



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
INVESTMENTS DIVISION

F (I): 1/23/1

January 24, 2018

Ms. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House
Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Level G-7, Tower D
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
#1A, Wrightson Road
Port-of-Spain.

Dear Ms. Sampson-Meiguel,

RE: Ninth Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee on the Examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (TSTT) for the Financial Years 2008 to 2016

I refer to your letter dated **November 29, 2017**, reference **Parl. 5/4/103** on the captioned matter and the enclosed Report. The Ministry of Finance has noted the recommendations made in the Report and the request to provide responses to the following recommendations of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee (PA (E) C).

(i) *“The Ministry of Finance as Corporation Sole must ensure that all State Enterprises seek cabinet approval prior to any type of acquisition or merger.”*

The Ministry of Finance would work closely with the State Enterprises and their respective Line Ministries to ensure that the Enterprises comply with Section 3.1.14 of the State Enterprises Performance Monitoring Manual (SEPMM), July 2011 which states that state enterprises or their subsidiaries are required to obtain prior approval from the Ministry of Finance for the acquisition of significant assets, new investments in non-government securities. Correspondence were sent to State Enterprises and Line Ministries reminding of this requirement in the SEPMM.

(ii) *“The Ministry of Finance as Corporation Sole must ensure that persons appointed to serve on Boards of State Enterprises are aware of their responsibilities to account to Parliament for public funds.”*



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On January 18, 2017, the Ministry hosted a symposium entitled “*Achieving Effective Corporate Governance in the State Sector*”. The symposium focused on corporate governance, monitoring and compliance in the State Sector for all Board of Directors appointed to State Enterprises which included TSTT.

The members of the Board of Directors and Executive Management of wholly owned, majority owned and significant minority owned entities as well as the major statutory authorities were in attendance.

Similar events will be hosted going forward. Additionally, the Investments Division will work closely with State Entities and the Line Ministries to ensure compliance with the State Enterprises Performance Monitoring Manual (SEPMM).

Investment Division is also in the process of reviewing and updating the SEPMM to provide more comprehensive guidelines for better Corporate Governance.

Yours Sincerely,



Permanent Secretary in the
Ministry of Finance



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