify the current challenges faced by the TTFSC as it relates to effective forensic services; and**
3. **To determine the effectiveness of forensic sampling and the process of the collection of DNA as required under the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act, 2012.**

Conduct of the Inquiry

2.2 On June 01, 2016 the Committee conducted a public hearing with Officials from the Ministry of National Security and with officials of the TTFSC. Subsequent to this meeting, the Committee met with the following stakeholders on June 22, 2016:

- Officials of the Ministry of National Security;
- Officials of the Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre;
- Officials of the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel;
- Officials of the Office of the Personnel Department; and
- Officials of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

Oral and Written submissions received from the entities appearing before the Committee provided a frame of reference for the questions posed at hearings.

Submissions and Evidence

2.3 The Committee received submissions from the following entities:

1. The Ministry of National Security;
2. The Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre; and
3. The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

Table 1
Persons who appeared and provided oral evidence

Name of Official	Portfolio	Organization
Public Hearing Held on June 01, 2016		
Mr. Simeon Yearwood	Permanent Secretary (Acct. Officer)	The Ministry of National Security
Mr. Vel Lewis	Permanent Secretary	The Ministry of National Security
Ms. Maria Joseph	Dep. Permanent Secretary	The Ministry of National Security
Ms. June Thomas	Director, Finance	The Ministry of National Security
Ms. Joy Seepersad-Boodoo	Director, Human Resource	The Ministry of National Security
Mr. Glen Pamassar	Deputy Director, Forensic (Ag.)	The Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre
Mr. Mark Lutchman	Project Manager	The Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre
Mr. Derrick Sankar	Scientific Officer III (Ag.)	The Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre
Public Hearing Held on June 22, 2016		
Mr. Simeon Yearwood	Permanent Secretary (Acct. Officer)	The Ministry of National Security
Mr. Vel Lewis	Permanent Secretary	The Ministry of National Security
Ms. Maria Joseph	Dep. Permanent Secretary	The Ministry of National Security
Ms. Arlette Lewis	Director, Forensic	The Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre
Mr. Mark Lutchman	Project Manager	The Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre
Mr. Ian Macintyre, S.C.	Chief Parliamentary Counsel	The Chief Parliamentary Counsel
Mr. Beresford Riley	Chief Personnel Officer (Ag.)	The Personnel Department
Mr. Gary Joseph	Dep. Chief Personnel Officer (Ag.)	The Personnel Department

Ms. Susan Rajnauth-Houllier	Director (Ag.) - Benefits Mgmt. Div.	The Personnel Department
Ms. Dawn De Silva	Senior Human Resource Officer	The Personnel Department
Mr. Stephen Williams	Commissioner of Police (Ag.)	The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service
Mr. Jerry De Leon	Asst. Superintendent (Ag.)	The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service
Mr. Kazim Ali	Sgt. - SDO I/c - Legal	The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service

Issues Raised

- 2.4 A number of issues are engaging the attention of the Committee, including:
1. The accreditation of the TTFSC and its laboratory services under the International Standards Organization and International Electro Technical Commission (ISO/IEC);
 2. The efficient implementation of the Act and the introduction of effective methods of DNA sampling;
 3. Operational improvements at the TTFSC including the reduction of the backlog of DNA tests (Narcotics, Homicides and Ballistics);
 4. Staff shortages at the TTFSC;
 5. The recruitment of a Custodian and the establishment, commencement and operationalization of a DNA Databank; and
 6. The need for Regulations pursuant to Section 34 of the Act.

Findings to Date

The operations of the TTFSC and the current challenges faced by the TTFSC.

2.5 The TTFSC lacks a sufficient complement of Pathologists¹ to complete the large volumes of DNA testing which exists. In 2015, 3,105 cases were referred to the TTFSC which would have comprised 19,441 pieces of evidence required for examination. As of May 31, 2016 the TTFSC received 1,301 cases which include 8,631 pieces of evidence. The Committee noted the attempts made by the TTFSC to acquire additional pathologists such as liaising with the Scholarships and Advanced Training Division which led to the creation of six scholarships in the area of forensic pathology. However, the Committee was advised that owing to an inefficient and lengthy process, potential candidates became disillusioned.

¹ There are four (4) established Pathologist positions at the TTFSC, currently only two (2) positions are filled.

Provisions for the collection of Non-intimate DNA Samples

2.6 Based on the submissions/evidence received, the taking of DNA samples as contemplated under sections 13 and 16 of the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act, 2012 is not being conducted. The Committee is quite concerned that this important Act is not yet being utilized in the fight against crime.

2.7 Section 13 of the Act outlines circumstances in which a Police Officer or a qualified person shall take a non-intimate sample from a person without his consent. These circumstances include where:

- (a) the person is a suspect, detainee or accused;
- (b) a stain derived from a crime scene exists and there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that that person was involved in the offence and for believing that forensic DNA analysis could confirm or disprove such suspicion;
- (c) the person has had a non-intimate sample taken and that sample -
 - (ii) has proved to be either unsuitable or insufficient for forensic DNA analysis,
 - (iii) is lost or destroyed; or
 - (iv) cannot be used for any other reason; or
- d) the person is not a victim of an offence, attends a crime scene and is required by an investigating officer to give a non-intimate sample.

2.8 Section 16 of the Act explains that a non-intimate DNA sample can be taken from deported persons or detained persons without their consent.

Forensic sampling and the process of the collection of DNA as required under the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act, 2012 (the Act)

2.9 The Committee is therefore quite dissatisfied with the slow pace of implementation of this Act and the appointment of a Custodian for the DNA Databank, and made this quite clear to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Security and the Chief Personnel Officer.

2.10 The Custodian of the National Forensic DNA Databank will be the head of the Unit as well as the lead in researching the Databank. The Databank will be responsible for the storing of all DNA profiles that are generated either at the TTFSC or would come into the possession of the State. The DNA Databank will be independent from the TTFSC in keeping with international best practice which provides that the storage of DNA samples should be managed by body independent from analysis laboratories. Thus, the appointment of the Custodian is quite critical.

2.11 As a result of the Committee's inquiry into this matter, a Steering Committee was established by the Ministry of National Security to expedite the establishment of the DNA Databank. Also, terms and conditions of service for a Custodian were completed by the Chief Personnel Officer in June 2016 following the Committee's intervention. It is important to mention that this matter was before the Chief Personnel Officer for determination for more than one (1) year prior to June 2016.

2.12 The Committee was advised that the Ministry has since finalized action to engage persons in the positions of Custodian and Deputy Custodian, Forensic Databank. In the Permanent Secretary's submission to the Committee

dated August 15, 2016, the Ministry of National Security outlined a work programme toward the appointment of the Custodian by December 31, 2016 and the Establishment, Commencement and Operationalization of a DNA Databank in the year ahead.

2.13 In a letter to the Committee dated September 14, 2016, the Minister of National Security confirmed that on August 29, 2016 the position of Custodian Manager was successfully filled. The incumbent will assume duties by December 1, 2016.

Recommendations to Date

2.14 The Committee recommends that the **TTFSC**:

- a) **Continue to pursue measures to ensure that the Centre is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 by March 2017;**
- b) **Modify the process for granting of scholarships in the area of forensic pathology as well as the process for hiring internationally-based Forensic Pathologists so that the process is made more efficient and effective;**
- c) **Conduct periodic follow-up with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of National Security toward operationalizing the comprehensive timeline for the implementation of solutions as identified by the Director, TTFSC, including:**
 - i. a list of the resources required by the TTFSC; and*
 - ii. recommendations for the improvement of the operations of the TTFSC using current resources.*

2.15 Additionally, the Committee recommends that the **Ministry of National Security**:

- a) **Advance all efforts for the establishment, commencement and operationalization of the DNA Databank in accordance with the work programme outlined in the Permanent Secretary's submission to the Committee dated August 15, 2016;**
- b) **Assist the TTFSC in:**
 - **sourcing additional staff;**
 - **filing the current vacancies;**
 - **sourcing required equipment; and**
 - **the improvement of the criminal justice system as it impacts the TTFSC.**

2.16 The Committee also recommends that the **Commissioner of Police**:

- a) **Take the necessary action to appoint another Armorer by December 2016; and**

- b) Ensure that all Officers/Qualified persons responsible for taking DNA samples be made aware of the provisions of the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act, 2012 regarding the taking of DNA samples whether non-intimate or otherwise.**

Conclusion

2.17 This inquiry is ongoing. In this Second Session, Eleventh Parliament, the Committee intends to complete this inquiry into the functioning of the Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre and the implementation of the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act, 2012. The Committee proposes to follow up on all submissions received and commitments made by the relevant stakeholders. A final report on this matter will be submitted during the current session.

3. THE FOLLOW-UP INQUIRY INTO THE STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE PCA AND TTPS INTO THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE DAY OF “TOTAL POLICING” ON MARCH 23, 2015

Background

3.1 On Monday 23rd March, 2015 between the hours of 4:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. officers of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service conducted roadblocks throughout Trinidad and Tobago. The resulting massive nationwide traffic gridlock led to public outrage.

3.2 This was the subject of an inquiry by the Joint Select Committee on National Security in the Fifth Session (2014/2015), Tenth Parliament. That Committee proposed eleven (11) recommendations, namely that:

- i. The TTPS should complete its investigation into the roadblock exercises conducted on March 23, 2015 and the findings of the investigation should be forwarded to the Police Complaints Authority to complete its own investigation as well as to the Police Service Commission;
- ii. The investigations should examine the role of the GEB in the roadblock activities of March 23rd 2015;
- iii. The relationship between the officers conducting roadblock exercises and the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Social and Welfare Association should be investigated;
- iv. The relationship between the officers conducting the roadblock exercises and those attending the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Social and Welfare Association meeting on the 19th March 2015 at the offices of the Guard and Emergency Branch should be investigated;
- v. The role of Inspector Roger Alexander in the roadblock exercises should be further investigated;
- vi. The role of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Social and Welfare Association in the active management of the concerns of police officers within the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service should be examined;
- vii. The levels of awareness of Acting Assistant Commissioner of Police Garfield Moore and Snr. Supt. Joanne Archie of roadblock exercises on March 23, 2015 should be further investigated;
- viii. The role of the Guard and Emergency Branch in relation to the provision of security of the Parliament should be immediately reviewed;
- ix. Intelligence gathering as an area of law enforcement should be given extra attention and possibly enhanced in order to prevent similar occurrences like that of March 23, 2015;
- x. The quality of human intelligence resources which could detect internal threats should be examined and improved; and

- xi. The Police Service Commission should examine the number of acting appointments in the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and request that the Acting Commissioner of Police seeks to rectify same.

Objectives of the Inquiry

3.3 The current Committee agreed to follow-up on the status of the recommendations of the previous Committee. Consequently, the objectives of the on-going inquiry are:

1. **To determine the status of the investigation of the TTPS into the “day of Total Policing” on March 23, 2015;**
2. **To gain an understanding of the challenges faced by the TTPS in completing its investigation;**
3. **To determine the status of the investigation of the PCA into the day of “Total Policing”;**
4. **To gain an understanding of the challenges faced by the PCA in completing its investigation; and**
5. **To determine whether the TTPS is estopped in law from conducting investigations when the PCA has commenced an investigation.**

Conduct of the Inquiry

3.4 On June 01, 2016 a public hearing was conducted with the Ag. Commissioner of Police and officials from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and thereafter with the Director and officials from the Police Complaints Authority, *in camera* on July 13, 2016.

3.5 Oral and Written responses received from the entities appearing before the Committee provided a frame of reference for the questions pursued at the subsequent hearings.

Submissions and Evidence

3.6 The Committee received written submissions from the following entities:

1. **The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service; and**
2. **The Police Complaints Authority**

Table 1
Persons who appeared and provided oral evidence

Name of Official	Portfolio	Organization
Public Hearing Held on June 01st, 2016		
Mr. Stephen Williams	Commissioner of Police	The Ministry National Security
Mr. Glen Hackett	Deputy Commissioner of Crime and Support	The Ministry National Security
Mr. Harold Phillip	(Ag.) Deputy Commissioner of Administration	The Ministry National Security
Mr. Deodat Dulalchan	(Ag.) Deputy Commissioner of Operations	The Ministry National Security
Ms. Ellen Lewis	Head of Corporate Communications	The Ministry National Security
<i>In Camera</i> Hearing Held on July 13th, 2016		
Mr. David West	Director, Police Complaints Authority	The Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs
Mr. Andrew Stroude	Deputy Director	The Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs
Mr. Wellington Virgil	Consultant - Investigations	The Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs

Issues Raised

- 3.7 A number of issues are engaging the attention of the Committee, including:
1. The action taken by the Ag. Commissioner of Police in relation to the recommendations made in the report of the Joint Select Committee on National Security, Fifth Session (2014/2015) Tenth Parliament;
 2. The interpretation of Section 48(2) of the Police Complaints Authority Act, 2006 and whether the TTPS is stopped in law from conducting investigations when the PCA has commenced an investigation;
 3. The disciplinary powers of the Commissioner of Police under the Police Service Act, Chap. 15:01 and the Police Service Regulations;
 4. The status of the report of the PCA on its investigation into the day of “Total Policing”;
 5. Resources required by the PCA for the improvement of its operations and enhancement to the efficiency of its investigations; and
 6. Proposed Amendments to the Police Complaints Authority Act, 2006.

Findings to Date

3.11 The Committee discovered that the Ag. Commissioner of Police has done no further investigations nor taken any further action, disciplinary or otherwise, specifically related to this matter.

3.12 The Ag. Commissioner of Police is of the view that once the PCA commences an investigation into a matter he is estopped in law from taking any action whatsoever on such a matter until the PCA completes its work. This view is based on his interpretation of Section 48(2) of the Police Complaints Authority Act.

3.13 The PCA, by way of letter dated August 15, 2016 has indicated that its investigation into the day of “Total Policing” has been completed and that it is in the process of finalizing the report. The Committee has no information regarding when the report will be made public.

3.14 The PCA experienced challenges in completing its investigations. The PCA Director highlighted a lack of adequate stenographic personnel to assist with the finalizing of reports. The Committee has obtained from the PCA a list of required resources and recommendations for the enhancement of the investigative capacity of the PCA.

3.15 The Committee will continue to follow up on this matter until its conclusion.

Conclusion

3.16 In this Second Session, Eleventh Parliament, the Committee will continue its inquiry into the investigations into the day of “Total Policing”, the powers and functioning of the PCA and the TTPS in matters of alleged Police misconduct and the challenges faced by the PCA in completing investigations and submit its final report before the end of the current session.

4. A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO PRISON SECURITY AND THE STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE PORT-OF-SPAIN PRISON BREAK OF JULY 24, 2015

Objectives of the Inquiry

4.1 The Committee agreed that the following will comprise the objectives of this inquiry:

1. **To gain an appreciation of the status of investigations commenced by the Prison Service and TTPS into the events surrounding the Port-of-Spain prison break of July 24, 2015;**
2. **To understand the efforts being made and the challenges that exist in improving prison security;**
3. **To identify the persistent challenges faced by the Prison Service as it relates to prison security;**
4. **To make observations and preliminary recommendations for the improvement of prison security.**

Conduct of the Inquiry

4.2 On May 23, 2016 the Joint Select Committee on National Security conducted an *in camera* hearing with officials from the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service. Oral and Written responses received from the entity appearing before the Committee provided a frame of reference for the questions posed at the hearings.

Submissions and Evidence

4.3 The Committee received written submissions from the following entities:

1. **The Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service; and**
2. **The Service Commissions Department**

Table 1
Persons who appeared and provided oral evidence

Name of Official	Portfolio	Organization
In Camera Hearing Held on May 23, 2016		
Mr. Sterling Stewart	Commissioner of Prisons	The Ministry of National Security
Mr. Dennis Pulchan	Assistant Commissioner of Prisons (Ag.)	The Ministry of National Security
Mr. Rajnauth Lutchaman	Senior Superintendent of Prisons (Ag.)	The Ministry of National Security
Mr. Carlos Corraspe	Superintendent of Prisons (Ag.)	The Ministry of National Security
Mr. Dane Clarke	Deputy Commissioner of Prisons (Ag.)	The Ministry of National Security

Issues Raised

- 4.4 A number of issues are engaging the attention of the Committee, including:
- i. The Commissioner of Prisons' interpretation of the PSC Regulations as it relates to the disciplinary process;
 - ii. Contraband used in the prison break of July 24th 2015;
 - iii. Persistent challenges faced by the Prison Service, including:
 - a. the length of time that remanded prisoners remain in custody;
 - b. the length of time that high-risk inmates remain in prisons;
 - c. an over-populated remand prison where remand prisoners account for 63% of the total prisoner population;
 - d. human resource issues facing the Prison Service;
 - e. the failure to develop existing prison infrastructure and build new prison facilities; and
 - f. the unavailability of adequate rehabilitation programmes for prisoners;

Conclusion

4.5 This inquiry is ongoing. A final report on the examination of the Trinidad and Tobago Prisons Service (TTPS) and the investigations into the events of July 24, 2015 will be submitted during the current session.

5. WORKPLAN FOR THE CURRENT SESSION

5.1 In addition to the ongoing inquiries referred to above, the Committee proposes the following work plan for the current session:

- (i) An examination of ***“authorities and agencies responsible for the execution of national security policy in Trinidad and Tobago with special focus on the manpower arrangements within such agencies and more particularly:***
 - a. filling of vacancies;***
 - b. provision of staff positions;***
 - c. retention of personnel; and***
 - d. value for money.”***
- (ii) An inquiry into ***“the performance and efficiencies of authorities and agencies responsible for the execution of national security policy in Trinidad and Tobago with special focus on:***
 - a. Matters of procurement***
 - b. Value for money.”***
- (iii) An examination of ***“agencies within the Criminal Justice System whose roles are critical to the national security of Trinidad and Tobago to:***
 - a. encourage institutional accountability and strengthening;***
 - b. gain a better understanding of the reasons for the deficiencies/challenges within those agencies and the effect on national security; and***
 - c. provide recommendations for improvement.”***
- (iv) An examination of ***“the relationships between the various agencies involved in intelligence gathering”.***
- (v) A consideration and report on ***“legislation relevant to matters of national security as may come before the Parliament and referred to the Committee during the session.”***

The Committee respectfully submits the foregoing for the information of the Parliament.

Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP
Chairman

Mr. Prakash Ramadhar, MP
Vice-Chairman

Ms. Nicole Olivierre, MP
Member

Mr. Faris Al-Rawi, MP
Member

Mr. Taurel Shrikissoon
Member

Mr. Nigel De Freitas
Member

Mr. Michael Coppin
Member

Mr. Wayne Sturge
Member

APPENDIX 1

Attendance Record of the JSC on National Security

