



**Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**  
**Ministry of Public Utilities**  
**Office of the Permanent Secretary**

MPU 1/13/18

July 13, 2018

**Mrs. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel**  
**Clerk of the House**  
Parliament  
Level G-9, Tower D  
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre  
#1A Wrightson Road  
**PORT OF SPAIN**

Dear Madam,

**Re: Eleventh Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee (PAEC), on the Examination of the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheet and other Financial Statements of the National Maintenance, Training and Security Company Limited (MTS) for the financial years 2008-2016**

Reference is made to the matter at caption and to your letter dated May 7, 2018 in respect of same.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for granting the requested extension of time, to facilitate the completion of the Ministerial responses to the recommendations posed by the Committee. Please find enclosed the Ministry's submission. It should be noted that a soft copy of the Ministry's submission was submitted in accordance with your request to [coth@ttparliament.org](mailto:coth@ttparliament.org) on July 13, 2018.

Should you require any additional information and/or clarification, you may contact Ms. Arlene Collis, Senior Economist, at 628-9500 Ext. 4218 or [acollis@mpu.gov.tt](mailto:acollis@mpu.gov.tt).

Yours faithfully,

**Permanent Secretary (Ag.)**  
**Ministry of Public Utilities**





**Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**  
**Ministry of Public Utilities**

**ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
(ENTERPRISES) COMMITTEE, THIRD SESSION OF THE  
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**Examination of the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheet and other Financial Statements of  
the National Maintenance, Training and Security Company Limited (MTS) for the  
financial years 2008-2016**

July 2, 2018

Office of the Permanent Secretary (Ag.)



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## INTRODUCTION

1. A report entitled, "Eleventh Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee, Third Session of the Eleventh Parliament: Examination of the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheet and other Financial Statements of the National Maintenance, Training and Security Company Limited (MTS) for the financial years 2008-2016", was presented to the House of Representatives and in the Senate on February 2, 2018 and February 20, 2018, respectively.
2. Standing Orders 100(6) and 110 (6) of the Senate and the House of Representatives respectively, require the Ministry with responsibility for the Ministry/Body reported on by the Joint Select Committee to present to each House a paper responding to the recommendations/comments contained in the report.
3. In accordance with the above Standing Orders, the Ministry of Public Utilities has prepared a response on behalf of Senator, the Honourable Robert Le Hunte, Minister of Public Utilities. The said response as contained in this paper is being submitted for the consideration for the House of Representatives and the Senate.

# MINISTERIAL RESPONSES TO ISSUES, OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT

## I. The Ongoing Issue of Wage Negotiations

No recommendations were made by the Committee.

## II. High Level of Outstanding Receivables

### ***Recommendation:***

***The Ministry of Finance - Investments Division, as Corporation Sole, should act on behalf of MTS to renegotiate terms of payments by the Ministry of Education to MTS by June 30, 2018.***

### **Ministerial Response:**

The Ministry of Finance has been working closely with MTS and the Ministry of Public Utilities and the respective Ministries to resolve the issue. In this regard, meetings are held monthly with the Director of Budgets.

### ***Recommendation:***

***MTS should meet with each of its debtors to renegotiate terms of payment in an attempt to reduce its Receivable Accounts.***

### **Ministerial Response:**

Debtors are written to on a monthly basis, the most recent letters were sent in May 2018, with a statement of outstanding debts. Additionally, staff meets regularly with debtors to sensitise them of the current cash flow issues which the Company faces to negotiate reasonable terms of payment.

### ***Recommendation:***

***MTS should report on the progress made to recover its outstanding monies to the Committee by July 31, 2018.***

### **Ministerial Response:**

MTS has been making progress in recovering its outstanding monies. A detailed report will be submitted by July 31, 2018.

## III. Competing in an Uneven Playing Field

### ***Endorsement:***

***The Committee endorses the initiatives in place to grow the business by marketing its services to more public service clients while operating in a competitive industry.***

**Ministerial Response:**

The endorsements of the Company's efforts to grow its core businesses in a competitive industry is noted.

**IV. The Lack of an Official Whistleblowing Policy**

***Recommendations:***

***MTS should establish a formal Whistleblowing Policy by June 30, 2018 and report on its implementation to the Committee by July 31, 2018.***

**Ministerial Response:**

A Draft Whistleblowing Policy was completed in May 2018, and is being reviewed for submission to the Board of Directors for approval. The Company will not be in a position to establish the formal Policy by June 2018, however every effort is being made to have the Policy approved by September 2018.

**V. The status of MTS vacation leave policy and the mechanisms in place to address the high liabilities incurred through the payment of vacation leave.**

***Recommendation:***

***The Company should implement a fixed vacation roster at the beginning of each year to ensure that each employee is granted their allotted vacation without hindering the provision of security services to its clients.***

**Ministerial Response:**

With effect from January 2018, the Company implemented a fixed vacation roster and has been monitoring the employees' vacation balances on a regular basis. Additionally, the Company has hired additional security personnel, which will allow personnel to proceed on their vacation leave annually without compromising the integrity of the security services provided to clients.

***Recommendation:***

***The Company should make every attempt to reduce the Vacation Leave liability by June 30, 2018.***

**Ministerial Response:**

The Company engaged in a recruitment drive in the Security Division and employed additional security officers who will assist in filling the gaps that presently exist in the Division. The additional staff, in conjunction with the implementation of the fixed vacation roster, will have a significant impact on reducing excess leave balances and the vacation liability.

## VI. Status of MTS' Project Management Services

***Recommendation:***

*MTS should consider publicly advertising its project management services to attract the attention of private entities.*

**Ministerial Response:**

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted, MTS' mandate states that services, including project management services, should be focused on the public sector so as not to hinder the business of private sector firms and companies. Occasionally, MTS will submit proposals to various Ministries, State Agencies and the Tobago House of Assembly to promote the project management services of the Company. The Company recently commenced these services for the Tobago House of Assembly for the rehabilitation of the Claude Noel Highway.