



AUDITOR GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
Levels 2-4, Tower C, Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre, 1, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain
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Please address your response to the Auditor General and quote the reference particulars below.

Ref. No. AGD 1/10/4 Vol. 2

15th March, 2019

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

Dear Madam,

Re: The Twentieth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year 2017.

I refer to the captioned subject and to your letter, Parl: 5/1/2 dated 18th February, 2019, in which a written response was requested regarding the recommendation directed to the Auditor General's Department on page twenty-five (25) of the said report.

Please be advised that by letter dated 13th March, 2019 to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, the Auditor General requested that the necessary dialogue be initiated between the Ministry of Finance and the Auditor General's Department so that the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee can be effected. A copy of this letter is attached for your perusal.

Should you require further information on this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

MAJEED ALI
AUDITOR GENERAL



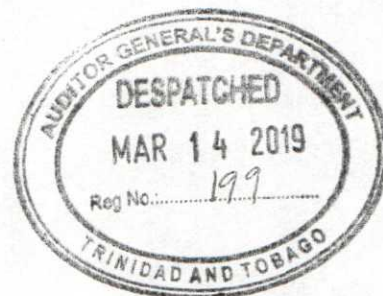
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Ref. No. AGD 1/10/4 Vol. 2

13th March, 2019

Mr. Vishnu Dhanpaul
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Finance
Level 8, Eric Williams Finance Building
Independence Square
PORT OF SPAIN



Dear Mr. Dhanpaul

Re: Recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament on the Examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year 2017

I refer to the captioned subject and to the Public Accounts Committee's (PAC) Twentieth Report of the Eleventh Parliament which detailed its examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year 2017 (AG Report).

One of the issues highlighted in the Auditor General's Report was the non-submission of documents/responses from Ministries/Departments to the Auditor General's Request for Information Circular Memorandum. The PAC stated that it recognized that not having all requested submissions lessen the effectiveness of the Auditor General.

Moreover, in its corresponding report, the PAC recommended that the Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the Auditor General's Department (AGD), devise penalties for Accounting Officers of Ministries/Departments which fail to respond to the Auditor General's requests by the stipulated deadlines. It is to be noted, however, that this recommendation will require an amendment to the Exchequer and Audit Act Chapter 69:01.

Bearing in mind that the Ministry of Finance has jurisdiction over the Exchequer and Audit Act and that any amendment to this Act comes within the purview of the Ministry of Finance, the Auditor General hereby request that the necessary dialogue be initiated between your Ministry and the AGD so that the recommendation of the PAC may be effected.

Please note that the AGD is required to respond to the PAC's recommendation by **April 15, 2019** and would like to do so favorably.

Letter to Mr. Vishnu Dhanpaul, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance
Re: Recommendation of the PAC on the Examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year 2017
13th March, 2019

I thank you in advance for your kind co-operation and assistance and look forward to a timely response.

Should you require further clarification on any matter, please do not hesitate to contact our Senior Legal Officer, Ms. Anita Mangra, at Anita.Mangra@gov.tt or 625-6585 ext. 2096.

Sincerely,



MAJEED ALI
AUDITOR GENERAL