



TWENTY-SEVENTH REPORT OF THE

THE COMMITTEE ON

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND APPROPRIATIONS

FIFTH SESSION OF THE 11TH PARLIAMENT

INQUIRY

An examination into the expenditure and internal controls of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs



Public Administration and Appropriations Committee

The Public Administration and Appropriations Committee (PAAC) is established by Standing Order 102 and 92 of the House of Representatives and the Senate respectively. The Committee is mandated to consider and report to Parliament on:

- (a) *the budgetary expenditure of Government agencies to ensure that expenditure is embarked upon in accordance with parliamentary approval;*
- (b) *the budgetary expenditure of Government agencies as it occurs and keeps Parliament informed of how the budget allocation is being implemented; and*
- (c) *the administration of Government agencies to determine hindrances to their efficiency and to make recommendations to the Government for improvement of public administration.*

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Mr. Clarence Rambharat	Member
Mr. Daniel Dookie	Member
Mr. Wade Mark	Member
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Ms. Amrita Deonaraine	Member
Mr. Foster Cummings	Member

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Ms. Sheranne Samuel	Assistant Secretary
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Publication

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Members of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee



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George
Chairman



Dr. Lackram Bodoë
Vice-Chairman



Mr. Wade Mark
Member



Mr. Clarence Rambharat
Member



Mrs. Ayanna
Webster-Roy
Member



Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Ancil Antoine
Member



Ms. Amrita Deonarine
Member



Mr. Daniel Dookie
Member



Ms. Nicole Olivier
Member



Mr. Foster Cummings
Member

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report of the PAAC for the Eleventh Parliament contains the details of the examination of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs (MSYA).

The objective of the Inquiry was to examine the following areas of expenditure and internal controls of the Ministry:

- Sub - Head 02 - Goods and Services
- Sub - Head 06 - Current Transfers of Stat. Boards and Similar Bodies;
- Sub – Head 04 – Current Transfers and Subsidies

The Inquiry also examined the following:

- Ministerial Response to the Seventh (7th) Report of the PAAC

The Committee, in undertaking this examination employed three (3) mechanisms:

1. Written Submissions: The Committee made a call for written submissions to stakeholders and thereafter focused on a review and analysis of the written submissions submitted.
2. Site Visit: The Committee conducted a follow-up site visit to the National Aquatic Centre and National Cycling Velodrome. The purpose of this visit was to assess the overall upkeep of the facilities.
3. Public Hearing: Subsequently, the Committee conducted a Public Hearing with stakeholders. The approach adopted by the Committee took into account issues identified from responses received.

The Committee made recommendations related to the issues identified. Observations and recommendations are presented in Chapter 2.

1. INTRODUCTION

THE COMMITTEE

The PAAC of the Eleventh Republican Parliament was established by the revised Standing Orders to:

- examine current public expenditure, thereby capturing the full budget cycle by providing Parliamentary oversight of the implementation of the budget; and
- conduct a real time examination of the expenditure of Ministries and Departments.

Change in Membership

1. In the 11th Parliament the Members of the Committee were appointed by resolutions of the House of Representatives and the Senate at sittings held on Friday November 13, 2015 and Tuesday November 17, 2015 respectively.
2. By resolution of the Senate on November 3, 2017, Ms. Jennifer Raffoul was appointed as a Member of the Committee in lieu of Dr. Dhanayshar Mahabir.
3. By resolution of the House of Representatives on November 24, 2017, Brigadier General (Ret.) Ancil Antoine was appointed as a Member of the Committee in lieu of Mr. Maxie Cuffie.
4. By resolution of the Senate on November 28, 2017, Mr. Ronald Huggins was appointed as a Member of the Committee in lieu of Ms. Allyson Baksh.
5. By resolution of the Senate on November 27, 2018, Mr. Garvin Simonette was appointed as a Member of the Committee in lieu of Mr. Ronald Huggins.
6. By resolution of the Senate on November 27, 2018, Ms. Amrita Deonarine was appointed as a Member of the Committee in lieu of Ms. Jennifer Raffoul.
7. By resolution of the Senate on October 25, 2019, Mr. Foster Cummings was appointed as a Member of the Committee in lieu of Mr. Garvin Simonette.

Chairman & Vice-Chairman

By virtue of S.O. 109(6) and 99(6) of the House of Representatives and the Senate respectively, the Chairman of the Committee is the Speaker. At its First Meeting held on January 27, 2016, Dr. Lackram Bodoë was elected as the Vice-Chairman.

Quorum

Additionally, in order to exercise the powers granted to it by the House, the Committee was required by the Standing Orders to have a quorum. A quorum of three (3) Members, inclusive of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, with representatives from both Houses, was agreed to by the Committee at its First Meeting.

METHODOLOGY

Determination of the Committee's Work Programme

At an in-camera meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday September 25, 2018, the Committee agreed to conduct an inquiry into the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs (MSYA).

Review of Documents

The Committee deliberated on the following documents, namely:

- i. Budget Documents;
- ii. Auditor General's Report 2018;
- iii. MSYA's Ministerial Response to the Seventh Report on Inventory Control;

The Inquiry Process

The Inquiry Process outlines steps to be taken by the Committee when conducting an inquiry into an entity or issue. The following steps outline the Inquiry Process followed by the PAAC for its examination of the internal controls and expenditure of the MSYA:

- i. Identification of entity to be examined: MSYA;
- ii. Preparation of Inquiry Proposal for the MSYA.
- iii. The Inquiry Proposal outlined:
 - Description
 - Objective of Inquiry; and
 - Proposed Questions.
- iv. Request for written submissions was sent to the MSYA on **August 27, 2019**. Responses were received on **September 10, 2019**.
- v. Conduct of site visit to the National Aquatic Centre and the National Cycling Velodrome on **September 4, 2019**.
- vi. Preparation of an Issues Paper which identified and summarised matters of concern in the responses provided by the MSYA and observed during the site visit;
- vii. Based on the responses received and the issues identified, the Committee agreed to hold a Public Hearing. The relevant witnesses were invited to attend and provide evidence on **September 18, 2019**.

- viii. Following the Public Hearing, a request for further details was sent to the Ministry on **September 25, 2019**. The response to the request for further details was received by the PAAC on **October 24, 2019**.
- ix. Report Committee's findings and recommendations to Parliament upon conclusion of the inquiry.
- x. Request for Ministerial Responses. Review responses.
- xi. Engage in follow-up.

2. ISSUES, OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ISSUES

1. Maintenance of Sporting Facilities

As a follow-up to the Seventh Report of the PAAC¹, the Committee conducted a site visit to the National Aquatic Centre and National Cycling Velodrome in Couva. The officials present at the site visit revealed that there were several deficiencies in the maintenance of these facilities due to a lack of funds, inadequate personnel and absence of a maintenance schedule.

Based on this Seventh Report, the PAAC recommended the development of an organisational structure for the national facilities and a maintenance plan for smaller facilities. The MSYA reported that these initiatives have not yet been undertaken. However, it had engaged two (2) Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MEP) Consultants. The Consultants' scope included creating a system for maintaining and managing the national facilities. The resulting Consultants' report provided recommendations for the development of a suitable maintenance plan across the Ministry's facilities.

During the public hearing, the Committee discovered that deficiencies in maintenance also existed at other sporting facilities across the nation. The Committee was provided with a list of ten (10) sporting facilities managed by the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SporTT) and fifteen (15) sporting facilities managed by the MSYA. A summary of the work required to repair these facilities and the associated costs where applicable was also provided.

Recommendations:

- ***The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs should identify the personnel needed to adequately carry out the maintenance and repair works, if there are gaps in personnel, the Ministry should identify ways of filling these gaps.***

¹ *Seventh Report of the PAAC, with specific reference to the Follow-up to the First Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee and Current Expenditure Related to Official Travel to Tobago,*

- *The Ministry should provide an update on the personnel required and the attempts made to address the gaps found. This should be submitted to the Parliament by August 31, 2020.*
- *The Ministry should make a request for additional funding to be allocated for the maintenance of its sporting facilities.*
- *Moreover, this can be supported by a request for an increase in its allocation from the Ministry of Finance. A status update on this request should be submitted to the Parliament by August 30, 2020.*
- *The Ministry should provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations proffered by the MEP Consultants on the maintenance of its facilities. A detailed implementation schedule with respective dates and deadlines should be submitted to the Parliament by August 31, 2020.*

2. Travel to Tobago

In the Seventh report of the PAAC, concerns were raised over excessive spending by the MSYA on travel to Tobago. A two-day trip was conducted in May 2017 at a cost of \$101,265.42 (\$91,910.43 Ministry and \$9,354.99 SporTT Company). The Committee recommended that policy guidelines for cost saving measures for local, regional and international travel for all levels of staff be developed. In its Ministerial Response to the Seventh Report of the PAAC, the MSYA made a commitment to utilise the resources of the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) and the Office of the Prime Minister (Tobago Affairs) – Central Administrative Services Tobago (OPM-CAST) to defray costs of ground transportation when on official business in Tobago.

TABLE 1 – DETAILS ON OVERNIGHT TRIPS TO TOBAGO

Dates	Accommodation	Purpose of Trip	No. of persons	Number of Nights	Cost
3/5/2018	Tropikist Beach Hotel	Coordination of the National Youth Policy Consultation in Tobago	3 persons	1 nights	\$4,800.00

Dates	Accommodation	Purpose of Trip	No. of persons	Number of Nights	Cost
1-3/9/2018	Tropikist Beach Hotel	1. Coordination National Youth Award Nominees, nomination videos. 2. Meeting with THA regarding National Youth Awards 2018. 3. Radio and TV interviews promoting national youth awards and other programmes.	4 persons	2 nights	\$12,800.00
23-24/10/2018	Tropikist Beach Hotel	To represent the MSYA at the THA 2018 Youth Awards	2 persons	1 night	\$3,200.00
7-9/6/2019	Crown Point beach Hotel	To attend the 40 under 40 Programme at Goodwood Secondary on 7th June and ensure the Dining Etiquette session on 8th June successfully implemented along with facilitating and monitoring on 10 th June at the Life skills, Entrepreneurship, Activism and Patriotism (LEEAP) programme	1 person	3 nights	\$2,990.00
21-22/6/2019	Colshep Investments Limited (Shepherd's Inn)	To facilitate a lecture for the LEEAP Programme and there were no return flight on the said day	1 person	1 night	\$923.00

Dates	Accommodation	Purpose of Trip	No. of persons	Number of Nights	Cost
2-3/7/2019	Crown Point Beach Hotel	To supervise the session at the LEEAP Programmes	1 person	1 night	\$1,175.00
29-30/6/2019	Colshep Investments Limited (Shepherd's Inn)	To facilitate LEEAP Programme	1 person	1 night	\$923.00
8-9/7/2019	Crown Point Beach Hotel	To monitor the Life skills Entrepreneurship, Activism and Patriotism (LEEAP) programme To facilitate LEEAP Programme	2 persons	1 night	\$5,220.00
15/7/2019	Colshep Investments Limited (Shepherd's Inn)	To facilitate a lecture and Monitor the LEEAP Programme cycle 2 at Bethel and Roxborough	3 persons	1 night	\$2,769.00
26/7/2019	Colshep Investments Limited (Shepherd's Inn)	To facilitate and implement the orientation for AIM Programme (Tobago because no flights was available to bring the Interns to Trinidad)	1 person	1 night	\$693.00
28-30/8/2019	Crown Point Beach Hotel	To Prepare for the LEEAP Graduation and Mr. Kent to attend the We Say Yes Graduation on the said day	4 persons	2 nights	\$8,360.00

Ground Transportation

Since May 2017, the Ministry has received assistance from the THA and the Office of the Prime Minister in the area of ground transportation. Of the eleven (11) requests for assistance with ground transportation, six (6) were granted.

Overnight Accommodation

Total expenditure on accommodation for the period May 2018 - August 2019 was \$68,566.00 for eleven (11) separate trips. *Refer to Table 1.*

Costs for overnight accommodation for the period ranged from a high of \$12,800.00 for a two (2)-night stay for four (4) employees to a low of \$693.00 for a one-night stay for one (1) employee. *Refer to Table 1.*

Purpose of Travel to Tobago and Delegation Size

Delegation size per trip ranged from one (1) staff member to four (4) staff members.

Improvements Noted and Way Forward

Based on responses from the MSYA, the Committee noted improvements in controlling expenditure on travel to Tobago since the publishing of its Seventh Report, which highlighted that \$82,023.42 was spent on accommodation for one (1) trip to Tobago for seventeen (17) people.

The Ministry has also indicated that “*Travel to Tobago will be curbed in Fiscal 2020 since the Ministry intends to station two (2) officers on the island to manage the Tobago-based programmes.*” This step is intended to alleviate the costs incurred by the Ministry when its staff travels to Tobago for work.

Recommendations:

- ***The Ministry should:***
 - a. ***Provide a copy of the cost-benefit analysis conducted of the expenditure associated with Trinidad-based staff travelling to Tobago when required***

and the expenditure associated with having staff members permanently stationed in Tobago to the Parliament by August 30, 2020.

b. Indicate whether there was consultation with the THA's Division of Youth Affairs and Sport to determine whether the proposal to station two (2) officers in Tobago will be necessary.

- The Ministry should look at ways to collaborate with the Division of Youth Affairs and Sport, THA in the management of Tobago-based programmes.*

3. International Travel

When asked about the impact of the increased expenditure for Official Overseas Travel and the MSYA achieving its mandate, the Ministry indicated that in light of plans to update the National Youth Policy for Trinidad and Tobago, attending overseas conferences will “play a pivotal role in ensuring that guidelines and policies are current and effective in promoting youth development in Trinidad and Tobago.”

For fiscal year 2019, the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs engaged in overseas travel to attend various conferences. The details of these trips are shown *Table 2*.

TABLE 2 SUMMARY OF OVERSEAS TRAVEL TO CONFERENCES IN FISCAL YEAR 2019

Size of Delegation	Location	Purpose of trip	Total Cost of Trip
5 people	New York	United Nations Economic Social Council	Airfare: \$34,538.00 Other Expenses: \$71,575.00 Total Cost: \$106,000.00
2 people	Guyana	Caribbean Summit on Youth Crime and Violence Prevention	Airfare: \$4,352.00 Other Expenses: \$15,798.00 Total Cost: \$20,150.00
1 person	Barbados	Caribbean Development Bank Youth Policy and Operational Strategy	Airfare: Covered by CDB Other Expenses: \$1,484.00 Total Cost:\$1,484.00

		Regional Stakeholders Workshop (partially sponsored)	
2 people	France	FIFA Women's Football Convention and Women's World Cup (partially sponsored)	Airfare: FIFA covered 1 person. The other person cost \$25,400.00 Other Expenses: \$29,190.00 Total Cost: \$54,590.00

The benefits derived by the MSYA from international trips are summarised as follows:

- The MSYA stated that the trip to the Caribbean Summit on Youth Crime and Violence Prevention enabled the Youth Division to be better “poised to structure programmes that would expose young persons to behaviour modification initiatives that can result in reduction of the number of young persons exhibiting deviant behaviour.”
- The MSYA noted that the trip to the FIFA Women's Convention and Women's World Cup helped the Sport Division to facilitate gender parity and elimination of discrimination.
- The MSYA also stated that attendance at overseas conferences is an investment in youth leaders and that their participation “propels the Ministry a step further towards Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.”

For fiscal year 2019, the Ministry spent \$195,762.33 on overseas travel. The Committee expressed concerns about the value for money obtained from expenditure on international travel by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs and the benefit of these trips to the demographic targeted by the Ministry's programmes. At the request of the Committee, the Ministry provided reports on overseas travel for fiscal years 2017, 2018 and 2019. On a review of these reports, it was unclear what benefits were derived from attending overseas conferences as responses to questions on the impact of attendance appeared vague. There also appeared to be a lack of empirical evidence to support any acclaimed benefits. The Committee was also concerned about the process of selection of youth leaders for overseas trips. The Ministry indicated that it was guided by the criteria set by the organisations hosting the activity, and may include:

- Interviews

- Assessment of Portfolio
- Recommendation from youth organisations
- Experience in the thematic area of focus
- Recommendation from Youth Officers
- Youth Leaders holding positions on Regional and International Bodies (Commonwealth Youth Forum, CARICOM Youth Ambassadors).

The Ministry further stated they ensure representation of both islands Trinidad and Tobago as well as being gender sensitive by selecting male and a female representative.

Recommendations:

- *A mechanism should be developed by the MSYA to measure the outcomes post-attendance at international events and the achievement of the purpose for which it was intended. A detailed report on the measurement scale used to determine the attendees' success and the outcomes should be submitted to the Parliament by August 30, 2020.*
- *The MSYA should develop an implementation plan for programmes, projects and activities developed as a consequence of international trips. The objectives should be Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound (SMART). A copy of this plan should be submitted to the Parliament by August 30, 2020.*
- *The Ministry should develop a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to assess the success of programmes implemented as a result of international travel. An update of the mechanism implemented should be submitted to the Parliament by August 30, 2020.*
- *The MSYA should provide a report to the Parliament on outcomes of the programmes implemented as a result of international travel. The report should explain how lessons learnt from the trips taken impacted on the implementation of these programmes. A copy of this report should be submitted to the Parliament by August 30, 2020.*

4. Financing

The MSYA is in the process of repaying three (3) loans. Details of these loans and the lending agencies are as follows:

- Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (“UDeCOTT”) TTD \$497,342,684 – First Citizens Bank Limited. To fund the completion of the Brian Lara Cricket Academy at Tarouba Estate. The repayment period is from October 2009 to December 2019.
- Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (“UDeCOTT”) TTD \$ 90,000,000 Term Loan - ANSA Merchant Bank Limited. This loan facility will be used to finance expenditure associated with the completion of works to the Brian Lara Cricket Stadium. The repayment period is from November 2016 to November 2021.
- The Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago TTD \$495,937,500 Government Guaranteed Bond - ANSA Merchant Bank Limited. Repayment period is from June 2014 to December 2030. Further details are provided below.

A TTD\$495, 937, 500.00 Government Guaranteed Bond issued by ANSA Merchant Bank was repurposed between July 2012 and July 2016. Table 3 below outlines the projects for which this loan was repurposed to undertake and the relevant Cabinet Minutes granting approval.

TABLE 3 - REPURPOSED LOAN SUMMARY

Date	Cabinet Minute	Purpose
July 5, 2012	#1794	Development of nine (9) Regional Facilities: Irwin Park, Penal Recreation, India Recreation, Buen Intento (changed to Alescon), Eddie Hart, Brian Lara, Dass Trace, Carapo and North Regional
June 3, 2015	#1374	To offset expenditure incurred in the estimated sum of \$302, 936, 623.00 at the National Sport Facilities identified above and upgrade of Bourg Mulatresse and North Eastern later rescinded and moved under PSIP
February 4, 2016	#189	Transfer of the Diego Martin Regional Grounds (one of the original nine) over to UDECOTT
July 21, 2016	#1060	Revision of project budget for Phase 1 on the Diego Martin facility to the mount of \$135,751,307.07 Vat

Date	Cabinet Minute	Purpose
		inclusive and of this, \$114,706,611.00 to be used under the ANSA Bond Facility.

Recommendation:

The MSYA should ensure that the facilities funded by these loans achieve the overall purpose for which they were built. As part of this, the MSYA should seek to evaluate the level of use by the intended target groups. A status update on the measures implemented should be submitted to Parliament by August 30, 2020.

5. Contributions to Non-Profit Institutions

During the inquiry, the Committee noted that the MSYA gave contributions to sixty-eight (68) non-profit sporting organisations during Fiscal Year 2019. The Committee raised the following concerns:

- i. The process used to verify the legitimacy of these organisations; and
- ii. The process used to monitor and evaluate the use of funds contributed.

A request was made to the MSYA to submit details of contributions made to non-profit sporting organisations during fiscal years 2016-2019. These contributions ranged from a high of \$11,773,925.84 in fiscal year 2017 to a low of \$7,841,515.12 in fiscal 2016. Table 4 below summarises these contributions.

TABLE 4 SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO NON-PROFIT SPORTING INSTITUTIONS

Fiscal Year	Total Contribution to Non-profit Sporting Institutions
2016	\$7,841,515.12
2017	\$11,773,925.84
2018	\$ 9,687,070.43
2019	\$11,459,223.50

The requirements for organisations receiving funding from the MSYA are as follows:

1. Prescribed Grant Funding Form Completed
2. Detailed completed Budget and List of activities

3. Cover Letter of Request (addressed to the Permanent Secretary)
4. Invitation Letter (if necessary)
5. Sanction Letter from National Governing Body (for Sport Serving Bodies and Clubs)
6. Quotations to be submitted based on Budget.

The use of contributions is monitored by the MSYA via site visits, examination of reports and review of receipts and bills. The Committee was informed that the Ministry received Cabinet approval to use this line item to cover expenses incurred for the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) as well as elite athletes and individual athletes. Of the \$11,000,000.00 2019 allocation, approximately \$6.7 million was for CPL.

The Committee expressed concern that the Ministry was unable to provide information on the registration status of the Non-Profit Organisations receiving grant funding. However, the Committee noted that with the enactment of the Non-Profit Organisations Act No. 7 of 2019, non-profit institutions had until June 13, 2020 to comply with registration requirements. The Committee also learnt that while the MSYA utilised an informal process for mitigating against conflict of interest when granting funds to or procuring equipment on behalf of sporting organisations, there was no established Conflict of Interest Policy.

Recommendations:

- *The MSYA should request proof of registration of all non-profit organisations as a part of the application process and encourage those which are non-compliant with the Non-Profit Organisations Act No. 7 of 2019 to do so. This should be a pre-condition requirement for the approval of a grant. A status update on this request should be submitted to the Parliament by August 30, 2020.*
- *The MSYA should develop and enforce a Conflict of Interest Policy for contributions to non-profit institutions. A copy of this policy should be submitted to the Parliament by August 30, 2020.*
- *The MSYA should provide Parliament with a report evaluating the use of funds by the organisations that received funding under Sub-Head 04/Item 005/Sub-Item 29 for fiscal year 2019 which should include:*

(a) An assessment on whether these funds were used in line with the intended purpose;

(b) The observations made and lessons learnt.

This report should be submitted by August 30, 2020.

6. Arrears Owed to Service Providers and Utility Companies

The Ministry owed arrears to FLOW, MTS Security, TSTT Mobile, Telecommunication Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT) and Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA). As at September 30, 2019, the total amount owed to the aforementioned entities was \$10,536,243.00. Table 5 below details the outstanding payments.

TABLE 5 MSYA'S OUTSTANDING PAYMENT FOR STATE UTILITIES AND SERVICES

Utilities/ Services	Outstanding Payments as at 30/9/19
Water and Sewerage Authority	\$2,904,618.78
Telecommunication Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT)	\$1,596,225.66
TSTT MOBILE	\$362,089.17
Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission	\$3,819,371.92
MTS SECURITY	\$1,566,531.54
FLOW	\$287,406.61

The Committee also questioned the \$10 million arrears accumulated by the SporTT Company for electricity from the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission. When questioned about this, officials from SporTT indicated that the \$10 million was an approximation of the fees incurred for the period April 20, 2019 to August 31, 2019.

Recommendations:

- *The Ministry should provide a plan to pay all arrears owed to Service Providers and Utility Companies by the Ministry and the SporTT. A copy of the plan should be provided to the Parliament by August 30, 2020.*
- *The Ministry should conduct an audit on its use of utilities and determine the areas in which the cost-saving measures can be implemented. An update of the measures to be implemented should be submitted to Parliament by August 30, 2020*

7. Contract Employment

In fiscal year 2019, the Ministry increased its complement of contract employees to thirty-two (32) persons in the Youth Division. Of this number, thirty (30) were employed in the position of Youth Development Officer I (YDOI) and two (2) were employed in the position of Youth Development Officer II (YDOI).

The goal of employing these officers was to improve the service delivery to at-risk youth and youth organisations at the community level. A major objective of the Ministry was reaching at-risk youth. The Committee was concerned about the process for monitoring and assessing the work done by these officers and their capacity to address the issues affecting at-risk youth in a way that tangibly reduced deviant behaviour.

The Ministry also employed one (1) Corporate Communications Officer in its Public Relations and Communications Unit. The MSYA stated that the Unit was responsible for engaging in more effective communication with the public about the Ministry's current affairs, projects and programmes. As such, the Ministry saw the need to expand its Public Relations and Communications Unit for the timely and accurate dissemination of information pertinent to its initiatives.

Recommendations:

- *The Ministry should develop mechanisms to monitor and periodically evaluate the work of the Youth Development Officers. The Ministry should submit a report to Parliament with the results of this evaluation of the Youth Development Officers for fiscal year 2019 and the first quarter and second quarter of fiscal year 2020 by August 30, 2020*

- *The Ministry should collaborate with other entities that work with at-risk youth to ensure that there is minimal duplication of function.*

8. Revenue Collection

As a receiver of revenue, SporTT is required under Section 13 of the Exchequer and Audit Act to transfer all revenue collected to the Consolidated Fund. SporTT is therefore unable to readily access this revenue to offset operational costs.

The Ministry also informed the Committee that the establishment of the Sport Commission of Trinidad and Tobago (SCOTT) had been delayed. According to officials, once SCOTT is established, some of the challenges of using revenue collected will be alleviated. The Ministry has begun the process of developing rates and a fee structure for the utilisation of its facilities, however, the proposed rates and fee structure was under review by the Ministry.

Recommendation:

- *The MSYA should complete the process of reviewing and approving the proposed rates and fee structure to submit to Cabinet. A status update on the process should be provided to the Parliament by August 30, 2020.*
- *An update on the establishment of the Sport Commission of Trinidad and Tobago (SCOTT) should be submitted to the Parliament by August 30, 2020*

9. Under-Utilisation of Facilities

The under-utilisation of facilities continues to be a problem. For example, the Committee noted that the dry diving facility at the National Aquatic Centre was severely under-utilised with only one (1) person occasionally training at the facility. Additionally, the Cycling Velodrome was not in use for over a year due to air condition issues, as such, it was not in use for most of this period. There appears to be a relationship between the underutilisation of the facilities and the inability of SPORTT to access revenue sourced from the utilisation of the facilities.

Recommendation:

- *The MSYA should develop and implement a marketing plan to improve utilisation of its facilities and provide a copy of this marketing plan to the Parliament by August 30, 2020.*

10. Sub-Standard Construction Materials

Ministry officials stated that the work done by the Shanghai Construction Group on the National Aquatic Centre, National Cycling Velodrome, was sub-standard and left these facilities with several infrastructural defects.

The Committee learnt that MSYA had been unable to reach the contractors. Given the expiration of the defects period, the Ministry was left with limited avenues for recourse to have the defects repaired by the company. The total cost for repairs and maintenance related to these defects was \$50,954,564.00. Table 5 below outlines the total cost for each facility.

TABLE 6 COST TO REPAIR AND MAINTAIN NATIONAL FACILITIES

Facility		Cost of Repairs	Cost of Maintenance	Total
National Aquatic Centre		\$11,483,916	\$1,580,850	\$13,064,766
National Cycling Velodrome		\$18,697,987	\$1,841,000	\$20,538,987
National Racket Centre		\$8,485,000	\$875,000	\$9,360,000
Eastern Regional Sports Centre		\$7,610,811	\$380,000	\$7,990,811
Grand Total		\$46,277,714	\$4,676,850	\$50,954,564

The MSYA supplied the Committee with a copy of its implementation plan for the repair and maintenance of these facilities. The estimated start date was November 20, 2019 and the estimated end date was May 26, 2020.

Recommendation:

- *The Ministry should provide a status report on the works completed inclusive of dates for each facility by August 30, 2020. The Ministry should also state any challenges faced during the implementation of its repair and maintenance plan.*

11. Engagement of Consultants to Develop National Youth Policy (NYP)

The MSYA has drafted a Terms of Reference (TOR) to hire a consultant to develop the NYP 2018-2023. The TOR was approved for public advertisement and was published in September 2019. As at December 4, 2019, the MSYA was in the process of evaluating proposals for the development of the NYP. Of particular concern to the Committee was the lack of evaluation done on the success of implementing the previous NYPs before engaging consultants to develop a new Youth Policy.

Recommendations:

- *The MSYA should develop a mechanism for staff with the responsibility for executing the tenets of the previous National Youth Policy to informally assess the level of success in its execution. A report on the mechanism developed should be submitted to Parliament by August 30, 2020*
- *The MSYA should develop a template to evaluate the successes, failings and lessons learnt (review) of all NYPs, prior to the development, approval and implementation of a succeeding NYP. A copy of the template should be submitted to the Parliament by August 30, 2020.*

3. CONCLUSION

The Committee noted that the issues experienced by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs and the entities under its purview were a result of a combination of insufficient resource allocations and inefficient management of its limited resources. Systems to monitor and evaluate expenditure seem to be a particularly weak point of the Ministry.

The Committee is of the view that the adoption of its proposed recommendations will lead to greater accountability, transparency and value for money in the use of public funds. Moreover, the Committee intends to monitor the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations proposed in this Report.

This Committee respectfully submits this Report for the consideration of the Parliament.

.....
Mrs. Bridgid Mary Annisette-George
Chairman

.....
Dr. Lackram Bodoë
Vice-Chairman

.....
Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy
Member

.....
Ms. Nicole Olivierre
Member

.....
Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Ancil Antoine
Member

.....
Mr. Wade Mark
Member

.....
Mr. Daniel Dookie
Member

.....
Mr. Clarence Rambharat
Member

.....
Ms. Amrita Deonarine
Member

.....
Mr. Foster Cummings
Member

APPENDIX I:

Questions to Ministry

Questions Concerning Recurrent Expenditure Allocation Sub-Head: 01
Personnel Expenditure

001 General Administration

Sub-Item 03 - Overtime- Monthly Paid Officers

Questions:

1. What systems and/ or policies put in place to mitigate abuse of overtime?
2. Under what circumstances are employees required to work overtime?

02 Goods and Services

001 General Administration *m*

05 - Telephones

Questions:

1. What changes in telephone use contributed to the anticipated \$175,000.00 increase?
2. How much of this amount is for mobile phone bills and how much is for land lines?
3. What is the current policy for staff using land phones?
4. What is the current policy for staff using mobile phones?
5. What mechanisms are put in place to minimize unnecessary and excessive use of phones?
6. What categories of staff receive phone allowances and/or privileges?

Sub-item 16 - Contract Employment

Questions:

1. What changes took place with regard to Contract Employment in fiscal 2019?
2. What mechanisms are used to determine staffing needs?
3. How will this additional spending on contract employment improve the effectiveness of the Ministry's operations and service delivery?

Sub-item 27 - Official Overseas Travel

Questions:

1. How has the increased expenditure on official overseas travel made an impact on the Ministry achieving its mandate?
2. What were the official overseas trips taken during the fiscal 2019 period and for what purpose?
Please itemise these trips.

Sub-item 37 - Janitorial Services

Questions:

1. How has the decreased expenditure allocated to janitorial services impacted maintenance of the Ministry's facilities?

Sub-item 66 - Hosting Conferences, seminars and other functions

Questions:

1. What conferences, seminars or other similar functions have been hosted by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs during fiscal 2019?
2. What has been the impact of hosting conferences been on fulfilling the Ministry's mandate?

002 Physical Education and Sport Division

Sub-item 16 - Contract Employment

Questions:

1. What changes were made with regard to contract employment in the Physical Education and Sport Division?³ Dwight Yorke Stadium

Sub-item 37 - janitorial Services

Questions:

1. What has been the impact of reduced expenditure on janitorial services in relation to the upkeep of the Dwight Yorke Stadium?

004 Youth Centres

- Contract Employment

2018 Revised	2019 Estimates	Variation
\$2,552,000	\$3,000,000	\$448,000

Sub-item 37 - janitorial Services

2018 Revised	2019 Estimates	Variation
\$840,000	\$1,260,000	\$420,000

Sub-item 43- Security Service

2018 Revised	2019 Estimates	Variation
\$2,550,000	\$2,870,000	\$320,000

Questions:

1. What changes warranted increases under the following sub items under item 004 Youth Centres:
 - i) 16 Contract Employment,
 - ii) 37 Janitorial Services and
 - iii) 43 Security Service?

006 National Youth Development and Apprenticeship

Sub-item 17 - *Trainees*

2018 Revised	2019 Estimates	Variation
\$50,000	\$670,000	\$620,000

Sub-item 40 - *Food at Institutions*

2018 Revised	2019 Estimates	Variation
\$115,000	\$500,000	\$385,000

1. How many young people were enrolled in the National Youth Development and Apprenticeship Programme in fiscal 2019?
2. Under Item 006 National Youth Development Apprenticeship, there were increases under sub items 17 Training and 40 Food at Institutions; what changes warranted these increases?
3. What were the training programmes implemented under sub-item 17 during fiscal 2019? Please provide an itemised list. Also, please provide the number of attendees at each training programme.
4. Which institutions receive food under sub-item 40?
5. Who are the primary beneficiaries of food at these institutions?
6. What type of food does sub-item 40 cover?
7. What mechanism is in place to monitor the purchasing and distribution of food in the Ministry?

04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

005 Non-Profit Institutions

Sub-item 29- *Contribution to Non-Profit Institutions- Sporting Organisations*

Questions:

1. Which non-profit sporting organisations did the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs contribute to in fiscal 2019?
2. What are the requirements for non-profit sporting organisations to receive contributions from the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs?
3. What is the process for monitoring the use of these contributions by the receiving entities?

007 Households

Sub-Item 05- *National incentives and Rewards Initiative*

Questions:

1. What were the Incentives and Rewards given in fiscal 2019?
2. What are the eligibility requirements for incentives and rewards as outlined by the MSYA?

Questions Concerning Auditor General's Report

- A. According to the Auditor General's Report (April 2019, page 24), at the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, "six contracts for expenditure totalling \$2,441,864.00 were not produced".

Follow- Up Questions:

1. What is the status of these contracts?
 2. Why were these contracts not produced?
 3. What type(s) of contract(s) was this expenditure for?
- B. According to the Auditor General's report (April 2019, page 72-73), as at 30th September 2018, the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs had one (1) deposit account in the amount of \$90,704.33 held for over three years without evidence that the Comptroller of Accounts giving authority to retain this deposit.

Follow- Up Questions:

1. What is the status of this deposit account?
2. Has the ministry received approval to retain this money in the deposit account?
3. What is the purpose of holding this money in a deposit account?
4. Was any of the money used for unintended purposes?

C. According to the Auditor General's report (April 2019, page 20), there were several issues reported with the Fleet Card system at the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs. These have been outlined below:

"At the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs the following issues were also identified: The Fleet Card Assignment Register which records the daily assignment of card to driver was not produced.

- The Fleet Cards for General Administration were kept in an unlocked desk drawer of the Fleet Card Manager.

The Monthly Summary of Fleet Cards used under the Physical Education and Sport Division was not certified correct by the Fleet Card Manager, as being accurately reconciled with the point of sales receipts and the gas chits.

Fleet cards assigned to seven vehicles that were not in working condition were not deactivated, as required."

Follow- Up Questions:

1. What has been done to properly maintain the Fleet Card Registers to record the type of card, card number, vehicle registration number and date of receipt?
2. Has the Fleet Card Assignment Register been produced?
3. What has been done to physically secure the Fleet Cards for General Administration?
4. What has been done to ensure that the Monthly Summary of Fleet Cards are certified correct by the Fleet Card Manager?
5. What is the status of the fleet cards for the seven vehicles not in working condition?

Questions related to Ministerial Response to the 7th Report

A. Questions on Ministerial Response to Short Term Employment/Human Resources

PAAC Recommendation's

The Ministry should complete its review and rationalization exercise by March 09, 2018 and provide a status update to the Committee by March 14th 2018

The Ministry should seek the approval of the Service Commissions Department for it to recruit peculiar positions under Public Service Regulation 13(5)

Response:

In respect of the review and rationalization exercise, thirty three (33) persons were retained on short term to meet the needs of the Ministry. It is to be noted however, that the exercise has been put on hold, pending Cabinet approval of the recommendations emanating from the Steering Committee for the transition of the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT) to the Sport Commission of Trinidad and Tobago (SCOTT), since this is also expected to significantly impact on the functions, operations and structure of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs (MSYA).

Regarding recruitment to peculiar offices in the Ministry, memorandum dated 24th August, 2017 the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs records the Ministry's request for permission from the Service Commissions Department to advertise vacant peculiar offices on its Establishment. Several reminders were sent since then and a formal response is being awaited.

Follow-Up Question's:

1. Provide a status update on the review and rationalisation exercise conducted.
2. As at August 30/August 31, 2019, have any peculiar positions been filled through appointment or promotion? Provide an update on the request for permission from the Service Commission's Department to advertise vacant peculiar offices.

B. Questions on Ministerial Response to Maintenance Plans

PAAC Recommendation's

The Ministry should possess an approved organizational structure for the new National Centres by January 31, 2018 and provide the Committee with a report by March 14, 2018.

The Ministerial Response stated: "There is currently no organizational structure in place for maintenance of these facilities. However, in the last (2) months, a tendering process was initiated and proposals received in respect of an entire

assessment of all the facilities, to ascertain their optimal organizational structure requirements. These submissions are to be evaluated. However, given the recent changes on the Board of the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (SPORTT), the Tenders Committee has to be re-constituted so that the process can continue."

Follow-Up Questionis:

1. As at August 1, 2019 has the Ministry developed an organisational structure for the maintenance for these facilities?
2. Has the tenders committee been re-constituted?
 - i) If yes, when?
 - ii) If no, what are the reasons for the delay?
3. What was the result of the tendering process for proposals to assess the Ministry's facilities maintenance structure requirements?
4. Were the proposals evaluated to ascertain the optimal organizational structure requirements as part of the assessment for all facilities?
 - i) If yes, when?
 - ii) If no, why not?

PAAC Recommendationis

The Ministry should complete the evaluation of applications and fill the engineering vacancies by January 31, 2018 and provide the Committee with a status report by March 14, 2018.

The Ministerial Response Stated: "The evaluation process was put on hold due to Management changes at SPORTT arising out of the initiation of a Forensic Audit and a consequential organization restructuring thrust".

Follow-Up Question/s:

1. Has the evaluation process resumed? If yes, what is the status of the engineering vacancies?

C. Questions on Ministerial Response to Refurbishment and Upgrade of Multi-Purpose Stadia

PAAC Recommendationis

The MSYA in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance should ensure that funds are available to pay to contractors the outstanding fees.

The Ministry should take measures to suspend/terminate existing model service agreements given existing financial constraints.

The MSYA should seek Cabinet's approval for the allocation of funds to address emergency works at the Hasely Crawford Stadium and the Dwight Yorke Stadium

The MSYA through SPORTT, should as far as possible endeavour to maintain industry standards and practices regarding consultancy pricing (for small and large projects). Proper justification should be provided for any deviations from what is standard practice.

Ministerial Response

SPORTT continues its negotiations with Consultants to settle outstanding monies owed. Three (3) of these have been settled under the Infrastructure Development Fund and at least five (5) under SporTT's Recurrent allocation.

An issue to be addressed is the consistent provision of adequate funding to support any formal contractual obligations that may be engaged with new providers for the maintenance of the multipurpose stadia and National Mega Centres under the Ministry's remit.

Cabinet Minutes No. 2170 dated November 30, 2017 and No. 1071 dated June 28, 2018 record the decision of Cabinet to undertake works at the Dwight Yorke Stadium; the latter towards its comprehensive rehabilitation and restoration. The total sum approved by Cabinet is \$20,000,000. (\$5,000,000 for fiscal 2018 and \$15,000,000 for fiscal 2019).

In respect of the Hasely Crawford Stadium, the Ministry has requested that the Urban Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago (UDeCOTT) ascertain the works to be done to bring the Stadium to a maintainable state, with a view to an approach being made to Cabinet for approval of rehabilitation works.

Moving forward in regard of consultancy pricing, a rigorous procurement process is to be engaged by SPORTT, whereby independent experts, having full knowledge of the prevailing industry standards, will be used in the evaluation of tenderers/bidders, before a recommendation to engage is placed before the Board of Directors by the Tenders Committee.

Follow-Up Questionis:

1. Have all outstanding balances owed to consultants and contractors been settled? If not, what is being done to settle them?
2. What is the status of expenditure on refurbishing Dwight Yorke Stadium to date? Is the project in keeping with budget thus far? If not, what are the reasons for budget overruns?
3. What is the status of seeking Cabinet approval to undertake works at Hasely Crawford Stadium?
4. What was the result of the tendering process for proposals to assess the Ministry's facilities maintenance structure requirements?
5. What is the status of establishing procurement guidelines with regard to consultancy pricing?

D. Questions concerning Ministerial Response to Site Visits

PAAC Recommendations

The Ministry should make the submission of site visit reports mandatory within a specified time subsequent to a visit. A schedule for site visits should be established at the start of each financial year.

The Ministry should ensure that site visits are not only initiated if and when maintenance and infrastructure works is required

Ministerial Response

The Project Management Unit has implemented a site visit reporting system. Technical officers are required to complete a prescribed Project Report Form. The Report contains the name of the facility visited, the purpose of the visit, date and time of arrival and person/s present. It records the activities performed, observations, comments and recommendations, any other matters and time of departure.

This report is submitted in hard copy for sign-off by the Assistant Project Coordinator and filed. A soft copy of the report is also filed on the Project Management Unit's shared space on the Ministry's network. Currently, the PMU and the IT Department are working to develop a document sharing platform using Share Point for logging the reports on site visits, project updates and maintenance activities. This will allow for these reports to be shared with/be easily accessible to the Executive to inform decision-making. Effective scheduling of site visits is currently hampered by the inadequate staffing in the PMU.

Follow-Up Question/s:

1. What has been the result of the site visit reporting system?
2. What is the rate of compliance with the requirement of Technical Officers to complete the prescribed Project Report Form?
3. What is the status of developing and implementing the Share Point drive?

4. What systems have been put in place to mitigate the challenges with effective scheduling of site visits as a result of inadequate staffing in the PMU? What can be done to improve the process even with these constraints?

E. Questions concerning Ministerial Response to Accountability and Transparency Recommendations

PAAC Recommendations

The Ministry should provide a status update to the Committee on the progress with its change initiatives by March 14, 2018.

The Ministry should take urgent steps to complete the Sport Policy, Youth Policy and the administrative reform and thereafter the completion of its strategic plan and provide a status report on its progress by March 14, 2018

The Ministry of Finance must conduct a comprehensive review of the internal controls at the MSYA.

The Ministry of Finance should also ensure that the Internal Auditors and Accounting Staff at the MSYA are adequately trained.

Ministerial Response:

The MSYA in an effort to complete the organizational restructuring process has completed two (2) fundamental steps. The Procurement Unit was established on 15th January, 2018, comprising five (5) persons selected from the existing staff complement. The unit began its operations by spearheading the MSYA's prequalification exercise. This exercise is now at the due diligence and evaluation stage.

As it pertains to the second step, as a consequence of the establishment of the Steering Committee to facilitate the transition of SPORTT to the Sport Commission of Trinidad and Tobago (SCOTT), activities in respect of the restructuring of the Physical Education and Sport Division were held in abeyance, since the ensuing Steering Committee recommendations are also expected to significantly impact on the functions, operations and structure of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs (MSYA).

With regards to the completion of policies, the National Policy on Sport 2017/2027 (NPS 2017/2027) was approved by Cabinet and laid in Parliament. The MSYA is currently undertaking the development of the policy support mechanisms which would facilitate the implementation of policy objectives. Additionally, the National Youth Policy development process has been initiated, with the first round of national consultations completed and submissions from these consultations collated to inform the development of the policy agenda along with a skeletal structure for the New Policy. This document will be forwarded to stakeholders for an e-

consultation after which the draft policy will be formulated in preparation for the second round of national consultations.

Follow-Up Questions:

1. What is the current status of the Procurement unit's prequalification exercise? What were the results of the evaluation?
2. What is the current status of the National Youth Policy?
- 3.

F. Questions on Ministerial Response to Whistleblowing Recommendations

PAAC Recommendations

The Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs should take immediate steps to ensure the re-introduction and passage of the whistle-blower protection bill, 2015.

The MSYA should ensure that the proper processes and procedures are in place for the implementation of whistle-blower policy

Response

A Circular Memorandum has been issued to all staff reminding them, inter alia, of Sections 138 (1) and (2) of the Civil Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1996 - Code of Conduct, which speaks to an officer not making 'unauthorized disclosure of official documents, papers and information for purposes unrelated to the performance of his official duty, which he may have come across in the performance of his duty, and which also notes that 'unauthorized disclosure does not include

the reporting of complaints to the Chief Personnel Officer, Auditor General or Public Service Commission regarding the conduct of the Public Service, where such complaints have been reported to senior officers without redress.'

Follow-Up Question/s:

1. What measures have been put in place to ensure that staff complies with Sections 138 (1) and (2) of the Civil Service (Amendment) Regulations?

G. Questions on Ministerial Response to Sports Commission Recommendations

PAAC Recommendations

The MSYA should provide a status report on the progress made in the establishment of the Sports Commission, inclusive of the proposed structure, cost and how the commission will more effectively deal with the infrastructure, management and administration of sport by March 14, 2018.

Response

The Steering Committee to facilitate the transition of SPORTT to the Sport Commission of Trinidad and Tobago was established by Cabinet with a mandate to:

- i. *in Phase I, to provide expert advice to advance the strategic and operational imperatives for effecting the transition from the SporTT to the SCOTT; and*
- ii. *in Phase II, to provide support, guidance and oversight in the implementation of the recommendations emanating from Phase I*

The Steering Committee was charged with developing a detailed roadmap and implementation framework, to realize the establishment of the SCOTT, with the following outputs in Phase I:

Situational Analysis Report

- i. *Stakeholder Engagement Report*

- iii. *Road map and Implementation Framework*
- iv. *Organizational Design and Restructuring Plan, outlining organization structures for both the new MSYA and SCOTT*
- v. *Human Resource Planning Strategy Institutional, Administrative and Operational Policy and Procedural Architecture for the new MSYA and SCOTT*
- vi. *Change Management Plan for de-regulation of the SporTT and re-alignment of MSYA with SCOTT, as well as MSYA reprisal of its intended role*

The Steering Committee's report is to be placed before the Honourable Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs shortly for consideration and thereafter, transmission to Cabinet.

Follow-Up Question/s:

1. Has the Steering Committee's Report been considered and submitted to the Cabinet?
2. If yes, when? If no, what are the reasons for the delay? What stage of the road map and implementation framework has been completed?
3. What is the status of the establishment of SCOTT as at August 31, 2019?

H. Questions on Ministerial Response to Travel to Tobago

PAAC Recommendation: The Ministry must develop policy guidelines for cost saving measures for local, regional and international travel for all levels of staff at the Ministry as well as the Permanent Secretary and the Minister. A document outlining these guidelines should be provided to the Committee by March 14, 2018. The policy should include the recommendations detailed below:

- The Ministry should ensure that persons embarking on travel are absolutely necessary for the business to be conducted as a means of reducing unnecessary expenditure. The Ministry should also take immediate steps to institute a ceiling/cap for costs associated with travel, requiring sufficient and proper justification and approvals for any travel that exceeds the limit.*

The Ministerial Response stated: "Since May 2017, all travel has been carefully monitored. In respect of local travel, overnight stays have been avoided in the main and assistance has been sought and received from the Tobago House of Assembly and the Office of the Prime Minister for support resources where required".

Follow-Up Questions:

1. In light of the indiscretions highlighted by the 7th report of the PAAC concerning excessive expenditure on the May 2017 trip to Tobago, what additional measures have been put in place to investigate expenditure in the Ministry in relation to overseas travel?
2. What is the process for determining who is not only eligible, but also absolutely essential to a trip's mission when embarking upon travel?
3. What is the process for persons who embark on travel to report on outcomes/findings of the trip?
4. What is the ceiling cost determined by the Ministry associated with travel?
5. What is the process for granting approval for travel that exceeds the dollar amount of the established ceiling cost?
6. Please provide details on overnight trips taken since May 2017.
 - i) Please include the purpose of each trip
 - ii) Please provide a list of persons who participated in these trips and the capacity in which they were included.
7. What kind of assistance was "sought and received" from the Tobago House of Assembly and the Office of the Prime Minister"?
8. How much has been saved as a result of receiving this assistance?
9. What steps have been taken to "carefully monitor all travel"?

Questions related to Service Commission's Response to the 7th Report

The Service Commission Response dated July 6, 2018 stated: "With reference to the recommendations outlined at page 13 of the Seventh Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an Examination into the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs as referenced in the subject at caption, please be informed that the records of the Service Commissions Department reveal that there are approximately two hundred and eighty four (284) offices on the permanent establishment of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, one hundred and sixty two (162) of which are vacant.

Of the vacant offices on the permanent establishment, forty three (43) are generic across the Public Service, while one hundred and nineteen (119) are specific to the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs. Thirty two (32) of the specific (vacant) offices fall under the Physical Education and Sport Division.

Follow-Up Questionss:

1. Please provide an update on the 162 vacancies in the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs
 - i) Have any of these vacancies been filled?

- ii) If so, which ones?
 - iii) How many of these posts were specific to the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs?
 - iv) How many were generic?
 - v) Which vacancies were filled by contract employees?
 - vi) Which vacancies were filled by permanent employees?
2. What steps have been taken to fill the generic positions through appointments and/or promotions?
3. Which vacancies have not been filled as at August 1, 2019?
- i) What are the challenges with filling these vacancies?
 - ii) Please provide a list of positions that are still vacant.

Appendix II

Site Visit Report

DRAFT



PARLIAMENT
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Levels G - 7, Tower D
The Port-of-Spain International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road, Port-of-Spain

Public Administration and Appropriations



Report on the follow-up site visit to the National Aquatic Centre and Cycling Velodrome conducted on Wednesday September 4, 2019

Public Accounts Unit
Secretariat, Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
September 12, 2019

Report on the site visit to the National Aquatic Centre and Cycling Velodrome
held on Wednesday September 4, 2019
Couva, Trinidad

Introduction

On the 23rd of May 2016, the members of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee (PAAC) conducted a site visit to the National Aquatic Centre and Cycling Velodrome. At the time, construction was being completed by the Shanghai Construction Group (SCG) and set to be handed over to the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs (MSYA) later on that year. The PAAC completed a report on the site visit on June 22, 2016. The report summarised the findings of the site visit and highlighted key elements of the MSYA's plans for the facility upon assuming ownership. Plans outlined covered areas such as staffing, maintenance, marketing, financing, safety and security.

The 2019 site visit took place on September 4th and was initiated to follow up on the matters identified in the 2016 report as well as to gather further information on a major area of concern, the maintenance of both facilities. Of particular concern to the Committee was the breakdown of the air conditioning unit at the Velodrome for a period of one year.

Report

1. The Parliamentary contingent visiting the National Aquatic Centre and Cycling Velodrome comprised the following persons:

Members

- | | | | |
|------|------------------------------------|---|----------|
| i. | Mrs. Bridgid Mary Annisette-George | - | Chairman |
| ii. | Mr. Wade Mark | - | Member |
| iii. | Ms. Nicole Olivierre | - | Member |
| iv. | Ms. Ayanna Webster-Roy | - | Member |
| v. | Mr. Daniel Dookie | - | Member |

Parliament staff

- | | | | |
|------|---------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| i. | Ms. Keiba Jacob | - | Secretary |
| ii. | Ms. Rachel Nunes | - | Graduate Research Assistant |
| iii. | Mr. Darien Buckmire | - | Graduate Research Assistant |
| iv. | Ms. Nicole Brown | - | Parliamentary Intern |
2. On arrival at the site, the contingent assembled outside the lobby of the Aquatic Centre. They were greeted by the following officials of the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT):

i.	Mr. Jason Williams	-	Chief Executive Officer (CEO);
ii.	Mr. Jeffrey John	-	Area Manager (Central);
iii.	Mr. Rajesh Mohammed	-	Facility Technician; and
iv.	Mr. Kadir Madoo	-	Semi-Skilled Maintenance Technician.

The National Aquatic Centre

3. The tour of the centre commenced at approximately 2:00 p.m.
4. The tour of the Centre was guided primarily by Mr. Jason Williams (SPORTT CEO) and Mr. Jeffery John (SPORTT Area Manager, Central). During this tour, the following issues/matters were discussed:

a. The current status of the project

- *The facility was officially opened to the public in October 2016. However, since then, several maintenance issues have forced SPORTT to scale down their operations. As such, use of the facility has not been optimised.*

b. Management of the Facility

- *SPORTT has been managing the facility.*

c. Maintenance Issues

- *All material and equipment used in the facility were sourced from China.*
- *Committee members noticed there was a leak over one section of the bleachers. They were informed that this had been so for over a year and in order to fix this problem, a scaffolding or man lift would be required to reach the section of the covering where the leak was coming from. Members inquired why this had not been done, officials stated that funding was unavailable to either rent or purchase the equipment.*
- *A request for pumps for the facility was made since February 2019, but funding has not been made available.*
- *The surfaces around the pools should ideally be pressure washed daily. However, due to water restrictions emplaced upon the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), they are only able to do so once per week. The Committee suggested installing a rain water collection system to ensure that those restrictions do not hamper the necessary cleaning schedule.*
- *Due to inadequate funding, the facility has not been maintained as regularly as it ought to be. Officials explained that a report needed to be prepared for the Ministry of Finance to request funds.*
- *Several areas of the building were covered with mould, mildew and rust. There was also a noticeable amount of bird faeces on the walls around the pool area.*
- *The elevator was currently out and had been for some time.*
- *There was no maintenance schedule or plan currently in place, however, a maintenance plan was being developed.*

- *Officials explained that although the organisation was charged with the responsibility of maintaining additional facilities, they have received decreased allocations which has posed many challenges.*
- *SPORTT did not have an optimum team to maintain the facility to acceptable standards.*
- *SPORTT sought assistance from the Private Sector and other entities to volunteer to carry out some maintenance work. For example, the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association (TTFA) has cut and cleaned areas of the grounds upon request.*

d. Dry diving facility

- *Diving has not yet been developed as a sport in Trinidad and Tobago and therefore the dry diving facility is severely underutilised. The Committee was informed that the facility is used only by one (1) diver who trains mainly overseas but returns to Trinidad and Tobago for part of the year.*
- *There is currently no diving coach based in Trinidad and Tobago.*
- *The foam for the diving pit was not filled to the required level. The Ministry has attempted to source the correct foam, however, a close substitute was sourced*
- *Harnesses in the diving pit are not checked on a regular basis. However, they will be stress tested upon a request to use the facility.*

e. Utilisation of the facility

- *Revenue received by the facilities goes to the Consolidated Fund.*
- *The CEO expressed concern that revenue from the use of the facility was needed to supplement funds allocated for maintenance. However, they are unable to attract groups to the facility because it is not maintained up to an acceptable standard.*
- *The current rates for use of the facility are draft rates and were submitted to the MSYA but approval has not been received.*
- *Currently, only clubs and associations utilise the pools. The facility was no longer open to individuals.*
- *Pools were used for training from 5am-8am and 5pm-8pm.*

- *There are activities each month. However some months may have only one (1) day booked for an event while other months may have more.*
- *The water play park which could facilitate children's parties/events was supposed to be another revenue generating venture. However, the area was not useable as there were structural issues. The Committee was told that one child was injured while the area was still in use. The water was drained to assess the damage. The specific issues with the area were not identified to the Committee.*
- *No estimates of cost for repairs of the play park were available at the time of the visit.*

f. Marketing, Publicity and Promotions

- *The SPORTT representatives mentioned that there was need for an elite level gym to attract international athletes to the facility. The company has received inquiries from overseas teams to train at the National Aquatic Centre but due to the lack of an elite level gym opted to train elsewhere.*
- *There was a booking section in the lobby area where payments were accepted for use of the facilities on premises as well as other facilities managed by SPORTT. Payments are accepted as cash only, no debit or credit cards accepted.*

g. Staffing

- *The SPORTT headquarters was relocated to the National Aquatic Centre*
- *Overall, the facility was understaffed.*
- *The facility has the full complement of lifeguards required.*

h. Security and Safety

- *The facility was equipped with 43 cameras which require four (4) to five (5) persons to monitor in the Control Room. However, the cameras are currently unmonitored due to understaffing.*
- *The cameras have the capacity to store forty (40) days of footage.*
- *There was an incident of pilferage of minor equipment at the facility. The matter was reported to the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.*
- *The National Maintenance Training and Security Company Limited (MTS) provides security. However, there were only four (4) security guards for the two facilities. This number has proven insufficient.*

i. Use of Electricity

- *There is a central AC unit for the entire facility*
- *The electricity bill is approximately \$250,000TT per month*
- *SPORTT currently owes the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Company (T&TEC) \$10 Million for both facilities (National Aquatic Centre and Velodrome).*
- *Automatic switches and motion sensor lights were installed as a cost saving measure however, these have not reduced the electricity bill by a significant amount.*
- *Turning the Air Conditioning unit on and off is more expensive than leaving it running.*
- *Solar energy has been considered as a means of reducing the electricity bill. Though the upfront outlay is costly, long term savings should accrue.*

Cycling Velodrome

5. The Committee learnt that this facility is the only velodrome in the Caribbean and ranked best in the Western Hemisphere. The Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), the governing body for international cycling intends to make the facility a regional hub. The following issues were highlighted during the tour:

j. Air- Conditioning

- *After being non-operational for approximately one year, the air conditioning unit is currently being repaired.*
- *The previous system was installed and controlled by the Shanghai Construction Group which created a number of challenges. A new system “SmartSys” has been installed to control the temperature.*
- *\$2.1 million was needed for complete repair of the AC for the entire Velodrome. SPORTT has received \$900,000, which has been used to begin repairs on the system for the upper level. Additional funding was needed to complete the repairs.*

k. Maintenance Issues

- *All maintenance work was being outsourced.*

- *A repair assessment of the track was to be during the week beginning September 9, 2019 because the malfunctioning AC could have thrown off the humidity balance needed to keep the track up to international standards.*
- *There is a hole in floor.*
- *Electricals need repair.*
- *Finishes need to be repaired.*
- *On the lower floor, the tiles have lifted off the surface.*
- *General maintenance is needed.*

1. Use of facility

- *The facility has a seating capacity of 2,504. The UCI standard is 2,500.*
- *The Committee asked for an update on plans mentioned during the previous visit for including a “Sportel” on the premises to house visiting athletes. The C.E.O mentioned that this plan has not yet materialised. However, SPORTT was in communication with the Trinidad and Tobago Football Federation (TTFA) about a potential partnership to utilise its near-completed hotel on the grounds of the Ato Boldon Stadium.*
- *A Canadian cycling champion prefers to use cycling facility in Trinidad because of warmer weather and high quality of the track. Having an international champion train at the facility benefits Trinidad and Tobago cyclists in helping them to improve their competence if they are able to train with them.*

6. Items for follow-up/further investigation

m. Issues Related to handover from Shanghai Construction Group (SCG)

- *The team from the Shanghai Construction Group returned to China. Both Facilities were now totally under the control of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs (MSYA)/SPORTT.*
- *There was an intent for the transfer of skills to take place where SCG would train locals for one (1) year in the techniques needed to maintain the facility, particularly in areas with unique requirements. However, this did not occur.*

- *The lights around the pool were working. However, SPORTT does not have the inventory for replacements. The bulbs are uniquely designed and not available outside of China and therefore difficult to source.*
- *The defects period has now expired. However, attempts to reach SCG to fix issues that occurred during the time they had control of the facilities proved futile. The responsibility for fixing issues caused by SCG now rests with the MSYA/SPORTT.*
- *SCG provided only 1 air curtain when 2 were required (one for each facility). The air curtain prevents air and birds from flowing in and out of the facilities.*
- *Tiles in the administrative area of the velodrome were installed with substandard materials by SCG.*
- *SCG did not handover the codes and the keys for the air-conditioning system. Further investigation showed that SCG may have cloned the system which could be then adjusted remotely by the original owners. In order to repair the air-conditioning unit, SPORTT installed a brand new system called the Honeywell system.*

n. Documents needed for review

- *The CEO was asked to send documents showing total estimated costs of the repairs needed at both facilities.*
- *Two consultants from STAGES Consulting Engineering Limited have been hired to evaluate the maintenance issues and recommend solutions. Their contract is up in November 2019 and they are due to present their report in October 2019.*

7. The tour was concluded at approximately 4:00 pm.
8. The proceedings of the site visit were captured by photos taken by the Communication Officer from the Office of the Parliament. These photos are available in the appendix of this document (pages 10-23).

Public Administration and Appropriation Committee

Office of the Parliament

September 6, 2016

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Appendix 1: Photo Gallery of Site Visit



FIGURE 1 THE TEAM ARRIVES AT THE NATIONAL AQUATIC CENTRE



FIGURE 2 WALKING THROUGH THE NATIONAL AQUATIC CENTRE



FIGURE 3 VIEW OF VELODROME FROM THE OUTSIDE



FIGURE 4 VIEW OF THE NATIONAL AQUATIC CENTRE FROM THE OUTSIDE



FIGURE 5 LEAK OVER BLEACHERS AT NATIONAL AQUATIC CENTRE



FIGURE 6 DEPLETED FOAM PIT AT DRY DIVING AREA, NATIONAL AQUATIC CENTRE



FIGURE 7 CONTROL ROOM SCREENS

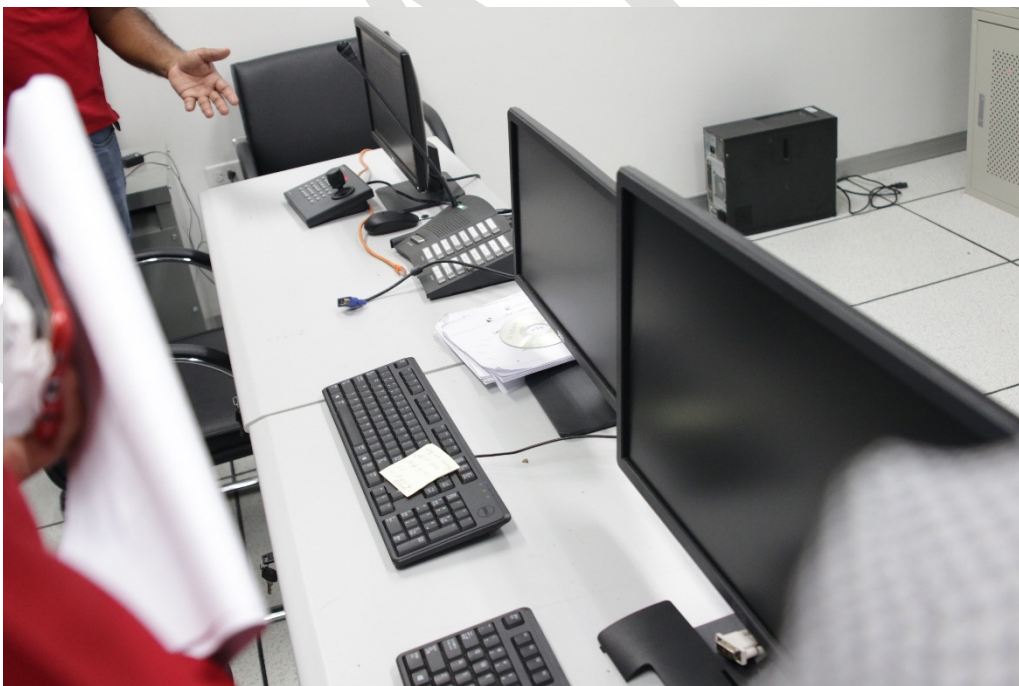


FIGURE 8 COMPUTERS IN CONTROL ROOM



FIGURE 9 OVERGROWN GRASS AT NATIONAL AQUATIC CENTRE



FIGURE 10 TILES FALLING OFF COLUMN AT NATIONAL AQUATIC CENTRE



FIGURE 11 WATER DAMAGE AT NATIONAL AQUATIC CENTRE



FIGURE 12 PLAY PARK DRAINED OF WATER TO VIEW DAMAGED AREAS



FIGURE 13 CONDENSATION APPEARING ON DOOR AT NATIONAL AQUATIC CENTRE



FIGURE 14 WATER DAMAGE ON CEILING AT NATIONAL AQUATIC CENTRE



FIGURE 15 DAMAGED FLOORING AT VELODROME



FIGURE 16 CLOSE-UP OF TRACK AT VELODROME



FIGURE 17 DAMAGED FLOORING AT VELODROME

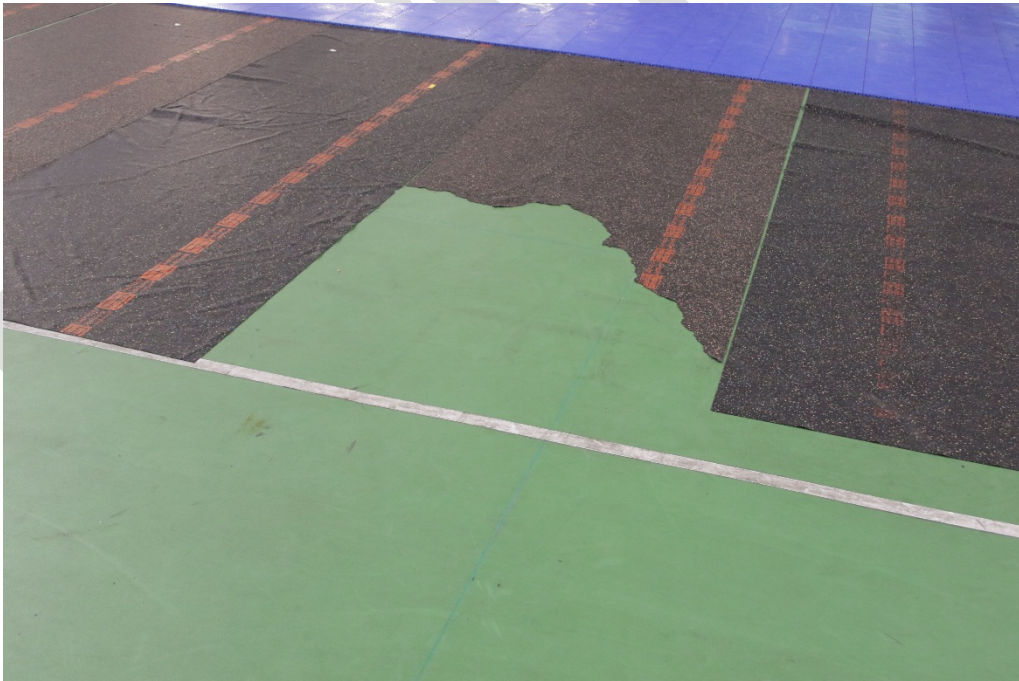


FIGURE 18 DAMAGED FLOORING AT VELODROME



FIGURE 19 DAMAGED SPECTATOR SEAT AT VELODROME



FIGURE 20 VIEW OF TRACK AT VELODROME

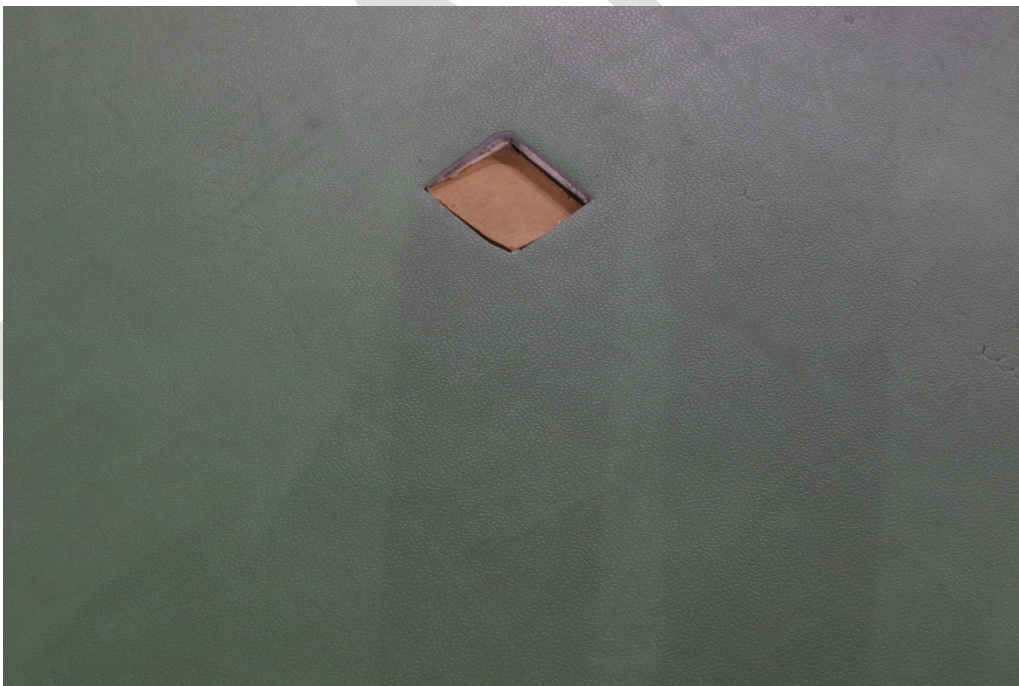


FIGURE 21 HOLE IN FLOOR OF VELODROME



FIGURE 21 DAMAGED TILES AT THE VELODROME (LOWER LEVEL)



FIGURE 23 DAMAGED CEILING AT VELODROME



FIGURE 22 DAMAGED CEILING AT VELODROME



FIGURE 23 RUST DAMAGE IN BATHROOM AT VELODROME



FIGURE 24 DAMAGED TILES AT VELODROME

Appendix III: The Inquiry

Process

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The Inquiry Process

The Inquiry Process outlines steps to be taken by the Committee when conducting an inquiry into an entity or issue. The following steps outlines the Inquiry process followed by the PAAC:

12. Identification of entity to be examined;

13. Preparation of Inquiry Proposal for the selected entity. The Inquiry Proposal outlines:

- Description
- Background;
- Overview of Expenditure
- Rationale/Objective of Inquiry; and
- Proposed Questions.

14. Consideration and approval of Inquiry Proposals by the Committee and when approved, questions are forwarded to the entity for written responses;

15. Issue of requests for written comment from the public are made via Parliament's website, social media accounts, newspaper and advertisements;

16. Preparation of an Issues Paper by the Secretariat for the Committee's consideration, based on written responses received from the entities. The Issues Paper identifies and summarises any matters of concern in the responses provided by the entity or received from stakeholders and the general public;

17. Review of the responses provided and the Issues Paper by the Committee;

18. Conduct of a site visit to obtain a first-hand perspective of the implementation of a project (optional);

19. Determination of the need for a Public Hearing based on the analysis of written submissions and the site visit (if required). If there is need for a public hearing, the relevant witnesses will be invited to attend and provide evidence. There is usually no need to examine the entity in public if:

20. the Committee believes the issues have little public interest; or

21. the Committee believes that the written responses provided are sufficient and no further explanation is necessary.

22. Issue of written request to the entity for further details should the Committee require any additional information after the public hearing.

23. Report Committee's findings and recommendations to Parliament upon conclusion of the inquiry.
24. Request for Ministerial Responses. Review responses.
25. Engage in follow-up.

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APPENDIX IV

Minutes of Meetings

**THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE –
FOURTH SESSION, ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT
MINUTES OF THE FORTY-NINTH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 AT 1:46 P.M.
IN THE ARNOLD THOMASOS MEETING ROOM (EAST), LEVEL 6 AND THE J.
HAMILTON MAURICE ROOM, MEZZANINE FLOOR, TOWER D, OFFICE OF THE
PARLIAMENT,
INTERNATIONAL WATERFRONT CENTRE,
1A WRIGHTSON ROAD, PORT OF SPAIN.**

Present were:

Mrs. Bridgid Mary Annisette-George	-	Chairman
Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Ancil Antoine	-	Member
Ms. Amrita Deonarine	-	Member
Mr. Wade Mark	-	Member
Ms. Keiba Jacob	-	Secretary
Ms. Sheranne Samuel	-	Assistant Secretary
Ms. Rachel Nunes	-	Graduate Research Assistant
Ms. Ashaki Alexis	-	Graduate Research Assistant
Ms. Vanna Jankiepersad	-	Procedural Officer Intern
Ms. Nicole Brown	-	Parliamentary Intern

Absent were:

Dr. Lackram Bodoë	-	Vice-Chairman (Excused)
Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy	-	Member (Excused)
Mr. Clarence Rambharat	-	Member (Excused)
Mr. Daniel Dookie	-	Member (Excused)
Ms. Nicole Olivierre	-	Member (Excused)

COMMENCEMENT

- 1.1 At 1:46 p.m. the Chairman called the meeting to order.
- 1.2 The Chairman indicated that Dr. Lackram Bodoë, Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy, Mr. Clarence Rambharat and Mr. Daniel Dookie asked to be excused from the meeting.

EXAMINATION OF MINUTES OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING HELD ON MAY 29, 2019

- 2.1 The Committee examined the Minutes of the Forty-Eighth (48th) Meeting held on Wednesday May 29, 2019.
- 2.2 There being no omissions or corrections, the Minutes were confirmed on a motion moved by Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Ancil Antoine and seconded by Mr. Mark.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING

- 3.1 As per item 3.3, the Chairman indicated that responses to additional questions which were sent by the Committee with regard to the follow-up inquiry to the Committee's Twelfth Report on the Administration of Disaster Relief were received from the following entities on the said stated dates:
- Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management - June 13, 2019;
 - Ministry of National Security – June 13, 2019;
 - Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries – June 14, 2019;
 - Ministry of Finance – June 21, 2019; and
 - Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government – June 13, 2019.
- 3.2 As per item 10.2, the Chairman indicated that additional questions were sent to the Ministry of Communications on May 14, 2019 and the response was received on July 3, 2019.
- 3.3 As per item 3.2, the Chairman indicated that a meeting other than a public meeting for the purpose of a follow-up can be held with the officials of the THA. The Secretariat was instructed to propose a date for the meeting upon consideration of the Committee Calendar.
- 3.4 The Chairman invited Members to raise any other matters arising from the Minutes.

PRE-HEARING DISCUSSION: EXAMINATION INTO THE EXPENDITURE AND INTERNAL CONTROLS OF THE MINISTRY OF SPORT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS AS WELL AS FOLLOW-UP ON THE MINISTERIAL RESPONSE TO THE SEVENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

- 4.1 The Chairman invited Members to review the Issues Papers based on the written submissions received from the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs as well as the Report on the Follow-Up Site Visit to the National Aquatic Centre and Cycling Velodrome which was conducted on Wednesday September 4, 2019.

- 4.2 The Chairman reminded Members that this meeting will be an examination into the expenditure and internal controls of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs as well as follow-up on the Ministerial Response to the Seventh Report of the Committee.
- 4.3 The Chairman invited Members to raise any issues or questions on the examination of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs. The Chairman also invited Members to identify any specific areas they wished to focus on. A discussion ensued.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 5.1 The Chairman informed Members of the possibility for a site visit to the Dwight Yorke Stadium be scheduled and directed the Secretariat to advise on the proposed date for such upon consideration of the Committee Calendar.
- 5.2 The Chairman advised that before dissolution of Parliament an examination should be commenced into the Judiciary, specifically no later February 2020. The Secretariat was directed to commence the engagement with the Judiciary.
- 5.3 There being no further business for discussion in camera, the Chairman suspended the meeting at 2:35 p.m., to be reconvened in public.

SUSPENSION

- 6.1 There being no further business for discussion in camera, the Chairman suspended the meeting at 2:37 p.m., to be reconvened in public.

EXAMINATION INTO THE EXPENDITURE AND INTERNAL CONTROLS OF THE MINISTRY OF SPORT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS AS WELL AS FOLLOW-UP ON THE MINISTERIAL RESPONSE TO THE SEVENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

- 7.1 The Chairman called the public meeting to order at 2:44 p.m., in the J. Hamilton Maurice Room, Mezzanine Floor.
- 7.2 The following officials joined the meeting:

Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs (MSYA)

Mr. Farook Hosein

- Permanent Secretary (Ag.)

Ms. Denise Arneaud	-	Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
Mrs. Marcia London McKellar	-	Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
Ms. Sherry Ann Smith-Simmons	-	Director, Human Resources
Mr. Earland Kent	-	Director, Youth Affairs
Mr. Patrice Charles	-	Director, Physical Education and Sport
Mr. Herbert Delancy	-	Administrative Officer V
Ms. Reneelise Khan	-	Project Coordinator
Mr. Armand Jackson	-	Senior Planning Officer
Ms. Leah Malchan- Douglas	-	Accounting Executive I

Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT)

Mr. Douglas Camacho	-	Chairman
Mr. Jason Williams	-	Chief Executive Officer (Ag.)
Ms. Annesha Colley	-	Head, Projects

- 7.3 The Chairman welcomed the officials of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs and the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago. The Chairman also welcomed members of the media and the viewing and listening audience.
- 7.4 The Chairman outlined the mandate of the Committee and the purpose of the meeting. Introductions were then exchanged.
- 7.5 The following issues arose from the examination of the Expenditure and Internal Controls of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs as well as the Follow-Up on the Ministerial Response to the Seventh Report of the Committee

General Issues

[Please see the verbatim notes for the detailed oral submission of the witnesses]

- 7.6 The Chairman thanked the officials of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs and the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago for attending and they were excused. The Chairman also thanked the media and the viewing and listening audience.

SUSPENSION

- 8.1 At 6:03 p.m., the Chairman suspended the *public* meeting to resume *in camera* for a post-hearing discussion with Members only.

RESUMPTION

- 9.1 At 6:06p.m. the Chairman resumed the meeting *in camera*.

POST-MORTEM DISCUSSION

- 10.1 The Committee engaged in discussion on the just concluded public hearing.
- 10.2 The Committee agreed that additional questions would be sent to the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs [**Please see Appendix**].

OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 The Chairman informed Members of the following outstanding Reports which are yet to be laid:
- i. Ministry of Works and Transport
 - ii. Town and Country Planning Division
 - iii. Pension and Gratuity
 - iv. Ministry of Education
 - v. Tobago House of Assembly
 - vi. Follow-Up on the Administration of Disaster Relief in Trinidad and Tobago
 - vii. Trinidad and Tobago Police Service
 - viii. Ministry of Communication
- 11.2 The Chairman directed the Secretariat to submit the Draft Reports on Pension and Gratuity and Education to Members for feedback.

ADJOURNMENT

- 12.1 The Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and indicated the need for review of the Work Programme for determination of the next inquiries, a total of which should not exceed four (4) for the period between November to December 2019. The Secretariat was directed to circulate the list of possible entities/inquiries for consideration by Members.
- 12.3 The adjournment was taken at 6:29 p.m.

We certify that these Minutes are true and correct.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

September 18, 2019

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Questions to the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs

Provide the following:

1. A complete update on all sporting facilities (inclusive of the Eastern Regional Indoor Sport Complex) with regard to:
 - a. Condition;
 - b. Whether works, either maintenance or repair, are being undertaken; and
 - c. The status of those works.
2. A status report on all projects which are currently under the management of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs (MSYA) as well as the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT).
3. A status Report on the Share Point Project which is currently being undertaken by the Project Management Division.
 - i. Please explain how the Share Point site visit reporting system works in its current form.
4. A list of the seven (7) vehicles under repair including details of the model and vehicle registration number to which the fleet card system is used.
 - i. An update on the status of the fleet cards; please detail which cards are active and which cards are inactive.
 - ii. The rationale for the failure of the MSYA to deactivate fleet cards prior to the discontinued use of a vehicle.
 - iii. The current process for the deactivation of fleet cards.
2. A detailed breakdown of staffing in the Youth Division and the geographical areas to which each staff member is assigned.
3. A detailed breakdown of the cost of each overseas trips taken in Fiscal Year 2019. Please be specific about how the funds were allocated (airfare, accommodation, ground transportation etc.).
4. With respect to overseas trips which were partially sponsored, details on:
 - i. The total cost of each trip.

- ii. The sum (monetary figure and percentage) of the trip which attributed to 'sponsorship.'
5. The amount which was allocated to overseas travel for the MSYA for fiscal 2019.
6. A copy of the Overseas Travel Report for fiscal 2017 to 2019.
7. The role and significance that attendance to conferences have on the guidelines and policies relevant to Trinidad and Tobago.
 - i. Whether cheaper alternative avenues may be used to achieve such role.
8. Considering that the MSYA has to hire an external consultant to draft the National Youth Policy, the justification for having public officers attend overseas conferences related to youth policy development.
9. The anticipated cost of hiring an external consultant for the drafting of a National Youth Policy.
 - i. Whether it would be less costly to hire in house staff to draft such Policy.
10. A detailed rationale for the increased allocation for overseas travel in Fiscal Year 2019.
11. A report on the trip to the Caribbean Development Bank Youth Policy and Operational Strategy, Regional Stakeholders Workshop.
12. A detailed breakdown of contributions made to non-profit sporting institutions under Sub-Head 04/Item 005 Sub-item 29 for the periods fiscal 2016 to 2019. Please include the name of the organisation, its registration status (that is, whether the organisation is registered in accordance with the Non Profit Organizations Act No. 7 of 2019), the amount given and the purpose for which the granting was approved.
13. A copy of the Cabinet Note as it pertains to the grant funding under Sub-Head 04/ Item 005 Sub-Item 29.
14. A copy of the Cabinet Note allowing allocation under 04/005/29 to be used for the Caribbean Premier League (CPL), Elite Athlete Programme and any purpose other than contributions to sporting organisations.
 - i. A breakdown of funding given to elite athletes in fiscal year 2019. Please provide the name of each athlete, the sporting classification of each athlete and the amount awarded.
15. Details on all outstanding loans which have been granted to the MSYA. For each loan, include:

- i. Purpose
 - ii. Lenders
 - iii. Payments, interest, fees and other charges
 - iv. Date of disbursement
 - v. Term of the loan/ Date loan is expected to end
 - vi. Outstanding balance
 - vii. Repayment schedule
 - viii. Terms and conditions
 - ix. If any loans were repurposed, please provide the relevant Cabinet note which evidences the approval
 - x. Copy of the requisite loan agreements
16. Details of all arrears owed for janitorial services in the previous year's allocation.
17. Details of contractual arrangements for janitorial services and security services at Youth Centres for fiscal 2019.
18. Copies of contracts for janitorial services provided to the Youth Centres for the years 2016 to 2019.
19. Details concerning whether new contracts were awarded for the provision of janitorial services.
20. The reasons for monies due and owing for janitorial services and security services at Youth Centres by the MSYA.
21. A detailed breakdown of liabilities owed to state entities that provide utilities and/or services to the MSYA.
22. A list of athletes to whom ex gratia payments remain outstanding by MYSA, including details of:
 - i. The totals sum for each athlete; and
 - ii. The purpose of the ex gratia payment
23. A copy of the Cabinet Minute No. 1722 dated August 22nd, 2019 which authorized the transfer of the Youth Development and Apprenticeship Centres from the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs to the Ministry of National Security.
24. The reason(s) for the delay in the transition of SPORTT Company to the Sport Commission of Trinidad and Tobago.

25. The effect/impact of the transition of the SPORTT to Sport Commission of Trinidad and Tobago on the operations and functions of the Physical Education and Sport Division and the wider Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs.
26. The process for determining whether groups have requested and received funding from other entities for the same event/programme/activity etc. submitted to the MSYA.
27. Whether groups receive funding directly via monetary instruments or does the MSYA provide the items requested.
28. A list of all defects related to the works carried out by the Shanghai Construction Group (SCG) at the National Aquatic Centre, the Cycling Velodrome and any other facility for which the MSYA/SPORTT engaged the SGC for construction and/or maintenance works.
29. A copy of the Consultants' Report prepared by the two (2) MEP Consultants.
 - i. Whether the MSYA has engaged the Office of the Procurement Regulation to assist in the procurement of goods and services and the progress of these engagements.

Recurrent Expenditure Allocations

Sub-head 02: Goods and Services

Sub-item 05-Telephones

1. What are the reasons for the delay in payments for fiscal 2018?
2. What mechanisms do Managers and Supervisors use to monitor use of phones by staff?
3. What are the additional safety and monitoring features of the upgraded phone system the Ministry intends to purchase?
4. What tools are used to monitor phone bills in real time to pick up on areas of possible indiscretions?
5. What benchmarks are used to determine normal vs. excessive phone use?

Sub-item 16-Contract Employment

Additional Contract Staff- Public Relations and Communications Unit

1. What is the job title and function of the contract officer employed in the Public Relations and Communications Unit?

2. Are there any permanent employees attached to the Public Communications Unit? If so, what are their job titles and function?
3. What are the key deliverables for this contract officer within the period of the contract?

Additional Contract Staff- Youth Affairs Division

1. What are the roles and functions of the Youth Development Officer and the Youth Development Officer II?
2. What mechanisms are used to evaluate the impact of the work done by contract officers? What are the performance benchmarks?
3. What process does the Ministry use to determine the effectiveness of programmes geared toward behaviour change among at risk youth?
4. What additional staffing requirements has the MSYA identified as necessary to improve service delivery to the nation's youth?

Sub-item 27-Overseas Travel

Impact of Increased Spending on Overseas (International and Regional) Travel

1. What is the role and function of the Regional Directors' Youth Caucus in regional youth development?
2. What are some of the relevant regional issues that have been brought to light as a result of the Youth Director's involvement in the Regional Youth Caucus?
 - a. What are the plans to treat with these issues on a local level?
3. How many youth leaders were selected to attend overseas conferences in fiscal 2019?
 - i. Please identify the organisations which these leaders represent.
4. What is the criteria used to select the youth leaders who attend conferences?
5. In tandem with the attendance of overseas conferences, is the MSYA undertaking research to add value to the anticipated development of the National Youth Policy?
6. In what ways will attendance at these conferences help the Ministry achieve Vision 2030?
7. Which of the Sustainable Development Goals does attendance at overseas conferences support?

Overseas Travel (International and Regional) Undertaken in in Fiscal Year 2019

1. State the reasons for the MSYA delegation attending the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the resultant programmes/policies/projects that will be implemented in Trinidad and Tobago.
2. How has the trip to the FIFA Woman's Convention and Women's World Cup helped the Sport Division to facilitate gender parity and elimination of discrimination?
3. Of the two trips that were partially sponsored, who provided sponsorship? What was the percentage of the total cost sponsored in each case?

Sub-item 66-Hosting Conferences, Seminars and Other Functions

1. What are the post-symposium mechanisms used to follow-up on the progress made by the young people who attended these conferences?
2. How many young people participated in each of these conferences?
3. Beyond engagement and participation, how does the MSYA measure the impact of these conferences on participants?

Item 004: Youth Centres

1. How many contract officers are employed at the Youth Centres?
2. What are the various roles and functions of contract officers stationed at Youth Centres?
3. What allowances, if any, are received by contract officers at Youth Centres?
4. What process was used to estimate the figure for possible increases in contracts awarded for janitorial and security services at Youth Centres?
5. Have contracts for janitorial services and security services been awarded since expiration of previous contracts? If yes, to which companies?

Item 006: National Youth Development and Apprenticeship

1. Is the Persto Praesto Youth Development Centre the only such Centre funded under item 006? If not, please state.
2. What accounted for 51 trainees being enrolled but only 24 actively participating?
3. What is the timeline for completing the security mechanisms outlined in the written response?

4. What has happened to the trainees since being sent home? What alternative arrangements for them to continue their training?
5. Were the trainees being paid a stipend after being sent home?
6. In the absence of trainees, what functions are the staff members performing and where?
7. What are the areas of training received by the trainees when the centre is operational?
8. What was the reason for transferring responsibility to the Ministry of national Security?

Sub-head 04: Current Transfers and Subsidies

Item 005: Non-Profit Institutions

Sub-item 29- Sporting Organisations

Contributions to Sporting Organisations in Fiscal Year 2019

Questions:

1. What is the process for verifying the legitimacy of a group in order for them to receive funding?
2. How long does a group have to be in existence before it can receive funding from the MSYA?
3. Are there any limits on how often a group can receive funding from the MSYA? If so, what are the limits?

Sub-head 04: Current Transfers and Subsidies

Item 007: Households

Sub-item 05- National Incentives and Rewards Initiative

1. Please identify the specific athletes awarded under the National Incentives and Rewards Initiative and the respective amounts.
2. What caused the delay in disbursing awards for competitions that took place in 2015 and 2016?

Issues arising from Ministerial Response to the 7th Report of the PAAC

Organisational Structure for the Maintenance Plans for Facilities

1. What is the period of engagement of the MEP Consultants?
2. What process is being used to evaluate the work carried out by the consultants?

3. What are the specific guidelines approved by the SPORTT board with regard to the engagement of consultants?

Status of the National Youth Policy

Questions:

1. What was the reason for engaging consultants to develop the new National Youth Policy?
Were consultants used for developing previous policies?
2. What was the success rate for implementing the previous National Youth Policy?
3. What are the critical areas that the MSYA wishes the new Youth Policy to address?
4. Will current staff of the Youth Division play any role in framing the new Youth Policy?
If so, what role will they play?
5. What process is proposed to evaluate the work carried out by the consultants?
6. What are the specific guidelines approved by the MSYA board with regard to the engagement of consultants?
7. Has the MSYA done any preliminary work towards updating the National Youth Policy prior to engaging consultants? If so, what work has been done and what have been the results?
8. What are the specific guidelines approved by the MSYA with regard to the engagement of consultants charged with policy development?

Status of the Whistleblowing Regulations

1. What are the consequences for the non-compliance with established whistleblowing regulations?

Overnight Travel to Tobago

1. Provide further details on the following:
 - the LEAPP programme;
 - the 40 under 40 programme; and
 - the We Say Yes Graduation.
2. Please advise what accommodation arrangements were made for the overnight stays to Tobago outlined in the written response. Please state the amount paid for accommodation in each instance.

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APPENDIX VI

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED

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Questions to the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs

Provide the following:

1. A complete update on all sporting facilities (inclusive of the Eastern Regional Indoor Sport Complex) with regard to:
 - a. Condition;
 - b. Whether works, either maintenance or repair, are being undertaken; and
 - c. The status of those works.
2. A status report on all projects which are currently under the management of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs (MSYA) as well as the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT).
3. A status Report on the Share Point Project which is currently being undertaken by the Project Management Division.
 - ii. Please explain how the Share Point site visit reporting system works in its current form.
4. A list of the seven (7) vehicles under repair including details of the model and vehicle registration number to which the fleet card system is used.
 - j. An update on the status of the fleet cards; please detail which cards are active and which cards are inactive.
 - iii. The rationale for the failure of the MSYA to deactivate fleet cards prior to the discontinued use of a vehicle.
 - iv. The current process for the deactivation of fleet cards.
30. A detailed breakdown of staffing in the Youth Division and the geographical areas to which each staff member is assigned.
31. A detailed breakdown of the cost of each overseas trips taken in Fiscal Year 2019. Please be specific about how the funds were allocated (airfare, accommodation, ground transportation etc.).
32. With respect to overseas trips which were partially sponsored, details on:
 - iii. The total cost of each trip.
 - iv. The sum (monetary figure and percentage) of the trip which attributed to 'sponsorship.'
33. The amount which was allocated to overseas travel for the MSYA for fiscal 2019.

34. A copy of the Overseas Travel Report for fiscal 2017 to 2019.
35. The role and significance that attendance to conferences have on the guidelines and policies relevant to Trinidad and Tobago.
 - i. Whether cheaper alternative avenues may be used to achieve such role.
36. Considering that the MSYA has to hire an external consultant to draft the National Youth Policy, the justification for having public officers attend overseas conferences related to youth policy development.
37. The anticipated cost of hiring an external consultant for the drafting of a National Youth Policy.
 - i. Whether it would be less costly to hire in house staff to draft such Policy.
38. A detailed rationale for the increased allocation for overseas travel in Fiscal Year 2019.
39. A report on the trip to the Caribbean Development Bank Youth Policy and Operational Strategy, Regional Stakeholders Workshop.
40. A detailed breakdown of contributions made to non-profit sporting institutions under Sub-Head 04/Item 005 Sub-item 29 for the periods fiscal 2016 to 2019. Please include the name of the organisation, its registration status (that is, whether the organisation is registered in accordance with the Non Profit Organizations Act No. 7 of 2019), the amount given and the purpose for which the granting was approved.
41. A copy of the Cabinet Note as it pertains to the grant funding under Sub-Head 04/ Item 005 Sub-Item 29.
42. A copy of the Cabinet Note allowing allocation under 04/005/29 to be used for the Caribbean Premier League (CPL), Elite Athlete Programme and any purpose other than contributions to sporting organisations.
 - i. A breakdown of funding given to elite athletes in fiscal year 2019. Please provide the name of each athlete, the sporting classification of each athlete and the amount awarded.
43. Details on all outstanding loans which have been granted to the MSYA. For each loan, include:
 - xi. Purpose
 - xii. Lenders
 - xiii. Payments, interest, fees and other charges
 - xiv. Date of disbursement

- xv. Term of the loan/ Date loan is expected to end
 - xvi. Outstanding balance
 - xvii. Repayment schedule
 - xviii. Terms and conditions
 - xix. If any loans were repurposed, please provide the relevant Cabinet note which evidences the approval
 - xx. Copy of the requisite loan agreements
44. Details of all arrears owed for janitorial services in the previous year's allocation.
45. Details of contractual arrangements for janitorial services and security services at Youth Centres for fiscal 2019.
46. Copies of contracts for janitorial services provided to the Youth Centres for the years 2016 to 2019.
47. Details concerning whether new contracts were awarded for the provision of janitorial services.
48. The reasons for monies due and owing for janitorial services and security services at Youth Centres by the MSYA.
49. A detailed breakdown of liabilities owed to state entities that provide utilities and/or services to the MSYA.
50. A list of athletes to whom ex gratia payments remain outstanding by MYSA, including details of:
- i. The totals sum for each athlete; and
 - ii. The purpose of the ex gratia payment
51. A copy of the Cabinet Minute No. 1722 dated August 22nd, 2019 which authorized the transfer of the Youth Development and Apprenticeship Centres from the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs to the Ministry of National Security.
52. The reason(s) for the delay in the transition of SPORTT Company to the Sport Commission of Trinidad and Tobago.
53. The effect/impact of the transition of the SPORTT to Sport Commission of Trinidad and Tobago on the operations and functions of the Physical Education and Sport Division and the wider Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs.
54. The process for determining whether groups have requested and received funding from other entities for the same event/programme/activity etc. submitted to the MSYA.

55. Whether groups receive funding directly via monetary instruments or does the MSYA provide the items requested.
56. A list of all defects related to the works carried out by the Shanghai Construction Group (SCG) at the National Aquatic Centre, the Cycling Velodrome and any other facility for which the MSYA/SPORTT engaged the SGC for construction and/or maintenance works.
57. A copy of the Consultants' Report prepared by the two (2) MEP Consultants.
 - i. Whether the MSYA has engaged the Office of the Procurement Regulation to assist in the procurement of goods and services and the progress of these engagements.

Recurrent Expenditure Allocations

Sub-head 02: Goods and Services

Sub-item 05-Telephones

6. What are the reasons for the delay in payments for fiscal 2018?
7. What mechanisms do Managers and Supervisors use to monitor use of phones by staff?
8. What are the additional safety and monitoring features of the upgraded phone system the Ministry intends to purchase?
9. What tools are used to monitor phone bills in real time to pick up on areas of possible indiscretions?
10. What benchmarks are used to determine normal vs. excessive phone use?

Sub-item 16-Contract Employment

Additional Contract Staff- Public Relations and Communications Unit

4. What is the job title and function of the contract officer employed in the Public Relations and Communications Unit?
5. Are there any permanent employees attached to the Public Communications Unit? If so, what are their job titles and function?
6. What are the key deliverables for this contract officer within the period of the contract?

Additional Contract Staff- Youth Affairs Division

5. What are the roles and functions of the Youth Development Officer and the Youth Development Officer II?
6. What mechanisms are used to evaluate the impact of the work done by contract officers? What are the performance benchmarks?
7. What process does the Ministry use to determine the effectiveness of programmes geared toward behaviour change among at risk youth?
8. What additional staffing requirements has the MSYA identified as necessary to improve service delivery to the nation's youth?

Sub-item 27-Overseas Travel

Impact of Increased Spending on Overseas (International and Regional) Travel

8. What is the role and function of the Regional Directors' Youth Caucus in regional youth development?
9. What are some of the relevant regional issues that have been brought to light as a result of the Youth Director's involvement in the Regional Youth Caucus?
 - a. What are the plans to treat with these issues on a local level?
10. How many youth leaders were selected to attend overseas conferences in fiscal 2019?
 - i. Please identify the organisations which these leaders represent.
11. What is the criteria used to select the youth leaders who attend conferences?
12. In tandem with the attendance of overseas conferences, is the MSYA undertaking research to add value to the anticipated development of the National Youth Policy?
13. In what ways will attendance at these conferences help the Ministry achieve Vision 2030?
14. Which of the Sustainable Development Goals does attendance at overseas conferences support?

Overseas Travel (International and Regional) Undertaken in in Fiscal Year 2019

4. State the reasons for the MSYA delegation attending the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the resultant programmes/policies/projects that will be implemented in Trinidad and Tobago.

5. How has the trip to the FIFA Woman's Convention and Women's World Cup helped the Sport Division to facilitate gender parity and elimination of discrimination?
6. Of the two trips that were partially sponsored, who provided sponsorship? What was the percentage of the total cost sponsored in each case?

Sub-item 66-Hosting Conferences, Seminars and Other Functions

4. What are the post-symposium mechanisms used to follow-up on the progress made by the young people who attended these conferences?
5. How many young people participated in each of these conferences?
6. Beyond engagement and participation, how does the MSYA measure the impact of these conferences on participants?

Item 004: Youth Centres

6. How many contract officers are employed at the Youth Centres?
7. What are the various roles and functions of contract officers stationed at Youth Centres?
8. What allowances, if any, are received by contract officers at Youth Centres?
9. What process was used to estimate the figure for possible increases in contracts awarded for janitorial and security services at Youth Centres?
10. Have contracts for janitorial services and security services been awarded since expiration of previous contracts? If yes, to which companies?

Item 006: National Youth Development and Apprenticeship

9. Is the Persto Praesto Youth Development Centre the only such Centre funded under item 006? If not, please state.
10. What accounted for 51 trainees being enrolled but only 24 actively participating?
11. What is the timeline for completing the security mechanisms outlined in the written response?
12. What has happened to the trainees since being sent home? What alternative arrangements for them to continue their training?
13. Were the trainees being paid a stipend after being sent home?
14. In the absence of trainees, what functions are the staff members performing and where?

15. What are the areas of training received by the trainees when the centre is operational?
16. What was the reason for transferring responsibility to the Ministry of national Security?

Sub-head 04: Current Transfers and Subsidies

Item 005: Non-Profit Institutions

Sub-item 29- Sporting Organisations

Contributions to Sporting Organisations in Fiscal Year 2019

Questions:

4. What is the process for verifying the legitimacy of a group in order for them to receive funding?
5. How long does a group have to be in existence before it can receive funding from the MSYA?
6. Are there any limits on how often a group can receive funding from the MSYA? If so, what are the limits?

Sub-head 04: Current Transfers and Subsidies

Item 007: Households

Sub-item 05- National Incentives and Rewards Initiative

3. Please identify the specific athletes awarded under the National Incentives and Rewards Initiative and the respective amounts.
4. What caused the delay in disbursing awards for competitions that took place in 2015 and 2016?

Issues arising from Ministerial Response to the 7th Report of the PAAC

Organisational Structure for the Maintenance Plans for Facilities

4. What is the period of engagement of the MEP Consultants?
5. What process is being used to evaluate the work carried out by the consultants?
6. What are the specific guidelines approved by the SPORTT board with regard to the engagement of consultants?

Status of the National Youth Policy

Questions:

9. What was the reason for engaging consultants to develop the new National Youth Policy? Were consultants used for developing previous policies?
10. What was the success rate for implementing the previous National Youth Policy?
11. What are the critical areas that the MSYA wishes the new Youth Policy to address?
12. Will current staff of the Youth Division play any role in framing the new Youth Policy?
If so, what role will they play?
13. What process is proposed to evaluate the work carried out by the consultants?
14. What are the specific guidelines approved by the MSYA board with regard to the engagement of consultants?
15. Has the MSYA done any preliminary work towards updating the National Youth Policy prior to engaging consultants? If so, what work has been done and what have been the results?
16. What are the specific guidelines approved by the MSYA with regard to the engagement of consultants charged with policy development?

Status of the Whistleblowing Regulations

2. What are the consequences for the non-compliance with established whistleblowing regulations?

Overnight Travel to Tobago

3. Provide further details on the following:
 - the LEAPP programme;
 - the 40 under 40 programme; and
 - the We Say Yes Graduation.
4. Please advise what accommodation arrangements were made for the overnight stays to Tobago outlined in the written response. Please state the amount paid for accommodation in each instance.

Appendix VII

Verbatim

DRAFT

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE FORTY-NINTH PUBLIC MEETING OF THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, HELD (IN CAMERA) IN THE ARNOLD THOMASOS (EAST) MEETING ROOM LEVEL 6, AND (IN PUBLIC) IN THE J. HAMILTON MAURICE ROOM, MEZZANINE FLOOR, OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT, TOWER D, PORT OF SPAIN INTERNATIONAL WATERFRONT CENTRE, #1A WRIGHTSON ROAD, PORT OF SPAIN, ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019, AT 2.45 P.M.

PRESENT

Mrs. Bridgid Annisette-George	Chairman
Mr. Wade Mark	Member
Brig. Gen. Ancil Antoine	Member
Ms. Amrita Deonarine	Member
Ms. Keiba Jacob	Secretary
Ms. Sheranne Samuel	Assistant Secretary
Ms. Vanna Jankipersad	Procedural Officer Intern
Ms. Ashaki Alexis	Graduate Research Assistant
Ms. Nicole Brown	Parliamentary Intern

ABSENT

Dr. Lackram Bodoie	Vice-Chairman [<i>Excused</i>]
Mr. Daniel Dookie	Member [<i>Excused</i>]
Mr. Clarence Rambharat	Member [<i>Excused</i>]
Ms. Nicole Olivierre	Member [<i>Excused</i>]
Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy	Member [<i>Excused</i>]

SPORTS COMPANY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (SPORTT)

Mr. Jason Williams	Chief Executive Officer
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Mr. Douglas Camacho

Chairman

Ms. Annesha Colley

Head, Projects

MINISTRY OF SPORT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

Mr. Farook Hosein

Permanent Secretary (Ag.)

Ms. Denise Arneaud

Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.)

Mrs. Marcia London-McKellar

Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.)

Ms. Sherry Ann Smith-Simmons

Director, Human Resource Services

Mr. Earland Kent

Director, Youth Affairs

Mr. Patrice Charles

Director, Physical Education and Sport

Mr. Herbert Delancy

Administrative Officer V

Ms. Reneelise Khan

Project Coordinator

Mr. Armand Jackson

Senior Planning Officer

Ms. Leah Malchan-Douglas

Accounting Executive I

Madam Chairman: Good afternoon everyone, welcome to this public hearing of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee of the Eleventh Parliament. I want to say welcome of the representatives of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, of the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago, members of the media, members of the listening and viewing public. My name is Bridgid Annisette-George and I am the Chairman of this Committee.

The Committee of Public Administration and Appropriations has a mandate to consider and report to the House on: the budgetary expenditure of the government agencies; to ensure that expenditure is embarked upon in accordance with parliamentary approval; the budgetary expenditure of government agencies as it occurs and keeps Parliament informed of how the budget allocation is being implemented; and the administration of government agencies to determine hindrances to their efficiency and to make recommendations to the Government for the improvement of public administration.

The purpose of this public meeting of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee is to examine the expenditure and internal controls of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, as well as to follow up on the ministerial response to the Seventh Report of this Committee which was an examination into the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs with specific reference to follow up to the First Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee and current expenditure related to official travel to Tobago. The Committee is desirous of hearing from officials to discover the challenges being faced and determine possible solutions to these challenges.

The role of the Committee is to assist the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs in achieving

the efficient delivery of its mandate while ensuring that expenditures are embarked upon in accordance with parliamentary approval.

This meeting is being held in public and is being broadcast live on the Parliament's Channel 11, Radio 105.5 F.M. and the Parliament's YouTube Channel *ParlView*. Viewers and listeners can send their comments related to today's enquiry via email at parl101@ttparliament.org, facebook.com/ttparliament and Twitter [@ttparliament](https://twitter.com/ttparliament).

I will now invite the members of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs to introduce themselves and then followed by the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago and therefore I will ask the Acting Permanent Secretary to introduce himself and therefore his team. Thank you.

[*Introduction made*]

Madam Chairman: Thank you very much. And if I can ask the members of the Committee to introduce themselves.

[*Introduction made*]

Madam Chairman: Thank you. The Committee is ably assisted today by Ms. Keiba Jacob, its Secretary; Ms. Sheranne Samuel, its Assistant Secretary, and the support staff Ms. Ashaki Alexis, Graduate Research Assistant; Ms. Nicole Brown, Parliamentary Intern, and Ms. Vanna Jankipersad, the Procedural Officer Intern. And therefore maybe I could invite the Acting Permanent Secretary to make a brief opening statement by which we will anchor this discussion. Thank you.

Mr. Hosein: Good afternoon Chair. The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs recognizes that sport and youth focused activities play a crucial role in the realization of the country's goals for national development. Consistent with its mandate to facilitate the development of sport and physical recreation, and create an enabling environment for the development of youth, in fiscal 2019 the Ministry engaged in various projects, programmes and initiatives geared towards the advancement of sport and youth. A key aspect of the Ministry's plans for sport and youth development is the implementation of a portfolio of capital projects that are focused on the expansion of the sport plan as well as the maintenance and upgrade of existing sport and youth facilities in accordance with modern facility standards. The Ministry's programme of activities to provide affordable and accessible spaces for citizens is in alignment with the national development strategy of Government. These spaces can serve as community hubs for youth development and empowerment and can propel Trinidad and Tobago to become a world class sporting nation. I thank you.

Madam Chairman: Thank you very much, Mr. PS. And therefore in terms of your mandate, and your various projects which you mentioned in your introduction, just for the information of the listening public, I would just like to advise that the Committee on the 4th of September visited the

Aquatic Centre and the Velodrome which was a follow-up visit by the Committee having gone there about a year and a half ago just shortly before the facilities were handed over to the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs. And therefore, in speaking about the upgrade and the maintenance of spaces and the development of Trinidad as a sporting society, I think I would want to go right away to our visit to the Aquatic Centre and the Velodrome. And to say that having gone initially, I think both the Aquatic Centre and the Velodrome were seen as part of our national pride. Because we understood this to be first class facilities, none the likes of it in this part of the world.

However, our visit was somewhat disappointing with respect to what we had seen, and therefore I want to know, what are the plans for the facility and how does that tie in with your mandate? Okay, so that having gone we saw, for instance, the rain was falling so we observed that a lot of the plumbing for say carrying waste water was disconnected and therefore in terms of the maintenance, the day-to-day maintenance of the facility, how does the Ministry and the Sports Company through the Ministry maintain the facility? Is there a maintenance programme for daily maintenance? We are not talking now even about refurbishment and repair.

Mr. Hosein: The daily maintenance would be operational issues that would fall under the recurrent budget. The recurrent budget of SporTT is very limited and it has to be managed because there are a number of items that would cost expenditure that would fall under this recurrent budget. And this is always a struggle in terms of the various items that fall under that recurrent budget, in terms of salaries for staff; in terms of facilitating the national governing bodies; and in terms of maintenance of the facilities. So it comes out of this line budget that is limited. For example, in the current fiscal year it is \$60 million, but the projected expenditure that is required to cover all the needs is about \$17 million more. So we are always having that particular challenge of managing all the various expenditures under that recurrent vote.

Madam Chairman: So in terms of as you say it is under recurrent but I guess you do have Items and sub-Items one will be maintenance of facilities? Would I be correct?

Mr. Hosein: I will ask the CEO to correct you.

Madam Chairman: Yeah, sure.

Mr. Williams: Good afternoon members.

Madam Chairman: Good afternoon.

Mr. Williams: Under Sport Company's allocations we are just a one line item in the Ministry of Sport overall budget. Under SporTT's line Items now when we break out the money that we receive each year we do have a line Item for maintenance, but it is for all the facilities under sport. We have the five existing stadia. We have 13 indoor facilities and now we have the four nationals, we recently

built one. The aquatic, the cycling, the tennis, well the racquet and the one in Sangre Grande.

The budget has been a challenge. We have all these facilities. We also have the NGBs that we have to service as well. For example, we would have requested about \$260 million this year which would help offset the expenses to maintain, but we received \$60 million overall. So that in essence would have put us in a position where we had to try and prioritize what is important. The board and the management took a decision that in this pre-Olympic year getting the team to the Olympics would have been one of the highest priority items. Now, regarding the facilities we try as we might to fix it. We are short staffed. We do not have the technical expertise on board to develop these maintenance plans, but we have a couple consultants on board now. We are expecting actually to have a detailed maintenance plan for the national facilities within 30 days but budgetary constraints have always been the issue for us.

Madam Chairman: Okay, so I understand what you are saying about trying to balance everything, but in terms of, and we just using the visit to the Aquatic Centre as I say as an example for say what would happen in all the facilities. I got the impression that a lot of what we would call the day-to-day maintenance was being done on an as needed basis, and our concern that even though you are managing the budget, the type of maintenance that is ongoing puts the whole integrity of the facility at risk and therefore whether the balance is the right balance. Okay?

Again, look at the spouting. A simple thing like the spouting. You have a high structure over a year, you have this spouting detached with the facility being exposed to all of this rain water and waste water. You know, whether the fact that you have limitations whether you are doing the right kind of mix, because at the end of the day the way we say it, the long term damage is going to be considerable more than just fixing the spouting. What kind of creative solutions are being devised to deal with things like that?

Mr. Williams: Madam Chair, what we try to do, we try to leverage some relationships that we have. So we have the home of football which is right next door. We have the TTFA who help us as well, so when we need certain types of equipment and machinery, we need the landscaping done, we do leverage the TTFA and the President to get assistance to help us with some sort of maintenance. Because we have been practically living off of—or operating out of bare salaries every month for quite a number of months. And when we do get releases it is very specific to pay X, Y and Z. So to have anything extra to do any sort of extended operational maintenance is difficult, but we try to partner and use the NGBs if anybody has any expertise in certain areas we bring them, we have them look at it and help us in that aspect.

Madam Chairman: In terms of the relationship with the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, Mr.

PS, what sort of role does the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs have in helping advance the state of the stadium—the stadia I will have to say the stadia and all the facilities on behalf of SporTT? Do you all do site visits of these various facilities?

Mr. Hosein: So, we work collaboratively with SporTT and officials from the Ministry and from SporTT may join visits. And in terms of identifying the areas for maintenance, and for development yes, joint visits are made between Ministry officials and SporTT.

Madam Chairman: So it means that you all would be aware of the challenges that SporTT suffer not just on paper but actually seeing the state of the various facilities?

Mr. Hosein: So—

Madam Chairman: So, let me give you an example. The spout I spoke about, you know of that?

Mr. Hosein: Okay, in addition to site visits yeah—

Madam Chairman: As regards the spout—

Mr. Hosein: Right.

Madam Chairman:—that I just spoke about, do you know about that?

Mr. Hosein: A report on it was submitted by SporTT to the Ministry.

Madam Chairman: Does that mean that you know about it? I am being very specific. Do you know about it?

Mr. Hosein: The particular spout that you are speaking to, I cannot say definitely about a particular spout but SporTT submits regular reports to the—

Madam Chairman: To the state of the—

Mr. Hosein: About the state.

Madam Chairman: Do those reports come to you?

Mr. Hosein: Those reports come to me, yes.

Madam Chairman: In terms of the site visits that you say that take place, what level of staff from the Ministry attends those site visits?

Mr. Hosein: It would be the particular objective of the site visit and it would be persons from the projects unit or from the research and planning unit.

Madam Chairman: Okay, let me ask you another question. Do you have within the Ministry's allocations any unspent balances that can be transferred or vired to the SporTT to deal with some of these urgent repairs of the stadia and the facilities?

3.05 p.m.

Mr. Hosein: Actually that is one of the areas that we have been looking at, and there are minimal

amounts that we are able to actually transfer or vire because of the expenditure in the Ministry.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So have you ever done any? You say there are minimal amounts. Have you done any at all?

Mr. Hosein: There was one occasion recently, but it was for a particular expenditure in SporTT that we did a virement, but in that particular case it was not a maintenance issue, but it was to cover an urgent expenditure by SporTT.

Madam Chairman: Okay. Let me ask you one other question Mr. PS, before I open the floor. Have you ever gone to any of the facilities? Any?

Mr. Hosein: Yes, I would have visited some of the facilities, yes.

Madam Chairman: Could you tell me when last and which one?

Mr. Hosein: I would have gone to Hasely Crawford and Jean Pierre, and this would have been a few weeks ago. I cannot recall.

Madam Chairman: Okay. And just before I leave, one last question. In terms of what the CEO, when we visited, explained to us, that the fee structure, for utilization of the facility—and I guess maybe it applies to all—that fee structure, the rates, have not been approved. What is the state of that?

Mr. Hosein: Yeah. I know there was an internal review at SporTT and they would have submitted a proposal to the Ministry that we are reviewing.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So do you have any idea of how long that will take? When that will become available—when those fees and rates will be approved, so that at least there would be some income, potential income generating stream?

Mr. Hosein: I cannot give a timeline, but after it has been reviewed we will submit it for consideration.

Madam Chairman: What are the challenges? What are the challenges that will impact on a delay of the review?

Mr. Hosein: Our human resources are limited in terms of our R&P unit.

Madam Chairman: Your what unit, excuse me?

Mr. Hosein: Research and planning.

Madam Chairman: Yes. You have limited resources.

Mr. Hosein: So there are vacancies and people have to double up in terms of doing the work in that unit, so there are times there are delays.

Madam Chairman: All right. So let me ask this then. You are not in a position to give us an idea

of when the approval of the rates and fee structure or when the proposal would even be considered for there to be an approval. You have any idea of how long? November this year?

Mr. Hosein: So we would review it. When we review it, we will have to submit it for approval by Cabinet. I cannot give a time frame with respect to—

Madam Chairman: When you will review?

Mr. Hosein: No, no, in terms of Cabinet, but in terms of the review process within two months we can do that.

Madam Chairman: So you expect that by November you will be complete with the review process?

Mr. Hosein: In terms of having a proposal to submit to Cabinet.

Madam Chairman: Okay. All right. And let me ask you one other question. There seems to be a feeling that even if SporTT were able to monetize these facilities that the income generated goes into the Consolidated Fund. Is that correct?

Mr. Hosein: Yes.

Madam Chairman: Okay. As PS, is there any mechanism which will be available that you can advise the SporTT how income which is generated that goes into the Consolidated Fund can be returned to them to use in the development and the maintenance of these facilities?

Mr. Hosein: We have had some discussions on that matter. I know there was some initiative in the past to do that. I think the CEO has more institutional memory on that and, perhaps, he can lend some assistance in that regard.

Madam Chairman: What I am asking is, and not so much what has happened, I am asking within your power, knowledge and expertise as PS, do you know of any facility that you will be able to advise SporTT that if they were to monetize these facilities—and, of course, the money goes into the Consolidated Fund—that the moneys can then be made to them, if not in total, but in part as part of their allocation?

Mr. Hosein: I think one of the challenges, and I will have to look at it in more detail, but there is the issue of the need for legislative review in terms of the Exchequer and Audit Act in order to facilitate that.

Madam Chairman: So you are really saying no? That is what you are saying, no? Because we are not talking about things that not in place, we are talking about as exists.

Mr. Hosein: As exists, I am not aware of such a mechanism.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So, I will give you an opportunity. As you said, you will need to check. I will give you an opportunity and we will tell you when you will answer us that. Okay? Because I think there is.

Mr. Hosein: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Mark: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I would like to ask Mr. Douglas Camacho, Chairman of SporTT, has SporTT in collaboration with the Ministry conducted any valuation of the current assets that fall under your organization's jurisdiction, so that you can indicate to this Committee and to T&T the stock, the inventory of the asset base of SporTT in value terms? Do you have—have you undertaken in collaboration with the Ministry, any such work?

Mr. Camacho: Through Madam Chair, the reality is we have not, one. Two, the properties you alluded to are not vested in SporTT, so they do not belong to us, so they would not find their way onto our balance sheet as the stock as you called it, the plant. But I think the plant, in total, if one were to take as they identified—all the stadia, all the things—if they were vested, I would imagine will run into probably a billion plus for sure. No formal valuation has been done as far as I am aware of. I mean the PS could speak for the Ministry but I very much doubt that. It will probably be carried in a book at cost to construct. So I guess that would be the short answer to that.

Mr. Mark: To what extent are these assets OSH compliant?

Mr. Camacho: Through Madam Chair, again, I could answer that in two ways. The limited funds that are available, the priority we have set is to try and ensure, at minimum, that we maintain them OSH compliant. So very often the choices that we make are not the choices if one did not have that as a consideration that we may otherwise have made. So we recognize the imperative to try and do that.

I am fairly confident that with a vigorous review by an agency like OSH—if they came and did a really rigorous put through of all the 20-odd facilities, there will be gaps notwithstanding what I have just said. So we try certainly to the extent that funds are available to primarily do OSH compliant—make sure that they are OSH compliant, but I am certain that there are some that will not be OSH compliant if one did a really rigorous review of them.

Mr. Mark: Either to Mr. PS or your good self, what is the current state of these facilities—the various stadia, the current assets that we have in Couva and you mentioned a number of indoor facilities? What is the current status of these facilities? Are they rundown? Are they running down? Are they at a level that PS you would say you are satisfied on behalf of the people of which you are custodian as PS with SporTT of these facilities, whether it is the Hasely Crawford, whether it is the Larry Gomes, we have the stadium or stadia in Tobago? What is the present status of these assets?

Mr. Camacho: I would take the first crack and I will give the PS the opportunity to add in his own. Certainly, the ones that fall under SporTT, and I say it that way because as the PS will identify, in

addition to the dozen or two that fall under SporTT, there are hundreds that do not. So, I would speak to the ones that primarily fall under SporTT, and the short answer could be all three. Some are reasonably up to international standard, notwithstanding the guttering-type thing. So that, for instance, at the recently concluded Water Polo Tournament, all the international people were wowing and wooing but, of course, it did not rain the day for them to see the spouting. So I would say reasonably good condition.

The Cycle Velodrome, the biggest problem which was the AC, just recently has been brought back online as one of the areas that the Ministry really helped us get some funds reallocated to. There is still some work inside of there. Thankfully, not in the public domain, but things like tiles, et cetera, that are in areas where the public ought not to be. So mixed bag there.

The Racquet Centre, probably one of the better conditions—you all have not had the chance, but I really urge you all to go up there and view that one. The one in Sangre Grande and all four, those four, were all the ones constructed by the Chinese group were never completed. Those facilities were never actually formally completed in its entirety. There are a number of defects that we had identified for them to complete, and we just got the approval literally, last week, to utilize some of the retentions from the ANSA bond which was used to fund it, to remedy some of the defects. So that one has a floor as an example, the flooring that was supposed to be coming from China, probably a slow boat from China. It is about three years now it is coming here. I do not know, maybe they lost where Trinidad is. So, you know, little things like that.

Some of the others, you asked like the Hasely Crawford and the Jean Pierre, those are really very aged, past their best. I know it is being reviewed to determine whether it is more cost efficient to retrofit it and really do it completely over or whether it would be more cost efficient to knock it down and reconstruct. Sometimes it seems painful but, you know, after 30, 35 years of use, it is often better to knock down and rebuild.

The one in Tobago that you alluded to, the Dwight Yorke—those four stadia—that has a lot of history that probably would be too much to get into today—that whole transaction. It was originally built, in great condition, the transfers have not happened back to the Government, and it is a whole process that is surrounding those four stadia that were built for the football 18 years ago that needs to be resolved for sure. In the interim, we are doing work on the Dwight Yorke, probably one of the more up-to-date ones. So that is pretty much on track to be completed, I guess, during this fiscal year coming up, would bring it really back up to top-class standard.

Ato Boldon, primarily because TTFA, as the CEO mentioned, puts a lot of time effort of their own into it and their own things, pretty reasonably good condition. Mannie Ramjohn, serious

work as well needs to be done there. The Larry Gomes, reasonable but, obviously, some work—the lighting and certain other things that need to be upgraded. Some of the indoor ones, I would let the CEO speak to those more fully because, you know, again the role we play is not the same role in each of the stadia. Some we manage, some we have responsibility for maintenance, some we have responsibility for both. None of them we actually have ownership of, to your first primary question, and in all the cases the reality is it is a mixed bag. I would say, some in good condition, but not top-of-the-line. Some definitely on the way down, to use the exact phrase and some definitely woefully inadequate, like the Hasely Crawford. We really need a lot of work at the Hasely Crawford and the Jean Pierre and the Woodbrook Youth Centre which is a part of that complex. A lot of work needs to be done there. So probably I would allow PS and you could speak to some of the others.

Mr. Mark: You can put that in writing for us as well. I want to ask a follow up on defects, Mr. Camacho. Could you share with this Committee what action, if any, has been taken to address what you just described as the slow boat from China or the non-responsiveness from the Shanghai Construction Group with regard to the structural damage caused by use of what we have been advised as inferior materials at those very important assets located in Couva?

Mr. Camacho: Well, we have been following them up. We had followed them up from well, even before I became involved in the thing which is a lil over a year, and from all the correspondence, I suppose the short answer would be to say that they have ignored us. They really have not responded, hence the reason we requested of our Ministry, our line Minister, to make a representation to the Minister of Finance to allow for the release of the retention so that we could use the retention to complete the work, because we feel that we will be able to do so with the funds that were held back for exactly that purpose. So I guess that would be the short answer with regard to that particular one.

Mr. Mark: You have any idea what is the value of the retention?

Mr. Camacho: It is about TT \$7 million.

Mr. Mark: \$7 million?

Mr. Camacho: “Uh um.”

Mr. Mark: Okay.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: Are there maintenance teams employed at the various sporting facilities—because now there are differences in the different sporting facility, some targeting different sports as the case may be—to ensure that these sporting facilities are maintained? Are there maintenance teams dedicated to the various sporting facilities?

Mr. Williams: Good afternoon member. At SporTT, regarding these facilities, we try to have like

a roving team that could go around from facility to facility, but we do not have a structure for each of these facilities as yet. Part of the remit of the consultants that we have on board is to tell us what the ideal structure is for maintenance for each one of these facilities and the type of staff and the level of qualifications that you need on board so that you could have these facilities maintained on a daily basis and lead to some sort of preventative maintenance rather than reactive maintenance. So, as of now, we have about five or six labourers that we juggle amongst the facilities that we have.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: Do you have a time frame in which you will have this thing sorted out?

Mr. Williams: They are committed to do that by the end of October as well together with the maintenance plan and schedule.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: Fees, you say that fees for the various sporting facilities go into the Consolidated Fund, but I am aware of other activities that take place at a number of our sporting facilities, Machel Monday. I know there is a problem in Tarouba with noise pollution and so forth. Tell me, the funds that are generated from these activities, where does that go or does that go to the Consolidated Fund or does that go somewhere else?

Mr. Williams: I could speak to all the facilities except the one in Tarouba because that is under UDeCOTT at this point in time, but all fees generated at all our sport facilities go into the Consolidated Fund.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: So even massive functions at Carnival, that goes into the Consolidated Fund and it is lost?

Mr. Williams: Everything.

Ms. Deonarine: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon everybody. Now, one thing I keep hearing from everyone who spoke so far is that you all have constraints. You have human resource constraints, you have financial constraints, you have capacity constraints. My question is for the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs. How regularly do you all conduct a review of the existing allocations to see where you all can make any amends or cuts so that you all can reallocate to other areas that are in urgent need? So, for example, when we conducted the site visit, we know that the damage that is being done is damage that can eventually lead to structural construction that needs to take place that may very well cost more than the operational maintenance of the building. So is there any rationalization of expenditure for reallocation to various areas of urgent need that is conducted and, if yes, how regularly you all do that?

Mr. Hosein: In terms of the Ministry, it is done with reports are generated on a monthly basis. In terms of expenditure, we look at trends, we look at how we can—we look at the priority needs at a particular point in time, and we look at how money can be transferred or vired to meet those urgent

needs.

Ms. Deonarine: So, at present, there is no area that that you can reduce expenditure to transfer to SporTT so that they can conduct urgent maintenance that is needed on the various sporting facilities and, especially, in the case of this case, it is renowned as a world-class facility, especially in our region. So, at this point, there is nothing that can be reallocated?

Mr. Hosein: It is—

Ms. Deonarine: Sorry. You are free to tell me that it does not work like that and clarify for me exactly how the process works.

Mr. Hosein: Okay. Actually, as I had indicated before, the allocation to SporTT is one line-item \$60 million, but the expenditure and commitment for SporTT under recurrent is about 17 million more than that. At times it is a juggling act and we try to—we have been looking internally to see if there is. And, as I say, on one particular occasion we were able to assist in that regard, but it is an ongoing and continuous challenge even within the Ministry as well.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. I understand. In your submission you would have mentioned that with the contractor, the Shanghai Construction Group, there should have been a one year of transfer of skills to locals. Is that correct?

Ms. Colley: Good day member. There would have been in the contract an agreement that the Shanghai Construction Group would have had to train our local personnel as part of the handover process. This would not have been executed in its entirety. We would have had a number of challenges with respect to having that completed. One of the things that was taking place was that the technical persons from the Shanghai Construction Group were not necessarily fluent in English and, as such, the knowledge was not being passed on as it should have been. So I would say although the process has, in fact, started, it was never executed as it should have been.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. Was consideration given to hiring a translator?

Ms. Colley: Sorry member. I should have indicated also that there was, in fact, a translator at the point in time, but the technical jargon that would have been used was not necessarily understood by the translator. This was one of the challenges we would have had at the time.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. So there were no other means in which you all could have overcome that challenge?

Ms. Colley: From what I understand, it was something that was discussed in detail. At the point in time, they would have tried different ways of having the matter resolved. But, as I said, the process commenced but was not completed, even in light of the attempts to have it resolved.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. I also saw in your submission that a lot of the fixtures and fittings that the

building is outfitted with are of Chinese origin and you cannot access them in the country. How are you all dealing with that challenge?

Ms. Colley: Okay. In instances where it can be replaced, where it is a feasibility measure to replace the fixtures and furnishings, that is the solution that has been put in place, but for areas where it is expensive furniture and fixtures, this measure still needs to be resolved and there are the limitations with the funding, and only until those limitations or a solution is found with respect to the funding, this can be resolved.

Ms. Deonarine: And what are some of the areas that are deemed to be more expensive?

Mr. Williams: Good afternoon member. One of the more expensive areas would have been the lighting for the facilities, and based on the assessments done by the consultants the bulbs that were used, the way the fittings are, everything came from China. So what we are trying to do across all the facilities constructed is to standardize and to basically retrofit all the facilities now with standard bulbs, standard lighting that we could get accessible locally or even if you import it, maybe from the US or so. But as it stands right now, every time these lights go down, we are always fighting a battle to try to get some bulbs or some sort of substitute.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. At present, do you have an estimate on how much that will cost?

Mr. Williams: I can give you an estimate for one facility. It is about \$200,000 just for the Aquatic Centre.

Ms. Deonarine: That is in total?

Mr. Williams: Yes.

Ms. Deonarine: Going back to the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, you mentioned the fee structure has been submitted to Cabinet for review. Was it the fee structure?

Mr. Hosein: No, no. It was submitted to the Ministry and we are reviewing it. And what we are saying is that in about two months' time, we will have a proposal that we can submit to our Minister to take forward to Cabinet.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. Can you describe for me the review process? What is the review process that you all are undergoing?

Mr. Hosein: The details of the review process?

Ms. Deonarine: Yes. Yes, please.

Mr. Hosein: Okay. So the document that would have been submitted by SporTT, we would review. Our R&P unit would undertake a review of this document and make some recommendations for consideration by our Minister.

Ms. Deonarine: And how soon this report will be completed?

Mr. Hosein: We expect that within two months.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. So it will take two months for the research person to review?

3.35 p.m.

Mr. Hosein: As we are saying, the R&P Unit is very short staffed so what you find is that one person might be doing two and three persons' jobs because of the unit being short staffed.

Ms. Deonarine: I also see that there were two DPSs together with yourself. Could you describe for us how the responsibilities are distributed amongst the three of you?

Mr. Hosein: In terms of the DPSs, one of the DPSs is responsible for more of the sporting issues and the other DPS in terms of youth development issues.

Ms. Deonarine: Madam Chair, that is all.

Madam Chairman: So thank you very much. PS, I wanted to find out in your submission at one stage you had referred to there being a sort of electronic mechanism to be employed. I am trying to find out the exact word. A site visit reporting system was supposed to be established by your Project Management Unit, so that when the officers went out and they visited the various projects and facilities, this would have allowed for real time reporting. I wanted to know where this has reached and what is the sort of compliance in its use by your technical officers? Maybe I could guide you to page 31 of the submission.

Mr. Hosein: The project team is headed by our project coordinator, and the officers within the team would make site visits and submit their reports to the coordinator. So I can ask the Project Coordinator to give us the status of that system, Ms. Khan.

Ms. Khan: Good day, Madam Chair. Coming into the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs in March of 2019 the SharePoint platform is currently being customized by the IT Unit. So to take our projects through to end of fiscal instead of holding up and not logging any of the site visits, we needed to work smart and swift. We were left with six months. So rather than hard copy transfer to soft copy, I reversed it. So we did soft copy. Whereas information is shared real time and as the technical officers return to the office, sometimes the following day, maybe two days after, update hard copy. That way I have access to information for reports a minimum 36 hours following site visits. If I sat and I waited on the hard copy it would have taken too long.

Madam Chairman: So when would have been say the last site visit conducted on any facility?

Ms. Khan: Site visits are conducted daily.

Madam Chairman: So you have like a sort of roster?

Ms. Khan: We have weekly team meetings, rosters Monday to Friday, three technical officers on site, sometimes multiple sites at times one day. We were really trying to get through all projects

this fiscal.

Madam Chairman: And that is how many?

Ms. Khan: Some projects, 23.

Madam Chairman: Twenty-three projects?

Ms. Khan: Yes.

Madam Chairman: So you say there are daily visits to the 23 projects?

Ms. Khan: End of fiscal we try to do daily visits to close off. However, we would have rostered, let us say, east, west we would have zoned at the start of the project cycle.

Madam Chairman: So that end of fiscal, special considerations?

Ms. Khan: Yes, yes.

Madam Chairman: Generally, how often would site visits be done to your various projects?

Ms. Khan: At this close off stage, three weeks to the close, daily.

Madam Chairman: I understand now is end of fiscal, so I am not talking about this month. I am talking about generally. Because what I understand is you started this new system in March.

Ms. Khan: Yes.

Madam Chairman: So you would have run it from some time after March, so let us say between April and June.

Ms. Khan: So, Madam Chair, there are three technical officers within the PMU at this point. I try to have at least one technical officer in-house and two technical officers on site daily. So that is the way we did it. So Monday, two would be out, Tuesday, and we rotate that way covering all facilities.

Madam Chairman: So if I am understanding you well, you are saying those two officers visit the 23 sites every other day?

Ms. Khan: We try to at least visit three sites.

Madam Chairman: Yes, but I want to know what you actually do.

Ms. Khan: We do. Again I try to zone. So the officer east, west and south, we try to—if there is an office day we do north facilities as well. The officer from south he would visit south facilities, all three, to save time because we were tight on time this fiscal, and we got it done.

Madam Chairman: Okay, just help me. You told me you have three officers.

Ms. Khan: Yes.

Madam Chairman: One is in-house.

Ms. Khan: Yes.

Madam Chairman: So you have two officers left to cover north, south, east and west?

Ms. Khan: Yes.

Madam Chairman: And they are allocated zones?

Ms. Khan: Yes.

Madam Chairman: So one officer will cover which zone, north and south?

Ms. Khan: Central, south, then we would have north and then we would have the eastern side.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So how is that allocated between the two, because the third one is inside?

Ms. Khan: No we rotate, so one officer is not stationed in-house permanently. We rotate so their files can be updated accordingly. Two officers would be on site. Let us say, for example, we cover Couva and Chatham one day. Office day for that officer would be, let us say, Tuesday if he was on site on Monday, and so forth.

Madam Chairman: So just now, in terms of your last site visit, so you would have had site visits yesterday?

Ms. Khan: Yes.

Madam Chairman: Those reports would be ready when?

Ms. Khan: Those reports would be ready tomorrow morning hard copy; however the soft copy was shared with the entire team already. Site photos, information received, any red flags, any issues to be dealt with.

Madam Chairman: So that in terms of you having almost a real time reporting system, how do you then—because I understand that you have limited personnel—

Ms. Khan: Correct.

Madam Chairman:—how does that impact on your ability to respond to those red flags?

Ms. Khan: That is the reason one technical officer is always stationed in house as well as myself. So this fiscal things moved really swiftly for the PMU Unit, March to September. Luckily there were not many red flags per se, but as I said the technical officer assigned to that zone, his office day would be the day following, so at no time there is a lag.

Madam Chairman: Okay, what would you consider a red flag?

Ms. Khan: Let us say the contractors, the full team of workmen were not on site and we are pushing to finish by the end of fiscal.

Madam Chairman: That would be considered a red flag?

Ms. Khan: Yes, every day counts.

Madam Chairman: What I would ask you to do is if you could submit for us, and before we close we will tell you by when, a status with respect to each of your 23 projects in terms of where they

have reached and in terms of the reporting systems.

Ms. Khan: Sure.

Madam Chairman: What I also need you to explain to us is that from the submission what we understood is that your SharePoint platform was now being customized, and to be illustrated to all. The PMU would be the Project Management Unit employees?

Ms. Khan: Yes.

Madam Chairman: So how many employees are these?

Ms. Khan: Nine.

Madam Chairman: So of the nine there are really only four?

Ms. Khan: Three technical.

Madam Chairman: So there are really only four people who are familiar with the system, and the four including you? That is how I come to four; I might be wrong.

Ms. Khan: No, different parts of the existing share drive, each member of the Project Management Unit can access at any point in time, whether site photos, site visit logs, issues, tender documents and so forth.

Madam Chairman: So then what does this statement mean? It is currently being customized by the IT Unit for the PMU and will be illustrated to the PMU employees in early fiscal 2020? Are you telling me that you have attained this goal or not?

Ms. Khan: We have attained the goal using a different system. So the project files are broken into sub files, and that worked for us very well March to September. However, the SharePoint platform takes the information on the hard form and translates it soft copy. But it is really the same information, it is just a little more time consuming, and that is really what the IT Unit has been working on.

Madam Chairman: So that is why you said you flipped it rather than doing hard to soft, you found another way of doing it?

Ms. Khan: Yes.

Madam Chairman: And rather than doing the hard to the soft, you found another way around it?

Ms. Khan: Yes.

Madam Chairman: So you are getting the advantage of the technology and the time efficiency, while not using the exact system in the manner in which it was intended?

Ms. Khan: Yes.

Madam Chairman: I understand you now. Yes?

Ms. Khan: Yes.

Madam Chairman: So let me ask you, in terms of completing the project as originally designed, when is that going to be done?

Ms. Khan: The PMU Unit would have met with the IT Unit last week and they promised early fiscal to tutor members of the PMU team. So I am thinking by the end of this month.

Madam Chairman: So that before the beginning of fiscal 2020 you would have completed it?

Ms. Khan: Yes.

Madam Chairman: So, explain to me then in terms of—now you are telling me it is 23, but I thought there were 21 projects, but you tell me there are 23.

Ms. Khan: Two re-tenders, Chair.

Madam Chairman: Two re-tenders?

Ms. Khan: Yes.

Madam Chairman: So of the 21 that were originally tendered and out, you said that two of them will be completed at the end of this fiscal?

Ms. Khan: Yes.

Madam Chairman: Is that on track?

Ms. Khan: I can confirm one of those two would be completed end of fiscal. The last project, that is taking us mid-October.

Madam Chairman: What project is that?

Ms. Khan: Mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades to the Cocoyea community swimming pool. The duration of this project is six weeks, so we really do not want to rush the contractor per se, so we are lapping into mid-October, latest 16th of October.

Madam Chairman: And therefore it will mean that by mid-October all 21 will be completed?

Ms. Khan: Yes.

Madam Chairman: And the two that are re-tendered, what is the status of those?

Ms. Khan: Those would be transferred to fiscal 2020.

Madam Chairman: So they have not begun at all?

Ms. Khan: No.

Madam Chairman: In terms of cost efficiencies, are you in a position to speak to that, in terms of those projects?

Ms. Khan: Yes.

Madam Chairman: So in terms of, I would say, the 20 that are more or less completed at this stage,

are there any that have cost overruns?

Ms. Khan: None of our projects. We have all been within our allocation. So 096 Swimming Pools, we have been within; 117, Indoor Sporting, within; Wide Ark, 010, as well as Youth Facilities, 009.

Madam Chairman: And all those projects that have been completed, those swimming pools are up and running?

Ms. Khan: No. It is a three-part. So when the contractor wraps up, the technical officers of the PMU would walk the facility with the contractor. The second walk through would be technical staff on their own, and the third walk through would be with the end user, Director Sport or Director Youth. So we are on to the second walk through before we close fiscal, before I hand over officially to Director Sport and Director Youth.

Madam Chairman: And all of those you expect the three stages of the 21?

Ms. Khan: Yes, yes.

Madam Chairman: The three stages of the 21 will be completed by the end of this month?

Ms. Khan: Yes, Madam Chair.

Madam Chairman: So that we would ask you to give us a report on the status of those.

Ms. Khan: Sure.

Madam Chairman: I want to carry the PS to the issue. I wanted to discuss a bit your fleet. And this comes out of just following up on an earlier enquiry we had found with respect to some shortcomings with the maintenance of the fleet card registers. So that in the submission you had indicated that the fleet card register is maintained and monitored on a daily basis by the fleet officer. I would want to know what controls are in place to support this conclusion.

Mr. Hosein: The fleet officer is the Administrative Officer II in the General Administration Unit. Mr. Delancy is the Administrative Officer V who the fleet officer reports to, and he can give some further details.

Mr. Delancy: Good afternoon Chair. I had personally prepared the fleet card registers, and they are being now maintained by the AOII manager of the fleet cards.

Madam Chairman: So that you check them regularly?

Mr. Delancy: Regularly.

Madam Chairman: And what would “regularly” mean, daily, weekly, monthly?

Mr. Delancy: Weekly.

Madam Chairman: So check them weekly?

Mr. Delancy: Yes.

Madam Chairman: So that in terms of what had occurred previously, in that, there were seven vehicles not being used, but their fleet cards were still operational, that would not occur again?

Mr. Delancy: Well we had recalled the—the Ministry's fleet cards are divided into three sections. We have general ad, we have the youth, and we have sport. So there are vehicles under these three divisions.

Madam Chairman: But do they all ultimately come to you?

Mr. Delancy: They ultimately come to me.

Madam Chairman: Okay.

Mr. Delancy: Four of the vehicles at Gen Ad are being serviced at least—

Madam Chairman: Four of the vehicles at where?

Mr. Delancy: Gen Ad—

Madam Chairman: General Administration.

Mr. Delancy: General Administration—are being serviced. So very shortly we will have the use of those vehicles and the cards would be in circulation. The other three vehicles are at Youth and they were recalled, because it would take some financing to really get them back to speed, and it will not be in this financial year.

Madam Chairman: So what is involved in the deactivation of a fleet card? Because my understanding from the Auditor General's report you would have had seven vehicles down, but the fleet cards would appear as if they were operational and functional. So it means that something was not done. What I am trying to understand is, you are now telling me that four are operational now. Are they operational or are they in the process of being repaired?

Mr. Delancy: The vehicles are being repaired as we speak.

Madam Chairman: All four or one is operational and three are being repaired?

Mr. Delancy: All four.

Madam Chairman: So when I am told one of these vehicles has been repaired and is now roadworthy, while repairs have been initiated to three of these, this is a wrong statement?

Mr. Delancy: We received one—we received one.

Madam Chairman: When was that received?

Mr. Delancy: Two days ago.

Madam Chairman: Two days ago?

Mr. Delancy: Yes.

Madam Chairman: So this submission I have is 10th of September.

Mr. Delancy: Sorry, wrong statement.

Madam Chairman: This was seeing in the future?

Mr. Delancy: Sorry about that, I gave a wrong statement.

Madam Chairman: Which one are you sorry for, the future or—

Mr. Delancy: No, not the future.

Madam Chairman: The 10th of September or the two days ago?

Mr. Delancy: The two days ago.

Madam Chairman: Okay, so I am giving you an opportunity to correct it.

Mr. Delancy: Yes, I will correct it.

Madam Chairman: Are there four being repaired or one has been repaired, and three are currently being repaired?

Mr. Delancy: Three are currently—

Madam Chairman: What you are telling me is that your fleet card register up and running and “wukking”. That is what you are telling me?

Mr. Delancy: Yes. Three are being repaired as we speak. We have received one.

Madam Chairman: You received that one when?

Mr. Delancy: I cannot recall.

Madam Chairman: Okay, so you will give me that in writing, and when you tell me the one, you will identify it by its registration number. Okay?

Mr. Delancy: Yes.

Madam Chairman: And you say that you have three that are being repaired?

Mr. Delancy: Yes.

Madam Chairman: And you expect that when?

Mr. Delancy: Possibly by December.

Madam Chairman: Possibly by December?

Mr. Delancy: Yes.

Madam Chairman: All right. So I come back to the question that we left off on. What is involved in deactivating the fleet card?

Mr. Delancy: They are just recalled from the various divisions and returned to the Treasury.

Madam Chairman: All right. So in terms of the three which cannot be repaired at all, you are going to deactivate them or they have been deactivated?

Mr. Delancy: Well, they were returned only yesterday, so we will return them to the Treasury.

Madam Chairman: All right. And so could you give us a statement of that with respect to the registration numbers of these?

Mr. Delancy: Yes.

Madam Chairman: And the three that you expect in December, they have been down for some time. Why were they not deactivated prior to now?

Mr. Delancy: I might not be in a position to answer it because I recently joined the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, so I am now taking action of these things.

Madam Chairman: So if next week some vehicles are not working and so on, as you told me your register is up-to-date and so on, what determines whether a fleet card should be deactivated?

Mr. Delancy: The duration of time that the vehicle would be down.

Madam Chairman: And that is determined by a mechanic or the fact that some time has passed and you did not send it anywhere and it is not working? What determines that?

Mr. Delancy: A determination by the mechanic. However, some of these vehicles are down for very, very minor things like brakes and things like that. But because of shortage of funding, tyres and things like that, batteries and things like that, they are down. No releases under these various things.

Madam Chairman: So it is a minor issue that you do not have funding for. So let us say like in these three it might have been tyres, it might be batteries and so on. The fact that it is a minor matter, is not a ground for deactivating the fleet card?

Mr. Delancy: No.

Madam Chairman: Even though the car might be down for 18 months? That is what you are telling me?

Mr. Delancy: Well, there is always expectancy that you get the funding, however things do not always work out that way.

Madam Chairman: All right. So that you are now operating this system, what you are telling me is that once the vehicle is down, there is an assessment by whom, you, a mechanic or whom to determine the nature?

Mr. Delancy: The mechanic.

Madam Chairman: And therefore if it is major, it is deactivated?

Mr. Delancy: Yes, it should be.

Madam Chairman: It should be. Regardless of whether you have the funds to fix it or not? Because I am trying to find out what really makes it deactivated.

Mr. Delancy: No. Well, the determination by the mechanic.

Madam Chairman: So it is purely a mechanical decision?

Mr. Delancy: Yes, certainly.

Madam Chairman: So it is a major issue, you deactivate the card even if you had the funds to fix it immediately. That is what I am being told?

Mr. Delancy: No well, the length of time that it would take to repair and if it is wise to repair it in the circumstances, because probably sometimes the age of the vehicle and stuff like that. You know, maybe they might consider—

Madam Chairman: I did not hear the end, sorry.

Mr. Delancy: I was stating that sometimes because of the age of the vehicle and the cost of repairs it might not be feasible to repair the vehicle. Sometimes we get an assessment from the Transport Division and they would indicate whether we should go ahead repairing the vehicle or not.

Madam Chairman: So the decision to deactivate is not solely the mechanic's decision.

Mr. Delancy: No.

Madam Chairman: It is a decision taken by you all?

Mr. Delancy: Yes.

Madam Chairman: Okay? Is that what I am understanding now?

Mr. Delancy: Yes, yes.

Madam Chairman: So that, if I am understanding, well you are saying if it is a minor matter, whether or not you have the money to repair, you do not deactivate? Agreed or not? You see, all I am trying to find out is what the system is that we all know, so that you do not find yourself in what happened last time.

Mr. Delancy: Previously.

Madam Chairman: Yes. So all I am trying to get from you is, what are the factors that are taken into account to deactivate, who makes that decision, so that it is clear going forward, particularly as you are the new man on the job.

Mr. Delancy: Yes. So we normally get an assessment from the Transport Division as well as the mechanic.

Madam Chairman: This is the Transport Division of whom, the Ministry of Works and Transport?

Mr. Delancy: The Ministry of Works and Transport, yes.

Madam Chairman: And who makes the decision to deactivate?

Mr. Delancy: Well, I make the decision.

Madam Chairman: Or you make a recommendation to the PS or you make the decision?

Mr. Delancy: I make a recommendation to the PS.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So in the case of these three, you have made a decision to deactivate?

Mr. Delancy: Yes, we have.

Madam Chairman: Have you made the recommendation as yet to the PS?

Mr. Delancy: It was discussed and—

Madam Chairman: Have you made the recommendation as yet to the PS?

Mr. Delancy: Yes, yes, yes.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So a determination, PS, has been made on these three?

Mr. Hosein: The recommendation would be made on file and submitted to me, but I have not received that file. So I am not sure that—

Madam Chairman: You all are in the same building?

Mr. Delancy: Yes, but it is only yesterday the file came in.

Mr. Hosein: Okay he is saying it is yesterday the file—right, so.

Madam Chairman: I tell you, this report “real” futuristic, you know. Because this report is telling me things that have not happened as yet. PS, I will really give you an opportunity to clear that up in a submission. Okay? Including what is the process of deactivation. Any member?

Mr. Mark: Mr. Herbert Delancy?

Mr. Delancy: Yes, that is right.

Mr. Mark: How long have you been Administrative Officer IV?

Mr. Delancy: December of 2018.

Mr. Mark: And where did you work before?

Mr. Delancy: Office of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Mark: Office of the Prime Minister. This deactivation of the fleet of vehicles, this is just one of your many functions?

Mr. Delancy: Yes.

Mr. Mark: Okay. Mr. PS, I know that the Sports Company, according to information submitted to this Committee, indicated that this company has an arrears of approximately \$10 million. That is, \$10 million is owed to T&TEC for electricity used. Can you tell this Committee how long it took for this amount to be accumulated and what is the Ministry’s plan or how are you planning to pay off this large fee owed to T&TEC? Can you share with us? I know it is the Sports Company but I know you have to give them money to pay, not so? You release money to the Sports Company, not

so, through transfers?

4.05 p.m.

Mr. Hosein: Okay. So in terms of recurrent, as I indicated, that they would submit a request to the Ministry.

Mr. Mark: Mr. PS, before you go on—

Mr. Hosein: Yes.

Mr. Mark:—can you tell this Committee whether you are aware as PS of the sum of \$10 million owing to T&TEC? That is the first point. Are you aware as PS, Ag.—acting that is—are you aware?

Mr. Hosein: I am aware that the Sports Company has number of outstanding claims including for security and for—

Mr. Mark: No. I did not ask all that.

Mr. Hosein: The specific figure—

Mr. Mark: Yes.

Mr. Hosein:—I cannot say at the moment whether it is \$10 million or nine or 12.

Mr. Mark: Well, I am telling you—

Mr. Hosein: Right.

Mr. Mark:—I am informing you, since the PS is not aware, I am informing you. Mr. PS? Since you are not aware, I am informing you that the Sports Company owns in arrears approximately \$10 million to T&TEC; I am putting that to you. And I am also asking you, now that you are aware of it, does the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs have a payment plan to reduce this huge fee owed to T&TEC by SporTT? Can you let us know or do you want to put that in writing, Sir?

Mr. Hosein: Okay.

Mr. Mark: Can I ask the CEO, Mr. Jason Williams, are you aware of this sum of money that is outstanding? And is this sum communicated to the PS or to anyone in the Ministry? Can you share with us?

Mr. Williams: I am aware of a significant amount to T&TEC, it could be in the region of about \$10 million. Our outstanding debts are communicated to the Ministry. We break them down in different categories, utilities, janitorial, maintenance, security, stuff like that. I am sorry, I did not get the last part of your question.

Mr. Mark: So these pieces of information would be communicated to who in the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs? Is it to some specific officer that you all liaise with as the Sports Company? Who?

Which officer?

Mr. Williams: We address all correspondences to the Permanent Secretary and the Deputy PS.

Mr. Mark: So the Permanent Secretary would have—can you tell us when this statement would have been submitted or when last you would have submitted this statement? Because, it is outstanding, so that it means that ever so often whether it is a quarterly basis or a monthly basis you would generate a statement. Not so?

Mr. Williams: The last statement that would have been submitted would have been as at the end of April. But since then you would have had monthly charges coming in up until the end of August.

Mr. Mark: And what it is “at the end of August”? Is it \$10 million, Sir?

Mr. Williams: It would suggest that it is in the region of about \$10 million.

Mr. Mark: About \$10 million, Sir, okay. I wanted to ask the PS, PS, the Chairman asked earlier when last or how often you visit these sites and whether they are joint visits. Can you tell this Committee as PS when last you visited physically the aquatic centre and the cycling velodrome? Can you tell this Committee when last you physically put in an appearance there?—so you will have an idea of what is taking place on the ground there. I can tell you I was there only recently with the Chairman and a number of our members.

Mr. Hosein: I recently joined the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs about seven or eight months ago and—

Mr. Mark: Okay.

Mr. Hosein: Okay.

Mr. Mark: So you are new to the job. Okay. I understand. Okay, Mr. PS, may I also ask, we were told in 2016 that, and maybe SporTT, Mr. Camacho or the CEO could also help us there, that in the terms of staff shortages and the need for you to train personnel to handle facilities and events there, that you would have formed a committee that would have partnered, or established a committee that would have partnered with universities, I would imagine UTT and UWI, to utilize students who require practical experience for events. Can you tell this Committee whether this has materialized? And if so, are these students compensated in any way? Can you tell us? Because we were told this in 2016, so we would like to know if any advancement would have been taking place or has taken place in this regard?

Mr. Williams: Okay. This was communicated in 2016. I can tell you now that this has not taken place. What we do allow from time to time is probably a couple interns from UWI in terms of sports science to come and work with Elite Development and Performance unit.

Mr. Mark: Okay. Mr. Camacho, can you share with this Committee, having regard to the potential,

the rich potential of generating revenues and income to that organization SporTT, even though it goes to the Comptroller of Accounts, can you tell us what marketing plans are being put in place to solve this recurrent problem of shortages of funding to your organization?—as also it relates to the underutilization of the facilities at those facilities there in Couva. Can you tell us what marketing plans are there in place or you are preparing to launch?

Mr. Camacho: Thank you, member. It directly goes to a question the Chairman asked that was not answered in her opening remarks about what are the plans. So I will speak specifically to the three, as they call them, the four national centres, meaning—leaving Sangre Grande out for the moment, I will deal with the racquet centre. So the comments that I am going to make relate to the racquet centre, the aquatic centre and the tennis centre—sorry, the cycling velodrome.

The three centres, the marketing—we have a unit within SporTT who is working in conjunction with the national governing body for those three sports in particular, cycling for the velodrome, the swimming one, and tennis, although it is called the racquet centre, it is the tennis component of the racquet centre we are working with.

The intention that we have is to make it what is called in the sporting world “centres of excellence” for the region. And what it means is that in partnership with the international bodies that govern those three sports, they give sanction to the country and the sporting facility.

What we are very close with right now is the one that relates to the racquet centre. They have identified exactly the needs to ensure that it meets their requirements, and it is not just the physical. It is going to be the human capital. So before they approve it, you have to be able to demonstrate that not just to maintain and run a physical facility, but you have the coaching capability, so that when international people come to use it, because remember it is going to be a centre, right, that they could get everything in one place.

Although that one is the most advanced formally, and we have written to the Ministry identifying the one gap there, requesting of them that we fill that one gap, they will give us the authority to fill the gap which has to do with the org structure to actually run the facility, that will go to the ITF in the month of—I want to say in the month of October, next week, well we are still September, month of September, for them to deliberate on. So that is very advanced.

In a practical sense interestingly enough is the aquatic and velodrome have been used in this way, though not yet formally sanctioned. So as we speak, I mean, we have requests because of the success of our cycling programme to bring—for international cyclists to come here and train. So we are not just talking about hosting a meet, we are talking about sustainable stuff where schools, universities, when they have their cold weather could come here to make use of the facilities.

We have requests from cycling at the moment, cyclists from outside of Trinidad to come, and the first question they ask is not the quality of the facility, it is what human capital do you have to support? You know, I am pleased to say that we do have in Trinidad and Tobago, certainly in the cycling front, a world-class coach at the moment, we are just fortunate that we have a world-class coach who is actually also responsible for the facility, and we have a lot of the support personnel in the various disciplines required, particularly where it comes to strength and conditioning and the physical aspects. We are now building some capacity in the behavioural ones, you know, the psychologists, et cetera, and that is working well.

Just by coincidence I had a meeting with our current premiere swimmer who was able to attract another Olympics swimmer to come and train over the last couple of weeks at our swimming facility. We do not have the coaching capability there at the moment, but of course, they are both aligned with international coaches, and we were able to get their programmes from the international coach and supervise locally by our trained sport administrators from our unit, from our Elite Development and Performance Unit, and they were very high in praise and complimentary about what we have to offer.

So our programme is to really ensure that we can do that. That takes us so far to the point where we get people coming in and generating funds. Bear in mind unless there is a way, as the Chairman had suggested, if there is some way for all the funds going into the Consolidated Fund, and I would not have used the words myself, that therefore is lost, it is just available for different spend. So it may go from SporTT into the Consolidated Fund and be used for, I “doh” know, energy or another Ministry, national security, or something else however the Consolidated Fund is distributed; so that is one option.

The other thing is that, we had met as a board, the current board which is relatively new itself, less than a year or just about a year, with the Minister of Finance, because we know that Corporation Sole, I think, is the official repository of the assets of the State to enquire whether we could seek major global sponsorship and brand stadia. Now it is not something, one, that we have done in the past, in my past life in sport, often requested. Policies over the years have been, you know, this belongs to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, is a what? We “doh” want any branding on it, I mean, that was maybe a concept that personally I think has never had a time, but for being kind, I would say, outlived its usefulness, and he is not averse to that, of course, value for money, you are not going to give up our stadium for pennies. So, you know, if one could get an international sponsor and likely, or even a local, if local firms are prepared to pay the kind of price to rebrand a stadium, so to take, you know, the aquatic centre and you brand it, let me use a local

one, BPTT, Aquatic Centre, I do not know if they will be willing to, but to use just one because it is a local one, or anyone, and international one, Coca Cola, you know, something that does not run afoul, so not alcohol, there are certain rules about that, although international, you “doh” worry with that, but anyway, could brand it.

It is another thing that the Minister of Finance is not averse to. He says just bring it as a specific proposal not a concept. He said, no problem with the concept, bring it specific and bring it with value. Our own approach to that has been to really try to cost what a proper—which is part of the exercise that the CEO spoke about, get a real cost of maintaining a facility in a first-class way, not the meeting OSHA standards, bare minimum, no. Maintaining it properly so international people would want to come here, and people would be prepared to put their name to a brand, because when they put their name, they make demands on how it is to be maintained.

So the proper costing of that and offer it, at least, to cover that cost so all that other type of marketing we speak about would generate the surpluses to then fund the programmes for us here in Trinidad and Tobago. So that is the key focus, and it is for those three centres initially, because those three sports are sports that facilitate that. I have not called football because TTFA is well on their way to doing their own construct like that. We know the history. Centre of Excellence in Macoya was supposed to be that however, that panned out—is a whole other story not for today, it has not worked the way that it ought to have done maybe.

There is a second effort being made at the moment by the TTFA, as you know, they have put up a 72-room hotel, it is supposed to be opened next month, I think everything is in place now for it as a go, looking to be self-funding and to have an allocation right there in Couva, so that as you attract people, and as we, our own national teams need to train, we have a place and a focal point. So I did not bring them into it, the TTFA and football, and whatever their internal issues are that hopefully they will resolve.

I do think it is a model that if supported by all, and I mean by the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago and by the corporate Trinidad and Tobago, by the people of Trinidad and Tobago, I think will start us on the journey to be self-sufficient, and I think if we can get to the point where these sporting things pay their way so it is not a drain on the Treasury, and that if you like, from an economic perspective, and I am not an economist, let me put that on the table up front, but from an economic perspective, it is value added, meaning, the ancillary things, the hotel rooms, the spill out of that is critical.

We have also met with the new chairman of—I am going to say this wrong—the tourism people. I know the name keeps changing, I think the current one is the Trinidad and Tobago, no,

Tobago is not in it, Trinidad Tourism Limited, maybe, TTL, I think might be the acronym; Trinidad tourism, the current one that deals with Trinidad. We met with the current chairman with a view to what really constitutes sports tourism. Sports tourism is not hosting an event here. That is not sport tourism. Sports tourism is attracting the country as a destination for sport, people come, they participate, universities come in their spring break, it is not just hosting an event.

So I think we have some ideas. It does require, like everything else, investment, whether the investment comes through the State via grants through the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, whether it comes from the Ministry of Tourism in some ways, whether it comes through the corporate sector, when they start to see the opportunity. And I suppose I would argue, and we the sports people of Trinidad and Tobago primarily need to get our house in order and upgrade our own capability and capacity so that we are seen as viable and not as a “I am not putting money on that, because that has confusion and bacchanal”.

I think if we can move away from that and that is a mantra many of you all may have heard me preach in many fora, I think we are well on the way, we have everything that it takes. We are per capita, the most richly served country in sporting facilities in the world per capita. If we had hotel rooms, we have the capacity to host major games. We do not have the hotel rooms, but certainly everything else. In terms of actual facilities per capita, there is no country in the world with more than ours.

Madam Chairman: Member Antoine.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: Yes. Good afternoon once again. Last week I had a visit in my constituency office from three youth development officers who came and said that they were newly employed and that they were assigned to my area, D’Abadie/O’Meara, and that they were looking for me to give them introductions to youth groups, youth sporting groups in my constituency, and they used two words that were highlighted “at-risk youth” and “funding”. They said that they would possibly have funds to deal with the youths in the constituency.

The first question that I would like to ask: What unique skills, qualifications and experience do these contract officers attached to the youth division have in order to meet the needs of the youths at-risk?—because they say that they have been recently employed and they are going to deal with the youth at-risk. What skills and qualifications are they coming with to deal with the youth at-risk in terms of the constituency?

Mr. Hosein: We, the Ministry, recently employed 30 Youth Development Officer Is, and they are field officers and they have been assigned to various districts. In terms of the qualifications and the experience required for the positions, the Director of HR can give those details.

Ms. Smith-Simmons: Good afternoon. The minimum requirements for the position of YDO I is a degree in one of the social sciences specific with a degree in social work or those areas of competencies, as well as at least five years' experience in youth work.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: They will be focusing on youth rather than sports?

Ms. Smith-Simmons: They are specific to youth, the Division of Youth Affairs.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: And could you explain how these Youth Division Officers will be assigned in order to serve the districts?

Ms. Smith-Simmons: I will refer you to the Director of Youth Affairs who has purview for that.

Mr. Kent: The assignment of the officers was based on the administrative districts, the nine administrative districts in Trinidad which would be St. George East, St. George West, St. Andrew, St. David, Nariva/Mayaro and so on, and based on the population density in each of the districts, the number of officers assigned to that district was worked out.

Some, if I could go further, maybe, some of the issues considered, we had an intensive three-week orientation programme and that we looked at people's areas of residences, access to vehicle, the skill set that the officers came with and we tried to build teams. So based on that, persons were assigned to the various districts.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: What is the role and functions of these Youth Development Officers?—both I and II.

Mr. Kent: The Youth Development Officers would be primarily responsible for servicing youth led and youth-serving organizations at the community level, and based on the service that they provide, they will be able to come up with programme ideas, as well as the organization in terms of training, providing training and support for institutional strengthening of the youth organizations that can lead to the reestablishment of a national youth council of Trinidad and Tobago.

They will also be responsible for networking with other community-based organizations that may not be youth based, faith-based organizations in terms of collaborating, in terms of delivering programmes and activities for the engagement and participation of young people.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: And what mechanisms would be used to evaluate the impact of the work being done by these youth development officers?

Mr. Kent: One, the performance appraisal management system for contracted officers will be used. The youth officers II, as well as Youth Development Officers II responsible for the different districts that they report to directly who will provide clinical supervision and coaching for these new officers, and they would be evaluated based on that, as well as it relates to programme delivery. The Monitoring and Evaluation Unit is involved from the inception of all projects, and the monitoring

and evaluation framework is developed and that is used to measure the impact of programmes.

The tasks and standards have been developed based on the job description for each of the positions, and the officers were exposed to that information during the orientation, so they already know the tasks and the required standard, performance standard for their position based on each task that would be performed which they will be judged on as well.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: That sounds like you are looking at the Youth Development Officers, but is there any mechanism to look at the youth organizations that will be impacted by these youth officers?

Mr. Kent: As I said, based—the Monitoring and Evaluating Unit will always, for all our programmes, development and monitoring and evaluating mechanism framework that we use. Complementary to that would be our evaluation forms that we distribute at every activity, every programme, that we get feedback from the organizations for, as it relates to the direct visits and community servicing, we have our district visit forms that the officers will take to the organizations, they will complete with their recommendations on it, and a representative from the organization will sign as proof that the officer came, and the feedback will be filtered back to the head office through the supervisors. And we have a weekly and monthly reporting system in place for feedback on the evaluation received from the organizations.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: And would this require additional staffing requirements to the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs to deal with these youth officers and the groups that they would be impacting?

Mr. Kent: Yes. Well, actually we need more staff. The 30 Youth Development Officers are not exactly what is required, but we are working with what we have right now. So more officers, as a matter of fact, we had two youth officers II in the past to supervise all the youth officers throughout Trinidad, and the Cabinet has granted approval of engagement of two Youth Development Officers II which we are happy to have, and I mean, we need additional staff to be more effective especially at the middle management area. Currently, we operate without an assistant director, so most of the work load, the youth officer III who should be overall in charge of the district servicing function has to double up in terms of some of the functions that would go to an assistant director.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: You see, in your submission you said that you are dealing with 400,000 youths in Trinidad and Tobago. One of the issues that that always comes up when I am dealing with my constituency is, “What are we doing for youths”. I do not want us to start and stop. If you have hired 30 Youth Development Officers, that is good, they are going to be field officers, but within the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, what are you putting in place to now deal with these 30 youth

officers and deal with the 400,000 youths that we are dealing with, some of them at-risk?

Mr. Kent: Well, the reality of the situation is that the Youth Development Officers I report to a Youth Development Officer II or a youth officer II in the particular district. We try because of the limited resources, we try to meet as a district servicing fraternity on a weekly basis to provide the kind of support and guidance that they may need out there, and the youth officer III and myself will visit from time to time the districts offices, liaise with the officers, see what is happening out there, and based on the reports that come in, these weekly meetings with the officers guide how we can sustain and maintain our presence out in the community and be more effective in what we do.

4.35 p.m.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: Is there an action plan at the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs to deal with targeting of these youth at risk that you have now hired 30 Youth Developmental Officers to deal with it?

Mr. Kent: Over the past year, year and a half per se, we would have rolled out a robust youth development agenda to cater to the needs of all youth, including at-risk youth and we are still developing programmes to meet the needs of specific catchment of young people. We are now working on an empower programme to deal specifically with young males. We have implemented our life skills programme from 2018 which led to a LEAP—leadership, entrepreneurship, activism, patriotism—programme which has been very successful at six or seven locations in Trinidad and Tobago. The need is out there and the young people at all levels including at-risk youth are really moving towards the programmes that we implement. We have our seven youth facilities, from Los Bajos right back to St. James, and we develop programmes on a continuous basis at these facilities and the young people are gravitating towards it.

In terms of formalizing the engagement and participation of youth, we are working feverishly with these new Youth Development Officers on our national youth organization registration drive where we would be able to identify the youth organizations within each district and establish our district councils that can lead to the National Youth Council where the youth issues can be ventilated at a national level through a formal structure, youth development structure.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: And as these activities, do they recognize, for instance, the special youths, for instance, who participate in Special Olympics but also youths in the LGBTQI community.

Mr. Kent: The programmes that we design and implement are all embracing. They are open to all young persons; we advertise nationally, on the newspapers, the local media and we do from time to time have persons who are differently-abled participating in our programmes.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: And the LGBTQI community. Because as a Member of Parliament I have

these people coming to my office asking questions about, you know, what is available to them as the case may be.

Mr. Kent: Well, we have not advertised or targeted specific catchment of youth and when young people register that is not a criterion on our registration form. So we are not able to identify someone from the LGBTQI community. So it is possible that members of that community are participating in our programmes but we have not singled out that category. As a matter of fact, I will say maybe—might be bias but the differently-abled community is singled out. If you have a challenge also then we need to know how we can cater to your needs in terms of accessing programmes so that particular community would be singled out on our registration, but the LGBTQI, no.

Mr. Mark: I just want to follow up quickly on my colleague's—some of the areas that he had just identified. Mr. Director of Youth Affairs, mention was made of 400,000 youths and reference was made that we are trying to target at-risk youths. Can you share with this Committee whether the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs as Director, what percentage of those 400,000 youths have been identified as youths at risk. And as such there will be a concentrated effort at getting at those youths at risk, given the programme outlined. Have you been able to identify what percentage of the 400,000 youths, these 30 officers would be going after in saving them from further harm and/or injury.

Mr. Kent: We have not specifically identified the percentage of at-risk youth. We work closely with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Education would have published a list of high-risk schools and we are also represented on the National Crime Prevention Programme where at-risk communities were identified. And we try to develop programmes and target communities and schools, high-risk schools and at-risk communities, but we have not identified a percentage of at-risk youth.

Mr. Mark: Is this plan to identify or to select and deploy these 30 Youth Development Officers, is that part of a strategic development plan of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs? Within what context have these youths been selected and deployed? Is it part of a plan? I am just trying to understand if the Ministry is working with a plan.

Mr. Kent: We have a National Youth Policy 2012—2017 that we continue to implement while we work on developing our new national youth policy. The first round of consultation has been completed and we have now advertised for a consultant. We were trying to do it internally but we realize we need the support of an expert in the area. We had a policy and programme coordinator in the Ministry who has since left the Ministry. So we have advertised to get a consultant on board

to facilitate the second round of consultation. But coming out of the first round of consultation a number of thematic areas have been identified and the need for a presence in the community has been highlighted if we are to meaningfully engage young people and encourage youth participation at all levels of development in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Mark: You talked about nine administrative areas but we talk about 30 development officers, youth officers. Nine by three is 27. Where are the other three youth officers going? Are they going to be deployed in those same nine districts?

Mr. Kent: Well, the math was not done in that way, member. But as I said earlier it is based on the demographics, because an area like St. George East, St. George West, which is our most high population of youth, that district ended up with 10 officers: five in St. George East, five in St. George West. For example, St. Andrew/St. David, there are four officers. St. Patrick East and West, two officers each, all right?

Mr. Mark: Would you be kind enough to provide this Committee with a submission in writing giving us a detailed appreciation of what you are saying so rather than you take up a lot of time advising us. Maybe you can put it in writing.

Mr. Kent: Certainly.

Mr. Mark: And finally before I go on to another point, can you tell this Committee what criteria—no, not criteria—how are these Youth Development Officers selected? Was it advertised in the newspapers? How was it done? Can you share with this Committee how these 30 young persons were selected by the Ministry and ultimately deployed? Can you tell us how this was done?

Mr. Kent: I will defer to, Chair and PS, to Director of HR to deal with the recruitment.

Ms. Smith-Simmons: The position of YDO I and YDO II were two of the positions among 17 positions that were advertised on the contract establishment for the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs. Advertisements were done in the newspaper and our website. A consultant was hired to provide the human resource and recruitment and selection services. The candidates would have gone through the process of selection with the service provider and a list was generated after the process.

Mr. Mark: You say 17?

Ms. Smith-Simmons: Seventeen contract positions.

Mr. Mark: Yeah, were advertised? What about the rest because it is 30 officers you talked—

Ms. Smith-Simmons: No, no, no. Seventeen positions, two of which was YDO I and YDO II.

Mr. Mark: Okay, okay. I just would like to deal with another topic here, it is a subject. The overseas travel, Mr. PS, in your submission and I can guide you on this one. I think that is on pages

7 and 8 respectfully. You identified a list of persons and areas that they went, destinations that is, the purpose of the trip, et cetera. Can you tell us, first of all, the cost associated with these things? Because there was no cost associated with the submission.

Mr. Hosein: Okay. I can provide that in writing.

Mr. Mark: You can provide that in writing, so you would be able to provide that in writing. As I am on this matter may I also ask, like the Auditor General in—the report of the Auditor General, April 2019 on page 24, six contracts for expenditure, totalling 2,441,864.00 were not produced. Of course, you have provided us with some of the names, or description I should say, of the contracts. Can you provide this Committee with those contracts, all of them?—those contracts that you have identified on pages 19 and 20 of your submission which the Auditor General is saying at the material point in time the Ministry was not able to produce. Can you provide this Committee with copies of each of those contracts?

Mr. Hosein: Yes.

Mr. Mark: Okay. Madam Chair, I think I would have at this time, I think I have been able to address some of the issues I wanted to address.

Madam Chairman: Before I call on you Sen. Deonarine, I just wanted to ask, following from the questions of the contracts. PS, what I found interesting is the one with the hockey turf. We got a status of the project which, if I recall well, I think that has been completed, okay? I think the turf has been installed? Up to now the turf has not been installed? So the status that it is still being installed, that is the current status of it? PS?

Mr. Hosein: Yes.

Madam Chairman: Okay, so does that not have implications for our team and participation in some, I think it is Pan American Hockey Championship in 2020. Does it not have implications for that?

Ms. Colley: Can I just be allowed to respond?

Madam Chairman: Sure, thank you.

Ms. Colley: The hockey turf is currently being installed. We are currently at 65 per cent complete of the new installation. There were some “repatriation” works being done on the subsurface also; that is almost complete. It is expected that the turf will be certified by the 20th of October of this year.

Madam Chairman: So we are behind schedule with this, are we not?

Ms. Colley: We have had some challenges because of the letter of credit that had to be completed in order to engage the contractor. That process would have taken a while. We had to facilitate the process through Bank of Fargo in America in collaboration with FCB. That process to obtain the

letter of credit took quite some time. This would have been the reason for most of the delays on this project.

Madam Chairman: So let me ask something. Is this an artificial turf or this is natural?

Ms. Colley: That is correct. It is an artificial turf.

Madam Chairman: And what sort of maintenance programme we have in place to ensure that we get the lifespan of the turf?

Ms. Colley: I will direct this question to our CEO who has more say in terms of the facilities.

Madam Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Williams.

Mr. Williams: So we have would have purchased a turf cleaning machine a few months ago. That in itself will extend the life of the asset. The guys who are actually installing the turf right now, they will also train the employees in terms of what the proper maintenance is on the turf. We already had the turf cleaning machine, the people who we purchased that machine from, they came and had training done in terms of how to use the machine. So how to use the machine together with the proper treatment on the turf should be able to extend the life of the turf.

Madam Chairman: The machine has a warranty?

Mr. Williams: Yes. I think it is three years.

Madam Chairman: So you say by the middle of next month we should have that turf installed?

Ms. Colley: That is correct. By the 20th of October we should have it certified. It would actually be installed before that date, but there is also need for certification on the turf.

Madam Chairman: And let me ask this, so that is outdoor?

Ms. Colley: Yes. It is in fact outdoor.

Madam Chairman: What is the status of the indoor facilities?

Ms. Colley: I will direct this question to the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs with respect to the indoor facility, that is not currently under sport purview, [*Crosstalk*] it is not under Sports Company Limited purview, sorry.

Mr. Hosein: The Director of Physical Education and Sport would provide the answer.

Mr. Charles: Good day, Chair. The Eastern Regional Indoor Facility, I believe that is the one you are speaking of, Chair? Yes? The condition of that facility, it is in fairly good condition. There are currently works taking place on it to upgrade and take care of certain aspects of it. It is in high use. It is one of our busiest facilities.

Madam Chairman: So if you could just maybe expand on what you mean in “fairly good condition” and “certain works to upgrade”, so we could get a sense of what supports those conclusions and also

if you can give us an idea of how soon all of these certain works that you are going to identify are going to be completed, so that we would be assured that the facility is up to a proper standard.

Mr. Charles: Yes, Chair. There are electrical works to be done that are 100 per cent completed at eastern regional right now. There are some bird-proofing works also to be done, currently taking place there. I will ask the project coordinator to give her percentages on that. Also the—that is with regard to the works that are currently taking place at eastern regional. Apart from that, the condition of the facility is in good condition. We have some maintenance issues, as with all facilities, regarding some plumbing, et cetera, but we are taking care of those.

Madam Chairman: Could I ask you because maybe, because this was not identified as a specific item in the questions that we sent, may make a fulsome answer a bit difficult because maybe you do not have the information at hand. So if we could get in more specific details the question with respect to the status and condition of the indoor hockey facility which you call Eastern Regional Facility.

Mr. Charles: Certainly, Chair. Just one matter of note, it is not an indoor hockey facility, Chair. It is simply an indoor facility. What operates inside, it is a wooden floor.

Madam Chairman: Right. So hockey is done there too among other things. That is what you are trying to tell me.

Mr. Charles: Hockey does not take place indoor at that facility. Only outdoor.

Madam Chairman: Okay, so let me ask. Does indoor hockey take place anywhere?

Mr. Charles: At the Woodbrook Youth Facility.

Madam Chairman: That falls under who?

Mr. Charles: Sports Company.

Madam Chairman: So I will ask Sports Company about that. And just let me, while I have the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs here, just want to ask the CEO about the non-profit sporting organizations. I believe your allocation was \$11 million this year.

Mr. Hosein: Yes.

Madam Chairman: And I see—this would be what, grant funding would be given? A grant.

Mr. Hosein: Yes.

Madam Chairman: And I see it has been given to 68 different organizations. Do I take it that all these organizations would be involved in sports?

Mr. Hosein: Either sporting organizations or they would have organized sporting events and they would have requested grant funding from the Ministry.

Madam Chairman: Okay, so let me ask, say for instance the Kick Off Promotions Limited, which I think is at number 64 on your listing. Could you give me an idea of what kind of—the amount they

would have been given and what would have been the criteria for them to qualify?

Mr. Hosein: I do not have the figure with me, but in terms of the criteria for qualification, the Director of Physical Education will provide—

Mr. Charles: Good afternoon again, Chair. Organizations that apply to the Ministry for grant funding have to go through a particular process and some of which we would have provided for you previously. We also, through our sport officers, would visit and examine what—if it is an ongoing activity, for example, we would visit the activity to ensure that the activity is actually taking place. Also, the submission that comes in, we would assess it and there is usually a—well, there is a requirement for a covering letter from the national body.

So, for example, if you are having a football activity we would require a covering letter for that if you are not a direct sporting organization per se. We also have service level agreements for organizations with regard to follow-up action after the event to ensure that we get all our documents in subsequent bills, et cetera, so that the funding that was given, it is not general funding, it is always specifically targeted to an aspect of the activity. And just as a for example, prize money is not something that we give grant funding for. Right?

Madam Chairman: So could you give us an idea of like, when you say “to a specific aspect” of the activities? Let us take any one of these 68, if you could give us a real-life example that I could understand how it is applied. Any one of the 68 there.

Mr. Charles: Okay. For example, with National Governing Body, the funding will be given towards a sport development activity. They would have submitted in their documentation what all their plans are regarding the development of the sport and, within our analysis of their budget and what we have as well as what they are asking, we will pinpoint some part of that and provide funding towards that.

Madam Chairman: Right. So let us go back to the example I have, like Kick Off Promotions Limited. That is not a national governing body.

Mr. Charles: That is not a national governing body.

Madam Chairman: And from the name of it, it does not appear to be a sporting entity.

Mr. Charles: Right.

Madam Chairman: Okay. If you could give me an example when you say it would not be like for medals or prizes.

Mr. Charles: Now, when I say prizes—now, prize money, the Ministry does give funding towards the purchase of medals and trophies. Usually, well, most of the time branded by the Ministry on some occasions where there are very specialist type of trophies that are given, then it is a little

different there, but there is always that Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs branding present there.

With regard to an organization such as Kick Off Promotions, or even Lequay Edge, where you are hosting a sporting activity, so we would look at the various components of your budget and ascertain which parts of it fall within the parameters of what we can give funding to, such as if it is for—I am trying to think of a line item here right now.

Madam Chairman: You took two perfect examples because Lequay Edge sounds to me like a limited liability company. I do not know. So those are two perfect examples I think that you could deal with that, and Kick Off Promotions Limited, again which appears to be a limited liability company.

Mr. Charles: So for equipment that will be used at the event, that is something that we would use; and specifically also with equipment we would want to see that that equipment stays within the organization, it is not sold but it is used for the competition and that the competition is one, that is going to be continuous. It is not just a one-off competition, it is something that is going to continue. So that if we give this now, I am not going to be seeing another request next year you asking me for money for equipment.

5.05 p.m.

Madam Chairman: So how do you ensure that it is not sold?

Mr. Charles: Based on the post-event, we will have a report from them and we also have an officer at the event so that we will see what is going on, and through the reports we will see the inventory to ensure that it stays where they say it will stay.

Madam Chairman: So the reporting is continuous after the event?

Mr. Charles: Well, depending on the nature of what is going on. If it is a league, at the end of the league we will get a report from the league, and then when next the league is going to start they will have to report to us what is going to happen because we seek to establish a continuing relationship with whosoever we partner with.

Madam Chairman: All right. So am I understanding, then, with these 68, this would not be one-off funding? It would be continuous so that next year it would be the same 68?

Mr. Charles: Not necessarily funding, but a relationship where we could look at what development is taking place with them. Not always the nature of our relationship is funding. We try, as a matter of fact, to do as much capacity building within organizations as possible, also to interact with these organizations; see what community involvement they have and liaise with communities and try to get a programme running there. So it is not always funding that we will seek to do.

Madam Chairman: Yes, but these 68 we are dealing with here, you would have given—

Mr. Charles: These 68, some of them we will see again. On that list of 68, you have national governing bodies, so it is expected that every year there will be some funding that would be required for their developmental programme. There would also be some organizations that are sport related but not national governing bodies in which we have a relationship with.

Madam Chairman: Right. So I think those are easy to explain. Tell me something like a MAD Model TT Events. Those are the ones that I am trying to understand. How are they selected? What are the criteria? What is it used for? If it is equipment, how do you ensure that the equipment is kept and safeguarded and that there is a continuous involvement in sport? So I am not really questioning things like the National Kickboxing Council of Trinidad and Tobago, or the—I think you have, like the Olympics Association. I am not really questioning those. Some of these, by their names they appear to not be in the main sporting facilities, organizations, but what you tell me is they may be running a sporting event. Let us say somebody like the Windward All Fours Association, those kinds of bodies are the ones that I am really trying to get an understanding.

Mr. Charles: Right. So, for example, the last one that you spoke of, Chair, Windward All Fours Association, that is an organization that we are seeking to run leagues within their community on a continuous basis. So this was actually the first time that they had approached us for assistance. And I am using the word “assistance” instead of simply funding, because sometimes they would want some capacity building; they want an officer there to help guide them with how to develop their product.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So let me ask something, Sir.

Mr. Charles: Sure.

Madam Chairman: So these that are here—and I am referring to page 15 of your submission—of these 68, it may not have been monetary funding that you gave them. That is what you are telling me?

Mr. Charles: Now these, as would have been asked, they would have all received some form of monetary, some sort of funding from the Ministry.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So that that is why I am asking the question: How would they qualify, particularly where you are saying it is a first-timer? Right? So that there is no history of sustainability, of continuity. How do these qualify?

Mr. Charles: Right. So they would have—that organization would have to be registered with the Ministry of Legal Affairs. We would have to go on the ground and see what is going on with them, ask questions within communities if it is a new organization. On many occasions you have organizations that have been working beforehand but they have not approached the Ministry before,

so we would be able to go in and get some sort of background on them that way. And so, that is through their submissions and our own groundwork we would be able to identify—okay, yes, these are organizations that are viable, real organizations and not just a person with a good printer and send something into the Ministry.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So let me ask something. The Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute, I guess this is Tobago-based.

Mr. Charles: Yes.

Madam Chairman: Yes? Would you, in terms of having assessed them for grant funding, have checked to see whether they would have obtained funding from the Tobago House of Assembly—one of the Divisions; the sporting Division of the Tobago House of Assembly?

Mr. Charles: Yes, Chair, we would have communicated with the sport Division at the THA directly and they would indicate to us what level of assistance, if any, they would have been given and what type of assistance would be given, so that will help shape what we will do on our side.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So you look for areas of duplication or not?

Mr. Charles: Of course, areas of—and we do not, it is a hard practice—we do not give funding for something that they would be doing.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So the Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute, this would have been for an event or for some continuous league that they have?

Mr. Charles: I cannot say offhand right now, Chair, but I could get that information for you.

Madam Chairman: Right. And could you say offhand if they got any funding from the Division of sport in the Tobago House of Assembly?

Mr. Charles: I cannot say offhand, but I could say that we would not have duplicated our funding efforts.

Madam Chairman: Okay. Let me ask something. As far as the PS, as the accounting officer, how do you assess if there is value for the money that you are going to fund in terms of the project?

Mr. Hosein: In terms of the NPI, the Non-Profit Institutions, there is a process where an application is made and an evaluation is done by the physical education and sports division, and then based on their investigations they make a recommendation; and that recommendation, I have discussions with the director in terms of the impact and the sustainability and once it meets the criteria, if it is something that would be impactful and would sustainably develop a particular sport or a community event or so, then we will recommend it to go forward to the Minister for approval.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So your criteria for value for money would be sustainability and impact—impact, meaning what?

Mr. Hosein: Like the beneficiaries. Like it would benefit the youths in a community. If there is a special event that would facilitate, say for example, crime prevention or something like that, we would take all of those things into consideration.

Madam Chairman: Okay. And if it came to the purchase of some form of equipment, how do you ensure value for money? Because I think I understood the officer to say sometimes it might be for the purposes of purchasing some sort of equipment or something like that. I think I heard that. How would you ensure—interrogate his recommendation to ensure that there has been value for money?

Mr. Hosein: There is a process where, when we give funding, there is what is called an SLA, a Service Level Agreement, where there are certain commitments that are made in terms of the use of the equipment, and this is signed by the Ministry and the organization receiving the funding.

Madam Chairman: Okay. And in terms of the acquisition of the equipment, how is that done?

Mr. Hosein: The acquisition of the equipment, the organization would acquire it. The Director of Physical Education—

Mr. Charles: Yes, Chair. As regards to acquiring equipment, we require at least three quotes and we say “at least” to them so that if we could get four or five, it is better. And we assess the quotations as regards to the supplier, the quality of what is being purchased, as well as the cost. So that it is not as simple as, “Okay, so you are cheaper”, and then the thing does not last through a competition.

Madam Chairman: Okay. And do you have any safeguards for conflict of interest arising in terms of the people making submissions and your evaluation process within the Ministry?

Mr. Charles: I am not quite sure I understand what you mean by between the persons making the submission and the process.

Madam Chairman: Well, in terms of the applicants for the grant funding and persons in—

Mr. Charles: Oh, persons within the Ministry? Oh, very good, Chair. All right. The safeguards that we have, it is not one person alone that makes the recommendation that will go to the Permanent Secretary. It is not even my own recommendation that will go to the Permanent Secretary. It goes through a process of a committee of sport officers headed by the Sport Officer II, and they will present a recommendation that will then go to the Assistant Director who would look at it, and then to me, and then send it up to the Permanent Secretary. So that there are several eyes on it and no one single person influences the recommendation that will go forward.

Madam Chairman: And, therefore, if there were a possible conflict, your panel, are there rules that govern what your panel or member of your panel does?

Mr. Charles: If there is, people know that they would have to recuse themselves, for example, if they are known to the applicant, or to a supplier.

Madam Chairman: Have you had any instances of that within this fiscal year?

Mr. Charles: Not for this fiscal.

Madam Chairman: You have not had any instances with that?

Mr. Charles: No, none.

Madam Chairman: Okay. Member Mark?

Mr. Mark: Mr. Director, I just wanted to ask—and the Permanent Secretary—are you aware that on the 23rd of April, 2019, an Act of Parliament known as the Non-Profit Organisations Act was assented to by the President of the Republic and is now law in Trinidad and Tobago as of April of this year? And may I ask also whether you are aware that under section 5(1) of that Act it says, and I quote:

“A person shall not operate a non-profit organisation in Trinidad and Tobago unless the...organisation is registered under this Act.

(2) A person who contravenes”—this section—“commits an offence and is liable on conviction on indictment to a fine of fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for seven years.”

Now, you have 68 organizations that you have provided to us who are receiving moneys and when we divide, on average, 68 by \$11 million, we are getting an average of about \$162,000 per person. These organizations—

Mr. Hosein: The \$11 million is not only for NPIs. The \$11 million also covers—it is 3.35 for CPL and it is also for elite athletes and individual athletes.

Mr. Mark: Okay. So what portion you would say, Mr. PS, would go towards these non-profit organizations?

Mr. Hosein: I am told by the Director of Physical Education it is around \$3.5 million.

Mr. Mark: Can you provide to this Committee a breakdown of the contributions to each of these organizations for 2019 thus far? So in other words, from one to 68, can you provide to this Committee how much each organization would have been allocated? And at the same time, can you provide to this Committee the organizations that received funding from the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs for the period 2016, 2017 and 2018, and the amounts that they received? But I would advise you, Mr. Permanent Secretary, that you should familiarize yourself with the law, because I do not believe that these organizations are registered. I think some of them are. As the hon. Chair indicated, where you see “Limited” we know that they are legally incorporated, but where they are not legally incorporated then they would fall under the law. And I am just bringing that to your attention for whatever it is worth.

Madam Chairman: Sen. Mark, if you just permit me, just let me get a little clarification. PS, I am not sure that I understand and I want to be clear. What you are saying is that 005-29 Contribution to Non-Profit Institutions, sporting organizations, is not only—even though described as that—it is not just only used for non-profit institutions, sporting organizations?

Mr. Hosein: That is correct. Cabinet had agreed, I think it is—DPS Arneaud can give the details in terms of the amount. But over \$7 million per annum is for CPL and we have paid half of that already for this fiscal, \$3.35 million, and also for that line item, elite athletes are also paid from that particular Vote as well.

Madam Chairman: So that is by a Cabinet Note you said?

Mr. Hosein: For CPL, yes.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So could you give us some details of that: date of the Note; the number of the Note, and so on? And you say out of that, the elite athletes are also paid. What is that, their stipend?

Mr. Hosein: The Director of Physical Education would give the details, yes. But the elite athletes are also paid from that Vote.

Mr. Charles: Yes, Chair. Elite Athletes Assistance Programme is funded through the NPI vote. It is not a stipend but it is a programme in which elite athletes, upon application, are awarded an agreed-to sum of money based on their performance for the previous year, their world ranking—depending on their world ranking. Also, individual athletes who make grant funding requests, they are also paid through 4529.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So could you also, for fiscal 2019, identify how much of that Vote went to the elite athletes, and give us a breakdown of that funding?

Mr. Charles: Yes, Ma'am.

Madam Chairman: Member Deonarine?

Ms. Deonarine: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am looking at the *Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure* and I am seeing under Line Item 27, under General Administration, there is an amount allocated for Official Overseas Travel as \$800,000, and it is a \$700,000 increase from the Revised Estimate of 2018. Could you give me some reasons as to why such a drastic increase?

Mr. Hosein: I cannot say right now but I could provide the answer in writing.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. Thank you. I just want to ask a follow-up question to Mr. Kent, Director of Youth Affairs, with respect to the National Youth Policy. Now, you are saying that a terms of reference was drafted to hire a consultant to complete this youth policy. Could you give me an average of the estimated cost of this consultant?

Mr. Kent: The advertisement is out right now inviting bids, so it may not be feasible to say what are the figures we would have worked out based on the scope of works.

Ms. Deonarine: Was the scope of works published in the RFP?

Mr. Kent: The scope of works?

Ms. Deonarine: Yes. In the advertisement, was it published?

Mr. Kent: In the advertisement there were some points in it but it is available on the Ministry's website. They were advised that it is available on the Ministry's website so they can pull down the entire scope of works, because it was too voluminous to—

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. So could you highlight for this Committee the main areas that this policy will seek to address?

Mr. Kent: The policy would, from our technical standpoint, be premised on the Government's strategic development plan, *Vision 2030*, and the regional and international policies for youth development, like the Commonwealth agenda, the sustainable development goals, and that sort of thing, but the content of the policy will come out of the consultations that are held. So the input from the young people or the general public is what will inform the details in the policy. But the structure of it will be guided by the SDG's Vision 2030 and the other international youth policies and conventions.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. Sir, I also see that you would have attended the CDB Youth Policy and Operational Strategy Workshop in Barbados that would have been in June of this year. Is that correct?

Mr. Kent: Yes, member.

Ms. Deonarine: Was the workshop not sufficient to equip you all with the internal capacity to draft this national policy?

Mr. Kent: The workshop in June was specific to a regional policy that the CDB is developing to guide youth work and their intervention in borrowing member countries. So that was something specific to the CDB. All right? So that was not to inform the development of national policies.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. Thank you, Sir. Mr. PS, I also looked at the Draft Estimates for the loans that the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs are currently repaying and I see that you all are still repaying loans for the Brian Lara stadium to First Citizens' Bank. There is a loan with ANSA Merchant Bank for nine recreational grounds and also there is a loan with UDeCOTT. Could you explain to us what the loan for UDeCOTT is? What were those moneys used to build?

Mr. Hosein: The Accounting Executive will provide the answer.

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: Good afternoon.

Ms. Deonarine: Good afternoon.

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: I could speak on the loan concerning the Brian Lara stadium. The last payment for that loan would be made this month, in September, and the other loan, the UDeCOTT, the \$90 million loan, we started that loan, I think, in 2016. So we have a 10-year period to pay off that loan.

Ms. Deonarine: And what about the loan for ANSA Merchant Bank with respect to the recreational grounds?

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: That it a 30-year loan and I think we just started that loan so we have quite a while to repay that loan.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. Thank you. Going back to you, Mr. Kent, I understand that it is common for a mission report that is usually generated after overseas travel. Is that correct?

Mr. Kent: Yes.

Ms. Deonarine: Could you provide the Committee with a copy of that report, please?

Mr. Kent: That is for the CDB meeting?

Ms. Deonarine: Yes. Thank you, Chair.

Madam Chairman: Member Mark?

Mr. Mark: I just want to follow up briefly with a question to the executive accountant. Can you share with this Committee what is the value of the loan with ANSA Merchant Bank? What is the total value, the 30-year loan that you mentioned?

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: That is over \$495 million.

Mr. Mark: \$495 million?

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: Um-hmm.

Mr. Mark: When was that loan taken out?

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: I cannot give you the exact date at this point but it could be provided in writing.

Mr. Mark: You talked about nine recreation grounds. What is the purpose of that loan? What are we applying this \$500 million to?

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: Well, we pay the loan in accounts but I think the purpose would be for SporTT.

Mr. Mark: SporTT, could you share with us what is the TT \$500 million for?

Mr. Camacho: So the loan would have been taken out through the form of a bond. It would have been to upgrade nine regional grounds.

However, the loan would have been repurposed a couple times to finish the national facilities and also to complete some work at the Diego Martin facility.

5.35 p.m.

Mr. Mark: No, no, no. Try to explain to us very slowly. The loan has been taken out to upgrade nine recreational grounds, but you are saying that although that was the purpose of that loan it was repurposed?

Mr. Williams: Yes.

Mr. Mark: Can you explain that more to us?

Mr. Williams: So initially when the loan was taken out they would have identified nine regional grounds, or what they call regional grounds which is bigger than a local ground.

Mr. Mark: Can you identify those nine—

Mr. Williams: I can provide the nine in writing.

Mr. Mark: In writing, cool.

Mr. Williams: Over the course of the loan, the purpose of the loan would have changed and the funding from the loan would have repurposed to complete the national facilities which is the aquatic Sangre Grande, the cycling velodrome, and the racquet centre, and then subsequent to that they would have repurposed again to complete the Diego Martin sporting facility.

Mr. Mark: But who would have been—I am a bit confused. If the loan is for a specific purpose and that is so identified, who would have repurposed it once, and who would have repurposed it twice? Was it the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs that would have done that? Who? Who? Who would have done that?

Mr. Williams: I believe it would have been Cabinet.

Mr. Mark: Cabinet would have repurposed the loan? Madam Chair, can I ask, through you, could we get a copy of this document governing this amount of money, \$500 million? And, Madam Executive Accountant, can you tell this Committee exactly when we signed for that loan this year because you said it was recently taken out; was it in 2019, 2018, 2017? When?

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: I cannot give that date at this point, but we could provide it in writing.

Mr. Mark: Can you submit the loan document to this Committee?

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: Yes.

Mr. Mark: Thank you. Thanks, Madam Chair.

Madam Chairman: So, Mr. PS, I just wanted to ask just some questions on your budgetary allocation. I see under Sub-Item 37, “Janitorial Services”, that you would have had an increase in

your allocation, and it was indicated that it was to clear the arrears from the previous year. This is page 9 of your submission. So could you tell us what accounted for the arrears in fiscal 2018?

Mr. Hosein: The Accounting Executive would provide the answer.

Madam Chairman: Okay.

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: Can I hear the question one more time?

Madam Chairman: I am referring to “Janitorial Services” under Sub-Item 37 and you are saying that there has been no decrease in expenditure this year, but there were some arrears from the previous fiscal and I just want to get an idea of how that arrears from the previous fiscal occurred.

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: “Janitorial Services” pertaining to what sub—

Madam Chairman: Sub-Item 37.

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: Under which item? We have different divisions.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So if you look at page 9 of your submission, because you do have it in two places and I am going to ask in both places. So you have it for youth centres which will be on page 12. So in the case for under the youth facilities you have an increase and you said that that was to take care of the contracts coming to an end and the expectation that new contracts would be awarded at I guess an increased cost.

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: Well, the increase would be for to pay off previous year bills that were not submitted in current year. What happened, because the bills comes from the various divisions, they sometimes do not reach the Accounting Unit to meet the September 30th deadline.

Madam Chairman: So this that you are referring to, this would be the one “Janitorial Services, Youth Facilities”?

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: Yes.

Madam Chairman: All right. Because I understood it to say that the increase in the estimates in fiscal 2019 was related to increases that may occur as a result of awarding new contracts. That is what I am reading here. So what I wanted to ask is if new contracts were awarded and whether in fact we were at higher fees? So I do not know if we are reading the same thing. This is at page 12.

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: It is possible that they have awarded new contracts, but I will have to verify that and provide the answer in writing.

Mr. Mark: When you say they, who are they?

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: Well, the Permanent Secretary.

Mr. Mark: Permanent Secretary?

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: Yes.

Madam Chairman: Well then the Permanent Secretary should be in a position to let us know if he in fact awarded new contracts. This is under “Youth Centres”. Yeah, and as I say it is page 12 of your submission.

Mr. Hosein: Mr. Kent can provide the details, but since I have been there at the Ministry, I have not awarded new contracts.

Madam Chairman: And you have been there since when?

Mr. Hosein: Since January of this year.

Mr. Kent: Chair, as it relates to the “Janitorial” on page 12, the increase here—because of the fact that the contracts expired in December 2018, we had catered for new contracts to be issued, but no contract has been issued as yet so we continue with—

Madam Chairman: A monthly arrangement?

Mr. Kent: On a month-to-month basis.

Madam Chairman: On the same—

Mr. Kent: On the same value.

Madam Chairman: So it means that you have unspent—

Mr. Kent: Yes, we may have savings there or because of the shortfall in other areas the moneys may be transferred or vired accordingly.

Madam Chairman: All right. So that could you confirm that in writing to us with respect to the status of that? Okay? And the other “Janitorial” which would be on page 9 of the submission, and this is really now, I would think your head office. And this is where it appears that you have a decrease in your allocation and you are saying in fiscal 2018 it would have been greater because you had arrears, and I am trying to find out in what circumstances those arrears occurred so that to benchmark this year to see whether you are on track or whether you are likely to be in an arrear situation.

Mr. Hosein: We can provide that answer in writing. We do not have it here.

Madam Chairman: I mean, you would have prepared this statement. This is not something that is out of the extraordinary. How has the decreased expenditure allocated to “Janitorial Services” impacted the maintenance of the Ministry’s facilities?—and you are saying there is no decrease in expenditure, and the reason why the allocation seems less is because the arrears.

Mr. Hosein: Right. So there was an—from what I am understanding is that there was an arrears from the previous year. As to how that arrears occurred, I was not at the Ministry at the time. I am asking my DPSs if they are aware and they are not aware. So we will have to check with our records and the officers who were there and provide it in writing.

Madam Chairman: Okay. And as we speak today your allocation is sufficient to meet your obligation for the janitorial services, the contracts for your janitorial services for general administration?

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: Yes, it is.

Madam Chairman: Okay. Thank you very much.

Mr. Mark: Madam Chair, may I? Mr. PS, who are our providers as it relates to janitorial services? Is it MTS?

Mr. Camacho: The Sports Company or the PS?

Mr. Mark: No, at the head office.

Mr. Hosein: The AO V would answer.

Mr. Delancy: MTS is the—

Mr. Mark: MTS?

Mr. Delancy: Yes.

Mr. Mark: And what about at the youth centres where we had to roll over according to Mr. Kent, is it the same MTS or is it some other company?

Mr. Kent: There are different companies including MTS.

Mr. Mark: How many companies are involved at those 12 centres that you had to roll over on a month-to-month basis?

Mr. Kent: Approximately three or four companies in total.

Mr. Mark: Can you provide us that in writing?

Mr. Kent: Yes, that can be provided.

Mr. Mark: And what about the Sports Company, who does your janitorial services?

Mr. Williams: We have MTS and we have about three more contractors for the various facilities.

Mr. Mark: Who are they?

Mr. Williams: I could name two—I will provide all in writing—Island Cleaning, T&T Carpet and actually Century 21.

Mr. Mark: How long did they came on board under you watch; or have they been there before?

Mr. Williams: We inherited those when the indoor facilities were transferred to Sport, I believe in 2013.

Mr. Mark: Okay. Mr. PS, are you aware that there are some security and safety concerns at the aquatic centre and the velodrome where you have a number of cameras—I think it is over 43 cameras—but they are not manned? They are just left in abeyance and we understand there are

only five MTS security officers to monitor and engage in surveillance to ensure that our property, our collective property, is not tampered with. Can you explain to us what has led to this breakdown where we have cameras, very expensive cameras there, and no one to man the operations on a security basis? And this has been going for some time now. Can you share with us, first of all, why is that so; and secondly, what steps are being taken to ensure that those cameras and the monitoring mechanism are in place in the future?

Mr. Williams: Okay, could I attempt to answer that question?

Mr. Mark: Yes.

Mr. Williams: So the camera systems and the non-functioning of the camera systems stem to one of the defects that would have been identified in the construction contract. What is being done, the previous board would have started a process where we would have looked at security for all the facilities. We were looking to pilot a project at Couva where we had the Ato Boldon Stadium and the other two big facilities where we could probably have a security base to man all the cameras and install cameras around the facility so you could reduce the amount of staff on the compound but have a base where you have people monitoring the system. Now that would cost a lot of money to implement so it is something that we will have to revisit with this current board. In terms of the five MTS officers that we have, it comes back again to the cost and the amount of funding that we get at the end of the year. Ideally you might need double that, but again you are going to be committing to expenditure and you do not have the funds to pay the bills.

Mr. Mark: You see, Mr. CEO, the candle may end up costing more than the funeral because we do not wait. The Chinese have a saying—same Chinese that take a slow boat on a slow boat—they have a saying and I agree with the saying, they say that those who have eyes, those who can see, rather, before others are brilliant, and those who can know before others are geniuses. You cannot wait until an incident or a major accident takes place there, Mr. PS. We have to take action in advance. We have cameras that are somewhat defective, and in relation to having cameras that are defective we have the situation where you only have five security officers and we are being told that an ideal number is about 10. Can you share with us what measures you intend to implement to ensure that we have some security at that very expensive facility in the future? Permanent Secretary, I am directing that at you and I will ask the CEO to also add his voice to that.

Mr. Hosein: Through you, Chair, the issue is one of financial resources and the cost of the security. There is a significant outstanding amount that SporTT owes to MTS.

Mr. Mark: How much?

Mr. Hosein: I am told by the CEO it is around \$12 million. Clearly, this cannot be paid out of the

\$60 million allocation for the current fiscal year because the expenditure is already—what 58/\$59 million?—around 58/\$59 million. So it has to come out from next year's allocation. It will have to be under arrears and we pled with the Ministry of Finance for funding so that we can cover these expenditures so that our sporting assets can be maintained and can be properly secured. I will turn you over to the CEO to provide this answer.

Mr. Williams: I believe the financial constraints, it leads to this type of problem, but it is not only the facilities down at Couva. It is almost all of the facilities that Sport is in control of. We have the issue with security and it comes back again to our underlying problem. So I support the PS in terms of they are hoping to get some resources. They say that we could liquidate some of the debt and move forward properly.

Mr. Mark: Mr. PS, can you provide this Committee with a detailed breakdown in writing as it relates to outstanding liabilities: what you owe to WASA; what owe the TSTT; what you owe to—well we know what you owe to T&TEC and now we are hearing that you owe \$25 million to MTS. So could you give us a breakdown—

Madam Chairman: \$12 million.

Mr. Mark: \$12 million to MTS. Could you give us a breakdown of your liabilities as it relates to state entities that supply crucial services to SportTT as an example; and all the other facilities that they are responsible for managing and manning? Can you provide that?

Mr. Hosein: Yes, we will provide it.

Mr. Mark: Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: This year in 2019 the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs indicated that they paid out incentives and rewards from 2015 to 2019, \$3.8 million, \$68 million to national athletes, was this money paid directly to the athletes or through the sporting bodies; and are there any outstanding balances to athletes who represent Trinidad and Tobago?

Mr. Hosein: The Director of Physical Education and Sport will answer.

Mr. Charles: Good day, member. No sums of money are paid directly to the athletes.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: I did not get that. I said—no sums or were the sums paid?

Mr. Charles: The sum.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: The sum.

Mr. Charles: The sums are paid directly to the athletes and not through the national governing bodies.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: And there are any outstanding sums owed to athletes at all? Have they all been paid out?

Mr. Charles: I cannot say at this time. I will have to check my figures to say and provide that to you in writing.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: Thank you very much.

Madam Chairman: CEO, just may I ask in terms of the youth development and apprentice centres, I see that a Cabinet Minute of the 22nd of August, 2019, transferred these centres to the Ministry of National Security. That is with effect from what date?

Mr. Hosein: The Cabinet decision did not indicate a specific date. In fact, this morning we have met with Ministry of National Security and we are working on the transition.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So would I be correct in saying that since September 2018 these centres have not been operational?

Mr. Hosein: Since there was the break-in and the trainees were sent home, there have been no trainees at the centres.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So the centres have not operated for fiscal 2019 at all then?

Mr. Hosein: No. There have been no trainees at the centre.

Madam Chairman: There have been no trainees. Now, I noticed you are making a distinction between my saying not operating and no trainees, and therefore, maybe you could explain that.

Mr. Hosein: Because there was the security issue, there was physical work being done in terms of putting up a perimeter fence, in terms of putting cameras and lighting. So the security issues were being addressed during the current fiscal year.

Madam Chairman: And those security issues would not have come from either the training Vote or the food institutions Vote?

Mr. Hosein: No. It would be from the Development Programme.

Madam Chairman: From the Development Programme?

Mr. Hosein: Yes.

Madam Chairman: So it would mean that you should have surpluses in your allocation under these two Sub-Items?

Mr. Hosein: I am being advised by the AO II no, and she can probably explain the rationale.

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: The allocations under those Sub-Items have been vired to other Votes that had shortfall.

Madam Chairman: Therefore, you had no trainees. Were there any staff other than the people who were doing the infrastructural work on the premises?

Mr. Hosein: Yes, there would be other staff.

Madam Chairman: There will be other staff?

Mr. Hosein: Yes.

Madam Chairman: So that their payment, their salaries, their wages, would not come under either of these two Votes?

Mr. Hosein: No.

Madam Chairman: No? Okay. And just explain to me because I know it is no longer your baby so to speak, but in terms of page 14 when you say the primary beneficiaries of food at these institutions would be the trainees, are there other beneficiaries?

Mr. Hosein: I will ask the Director of Youth Affairs to answer that question, but I think the purpose of the Vote was to provide rations to the trainees because the nature of the camp was residential. So the Vote was intended to provide food, and beverage, and so on, for the trainees.

Madam Chairman: Right. So no staff remain there? So that is why I am asking. You say primarily and not exclusively, or solely, so I am trying to find out if there are other beneficiaries.

Mr. Kent: When the camp is operational, Madam Chair, the assistant camp directors who work overnight with the trainees, they also will get a meal.

Madam Chairman: Right.

Mr. Kent: When the meal is served the Camp Director II and, of course, the cooks who prepare the meal.

Madam Chairman: Okay, sure. So I understand primarily in that sense, okay, and that is the reason why I asked. And therefore, it means that with the camp not being operational you would not have had any expenses under that at all.

Okay. I know we have a number of other questions which we will send to you all in writing, but it is now six o'clock so I would like to bring this part of the meeting to a close and suspend the meeting.

I just want to invite the Acting PS to make any closing statements he would like to make, and also in that if he takes that opportunity if he would like to suggest any ways that he thinks that the Committee could help him to realize the mandate of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs.

Mr. Hosein: I will be very brief. Thank you, Chair. The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs thanks the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee for this opportunity and we look forward to your suggestions in terms of improving internal controls at the Ministry specifically in relations to your request. If you all can help us in any way then I suppose one of the ways is that if you all have influence in terms of financial resources that can be allocated to the Ministry and to the Sports Company especially to cover our outstanding bills and to ensure proper maintenance of our

very valuable sporting assets, then we would very much appreciate this. Thank you very much.

Madam Chairman: Thank you, PS. And I want to thank you PS and your Deputy PSs and the other officials from the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, the Chairman of the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago, the Chief Executive Officer and the head of projects. I want to thank the media, and I want to thank the members of the listening and viewing public who have remained with us, for participating in this conversation.

It has really been revealing, the challenges, and hopefully with all of us putting our heads together, we will realize the dream for the people of Trinidad and Tobago. I want to wish you all a safe journey home and I now therefore suspend this meeting. Thank you very much.

6.03 p.m.: *Meeting adjourned.*