



TWENTY- EIGHTH REPORT OF THE

THE COMMITTEE ON

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND APPROPRIATIONS

FIFTH SESSION OF THE 11TH PARLIAMENT

INQUIRY An examination into the maintenance of Community Pools by 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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Table of Contents

Members of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
1. INTRODUCTION	7
THE COMMITTEE	7
Change in Membership.....	7
2. METHODOLOGY	9
3. ISSUES, OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	11
CONCLUSION.....	20
Appendix I	22
Questions to MSYA.....	22
Appendix III.....	24
Additional questions to MSYA.....	24
The activity schedule for fiscal 2019-2020 for each pool (pg. 6)	29
Cost to maintain each pool (pg. 6).....	30
Oversight of all the pools (pg.7)	31
The Ministry's safety plans for each pool (pg. 8)	32
The construction of other community pools across the country (pg. 8)	33
Security plans/measures have been implemented by the Ministry with regard to each pool (pg. 9).....	33
APPENDIX IV.....	34
The Inquiry Process.....	34
APPENDIX V	37
Minutes of Meetings	37
Present were:	38
APPENDIX VI.....	44
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED	44
General questions.....	45
The activity schedule for the fiscal year 2019-2020 for each community pool.....	45
Outstanding arrears owed to state entities by the Ministry regarding utility bills for maintenance of pools.....	46
Appendix VII.....	49

Verbatim	49
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Members of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee



Mrs. Bridgid Mary Annisette-
George
Chairman



Dr. Lackram Bodoë
Vice-Chairman



Mr. Wade Mark
Member



Mr. Clarence Rambharat
Member



Mrs. Ayanna
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Mr. Daniel Dookie
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Ms. Amrita Deonarine
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Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Ancil Antoine
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 maintenance of Community Pools by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs (MSYA).

The objectives of the examination were to determine:

- The number of Community Swimming Pools under the purview of the Ministry;
- The maintenance plans and maintenance schedule of each Community Swimming Pool; and
- The oversight mechanism in place by the Ministry for each Community Swimming Pool.

The Committee, in undertaking this examination employed two (2) mechanisms:

- Written Submissions; and
- Public Hearing.

The Committee made a call for written submissions to the MSYA and thereafter focused on a review and analysis of the written submissions submitted. Subsequently, the Committee conducted a Public Hearing with the MSYA. The approach adopted by the Committee took into account issues identified from responses received and reports in the media. The Committee made recommendations related to the issues identified. Observations and recommendations are presented in Chapter 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

THE COMMITTEE

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

- examine the 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.

2. METHODOLOGY

Determination of the Committee's Work Programme

At an in-camera meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, the Committee agreed to conduct an examination of the maintenance of Community Pools by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs.

Review of Documents

The Committee deliberated on the following documents, namely:

- i. Budget Documents; and
- ii. Current News.

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 maintenance of Community Pools by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs (MSYA):

- i. Identification of entity to be examined: MSYA;
- ii. Preparation of Inquiry Proposal for the MSYA.
- iii. The Inquiry Proposal outlines:
 - Description
 - The objective of Inquiry; and
 - Proposed Questions.
- iv. Request for written response was sent to the MSYA on November 04, 2019. A response was received on November 15, 2019.
- v. Based on the response received, additional questions were sent to the MSYA on December 13, 2019. A response was received on January 17, 2020.
- vi. Preparation of an Issues Paper which identified and summarised matters of concern in the responses provided by the MSYA;
- vii. Based on the responses received and the issues identified, the Committee agreed to have a Public Hearing. The MSYA was invited to attend and provide evidence on February 12, 2020.

- viii. Following the Public Hearing, a request for further details was sent to the MSYA on **March 04, 2020** responses were received on **April 15, 2020**.

3. ISSUES, OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

OBSERVATION

Community Swimming Pools under the purview of the Ministry

In a written submission, the Ministry indicated that there are seven (7) community swimming pools under its purview. These include:

- Cocoyea Community Swimming Pool;
- Couva Community Swimming Pool;
- Sangre Grande Community Swimming Pool;
- Diego Martin Community Swimming Pool;
- La Horquetta Community Swimming Pool;
- Siparia Community Swimming Pool; and
- Laventille Community Swimming Pool.

Observation:

- ***The Committee notes the Community Swimming Pools under the purview of the Ministry.***

ISSUES

1. Maintenance Plans

The MSYA has a maintenance plan specifically for each community swimming pools. Each maintenance plan is based on the same generic framework and structured specifically to the individual swimming pool depending on its facilities and installations. Installations include, pool pumps, sand filters, chlorinators, electrical panels and switches with surge protectors. However, the numbers and capacities vary at each pool. Officials further stated that maintenance plans do not include landscaping and janitorial services which are contracted to service providers. The estimated repairs and maintenance cost per pool were as follows:

- Materials & Supplies (Pool Chemicals) - estimated \$250,000 per pool annually
- Repairs & Maintenance - estimated \$250,000 per pool annually
- Water & Sewerage - \$7,000 monthly

- Electricity - \$6,950 monthly
- Telephone - \$7,000 monthly

The Ministry informed the Committee of its move to establish a Comprehensive Maintenance Plan. At the time of the hearing, this plan was partially implemented across all pools. The Ministry indicated that the critical success of the Ministry's Comprehensive Maintenance Plan was dependent on the availability of adequate funding and human resource. Further, officials stated that there was a need to review the plan. Written evidence submitted also indicated that there were some challenges with sourcing materials to undertake repairs and maintenance work on community pools. In light of this, the Ministry was working with:

- i. The Ministry of Finance to obtain releases in a timely manner, and
- ii. suppliers/contractors to provide services upon receipt of funding.

Recommendations:

- ***The MSYA should provide a status update on the full implementation of its Comprehensive Maintenance Plan by December 31, 2020;***
- ***Upon completion, the MSYA should conduct a review of the plan and submit a report to the Parliament by December 31, 2020; and***
- ***The Ministry of Finance should ensure that the adequate funding is provided for the upkeep and maintenance of community pools by the MSYA to ensure compliance with the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan.***

2. Challenges faced with the maintenance of Community Swimming Pools

Evidence submitted indicated that the Ministry faced a number of challenges regarding the maintenance of Community Swimming Pools. These challenges include:

- i. ***Flooding at the Cocoyea Community Swimming Pool*** - The pump room at the swimming pool experienced flooding before the planned upgrade to mechanical, electrical and plumbing installation throughout the facility as well as repairs and installation of additional security lighting. Consequently, the pumps were submerged under ten (10) feet of water. In accordance with the terms of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC)

Regulations the pumps needed to be replaced not repaired. As such, there was a delay in the commencement of the maintenance work at the pool. The Ministry also revealed it was awaiting the release of funds to start the electrical works at the pool.

- ii. *Community pools were not operational* – Officials informed the Committee of the following:
 - The Cocoyea Community Swimming Pool had not been operational for approximately one year. The pool was also closed for renovations in the month of September 2018 and subsequently in February 2019 to February 2020 due to mechanical, electrical & plumbing issues. There was a delay in the release of funds by the Budget Division of the Ministry of Finance which was needed to complete maintenance work at the pool. The MSYA anticipated that funds would have been released to complete works mid-February 2020 and the pool would have been scheduled to be re-opened to the public by March 2020.
 - The Couva Community Swimming Pool was not operational for approximately a year and a half. The pool was closed from April to July 2018. However, the pool was reopened in August for a month and then closed in September 2018 as well as the entirety of 2019 due to a need for repairs; and
 - The Siparia Community Swimming Pool was not operational during the months of July and August 2019 due to an electrical problem with the pump.
- iii. *Access to supplies for the maintenance of pools* - Another challenge faced by the MSYA was access to chemicals and supplies needed to maintain the pools. The Ministry explained that this was an account of delay in releases from the Ministry of Finance.
- iv. *Internet* – Efficient internet facilities at the pools was a challenge that affected communication and oversight at the community swimming pools.

Recommendations:

- *The MSYA should submit a status update on the current operation of the Cocoyea, Couva and Siparia Community Swimming Pools for the period September 2019 – July 31, 2020. This report should be submitted to Parliament by December 31, 2020;*
- *The MSYA should develop initiatives to address the challenges faced to ensure the restart of operations at the Cocoyea, Couva and Siparia Pools and avoid the occurrence at other Community Pools. A list of the initiatives should be submitted to the Parliament by December 31, 2020.*
- *A status report on all the maintenance works completed on the Cocoyea, Couva and Siparia Pools underlining the works conducted and the respective start and end dates to be submitted to Parliament by December 31, 2020.*

3. The absence of a service provider register

In light of the use of private sector service providers as indicated by the MSYA, the Committee questioned whether the Ministry had a register documenting all the service providers that are contracted to provide or undertake maintenance work on the Community Swimming Pools. Officials explained that service providers are recruited through the SporTT Company however, the Company did not have a service provider register. In an additional response received, the Ministry indicated that a register for the service providers utilised by the SporTT Company will be established at the MSYA in May 2020.

Recommendation:

- *The MSYA should submit to Parliament a status update on the service provider register which was to be established in May 2020. This should be submitted by September 1, 2020.*

4. Role of the SporTT Company and Community Swimming Pools

Additional information submitted indicated that Cabinet by Minute #1289 dated May 17, 2012 transferred the responsibilities for janitorial, security and landscaping services to the SporTT Company for the following pools:

- Couva Community Swimming Pool
- Diego Martin Community Swimming Pool
- Sangre Grande Community Swimming Pool
- Siparia Community Swimming Pool
- La Horquetta Community Swimming Pool
- Cocoyea Community Swimming Pool.

In 2012, the SporTT Company assumed responsibility for security services at the Community Pools listed above. The Company made annual requests to the Ministry of Finance, however, funds were never identified or allocated for the tendering and procurement of security services at the pools. As a result, the Company was forced to arrange a month to month agreement to ensure the provision of security services at the pools.

Observation:

- *The Committee notes the role of the SporTT Company in the oversight and operation of Community Swimming Pools.*

Recommendation:

- *The MSYA should provide an update on the efforts made to advocate for the administration of a new Cabinet Note for security services. This should be submitted to the Parliament by December 31, 2020.*

5. Outstanding arrears owed to state entities

In a written submission received the Ministry provided a breakdown of the amounts owed to State Entities with respect to utility bills. The breakdown of arrears is provided in the tables below:

Trinidad and Tobago Electrical Commission			
Area	Account #	Period	Amount
Siparia	21048-21048-1	1/08/19 – 1/09/19	\$ 5,582.55
		1/09/19 – 1/10/19	\$ 6,990.01
		1/10/19 – 1/11/19	\$ 6,009.99
Cocoyea	242960-733011-8	1/08/19 – 1/09/19	\$ 9,363.77
		1/09/19 – 1/10/19	\$ 9,842.99
		1/10/19 – 1/11/19	\$ 7,791.19
Diego Martin	590843-590843	12/06/19 – 12/08/19	\$9,829.29
Sande Grande	610690-610-690-9	3/06/19 – 2/08/19	\$7,949.27
Couva	353752-535025-2	15/07/19 – 12/09/19	\$13,524.57
La Horquetta	483469-483469-0	10/06/19 – 7/08/19	\$6,374.89
		7/08/19 – 7/10/19	\$6,971.65

Water and Sewerage Authority			
Area	Account #	Period	Amount
Siparia	5680910000-3	1/11/19 – 31/01/20	\$ 108.00
Cocoyea	2837440000-1	26/07/19 – 22/10/19	\$ 5,096.00
Diego Martin	2848730000-7	4/09/19 – 3/10/19	\$1,241.63
Sande Grande	2118500000-3	29/8/19-30/09/19	\$187.81
	6913200000-6	29/08/19 – 30/09/19	\$461.38
	“	30/09/19 – 30/10/19	\$380.88
Couva	9292510000-7	3/09/19 – 2/10/19	\$555.31
La Horquetta	8685710000-1	1/07/19 – 31/07/19	\$711.00
		1/10/19 – 31/10/19	\$711.00

When questioned about the status of these arrears, the Ministry indicated that funds had been requested from the Ministry of Finance to settle the outstanding arrears, however, as at the time of the hearing no funds were released. Additional information indicated that requests to facilitate payments to state entities were made to the Ministry of Finance (**See table below**). The MSYA indicated that there was regular

communication with the Ministry of Finance in the form of emails, verbally or memos. Verbal reminders were sent daily, weekly and monthly. Monthly requests were made on the 5th of every month and quarterly on the 5th day. The last written request was made on March 16, 2020. However, as at the date of the public hearing (March 11, 2020) no further funds had been released.

Outstanding Payments Due to State Enterprises for Swimming Pools

SERVICE PROVIDER	AMOUNT REQUESTED	DATE REQUESTED	AMOUNT RECEIVED	Amount Releases Outstanding
WASA	\$189,000	Request for Oct-Dec 2019 made in Oct 2020 Request for Jan-Mar 2020 made in Jan 2020 Request for Apr-Jun 2020 made in Mar 2020 An additional request was made on 11 th March 2020	NIL	\$189,000
T&TEC	\$500,000	Monthly requests are made by the 5 th of every month. The last written request was made on 16 th March, 2019.	\$200,000	\$300,000
TSTT	\$500,000		NIL	\$500,000
TOTAL	\$1,189,000		\$200,000	\$989,000

Recommendations:

- *The Ministry of Finance should prioritise the release of funds to the MSYA to facilitate the payment of arrears to its service providers. An update on the allocation of funds to the MSYA should be submitted to the Parliament by September 1, 2020.*
- *The MSYA should also provide an update on the payment of arrears to the Parliament by September 1, 2020.*

- *The Ministry of Finance should prioritise the provision of releases to the MSYA to meet its payments to state entities with established time lines. A status update on these provisions should be provided to the Parliament by December 31, 2020.*

6. Revenue generating capacity of Community Swimming Pools

During the Ministry's appearance before the Committee, it was indicated that a fee was charged for the use of community swimming pools. The Ministry also stated that these fees were heavily subsidized. The fees are as follows:

- \$40 an hour per person; and
- \$100 per term per school.

The following tables details the revenue generated by of each pool for the period 2015-2019:

Table 6: Revenue Generated at Community Swimming Pools by Activity Fiscal 2015-2019						
Name of Pools	Learn to Swim					Grand Total
	Years					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Couva	32,150.00	22,950.00	40,250.00	16,550.00	0.00	111,900.00
Diego Martin	3,300.00	28,200.00	20,300.00	5,850.00	18,057.00	75,707.00
La Horquetta	13,900.00	11,250.00	11,800.00	10,450.00	17,150.00	64,550.00
Sangre Grande	10,000.00	22,000.00	21,750.00	3,800.00	6,400.00	63,950.00
Siparia	7,500.00	21,400.00	14,700.00	10,050.00	11,350.00	65,000.00
Cocoyea	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	68,865.00	107,816.00	110,817.00	48,718.00	54,976.00	381,107.00

Table 8: Revenue Generated at Community Swimming Pools by Activity Fiscal 2015-2019

Name of Pools	Learn to Swim Schools					
	Years					Grand Total
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Couva	2,900.00	4,000.00	3,000.00	800.00	0.00	10,700.00
Diego Martin	1,600.00	3,600.00	4,100.00	2,100.00	2,800.00	14,200.00
La Horquetta	2,900.00	1,900.00	2,100.00	700.00	1,300.00	8,900.00
Sangre Grande	900.00	1,000.00	900.00	200.00	1,000.00	4,000.00
Siparia	1,300.00	3,300.00	2,000.00	1,100.00	2,100.00	9,800.00
Cocoyea	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	11,615.00	15,816.00	14,117.00	6,918.00	9,219.00	47,600.00

Table 7: Revenue Generated at Community Swimming Pools by Activity Fiscal 2015-2019

Name of Pools	Recreational Swim					
	Years					Total
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Couva	13,573.80	15,468.59	16,408.01	4,656.68	0.00	50,107.08
Diego Martin	10,468.50	27,257.96	24,628.13	12,350.89	18,591.18	93,296.66
La Horquetta	6,610.40	6,469.12	7,141.68	8,867.86	11,040.47	40,129.53
Sangre Grande	2,782.58	6,018.26	9,127.78	5,420.97	2,579.51	25,929.10
Siparia	8,360.50	2,761.78	6,532.07	8,806.21	4,042.26	30,502.82
Cocoyea	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	43,810.78	59,991.71	65,854.67	42,120.61	38,272.42	239,965.19

The Ministry also explained that during the periods repair works were conducted on the Siparia, Cocoyea and Couva pools no funds were generated. The Ministry stated that current fee structure was being reviewed. However, the decision would have to be approved by Cabinet.

Recommendation:

- *The MSYA should prioritise the revision of the fee structure in order to generate income from Community Swimming Pools. This will assist in the upkeep and maintenance of the Community Swimming Pools in the absence of funding. An update on the revision of the fee structure should be submitted to Parliament by September 1, 2020.*

CONCLUSION

During the Fifth Session of the Eleventh Parliament, the PAAC conducted an examination into the maintenance of Community Pools by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs. During the course of the examination, the Committee learnt of issues surrounding the maintenance of Community Swimming Pools, the challenges encountered and details about the arrears owed to essential service providers. The Committee's biggest concern was the lack of funding to assist in the easing of these issues. The Committee noted that in spite of the constant communication with the Ministry of Finance, funding was still delayed which interrupted the use and maintenance of the facilities.

The Committee is of the view that the adoption of its proposed recommendations will lead to greater efficiency of Community Swimming Pools. 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.

Sgd.
Mrs. Bridgid Mary Annisette-George
Chairman

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Dr. Lackram Bodoë
Vice-Chairman

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Sgd.
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Ms. Amrita Deonarine
Member

Appendix I

Questions to MSYA

Questions to the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs

1. How many community pools are under the purview of the Ministry?
2. What role does the Ministry play in the oversight or maintenance of public pools across Trinidad for e.g. Flying Fish, St Mary's Swimming Pool, YMCA etc.?
3. Provide the following details for each community pool:
 - i. Project description;
 - ii. Contract terms;
 - iii. Project start date;
 - iv. Total cost;
 - v. Total cost to date;
 - vi. Initial cost and the current revised cost; and
 - vii. Project outcomes.
4. Provide the following for each community pool:
 - i. The maintenance plans and maintenance schedule;
 - ii. The monthly cost to maintain each pool; and
 - iii. The activity schedule for fiscal 2019-2020 for each pool.
5. What factors were considered when choosing a service provider for the maintenance of these pools? Provide in detail.
6. Since the opening of the Laventille Community Pool in July 2019, provide a list of activities that took place as at October 30, 2019.
7. What determines the Ministry's decision to construct pools in a community?
8. Are there plans to construct other community pools across the country? If yes, please state the community and when will this commence.
9. What safety plans have been implemented since the opening of each pool? Provide details.
10. Has consideration been given to collaborating with schools to maximize the use of community pools?
 - i. If yes, provide details on the initiatives undertaken to accomplish this.
 - ii. What criteria would be given to schools who wish to utilise the pools?
11. What security plans/measures have been implemented by the Ministry with regard to each pool?

Appendix III

Additional questions to

MSYA

Cocoyea Community Swimming Pool

- viii. **Project description:** The work entails upgrades to Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Installations throughout the facility and repairs and installation of additional security lighting on the compound.
- ix. **Contract terms:** The contract is an International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC¹) Short Form of Contract and includes the General Conditions, Terms of Engagement, Contractor's Obligations, Client's Obligations, and Rules for Adjudication, etc.
- x. **Project start date:** 4th September 2019
- xi. **Total cost:** \$610,087.50
- xii. **Total cost to date:** \$610,087.50
- xiii. **Initial cost and the current revised cost:** \$610,087.50
- xiv. **Project outcomes:** Plumbing installations completed thus far.
Works Ongoing - Mechanical and Electrical works

Questions:

1. What percentage of the upgrades to mechanical and electrical works throughout the facility have been completed to date?
2. What is the status of repairs and installation of additional security lighting on the compound at this pool?
3. What is the estimated completion date for the works undertaken at this swimming pool?
4. Is the ongoing mechanical and electrical works and repairs and installation of additional security lighting on the compound accounted for in the total cost of the project?
5. Are there any outstanding payments owed to contractors?
6. How often are electrical, mechanical and plumbing checks made at the facility?

(Project 1)

- i) **Project description:** The work entails upgrades to the electrical installations throughout the facility and repairs and installation of additional security lighting on the compound.
- ii) **Contract terms:** The contract is a FIDIC Short Form of Contract.
- iii) **Project start date:** 8th July, 2019
- iv) **Total cost:** \$630,672.75

¹ FIDIC acronym -Federation Internationale des Ingenieurs-Conseil.

- v) **Total cost to date:** \$630,672.75
- vi) **Initial cost and the current revised cost:** \$630,672.75
- vii) **Project outcomes:**

Project Completed in 2019

- Plumbing, fittings, fixtures and infrastructure repairs and installations completed
- Installed new lighting fixtures
- Serviced and repaired pumps, motors, sand filters and pressure tanks
- Replaced pool vacuum
- Supplied and installed new sand filter and chlorinator
- Serviced and repaired electrical control panels
- Painted pavilion
- Fabricated and installed staircase handrails to technical staff room
- Miscellaneous tiling and fixtures installed

Questions:

1. Was a site visit conducted by the Ministry after the completion of repairs and maintenance works to assess the work done and ensure value for money?
 - i. Was the Ministry satisfied with the work done?
2. What was the completion date for this project?
3. What mechanisms are in place to monitor and manage this project?

COUVA COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL (Project 2)

- i) **Project description:** The project entails the refurbishment of the children's pool basin (diamond brite layer)²
- ii) **Contract terms:** The contract is a FIDIC Short Form of Contract.
- iii) **Project start date:** 29th May, 2019
- iv) **Total cost:** \$242,330.63
- v) **Total cost to date:** \$242,330.63
- vi) **Initial cost and the current revised cost:** \$242,330.63

² Diamond Brite is an exposed aggregate pool finish blended from natural quartz aggregate, polymer modified cement, and non-fading colorquartz in a stunning variety of colors. This unique interior pool finish is durable, easy to maintain and comfortable to swimmers' feet. Accessed on December 10, 2019. <https://www.mastertile.net/product-category/pool-finishes/plaster-finishes/diamond-brite/>

vii) **Project outcomes**

Project Completed in 2019

- Replaced new diamond brite layer in the children's pool basin

Questions:

1. Was a site visit conducted after the completion of this project to assess the work done and ensure value for money?
 - i. If yes, when was the site visit conducted?
 - ii. Was the Ministry satisfied with the work done?
2. What measures were in place to ensure the material used to replace the diamond brite layer was of both local and international standards?
3. What were the challenges experienced by the Ministry with respect to this project?
 - i. How were these challenges rectified?

SANGRE GRANDE COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL

- i) **Project description:** The work entails construction of a technical building, renovations to the administration building and refurbishment of the engineering installations at the facility.
- ii) **Contract terms:** The contract is a FIDIC Short Form of Contract.
- iii) **Project start date:** 8th July, 2019
- iv) **Total cost:** \$906,974.93
- v) **Total cost to date:** \$906,974.93
- vi) **Initial cost and the current revised cost:** \$906,974.93
- vii) **Project outcomes:**

Project Completed in 2019

- Constructed a single-storey building to accommodate technical staff and change rooms, a first aid room and washroom
- Renovated change rooms and shower stalls
- Upgraded lighting throughout the facility
- Repaired domestic pump, air conditioning units and fire alarm system
- Serviced and repaired pool filtration system
- Minor ancillary works completed

Questions:

1. Was a site visit conducted by the Ministry after the completion of the repairs and maintenance at the Sangre Grande Community Swimming Pool to assess the work done and ensure value for money?
2. Was the Ministry satisfied with the work done?

DIEGO MARTIN COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL

Works proposed for 2020, include the following:

- Upgrades to External/Security Lighting; and
- Upgrades to Tennis and Basketball Courts.

Questions:

1. What is the estimated start date for works at the Diego Martin Community Swimming Pool?
2. What is the estimated cost?
3. Have tenders gone out for this project?

LA HORQUETTA COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL

Works proposed for 2020, includes the following:

- Upgrades to Pavilion and Offices; and
- Upgrades to External Lighting.

Questions:

1. What is the estimated start date for works at the La Horquetta Community Swimming Pool?
2. What is the estimated cost?

SIPARIA COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL

Works proposed for 2020, includes the following:

- Upgrades to Pavilion and Offices; and
- Upgrades to External Lighting.

Questions:

1. What is the estimated start date for works at the Siparia Community Swimming Pool?
2. What is the estimated cost?

LAVENTILLE COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL

- i) **Project description:** The work entail Construction of the swimming pool with administration building, storage and pump room, carpark for five (5) vehicles, sewer, drainage and fencing.
- ii) **Contract terms:** The contract was a FIDIC Red Book – Construction for Building and Engineering Works designed by the Employer
- iii) **Project start date:** 23rd January, 2017
- iv) **Total cost:** \$5,136,176.00
- v) **Total cost to date:** \$5,850,053.54
- vi) **Initial cost and the current revised cost:** Initial Cost was \$4,500,000.00 and the Current Revised cost is \$5,136,176
- vii) **Project outcomes:**

The swimming pool was expected to provide new recreational opportunities to the community and also to foster increased community participation and interaction among both children and adults.

Questions:

1. What is the status of this project in terms of the percentage completed and the cost to date?
2. What were the reasons for the increase in cost in the sum of \$713,877.54?
3. Are there outstanding payments owed to contractors?
4. When was the last site visit conducted by the Ministry to assess whether the pool is being properly maintained?
5. What were the challenges experienced by the Ministry with respect to this project?
 - i. How were these challenges rectified?

The activity schedule for fiscal 2019-2020 for each pool (pg. 6)

The structure of the activity schedule for six (6) of the Community Swimming Pools (viz. Cocoyea, Couva, Sangre Grande, Diego Martin, La Horquetta and Siparia) are similar. The Ministry submitted the specific schedule for the Siparia Community Swimming Pool. With respect to the activity schedule for the Laventille Community Swimming Pool, it is different from those of the other community pools mainly due to the fact that the programme is run by personnel from the Defence Force. The Defence Force personnel runs additional programmes such as Aqua-aerobics and Aqua-therapy, which are not conducted at the other six (6) Community Swimming Pool.

Questions:

1. What initiatives have been undertaken by the Ministry to promote activities at all community pools?
2. What mechanisms have been undertaken by the Ministry to determine the average number of persons using the pool per day/month?
3. What is the cost of maintaining the pool per day/month?
4. Since the opening of the Laventille Community Swimming Pool in July 2019, how many persons have participated in the Aqua-aerobics and Aqua-therapy programmes as at October 30, 2019?
5. Does the Ministry intend to incorporate the Aqua-aerobics and Aqua-therapy programme in the schedule for the other six (6) Community Swimming Pools (viz. Cocoyea, Couva, Sangre Grande, Diego Martin, La Horquetta and Siparia)

The maintenance plans and maintenance schedule (pg. 6)

While the maintenance plan for each pool is based on the same generic framework and structure, each maintenance plan is specific to the individual swimming pool depending on their facilities and installations. The pool installations at all pools include, pool pumps, sand filters, chlorinators, electrical panels and switches with surge protectors. However, the numbers and capacities vary at each pool. It should be noted that the individual maintenance plans do not include landscaping and janitorial services which are contracted to service providers.

Questions:

1. Does the Ministry have a register for service providers?
2. Which service providers were contracted to provide landscaping and janitorial services at each pool and at what cost?

Cost to maintain each pool (pg. 6)

The estimated monthly repairs and maintenance costs per pool are as follows:

- Materials & Supplies (Pool Chemicals) - estimated \$250,000 per pool annually
- Repairs & Maintenance - estimated \$250,000 per pool annually
- Water & Sewerage - \$7,000 monthly
- Electricity - \$6,950 monthly
- Telephone - \$7,000 monthly

Questions:

1. Are there systems in place by the Ministry for the maintenance of all community pools in keeping with international standards?
2. Is the Ministry challenged with sourcing materials to undertake repairs and maintenance works on community pools?
 - i. If yes, what has been done by the Ministry to address this issue?
3. What cost saving measures have been implemented by the Ministry?
4. Provide the name(s) of the supplier(s) of the pool chemicals purchased by the Ministry.
5. Have there been any other challenges faced by the Ministry with regard to the repairs and maintenance of community pools?
 - i. If yes, what are the challenges?
 - ii. What has been done by the Ministry to address these challenges?
6. Are there any outstanding arrears owed to state entities by the Ministry regarding utility bills for the maintenance of community pools?
 - i. If yes, provide a breakdown of MSYA's outstanding payment for state utilities and services.
 - ii. When does the Ministry intend to pay all outstanding arrears owed?

Oversight of all the pools (pg.7)

The Ministry has a Pool Manager who is responsible for and has oversight of all the pools. In addition, each pool has a Pool Ward/Facility Manager and a trained Pool Attendant whose duties include troubleshooting and simple maintenance of the physical plant of the actual pool.

The steps in reporting any issues include:

- The Pool Attendant would report any issues to the Pool Ward, who in turn would report to the Pool Manager.
- Depending on the significance of the problem, the Pool Manager would submit a report/request to the Director Physical Education and Sports (DPES).
- The DPES would forward a request to the Permanent Secretary or Deputy Permanent Secretary, depending on the cost of the required service.
- Depending on the peculiarities of the problem, the MSYA would either use the three (3) quotes system to engage a service provider to conduct maintenance works at the pool or may contact the supplier that installed the pool.

Questions:

1. Is the staff assigned to manage these community pools sufficient?
 - ii. If no, what is the ideal staff complement?
2. What are the qualifications for a Pool Manager, Pool Ward/Facility Manager and Pool Attendant?
3. Was training provided to ensure the maintenance of pools are aligned with best practice and international standards³?
4. Is any training scheduled in fiscal year 2019/2020 for the staff responsible for the oversight of community pools?
5. Have any reports identifying specific issues been submitted to the Pool Ward by any Pool Attendant?
 - i. If yes, what issues were discovered?
 - ii. At which community pool did these issues occur?
 - iii. How were the issues resolved?
 - iv. Was a cost incurred to resolve the issues identified? If yes, what was the estimated cost?

The Ministry's safety plans for each pool (pg. 8)

Each pool has been outfitted with fire extinguishers, First Aid kits, an Emergency Response System, with the pool staff receiving training in the use of the aforementioned. In addition, the MSYA has implemented the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for testing the safe PH levels daily at all the pools. The SOP is crucial to determining if the pool is fit for operations. Finally, all instructors are certified in First aid and CPR.

Questions:

1. Is any safety training for the staff scheduled for the fiscal year 2019/2020?
2. How many instructors are assigned to each community pool?
3. What is the criteria to become an instructor at a community pool?

³Guidelines for safe recreational water environments Volume 2 Swimming Pools and Similar Environments. Accessed on November 21, 2019. https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/bathing/srwe2full.pdf

4. What mechanisms are in place to ensure that the maintenance of fire extinguishers and that the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for testing the safe PH levels daily at all the pools is of international standards?

The construction of other community pools across the country (pg. 8)

Cabinet by Minute No. 1623 of September 27, 2018 agreed to the construction of Community Swimming Pools at Cedarwood Street, Morvant and Maloney Boulevard, Maloney. Construction of the Morvant Community Swimming pool commenced on 27th June, 2019 and is projected to be completed by end of February 2020. Meanwhile the construction arrangements for the Maloney Community Swimming Pool was being determined as the project was at the tendering stage.

Questions:

1. What is the status of this project?
2. Provide the contract terms for the construction of the Morvant Community Swimming Pool.
3. What is the total estimated cost to construct the Morvant Community Swimming Pool?
4. What is the total cost to date for the construction of the Morvant Community Swimming Pool?
5. Were there delays in the construction of the Morvant Community Swimming Pool?
6. Is the pool on schedule to be completed by the stated end date?
7. What is the status of the Maloney Community Swimming Pool?

Security plans/measures have been implemented by the Ministry with regard to each pool (pg. 9)

Each Community pool is guarded by personnel from a contracted security company on a 24/7 basis. With respect to the safety of persons using the facility, the swim instructors are also trained lifeguards.

Questions:

1. Provide the name of the security company contracted to provide security services at each pool?
2. How many security personnel are assigned to each community pool?
3. Were there any instances of a breach in security at any of the community pools? If yes, which community pool and what was the outcome?

APPENDIX IV

The Inquiry Process

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:

7. Identification of entity to be examined;
8. Preparation of Inquiry Proposal for the selected entity. The Inquiry Proposal outlines:
 - Description
 - Background;
 - Overview of Expenditure
 - Rationale/Objective of Inquiry; and
 - Proposed Questions.
9. Consideration and approval of Inquiry Proposals by the Committee and when approved, questions are forwarded to the entity for written responses;
10. Issue of requests for written comment from the public are made via Parliament's website, social media accounts, newspaper and advertisements;
11. 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;
12. Review of the responses provided and the Issues Paper by the Committee;
13. Conduct of a site visit to obtain a first-hand perspective of the implementation of a project (optional);
14. 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:
15. the Committee believes the issues have little public interest; or
16. the Committee believes that the written responses provided are sufficient and no further explanation is necessary.
17. Issue of written request to the entity for further details should the Committee require any additional information after the public hearing.

18. Report Committee's findings and recommendations to Parliament upon conclusion of the inquiry.

APPENDIX V

Minutes of Meetings

THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE –
FIFTH SESSION, ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT
MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-SECOND MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 12, 2020 AT 9:42 A.M.
IN THE ARNOLD THOMASOS MEETING ROOM EAST, LEVEL 2, CABILDO
BUILDING, PARLIAMENTARY COMPLEX, ST. VINCENT STREET, PORT-OF-
SPAIN.

Present were:

Mrs. Bridgid Mary Annisette-George	-	Chairman
Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Ancil Antoine	-	Member
Mr. Wade Mark	-	Member
Ms. Amrita Deonarine	-	Member
Ms. Sheranne Samuel	-	Assistant Secretary
Ms. Ashaki Alexis	-	Graduate Research Assistant

Excused were:

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

COMMENCEMENT

- 1.1 At 9:42 a.m. the Chairman called the meeting to order.
- 1.2 The Chairman indicated that Dr. Lackram Bodoë, Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy, Ms. Nicole Olivierre, Mr. Clarence Rambharat, Mr. Daniel Dookie and Mr. Foster Cummings asked to be excused from the meeting.

EXAMINATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE FIFTIETH AND FIFTY-FIRST MEETING

- 2.1 The Committee examined the Minutes of the Fiftieth (50th) Meeting held on February 5, 2020 and the Fifty-First (51st) Meeting held on February 12, 2020.
- 2.2 There being no omissions or corrections, the Minutes of the 50th and 51st meetings were confirmed on a motions moved by Ms. Deonarine and seconded by Mr. Mark.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FIFTIETH AND FIFTY-FIRST MEETINGS**Fiftieth Meeting**

- 3.1 As per item 3.2, the Chairman informed Members that the following Reports were presented:
- the Nineteenth Report on the examination of the expenditure and internal controls of the Ministry of Works and Transport – presented in the House of Representatives on Friday November 22, 2019 and in the Senate on Tuesday November 26, 2019.

- The Twentieth Report on the examination into the approval process for land use in Trinidad and Tobago – presented in the House of Representatives on Friday December 6, 2019 and the Senate on Saturday December 7, 2019; and
 - The Twenty-First Report on an inquiry into the oversight of State Agencies under the purview of the Ministry of Education and funding to Private Secondary School Institutions – presented in the House of Representatives on Friday December 6, 2019 and the Senate on Saturday December 7, 2019.
- 3.2 As per item 4.1, the Chairman informed Members that the revised Work Programme for the Fifth Session was circulated for Members’ consideration.
- 3.3 As per item 4.2, the Chairman indicated that the Inquiry Proposal on the examination of the internal controls and expenditure of the Elections and Boundaries Commission (002-Election Expenses) was circulated for Members’ comments and consideration on November 15, 2019. Feedback was provided by Member Ayanna Webster-Roy. The Committee agreed to proceed with this inquiry.
- 3.4 As per item 10.2, the Chairman informed Members that questions for additional information were sent to the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Planning and Development on November 19, 2019. The responses were received on December 13, 2019 and December 30, 2019 respectively. The responses would be circulated to Members via email.

Fifty-First Meeting

- 3.5 As per item 8.2, the Chairman informed Members that questions for additional information were sent to the following entities on February 10, 2020 with a deadline for response of February 17, 2020.
- Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago;
 - Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago;
 - Ministry of Finance; and
 - Ministry of Health.

The Chairman further informed Members that by email dated February 11, 2020, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health (MoH) informed the Committee that further to discussions with the Ministry of National Security, the MoH would be making a submission for the consideration of Cabinet on the establishment of a national Multisector Executive Response Team for Infectious Disease Threats (MERTID). A copy of the email was provided to Members present.

A discussion ensued. The Committee agreed to send additional questions to the MoH.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 4.1 The Chairman informed Members that a request for the Statements of Expenditure for the first quarter of fiscal 2020 was sent to all Ministries and Departments. As at January 31, 2020 responses were received from forty-one (41) Ministries and Departments. The response from the Ministry of Education remained outstanding.

PRE-HEARING DISCUSSION: AN EXAMINATION INTO THE MAINTENANCE OF COMMUNITY POOLS BY THE MINISTRY OF SPORT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (MSYA)

- 5.1 The Chairman reminded Members that this meeting would be an examination into the maintenance of community pools by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs.
- 5.2 The Chairman invited Members to review the Issues Paper based on the written submissions received from the MSYA.
- 5.3 The Chairman invited Members to raise any issues or questions on the examination into the maintenance of community pools by the MSYA. The Chairman also invited Members to identify any specific areas they wished to focus on. A discussion ensued.

SUSPENSION

- 6.1 There being no further business for discussion *in camera*, the Chairman suspended the meeting at 10:20 a.m. to be reconvened in public.

EXAMINATION INTO THE MAINTENANCE OF COMMUNITY POOLS BY THE MINISTRY OF SPORT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

- 7.1 The Chairman called the public meeting to order at 10:26 a.m.
- 7.2 The following officials joined the meeting:

Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs

Mr. Farook Hosein	-	Permanent Secretary
Mrs. Marcia London-McKellar	-	Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag)
Mr. Patrice Charles	-	Director, Physical Education and Sport
Mr. Armand Jackson	-	Senior Planning Officer
Mr. Ronson Hackshaw	-	Physical Education and Sports Officer II
Ms. Leah Malchan-Douglas	-	Accounting Executive I
Ms. Charmaine Yearwood	-	Director, Human Resource Services (Ag)

- 7.3 **Key Issues Discussed:**

General issues:

- 1. Seven (7) community swimming pools under the direct purview of the MSYA; and
- 2. The MSYA having no role in the oversight or maintenance of other swimming pools across Trinidad such as the Flying Fish, St Mary's Swimming Pool, YMCA, etc..

Cocoyea Community Swimming Pool:

1. The Cocoyea Community Swimming Pool being non-operational for the past twelve (12) months;
2. Plumbing installations completed at the pool but Mechanical and Electrical works were still ongoing;
3. The challenges faced by the Ministry during the implementation of the contract for the works at the pool such as underground flooding in the pump room; and
4. Reopening of the pool in March 2020.

Couva Community Swimming Pool:

1. The Couva Community Swimming Pool being non-operational for the past year and a half;
2. Maintenance work still to be completed;
3. Health and safety issues at the pool and the request made to the Budget Division of the Ministry of Finance (MOF) to rectify these issues;
4. Number of persons utilising the pool before its closure; and
5. The need for the Ministry to complete works at the pool and make it operational for public use.

Laventille Community Swimming Pool

1. The additional cost incurred by the Ministry to facilitate compliance with International Swimming Federation, Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA) 2017 Regulation and International Building Codes (IBC) 2012 at the pool; and
2. The status of the completion of works at the pool.

Security and Maintenance at community swimming pools

1. The absence of a register of service providers in the Ministry;
2. Security and Maintenance Service providers at community swimming pools engaged in month to month contracts;
3. The Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SporTT) being charged with the responsibility of engaging service providers for security services and the maintenance at community swimming pools;
4. The procurement process for contracting service providers for security services and maintenance of community pools; and
5. The National Maintenance Training and Security Company Limited (MTS) being contracted to provide janitorial and landscaping services at community pools from March 2020.

Outstanding arrears owed to state entities by the Ministry

1. Outstanding arrears owed to state entities such as the Trinidad and Tobago Electrical Commission and the Water and Sewerage Authority specific to community pools.

Oversight of community pools:

1. The role of the Project Management Unit of the MSYA in the oversight of the construction and maintenance of community swimming pools under the purview of the Ministry;

2. The staff complement of the Project Management Unit of the Ministry;
3. The Ministry's request for additional staff at community swimming pools;
4. The collaboration between SporTT and the MSYA in ensuring that all pools are in compliance with International Swimming Federation, Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA) 2017 Regulations and International Building Codes (IBC) 2012; and
5. The need for continuous training of Pool attendants in the International Swimming Federation, Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA) 2017 Regulations.

The activity schedule for fiscal year 2019-2020 for each community pool

1. An average of 60,000 persons per year utilising community pools in Trinidad;
2. The revenue generated from the public use of community pools;
3. The need to review the current fee structure at community pools;
4. The utilisation of community pools by primary and secondary school students;
5. The fees charged to schools per term and to the public for the utilisation of community swimming pools;
6. The Laventille Community Swimming Pool being the only pool to offer the Aqua-aerobics and Aqua-therapy programmes;
7. Training requirement for the pool staff/instructors at the other six (6) community swimming pools for the incorporation of Aqua-aerobics and Aqua-therapy programmes;
8. Evenings and weekend classes only facilitated at the Diego Martin and Cocoyea community swimming pools; and
9. The activity schedule for the Laventille Community Swimming Pool being different from those at the other (6) Community Swimming Pools.

The Ministry's Comprehensive Maintenance Plan

1. The development of a Comprehensive Maintenance Plan that is in line with international standards and practices; and
2. The challenges faced by the Ministry in the implementation of the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan.

The construction of other community pools across the country

1. The construction of community swimming pools at Cedarwood Street, Morvant and Maloney Boulevard;
2. Delays in the construction of the Morvant Community Swimming Pool due to financial and security challenges;
3. The March 2020 completion date of the construction of the Morvant community swimming pool;
4. The status of the construction of the Maloney Boulevard Community Swimming Pool;
5. Details surrounding the request to construct a community swimming pool in D'Abadie/O'Meara; and
6. Details on the decision process for the construction of new community swimming pools.

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

- 7.4 The Chairman thanked the representatives of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs for attending.

- 7.5 The Committee agreed that additional questions would be sent to the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs **[Please see Appendix]**.

ADJOURNMENT

- 8.1 There being no other business, the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and the meeting was adjourned to March 11, 2020.
- 8.2 The adjournment was taken at 12:34 p.m.

We certify that these Minutes are true and correct.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

February 12, 2020

APPENDIX VI

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED

Questions to the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs

General questions

1. What mechanisms are in place to ensure proper management of public funds with regard to the construction and maintenance of community pools?
2. How does the Ministry hold contractors accountable for the goods and services provided to the Ministry?
3. What standards and data are used by the Ministry to increase the uniformity and consistency of costing data supplied by contractors for the purpose of assisting in negotiating, pricing and/or administering contracts?
4. What key performance indicators are in place to measure the service(s) provided by the contractors in the construction and maintenance of community pools?
5. Does the MSYA have any jurisdiction over swimming pools in Tobago?

Project Risk Management

1. Does the Ministry have a project risk management policy/project risk management guideline? If yes, provide a copy.
2. How many persons are assigned to the management of community pool projects undertaken by the Ministry? Are these persons trained to manage high-risk projects?
3. How often does the Ministry conduct an analysis of its project risk management processes?
4. Has the Ministry assessed whether identified risks are mitigated by existing internal controls and evaluated the design and effectiveness of those controls?
5. What is the Ministry's project risk management process and how does this process seek to minimise potential adverse effects on project delivery and performance?

The activity schedule for the fiscal year 2019-2020 for each community pool

1. Provide a list of all schools that utilised each pool for the fiscal year 2018 and 2019.
2. Provide a breakdown of the category of workers employed in the Research and Planning Unit of the MSYA.

Maintenance plans and maintenance schedule

1. What is the status of the implementation of the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan?
2. What are some of the goals and objectives of this plan?

3. What key performance indicators are in place to determine the success of the objectives identified in this plan?
4. What data are used to measure the success of this plan?
5. What are the benefits and outcomes of the utilisation of this plan?
6. When last was the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan updated by the Ministry to ensure that it is up-to-date with international standards and practices?

Cost-saving measures

1. State the savings realised by the Ministry for the fiscal year 2019 as a result of the cost-saving measures implemented in the maintenance of community pools?

Outstanding arrears owed to state entities by the Ministry regarding utility bills for maintenance of pools

1. Are there any outstanding arrears owed to state entities for the Laventille Community Swimming Pool?
 - i. If yes, what is the total amount owed?
2. What is the status of the request to facilitate payments to state entities to settle the outstanding arrears?
3. Has there been any further communication between the Ministry and Ministry of Finance (MoF)?

Oversight of all pools

1. What efforts have been made by the Ministry to acquire the additional staff needed at the Diego Martin and Cocoyea Swimming Pools which offer extended and weekend hours?
2. What is the cost of acquiring additional staff for the oversight of community pools?
3. What are some of the challenges experienced by the Ministry with regard to the oversight of community pools?

The construction of other community pools across the country

1. What is the expected timeframe for the report which recommends one tenderer for award to be finalised for the Morvant Community Swimming Pool?
2. State the financial and security challenges faced at the Morvant Community Pool and the solution(s) to resolve the challenges stated above.

Security plans/measures at community swimming pools

1. Why were security companies not under contract with the Ministry to provide security services at each pool?
2. Why were companies selected to provide security services on a month-to-month basis?
3. Does the MSYA intend to engage in long term contracts with companies to provide security services at each pool?

Provide the following:

1. A copy of the Ministry's Comprehensive Maintenance Plan;
2. The deadline date for the completion of works at the Cocoyea Community Swimming Pool;
3. The assessment report on the challenges faced at the Cocoyea Community Swimming Pool;
4. The timeframe to rectify the underground flooding that occurred in the pump room of the Cocoyea Community Swimming Pool;
5. The length of time between identifying and fixing the problem at the Cocoyea Community Swimming Pool.
6. The name of the company that provided security and janitorial services to each community swimming pool prior to the National Maintenance Training and Security Company Limited (MTS) arrangement;
 - a. the length of time the companies were engaged on a month-to-month basis?
 - b. the cost associated with the arrangement.
7. Whether MTS has started providing janitorial and security service as at March 01, 2020, as indicated at the public hearing held on February 12, 2020;
8. The timeframe for establishing a register of service providers at the Ministry;
9. The procurement process for selecting service providers prior to the MTS arrangement;

10. The process and procedure for procuring services providers by the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT);
11. The training schedule for Pool Attendants at community pools for the fiscal years 2019 and 2020;
12. Details on the use of each community swimming pool for the past five (5) years. Numbers disaggregated according to: the purpose of use (e.g. recreational/learning to swim) and male and female;
13. The revenue-generating capacity of each pool, disaggregated according to use (learn to swim, recreational and/or private hire)
14. The Couva Community Swimming Pool (Project 2):
 - a. the completion date;
 - b. details on the maintenance work required; and
 - c. whether funds have been released to date.

Appendix VII

Verbatim

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE FIFTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE (IN PUBLIC) HELD IN

**COMMITTEE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, CABILDO PARLIAMENTARY COMPLEX,
OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT, ST. VINCENT STREET, PORT OF SPAIN, ON
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020, AT 10.25 A.M.**

PRESENT

Mrs. Bridgid Annisette-George	Chairman
Mr. Wade Mark	Member
Brig. Gen. Ancil Antoine	Member
Ms. Amrita Deonarine	Member
Ms. Sheranne Samuel	Assistant Secretary
Ms. Ashaki Alexis	Graduate Research Officer

ABSENT

Dr. Lackram Bodo	Vice-Chairman
Mr. Daniel Dookie	Member
Ms. Nicole Olivier	Member
Mr. Clarence Rambharat	Member
Mrs. Ayanna Webster-Roy	Member
Mr. Foster Cummings	Member

MINISTRY OF SPORT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

Mr. Farook Hosein	Permanent Secretary
Mrs. Marcia London-McKellar	Deputy Permanent Secretary
Mr. Patrice Charles	Director, Physical education and Sport
Mr. Armand Jackson	Senior Planning Officer
Mr. Ronson Hackshaw	Physical Education and Sport Officer II
Ms. Leah Malchan-Douglas	Accounting Executive I
Ms. Charmaine Yearwood	Director, Human Resource Services

Madam Chairman: Good morning everyone, and I wish to welcome the officials of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, the members of the media and the listening public to this: our examination into the maintenance of community pools by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs.

I am Bridgid Annisette-George and I am the Chairman of the Public Administration and

Appropriations Committee of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago. The Committee on Public Administration and Appropriations has the mandate to consider and to report to the House 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 the improvement of public administration.

The purpose of this meeting is to examine the maintenance of community pools by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs. This meeting is being held in public, and there will be a delayed broadcast on the Parliament's Channel 11 and Radio 105.5 FM and the Parliament's YouTube Channel, *ParlView*.

I, therefore, now will invite the representatives of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs to introduce themselves. Mr. PS.

[Introductions made]

Madam Chairman: Thank you very much. And might I ask the members of the Committee to introduce themselves, and I will start on my extreme left.

[Introductions made]

Madam Chairman: And today the Committee is ably assisted by its Assistant Secretary, Ms. Sheranne Samuel and by our Graduate Research Assistant, Ms. Ashaki Alexis. And, Mr. PS, to start off the conversation I will just invite you to make, you know, a brief opening statement if you wish.

Mr. Hosein: Chair, permit me to express appreciation to the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee of Parliament for convening this dialogue on the maintenance of community swimming pools by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs.

The Ministry is responsible for monitoring, oversight and facilitation of the development of youth, sport and recreation in Trinidad and Tobago. In accordance with the National Policy on Sport, the Ministry facilitates both high-performance sport for competitive and elite athletes, as well as total participation in sport at all societal and individual levels.

In terms of infrastructure development, the national sporting policy enunciated the goal of

upgrading and maintenance of existing sporting facilities while facilitating the planned construction of new facilities. Specifically, as it relates to the discipline of swimming, the Ministry operates community swimming pools across Trinidad. These swimming pools play an important role for users such as learning to swim, as well as for recreation and facilitating a community spirit.

Chair, the Ministry looks forward to a productive meeting and sharing of information and ideas on this important matter being addressed by the Committee. I thank you.

Madam Chairman: Thank you so much, PS. So in terms of community pools, from your submission you said that there are seven community swimming pools, and you have listed them as Cocoyea, Couva, Sangre Grande, Diego Martin, La Horquetta, Siparia and Laventille.

Now, in terms of—specifically, I want to ask in terms of Diego Martin, what is considered the community swimming pool? And I am asking that in the context of your programme of works intended for this year for Diego Martin, where you all outline the tennis court. So, you know, I am wondering if there is some disconnect between what we consider the swimming pool, and what you all consider as the swimming pool.

Mr. Hosein: Okay. Mr. Charles, the Director of Physical Education and Sport will assist us with that.

Mr. Charles: Thank you, PS. Chair, members, the entire compound at the Diego Martin swimming pool includes a tennis court and a basketball court in addition to the pool—

Madam Chairman: All right.

Mr. Charles:—in keeping with a focus on providing space for community activity. All right? It is a part of the Ministry. So there are some works that need to be done to keep it at a level of safety, et cetera, for community use, which is why during the scope of works that we have to do, we have decided, okay, this time we will seek to do some works at the tennis court.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So, in terms of these seven facilities then, that you have identified, other than Diego Martin, are there any others that consist of more than a swimming pool?

Mr. Charles: Yes. Chair, at Cocoyea, there is a netball court as well.

Madam Chairman: So only Cocoyea and Diego Martin? That when one talks about the swimming pool, you are talking more about a wider facility than just swimming?

Mr. Charles: Yes. And in Couva there is a basketball court.

Madam Chairman: All right. So just following that line then in terms of Diego Martin. In terms of your programme for developing this here in Diego Martin, nothing that is being done is intended

or specific to the pool facility itself?—meaning the pool, the swimming pool.

Mr. Charles: Not at this time.

Madam Chairman: Okay. Might I ask, is there need for any work to be done to the upgrade of that pool?

Mr. Charles: Yes. Chair, there are some upgrades to the exterior lighting, security lighting and the fencing with the tennis and basketball court.

Madam Chairman: All right. So the works are really to upgrade the facility, but not the actual swimming pool? Okay? All right. Thank you. So I want to ask, in terms of the other pools in the country, what we have been told is that you all—the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs says that it has no formal role in the oversight or maintenance of public pools across Trinidad and Tobago, and you are talking about pools like Flying Fish, St. Mary’s and so on. You have no formal role. Do you have an informal role? PS, if you look at your submission of November 2019, page 2.

Mr. Hosein: Okay. The person who performs the role of pool manager is Mr. Hackshaw and he will assist us in that.

Mr. Hackshaw: Good morning, again, Chair, members. The Ministry does not have any oversight over these pools in question, for example, Flying Fish, Blue Dolphins, these are private institutions and we do not have any oversight over the maintenance of these facilities.

Madam Chairman: All right. So it would be correct to say that you all have no role at all with these facilities?

Mr. Hackshaw: That is correct.

Madam Chairman: All right. Okay. Thank you very much for that clarification. So, in looking at what you have done in terms of Cocoyea and the various pools—with Cocoyea, you said that the work you have done is upgrade of your mechanical, electrical, plumbing installations of the facility. Will that just be the pool, or that will be the pool and the netball court?

Mr. Charles: Chair, that will be the pool.

Madam Chairman: That would just be the pool?

Mr. Charles: Just be the pool.

Madam Chairman: And to date, how much of that work is completed?

Mr. Charles: Right. Those particular works are completed.

Madam Chairman: They are all completed?

Mr. Charles: Yes.

Madam Chairman: And your project start date would have been the 4th of September, 2019.

Mr. Charles: Yes, Chair.

Madam Chairman: Yes? And did you complete your project within time? What was the estimated time of that project?

Mr. Hosein: Chair, the works are completed. If there was a delay, it may have been a few weeks, but we can verify and we can provide that information in writing.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So your lighting, which was supposed to be completed—your security lighting, which was supposed to be completed in February, they are already completed? Let me just—what I understand is, you had mechanical and electrical works, you had repairs and installation to your security lighting. Okay? In your submission, you indicated that your mechanical and electrical works were 90 per cent completed, that was in January 2020. And you also said that your repairs and installations to the security lighting would be completed in February 2020. What I want to know is if those various works, as you have identified, if they are all completed.

Mr. Hosein: Okay. There are some electrical works to be completed under maintenance. There were some challenges in terms of the particular works there where the pump room was flooded and we needed to replace the pumps instead of repairing the pumps. And some of the electrical works that have to be done, will be done in coming weeks in terms of maintenance under the recurrent Vote.

Madam Chairman: All right. So just so that I understand, PS, you had a particular project, right, which was upgrades to your mechanical, electrical and plumbing installations and was given by a contract which should have started in September 2019. Okay? I am not certain that I understand if—because first, I was told that the works under that contract were completed. Okay? That was the first response. So what I want to be sure is that, in terms of your mechanical and electrical works under that contract, was it completed?

Mr. Hosein: As I indicated, during the implementation of the contract, there were some challenges, and therefore, what had happened is that there needed to be a change in terms of the cost for replacing the pumps instead of repairing, and in accordance with the terms of the FIDIC, a change was made so that the pumps could be purchased, which would be a higher cost than repairing them, and some of the electrical work had to be suppressed, and those will be undertaken under recurrent. So a note was prepared so that approval would be given for that change. Yeah?

Madam Chairman: So can I ask, what were the challenges which were encountered that you speak of? You said, some challenges occurred that you had to vary the contract. What were the challenges?

Mr. Hosein: Okay. Mr. Hackshaw will provide the details.

Mr. Hackshaw: The challenges at that facility were that the pump room flooded about—

Madam Chairman: It flooded during the execution of the work?

Mr. Hackshaw: Before the execution of the work. Right? It flooded to a capacity to about eight to 10 feet of water so the pumps were totally submerged under water. So this is the reason why the challenges we had in terms of—instead of repairing the pumps, the pumps needed to be replaced, totally.

Madam Chairman: And let me ask this: In terms of, therefore, the cost of the pumps, how did that now impact on the whole cost of this project?

Mr. Hosein: So because we had a particular amount of allocation for the project, in order for the project to go ahead and remain within cost, the project coordinator prepared a proposal in accordance with FIDIC regulations so that we can do the work in terms of acquiring the new pumps and then some of the electrical works would be suppressed. So that was the approach.

Madam Chairman: So your project cost, initially, was \$610,087.50. The fact that you had to vary, you took the pumps out, okay? My understanding would be that you took the pumps out because you did not have to repair pumps again.

Mr. Hosein: We had to replace a set. It had to be replaced which would be a higher cost than repairing.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So what was the final cost, then, of the project?

Mr. Hosein: Because, in effect, some of the works under electrical were suppressed, the total cost remained the same.

Madam Chairman: All right. And that total cost remaining the same, included the purchase of the pumps?

Mr. Hosein: Yes.

Madam Chairman: Okay. And the electrical works that were suppressed, those are the works that will be done, you say, in-house? How will those be done?

Mr. Hackshaw: Yes. It will be done in-house.

Madam Chairman: And when will that start?

Mr. Hackshaw: We submitted a note and we are waiting on budgets to help us with the releases of the funds to start that project.

Madam Chairman: All right. And how important are these electrical works to the functioning of the facility?

Mr. Hackshaw: They are very important because the electrical works—that entails lighting, the security lighting of the perimeter of the facility, and other minor electrical works in terms of the switches.

Madam Chairman: Could those switches or the malfunction of the switches affect the new pumps?

Mr. Hackshaw: The electrical—the work that was done was the pumps, we replaced the pumps. That electrical was done completely under the project, so there is no problem in that aspect.

Madam Chairman: Okay. And might I ask, is this facility up and running?

Mr. Hackshaw: Not currently. No.

Madam Chairman: How long has it been down?

Mr. Hackshaw: It has been down approximately one year, Madam Chair.

Madam Chairman: All right. And when do we anticipate that it will be back up and running?

Mr. Hackshaw: We anticipate that it will be back up and running March2020.

Madam Chairman: March2020. Is that conditional on getting the electrical work done?

Mr. Hackshaw: It is conditional with getting the releases from budgets.

Madam Chairman: Okay. Mr. PS, might I ask you, any follow-up on when this release will be expected from budgets?

Mr. Hosein: In our discussions with the Budget Division, it is anticipated by the end of this week, we should get the release, and if the work to be done takes about three or four weeks, then that is why we anticipate that the pool would be opened in March.

Madam Chairman: All right. So if I understand it, there were really no cost overruns in this project because you brought it within the budget. But in a way, you have another expense because you had to vary and do things otherwise. All right? And let me ask this. You said that you may have had a delay of a couple of weeks under the project that you consider as completed. Was that delay, at all, related to any issue of release of funds?

Mr. Hosein: I will check, but I do not believe so because we had confirmation of funds for the entire project.

Madam Chairman: And has the contractor, or contractors under this project been completely paid or are there any moneys still due to the contractors?

Mr. Hosein: The Accounting Executive will assist us with that answer.

Ms. Malchan-Douglas: Yes. The contractors have been completely paid for this project.

Madam Chairman: All right. PS, can I ask, are there any lessons to be learnt from this project?

Mr. Hosein: Yes. There would be lessons to be learnt from the project, in terms of our ability to be flexible and adaptable, in terms of changing circumstances. Because, initially, when it happened, when we realized, well, you know, what are we to do, we have a certain amount money to spend to get the pool to a particular standard so it can be opened. Now there is an unexpected challenge that is going to increase the cost, and we had to seek our legal adviser as to how we can go about this within the contract and so and so. There are lessons to be learnt and we are learning those lessons in terms of trying to bring the pools to a functional level within the shortest time frame.

Madam Chairman: All right. Let me ask specifically about lessons to be learnt. You said the pump room was flooded with about 10 feet of water. Any analysis with respect to how that occurred or why it occurred?

Mr. Hackshaw: Our projects unit did a—we asked help from WASA and Ministry of Works and Transport and an assessment was done. I do not have the report, exactly what was the problem, we can get that to you in writing, but the leak was stopped and that helped us in getting the work started in terms of replacing the pumps.

Madam Chairman: I am just a little lost because what I am trying to understand is, your first work told you that your pumps were defective. Right? You knew your pumps were defective and that is why you had the project. All right? Your project is varied because whatever the defect is, I understand it would be that it caused the flooding. So what I am trying to find out is, if there was any way you could have anticipated that having defective pumps, you were exposed to such a risk or such a threat, and whether steps could have been taken to mitigate or avoid such risk or threat? That is what I am trying to find out.

Mr. Hackshaw: The pumps were not really the issue in terms of the flooding. The flooding was caused by an underground issue where—that was rectified with consultation with the Ministry of Works and Transport and WASA to help us to go into the facility to see where the problem arose from. So it was really out of our hands to say the pumps were the issue which caused the flooding;

it was not that, it was an underground issue with the—I do not have the words to describe it, I do not have the report in front of me, but a site visit was done with WASA and Ministry of Works and Transport and a report was done, and they helped us relieve the problem of the flooding—of the underground flooding in the pump room.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So, PS, could you, therefore, provide the Committee with a copy of that report?

10.55 a.m.

Mr. Hosein: Yes, Chair.

Madam Chairman: Thank you. Member Mark.

Mr. Mark: Thank you, Madam Chair, and good morning, again. Before I ask some specific questions surrounding your whole policy on maintenance, could you indicate to us, this Committee, is there a security cost associated with the protection of the assets at the facility that we are discussing? Is there a security cost, seeing that it has been shut down for one year, that facility? Who is guarding the assets of the people of T&T at that facility, and what is it costing, if we are taking measures to safeguard and secure those assets? Can anyone help this Committee on this matter?

Mr. Charles: Good day, member, thank you for your question. There is a security company at the facility to safeguard the physical plant and assets of the facility, and that continues to date.

Mr. Mark: Can you share with this Committee: the name of that security company, how was that security company selected, and what is the cost thus far in total that the Ministry would have had to pay for this security company to secure our assets at the facility in question?

Mr. Hosein: Okay, that information can be provided in writing.

Mr. Mark: But do you know the name of the company, Sir?

Mr. Hosein: For the swimming pools, it is an arrangement between the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago and particular service providers on a month-to-month arrangement. I cannot recall the particular service provider for that swimming pool, but that can be provided in writing.

Mr. Mark: And that is on a month-to-month basis?

Mr. Hosein: On a month-to-month basis, yes.

Mr. Mark: And you cannot tell us what it is costing the Ministry to sustain that arrangement on a month-to-month basis?

Mr. Hosein: I can get that information.

Mr. Mark: But you do not have it with you right now?

Mr. Hosein: I may have it with me but I will have to look for it.

Mr. Mark: All right, well then, whilst looking for it, you can look for it and get back maybe during the enquiry, but it would be interesting to find out from you what is the actual cost thus far, to the people and to your Ministry, as it relates to the particular security company that has been hired. Are you in a position to share with us?

Mr. Hosein: I have a report from Sports Company where they have indicated that for the Cocoyea facility, there is a security cost of \$58,000 per month.

Mr. Mark: Fifty-eight per month?

Mr. Hosein: Well, I see the report before me is the average monthly cost, and for security for Cocoyea, I am seeing in this report, \$58,000.

Mr. Mark: Fifty-eight thousand?

Mr. Hosein: Yes.

Mr. Mark: And then this company has been there for about—you say about how many months now? About 15 months?

Mr. Hosein: In discussion with the CEO, he had indicated that it was for a few years but I cannot recall the exact—

Mr. Mark: No, I am talking about since this facility have been shut down, that would have been how many months now? Is it 15 months? One year?

Mr. Hackshaw: Twelve months.

Mr. Mark: It is for 12 months? Okay, all right. I just also want to ask you: What is the level of oversight and monitoring as it relates to your maintenance policy at this particular facility, and by extension, all your swimming pool facilities in Trinidad? Can you tell us? What kind of policy you have in place? What kind of personnel you have in place? What are the skill sets of the personnel? Do you have a company that you have hired to monitor maintenance activities at these swimming pools? How is it done? I am trying to get clarification here.

Mr. Hosein: Okay, in terms of janitorial and security services, it is through an arrangement that the Sports Company has with service providers. Cabinet had taken a decision in, I believe it was late November of last year, for MTS to provide these services to the swimming pools, and this was supposed to take effect from 1st of February. There were meetings between Sports Company and MTS, and they are doing site visits to each one of the facilities, and MTS has asked that it be

delayed— they undertaking these services be delayed for one month. So it is expected that they would actually be on board from 1st of March.

Mr. Mark: Who were the previous service providers? And was it the same service providers for all your swimming pools, or did you have different service providers?

Mr. Hosein: The Sports Company would have engaged in this month-to-month contract with different service providers at the different swimming pools.

Mr. Mark: Why month-to-month and not, for instance, a contract for a year or two? Why month-to-month? What was the challenge that led you to a month-to-month arrangement, given the fact that these are permanent assets? They are not going anywhere, so why engage security services on a month-to-month basis? Can you explain?

Mr. Hosein: Well, this arrangement—when I spoke to the CEO of the Sports Company, he indicated that this predated his time at the Sports Company, but they were the ones—the Sports Company was the authority that was responsible for this arrangement.

Mr. Mark: But what is your role? When I say your role, what is the Ministry's oversight role in these matters? Do you have any responsibility, seeing that you are the accounting officer?

Mr. Hosein: Yes certainly, we will have a responsibility in terms of providing funding and so on, and as I indicated that based on the decision of Cabinet, MTS would be undertaking these services.

Mr. Mark: That is henceforth?

Mr. Hosein: Yes.

Mr. Mark: Henceforth?

Mr. Hosein: Yes.

Mr. Mark: I am dealing with the past, and I am asking you—maybe you do not have the information, but I think you would need to provide this Committee with a detailed breakdown of all these service providers that you have—that the Sports Company would have engaged, with the oversight role being executed by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs: how long these companies have been engaged on a month-to-month basis, and what the cost associated with this arrangement has been for the Ministry, for the Sports Company, and for the people of T&T. I think you will need to provide that to the Committee.

Mr. Hosein: Sure, certainly.

Mr. Mark: I just also want to ask you, you raised an interesting point when you were making your opening statement, that there are two functions, essentially, that these pools perform. One,

you have a recreational function and you have like a learning-to-swim function. Would you be in a position to tell us, over the last few years since these pools have been established in the various communities, how many citizens have we been able to impart with these skills, like, for instance, swimming skills? Again, do you have a breakdown, a statistical breakdown as to the number of citizens who have been able to learn to swim during the period under review, in terms of these swimming pools?

Mr. Hosein: Mr. Jackson, our Senior Planning Officer, will provide that response.

Mr. Jackson: Chair, on average, approximate player—on average, approximately 60,000 persons, male and female would be using these facilities. In 2017, it was about 54,000; and in 2018, we had about—that is 40,000; and in 2019, we had 38,000.

Mr. Mark: Yes, that is the total.

Mr. Jackson: Yes, those are the totals.

Mr. Mark: Both for recreation and for learning-to-swim purposes. Have you been able to disaggregate?

Mr. Jackson: No, I do not have the disaggregated figures here.

Mr. Mark: Who would have that? Because you oversee the activities of the Sports Company, not so?

Mr. Jackson: That information could be provided to you. I do not have it with me here at this point.

Mr. Mark: All right. Okay, so you would provide that information. May I also, on the question about the maintenance of these facilities, you indicated that janitorial and landscaping services are being provided by MTS from February. Prior to that, it would have been the service providers in the private sector doing that, right? And you would be able to give us a breakdown of that in writing. But, would you be able to indicate whether the Ministry intends to establish a register, or should I ask, first of all, do you have a register of all your service providers that are contracted to provide or undertake maintenance work or works on these pools?

Mr. Hosein: Specifically, in terms of the pools, the Sports Company is responsible for providing the landscaping, the maintenance, the security, so it is through the Sports Company.

Mr. Mark: Yeah, but does the Ministry have a register of all these service providers? Remember you perform oversight responsibility so you release funds. Without you releasing funds, the Sports Company is dead, so your accountability role is quite critical. So if they are spending money on

service providers, you must be able, as a Ministry, to have a register in the Ministry as to all their service providers. Am I wrong? Do you have one, first of all, and if you do not have one, why do you not have one? And if you do not have one, when do you intend to establish one?

Mr. Hosein: Okay, in terms of a register of service providers for the Sports Company, we can get a listing from the Sports Company. Presently, do we have one? So, we can get that information from the Sports Company.

Mr. Mark: But you do not have, as we speak, as a Ministry with oversight responsibility and being responsible for releasing moneys to the Sports Company of T&T, the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs does not have a register of all the service providers? That is the question I am trying to get. And if you do not have one, do you intend to establish one? That is the question I am asking on behalf of the Committee.

Mr. Hosein: As far as I am aware, we do not have a register of service providers that the Sports Company utilizes, but we can request that information from the Sports Company, and I intend to do so.

Mr. Mark: Well, it is not only requesting. What I am suggesting that you consider, Mr. Permanent Secretary, is that as the oversight Ministry, you need to have these things at your fingertips, because you are the one who is responsible for releasing taxpayers' money to this company called "the Sports Company of T&T", and they in turn hire service providers. So you need to know and you need to have a register to monitor what this organization is doing so you can properly account for their activities. You will agree with me?

Mr. Hosein: Okay, I certainly see the benefit of the Ministry having the register, and we will request the information from the Sports Company and establish such a register. Thanks for that advice.

Mr. Mark: Do you have, Mr. Permanent Secretary, an understanding of the selection process for choosing service providers? Because this is what has been done prior to the Cabinet taking a decision to direct you to employ MTS from February of 2020. Do you have an idea of how the Sports Company has gone about selecting or choosing service providers? What is the procurement process, in other words, involved? Do you know? Do you have an understanding or an idea, or is the Sports Company doing their own thing, and you are just hearing by the wayside what they are doing?

Mr. Hosein: Well, I had a discussion with the CEO in terms of that arrangement, and he indicated

that it was a month-to-month arrangement that predated his tenure at the Sports Company, and at the time, we were in the process of approaching Cabinet for a new arrangement with respect to MTS.

Mr. Mark: Can you provide to this Committee, in writing, what process has been employed, or was employed, or is employed, as we speak? I know MTS is coming on board. They have asked for a month's grace. But if you can tell us over the last few years, what process, what procedure, what procurement arrangement has been effected in selecting these various service providers by the Sports Company of T&T? Would you be able to provide that in writing?

Mr. Hosein: So, yes, I will provide that information in writing.

Mr. Mark: Madam Chair, I have several more questions under maintenance, but I will pause.

Madam Chairman: Okay, thank you. Member Deonarine.

Ms. Deonarine: Thank you, Madam Chair, good morning, again, everyone. I am not sure who would be able to answer this question so I will just throw it out there. What is the revenue generating capacity of the pools, these community pools? Do they generate any sort of revenue?

Mr. Hosein: They are highly subsidized, and the objective is not really to raise revenues. In terms of the actual rates, Mr. Hackshaw will provide the fees.

Madam Chairman: So, just now, do they raise revenue?

Mr. Hosein: Yes, a minimal amount, but if you hear the actual fees, it is really miniscule, and it would not be able to cover cost.

Madam Chairman: No, no, we are not asking about profit. Do they raise revenue?

Mr. Hosein: Okay, the AU-I will provide us with the actual amount of revenue that was raised.

Madam Chairman: Right, and just before Mr. PS, just let me ask this other question that is related. Your Learn to Swim programmes that are offered to schools, are those free or there is a charge?

Mr. Hackshaw: There is a charge per term for the schools, Madam Chair.

Madam Chairman: Okay. Apart from the Learn to Swim programme with the schools, are the pools hired out, at all, to any private entities to run programmes?

Mr. Hackshaw: Yes. There is a cost per lane at the facility, in terms of if somebody wants to use the facility, Madam Chair.

Madam Chairman: So, therefore, in answering the question of member Deonarine with respect to revenue, could we then get the details of that per pool? Okay?

Mr. Hosein: The information can be provided in writing.

Madam Chairman: So, could you just tell us, then, a cost per lane?

Mr. Hackshaw: Approximately \$40 an hour.

Madam Chairman: And per school, per term?

Mr. Hackshaw: Per school, \$100 per term.

Ms. Deonarine: One hundred dollars for the entire term for one school?

Mr. Hackshaw: That is correct.

Ms. Deonarine: Has consideration been given to revise these fees?

Mr. Hackshaw: Yes, consideration has been made to revise the fees, but it is how it is right now, in terms of the fee structure for the pools for the schools. Each class— each school brings about 25 persons to swim and those 25 students will, during the course of the term—the school would pay that \$100 for the students for the term.

Madam Chairman: Member Antoine.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: Good morning, once again. In your submission, you indicated about extended and weekend hours of use of the pools, how many pools are accessible to the public on evenings, weekends and public holidays? Because these pools were built by the Government as community pools. During working hours, members of the community are engaged in earning a living, so the time that the community will have access to the pools must be on evenings, on weekends, and on public holidays. How many of these pools are open for the public during those times?

Mr. Hackshaw: All the pools run evening sessions. Not all the pools run weekend sessions. The problem with that is that there is a limitation with staffing at the various facilities to offer Learn to Swim and recreational swim on the weekend. For example, the pools that were to offer classes on the evenings, and weekends, and public holidays, minus religious holidays: Diego Martin Community Swimming Pool and Siparia Community Swimming Pool.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: Is there any intention of opening these pools to the communities on an extended period?

Mr. Hackshaw: Yes, that is the Ministry's intention, to extend the hours for the pools to have it during weekends and public holidays for the citizens. Yes.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: And these are for all pools?

Mr. Hackshaw: All pools, correct.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: If the problem is staffing, have you made any overtures to the community to provide the additional staff so that there would not be a cost to the Government for the pools because there are lots of organizations out there, the Lions, the Rotary Club, there are all types of organizations that can assist to cut the cost down in terms of the payment of people in terms of the pools.

Mr. Hackshaw: The technical staff at the facilities, instructors/lifeguards at the facilities, there is a process that the Ministry needs to take with service commission to have more staff put in place to offer these services on extended hours at these other various community swimming pools, but those actions are being put in place to get additional staffing.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: Have you had any discussion with the community voluntary organizations about assisting with the extended hours on weekends for the pools?

Mr. Hackshaw: No, we have not extended help from the community in terms of that aspect. No.

Madam Chairman: All right, just to follow-up on that, I heard Mr. Hackshaw say it is Diego Martin and Siparia. In the submission, we are told Diego Martin and Cocoyea, okay? So does Cocoyea, prior to a year ago, also offer extended hours and weekends?

Mr. Hackshaw: My mistake, correct. And also too, Laventille swimming pool.

Madam Chairman: Okay, so Siparia, Diego Martin, Laventille, and Cocoyea when it is up and running, would be the four pools that are offering extended and weekend hours?

Mr. Hackshaw: That is correct.

Madam Chairman: All right. Now, in the submission, what we were told is that all the pools have adequate staff except Diego Martin and Cocoyea for the extended and weekend hours. Is that still correct, or is that incorrect?

Mr. Hackshaw: I would say that is an incorrect statement we made there.

Madam Chairman: So, what is the correct statement?

Mr. Hackshaw: The correct statement is, the pools that offer extended hours: Diego Martin, Siparia, Laventille and Cocoyea do have the adequate staff to run weekend sessions.

Madam Chairman: They do have?

Mr. Hackshaw: They do have, correct.

Madam Chairman: But does that not just contradict something you said there with respect to not having adequate staffing?

Mr. Hackshaw: The other pools, for example, La Horquetta, Sangre Grande—

Madam Chairman: Couva.

Mr. Hackshaw:—Couva, we have difficulty in staffing. So that is why the pools do not run on a weekend.

Madam Chairman: Right. And you all have made requests for the increased staffing for those other pools?

Mr. Hackshaw: That is correct.

Madam Chairman: All right, because you see, those things did not come out in any submission anywhere. So, you know, that is why we might appear a little “tie up” in understanding. Now, what I want to ask is, when we had asked, with respect to the swimming programme—and you all had given us a schedule for Siparia Community Swimming Pool, which you said, relates to all your other pools except Laventille. Okay? That is the Appendix 2, September 16 to November 22, 2019, you gave us a sort of schedule. Okay? Based on what was said just now, this does not apply to Cocoyea. Would you agree?

Mr. Hackshaw: The current layout of the timetable of the activities at Siparia, is that what you are asking, Madam Chair, if it is the same as Cocoyea?

Madam Chairman: What exists with Siparia Community Swimming Pool activity schedule is what applies to all your pools, and you gave us a programme, September 16 to November 22, 2019. You also say the only pool it does not apply to is Laventille, and you gave a programme for Laventille. Okay? So, I am asking you if you would agree with me, that the statement with respect to what applies for Siparia, applies for your other five pools, will not be correct.

Mr. Hackshaw: That is correct, they are the same. As Siparia, they are the same to the other five—

Madam Chairman: But it does not function so it does not apply to Cocoyea.

Mr. Hackshaw: The programme layout is the same to all swimming pools. Cocoyea has been down for 12 months but the programme schedule is the same as Siparia.

Madam Chairman: So if it was functioning, this is how the schedule would apply?

Mr. Hackshaw: That is correct.

Madam Chairman: Are there any other of the pools that are not functioning, this layout?

11.25 a.m.

Mr. Hackshaw: The layout, you see the example here of Siparia, is the same layout as for the other five swimming pools. The only layout that is different is Laventille swimming pool.

Madam Chairman: And what I am asking is, is it functioning in all the other five? Because as it is, it is not functioning in one, which is Cocoyea. Any others?

Mr. Hackshaw: Including Couva, because Couva is also down as well.

Madam Chairman: Okay. And how long has Couva been down?

Mr. Hackshaw: Couva has been down for approximately a year and a half.

Madam Chairman: Okay, so, if I understand well, you only have five pools functioning?

Mr. Hackshaw: Correct.

Madam Chairman: Okay. And that leads us to Couva, alright? With Couva you have a programme of works that you had undertaken, right? You said you had a project to upgrade your electrical installations throughout the facility, repairs and installation of the additional security lighting. That project started on the 8th of July, 2019?

Mr. Hosein: The projects at Couva were completed within the time frame. Yes, it was started and completed—

Madam Chairman: When was it completed?

Mr. Hosein: Mr. Jackson—

Mr. Jackson: The first project, project one, was completed on the 19th of July and project—yes it was completed in July, 19th of July.

Madam Chairman: And the second project was completed when?

Mr. Jackson: Sorry. I do not have that information here.

Madam Chairman: The second project was what? What did it entail? Let me ask: These two submissions, were they prepared by your Ministry?

Mr. Hosein: Yes.

Madam Chairman: Or by some other agency?

Mr. Hosein: It was provided by our Ministry and in terms of that area it was provided by our projects unit.

Madam Chairman: Okay, because it just seems to be either an unfamiliarity or maybe a disconnect with the information that I think we have with respect to your familiarity with it. It is almost as if I feel that what we have here is foreign. Alright. So we are not sure when it was completed but we say it is completed. So that we would have spent almost one million dollars and the pool is still down. When is the pool likely to be back up?

Mr. Hosein: There are some maintenance issues in terms of health and safety. We have requested

funding under recurrent to undertake those works and we expect to get the release by the end of this week and those works are likely to take about two weeks to be completed.

Madam Chairman: So that, let me ask something, so the works of health and safety, can I ask what type of works they are, what kind of issues?

Mr. Hackshaw: There is a health and safety hazard at that site, Couva swimming pool with the BRC. The barricade BRC on the bleachers on the deck where the BRC is disintegrating and it has a lot of sharp points which can, if somebody touches it they can get tetanus, or some sort of infection. So that needs to be replaced immediately and action has been put place to change that.

Madam Chairman: What is the estimated cost for that?

Mr. Hackshaw: The estimated cost, \$15,000.

Madam Chairman: Fifteen thousand dollars. And it means that in the last fiscal you would have completed—those would have been major works, the electrical and other works would have been considered major works?

Mr. Hackshaw: Yes.

Madam Chairman: And PS, \$15,000 we could not find in recurrent so that the pool could be back up? So that, we have spent almost a million dollars and it is \$15,000 that is keeping the pool from being open to the public of Trinidad and Tobago?

Mr. Hosein: Okay. In the relevant Vote, we did not have funding in the relevant Vote. We did a virement and subsequently we did a request for release. That has been completed. We are liaising with Budget Division and they have assured us by the end of the week.

Madam Chairman: Yeah. Which fiscal year we are talking about, in 2020 fiscal we are talking about that we did the virement?

Mr. Hosein: In 2020, yes.

Madam Chairman: And all I am asking is, in fiscal 2019, you were able to spend almost a million dollars to do major work because your pool was down. So what you are telling the Committee, you could not find \$15,000 for your pool to be up having done the major works. That is what I am trying to find out.

Mr. Hosein: There were maintenance issues, including that. I actually visited Couva pool and that was one of the maintenance issues that was raised and we are in the process of getting funding to undertake those maintenance works.

Madam Chairman: Alright. Let me ask something. A year and a half ago, do you have any idea

of what the user of the Couva pool would have amounted to?

Mr. Jackson: It would have been about 10,000 persons.

Madam Chairman: Ten thousand persons for the year?

Mr. Jackson: Yeah.

Madam Chairman: So it means we have denied for \$15,000, another 10,000 persons. Do you think that is consistent with our mandate that you have set out here with respect to your involvement in promoting recreational activities in the community, Learn to Swim, among the children of that community?

Mr. Hosein: As I had indicated after the major works there were still some maintenance works to be done, including—and I suppose we can provide all that was required to be done, including the health and safety matter that is costing \$15,000. But in terms of the other maintenance activities that needed to be done in order to open the pool, we can provide that in writing.

Madam Chairman: Alright. So PS, the pool has been down for a year and a half, you expect that, as you say, in two weeks it should be back up?

Mr. Hosein: Provided we get the release of funds.

Madam Chairman: Okay. So let us say you got it, what steps are being proposed to get schools back in a programme for the rest of this academic year?

Mr. Hackshaw: Once the pool is back up and functioning we would not be able to have schools right now enlist in the programme because we are already halfway through the term already. So the school programme will start in the second term. But the recreational swimmer, Learn to Swim will continue once the pool is reopened to the public. And the recreational swim does entail—also includes school children as well.

Madam Chairman: Yeah, but what I am saying is people have not come to your pool for a year and half, alright? How do you intend to get people back there? You start running, people just do not come back, what active steps would you be taking for schools to start using your pool and for your Learn to Swim and your recreational swimming, what active steps?

Mr. Hackshaw: Well, first of all, Madam Chair, the request to open the pool for the public is always there. They always call the facility to find out when the pool would be opened up again, again and again. But also too, the Ministry has the pools laid out on its website and will broadcast on the website based on—for schools that the pool is reopened. And also we would contact principals of various schools to tell the principals that the programme will start soon, the second

term, to have the schools come back in the Learn to Swim programme. But the public is always coming to the facility to find out when the pool is re-opening. But the Ministry can also broadcast on its social media websites that the pool is reopened to the public so they can see when to approach the pool for recreational swim and Learn to Swim.

Madam Chairman: Can I ask specifically, who calls the schools?

Mr. Hackshaw: The warden of the facility or facility manager.

Madam Chairman: Facility manager?

Mr. Hackshaw: Or warden.

Madam Chairman: Or warden. So that person, PS, will be charged with the responsibility as soon as your pool is up and running, to call the schools in the Couva area—

Mr. Hosein: Yes.

Madam Chairman:—to start accessing the programme.

Mr. Hosein: Yes, Chair.

Madam Chairman: Okay. And do you have an idea of the number of schools that traditionally participate in the schools programme from in the Couva area?

Mr. Hackshaw: We have on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, we have approximately four schools each day. Wednesday is usually a day for maintenance for the pool, checking of chlorine quality. So we have approximately 16 schools each week, Madam Chair.

Madam Chairman: Thank you very much. Member Antoine.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: I just want to return to the community issue. These are community pools, we also have community centres. Under the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts, there is a board made up of people from the community that assists with the community centres, although the funding comes from the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts. At these community pools that you have, is there any community grouping that is involved in the activities of the pool for the benefit of the communities?

Mr. Hackshaw: No, not to my knowledge. No, we do not have that system as in community development.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: So in a sense it is just the SporTT and the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs has just put a pool in a community and there is really no interaction between members of the community and the pool itself.

Mr. Hackshaw: We do interact with members of the community by offering these services with

Learn to Swim and recreational swim and also Learn to Swim programmes with the schools within the area of the facility.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: But there is no oversight with members of the community at the pool.

Mr. Hackshaw: I do not understand what you mean by oversight to members of the community.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: Well, for members of the community; different groupings who want to use the pool at certain times. You keep speaking about the schools, of course, and Learn to Swim. But there is not a group involved with the Learn to Swim as the case may be.

Mr. Hackshaw: Yes, there are various community groups that also access the facility as well, same as schools.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: And what is the line of communication then? How do they get access to the pool?

Mr. Hackshaw: Anyone who wants to access the swimming pool can call the swimming pool or walk into the swimming pool and ask for information from the warden or the clerks at the office, of the programmes offered. Anyone can enter the facility.

Mr. Mark: Follow-up, Madam. I think what Brig. Antoine is trying to clarify and I too am trying to clarify, is there any mechanism within the Ministry where community pools are located for the involvement of any kind of organization, whether it be NGOs or any other organization so that there will be some kind of linkage between the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs' technical staff and the community itself. Is there any kind of protection or it is strictly what you have outlined, Mr. Hackshaw? A straight case between your technical staff, your life guards and by extension the members who come to swim but they have to make the arrangements to get in there, approach you, otherwise everything is dead. I am trying to understand what goes on and what initiatives you all are taking to address that issue.

Mr. Hackshaw: There are various groups that ask to use the facility, various community groups and we offer these community groups rates based on the nature of the group. In a sense yes, we have the pool staff at the pools, right. So they welcome the public to the facility and offer any information as possible to guide them in terms of what the programmes are at the facility.

What Mr. Antoine had said—member said—in terms of, if there is any outreach approach in terms of the staff at the pools for community groups to use the facility, I would say no. But we have relationships with various groups, such as the Special Olympics where the differently abled are able to use the facility. We have special arrangements with water aerobics, for example, the

Diego Martin pool where the elderly are able to access the pool for recreation activity. So we have various connections within various communities with the public or community groups in terms of that aspect. But in a sense the Ministry—we promote the community pools in a sense where anyone can access the pool once you come to the facility and we offer a plan in place.

In a sense we do have relationships with the community groups, we do, but, yes, action needs to be taken more in terms of getting more groups to the facility and building that bond, that relationship between the community pool and the wider public itself.

Mr. Mark: Do you think that there is need for the Ministry to consider the establishment of some broad-based community, some broad-based organizational mechanism in each area where you have a swimming pool? So that for instance, you may have the representation of the Ministry on that board or that organizational mechanism, members of the community, let us say NGOs, civil organization, so that at least the community where the pool is located can have some involvement in the management and decision-making processes within that community where the pool is located. Is that something that you would want to probably look at?

Mr. Hackshaw: That is a very good recommendation, Sir.

Mr. Mark: Okay. I just want to go on, Madam Chair, to ask Mr. Hackshaw through you, Madam Chair. You said Couva is down for a year and a half, could you tell this Committee what is the status of the Sangre Grande swimming pool and the La Horquetta swimming pool? Are they both down as well and if they are down, for what period have they been down?

Mr. Hackshaw: These pools are currently active and open to the public.

Mr. Mark: They are currently active. So the only two swimming pools that would be down at this time would be Cocoyea and Couva?

Mr. Hackshaw: That is correct.

Mr. Mark: And Mr. PS, in the case of Cocoyea it is 12 months now to the date that it was shut down because of whatever challenges you have already identified. And we are talking about Couva, one year and a half. But in the case of Cocoyea, Mr. Jackson, you had indicated to us that how many thousands of persons access the Cocoyea swimming pool before it went down. Was it about 20,000?

Mr. Jackson: Chair, hon. member, the amount is 10,000 for the year.

Mr. Mark: And 10,000 for Couva as well? No, that is what I am trying to ask. Whether Cocoyea and Couva is the same amount.

Mr. Jackson: Couva is 10,000 and Cocoyea is 3,000.

Mr. Mark: Now, Madam Chair, what I am asking the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs and the Permanent Secretary and Mr. Hackshaw, in one area 13,000, 10,000 rather, in another area you have 3,000; one down for one year, one down for one and a half years. Have you all been able to make any kind of analysis as a Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs dealing with young people, in particular, at-risk youths in many of these communities whether it is Couva or in places like Cocoyea? Have we been able to make an assessment as to the impact, the positive impact that the opening of these pools have on young people, particularly at-risk youths who would be able to access those facilities during the course of the week and over the weekend as opposed to the shutting down, the non-availability of these pools by the communities in question? And what impact, if any, it is having on the very youths, at-risk youths who could have been using these facilities in order for them to learn a skill, learning to swim? But because that is not available and because of our circumstances, these young people might now be able to be diverted because they are full of energy, and whereas you could go in the pool and exert the energy in a positive direction, for one year and a half in the case of Couva, they have no access and in the case of Cocoyea, 3,000 persons have no access for one full year.

I think this is a tragedy and I think it is something that the PS and Mr. Hackshaw and the team at the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs need to consider, because it is really sad that for one and a half years 10,000 people who usually would recreate and learn to swim have been denied access because of a few maintenance problems, and then come to Cocoyea we have another 3,000. I think that this is an emergency and I am sure that when you tell us in writing what is the cost in terms of those works that we have to complete at Couva, vis-à-vis the cost at Cocoyea, we can find that money, we can vire moneys to get these young people, whether it is male, female, a combination, to direct their energies in a positive direction. I just put that down for the record for your consideration because I think it is something that we need to pay attention to. But let me come to the issue that I want to deal with, Madam Chair.

We spoke to about the implementation of a comprehensive maintenance plan that you have. Could you tell this Committee, first of all, what are some of the goals and objectives of this comprehensive maintenance plan and what are the key performance indicators that are in place to determine the success of the objectives identified in this plan? These are some initial areas I would like you to—questions I would like to get some clarification on, on your comprehensive

maintenance plan. And whilst you are looking could you also tell us what data are being used to measure the success of this plan in question? And what are the benefits and outcomes from the utilization of this plan?

Mr. Hosein: In terms of the maintenance plan which is being partially implemented, of course the critical success factors would include adequate funding. For some of the activities we request funding under various line Items and I know like, for example, in the last fiscal whereas we would have requested funding under certain line Items for maintenance, say \$1.5million, we would get less than half of that. So while we have a plan and it might be under ideal circumstances given that the resources that we get, the financial resources at the beginning of the year we might need to review that plan so certain things that we might do at a particular frequency may have to be adjusted accordingly. So funding is a key critical success factor for the implementation of the plan and of course our human resources as well.

Mr. Mark: Can you make a copy of that comprehensive plan available to us?

Mr. Hosein: Presently what we have is what we have submitted already—

Mr. Mark: You have already—okay, thank you, thank you.

Mr. Hosein:—to the Committee—

Mr. Mark: Okay, thank you. It is okay. Thank you. Could you tell us how often you update your comprehensive maintenance plan? How often—

Mr. Hosein: This plan is something new that we have just started.

Mr. Mark: How long ago?

Mr. Hosein: Mr. Charles who is our Director, Physical Education and Sport, he can provide us with some details on it.

Mr. Mark: Mr. Charles, how long has this plan been formulated and established?

Mr. Charles: We have started working on this plan at the beginning of the fiscal year to formulate it and put it together. This Committee would have received the plan that we put together and we started actioning it around November/December of 2019.

Mr. Mark: And what is the function of the Research and Planning Unit of the Ministry in ensuring that the Ministry is up to date with international standards and practices, particularly in the maintenance of community pools? What is the role of that unit?

Mr. Jackson: Madam Chairperson and members, at this point in time the Research and Planning Unit does not have a role in that area.

Mr. Mark: It does not have a role?

Mr. Jackson: Yeah, in that area.

Mr. Mark: But do you anticipate a role for this unit in this particular area, particularly as it deals with or it relates to updating international standards and practices, re: the maintenance of our various community pools within that framework? Do you anticipate a role for that unit?

Mr. Jackson: No, I did not initially anticipate such a role, but it is something that I could look into.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: In your submission you state that Cabinet agreed to the construction of community swimming pools at Morvant and Maloney. Are there any other areas that the construction of new pools are being considered apart from Morvant and Maloney?

Mr. Hosein: We also received a request for one, I think in D’Abadie/O’Meara and Mr. Jackson can provide an update on that.

11.55 a.m.

Mr. Jackson: Madam Chairperson, member, a request was made for a pool in the area of D’Abadie/O’Meara. The status—so far, what has happened, SporTT and UDeCOTT met. They would have met and looked at the site. Initially, we are at the stage of what you call “the needs analysis”, where you are looking at certain demographics and identifying the site. What is really happening—and this process fought nearly for—the Ministry should be fairly smoother in the sense that the model that is used is similar to the Laventille pool, in terms of the size and those sorts of things. The initial site that was identified is not available. So two other sites have been identified for the pool. Those sites have been visited and topographic documents are being submitted to look at the sites, and to mirror the Laventille facility on one of the sites.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: So there is one pool to be constructed in D’Abadie/O’Meara, not two?

Mr. Jackson: To the best of my knowledge and information, it is one, at this stage.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: Okay. Because in the budget, 2019 budget, there is provision for a pool to be built in Malabar. However, UDeCOTT, last week, visited Galaxy Gardens that is in D’Abadie for the pool site. So that is what I am trying to figure out. What site is to be used, whether two pools have to be constructed or just one site, because that will cause a problem in the communities because they are two different areas, D’Abadie and Malabar.

Mr. Jackson: Madam Chairperson, hon. member, you indicated that there is a budget for a pool in Malabar, I am not sure if that is accurate. To the best of my knowledge, there is a budget for a

pool in Morvant and Maloney.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: I can tell you that there is, in the budget for 2020, there is mention of a pool for Malabar.

Mr. Mark: May I just follow-up on what my colleague has asked, Mr. Jackson? Can you tell this Committee what criteria is used for requesting a pool? I live in the constituency of St. Joseph, I would like a pool there. So I would like to know what criteria are used in order for a pool, or a decision to be taken to have a pool established in X area, Y area, Z area? Can you tell this Committee what set of criteria is used, so as a member of the St. Joseph community I could make a request? How is it done, can you tell us?

Mr. Hosein: Chair and member, when a request is made, there is a needs analysis, there is stakeholder—

Mr. Mark: No, no, no, you are running. No, no, no. I am asking the question, before that request is made and you have to go through all this thing, how is it done; who initiates; how would I know how to go about making such a request? How? That is what I am trying to ask.

Mr. Hosein: How a request is made?

Mr. Mark: Yeah. I want to have a swimming pool in the constituency of St. Joseph, can I ask you, how do I go about approaching the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs in order to get that into the system, or any member of the public? How is it done?

Mr. Hosein: There is no formal system in place, but a request can be made, for example, by the Member of Parliament for any particular area. The final decision, of course, would be a Cabinet decision, but prior to that, there would be stakeholder consultations and a needs analysis.

Madam Chairman: Member Deonarine.

Ms. Deonarine: Thank you, Madam Chair. Now, I want to go back to the highly subsidized fee involved in accessing these pools. Now, I am looking at the submissions and I am seeing here that on an annual basis, the operational cost to operationalize one pool, the maintenance cost, is \$630,000, is that correct? Is that correct?

Mr. Hackshaw: Yes, that is correct.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. So, I am assuming this would not apply to the pool that has security arrangements on a month-to-month basis? Right now, that is costing around fifty-something-thousand—\$56,000 a month? Because the security cost here is \$120,000 for the year. Does the security cost vary across the different pools?

Mr. Hackshaw: Yes, it varies.

Ms. Deonarine: It varies. So could you give us a breakdown of how it varies across the different pools?

Mr. Hackshaw: You can have that submitted in writing.

Ms. Deonarine: Sure.

Mr. Hackshaw: We do not have the information in front of us right now.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. So, on average, you are saying that it cost around \$631,000 for the year to operationalize one of these pools, and across the eight pools, that would work up to around \$5 million.

Mr. Hackshaw: Seven pools.

Ms. Deonarine: Seven? It is seven pools?

Mr. Hackshaw: Yes.

Ms. Deonarine: So then, that will work up to around \$3.6 million. Right? Now, the fee structure is heavily subsidized, more than heavily subsidized, and at an operational cost of \$630,000 per year, per pool, what exactly has to be done to revise the fee structure? I cannot accept the answer that “it is what it is”. Who needs to revisit the fee structure; who needs to make a decision that the fee structure needs to be revisited? Now, what I am hearing here, based on this discussion, based on what other members have been asking, the aim is to have—and you said it during your introduction—a sense of encouraging community spirit. However, you do not have clear key performance indicators in which you are monitoring how community spirit is taking place; how you are encouraging that community spirit; and reaching out to at-risk youth, and so on. So my question is: What exactly has to be done to revisit the fee structure over consideration to be taken to revisit the fee structure?

Mr. Hosein: That would be a policy decision that would eventually have to take place at the level of the Cabinet. Given the objectives of the community swimming pools, the fee structure is heavily subsidized. If that is to be revised, then a decision would have to be taken at that level.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. Now, I want to move to the project management unit. Who is in charge of the project management unit?

Mr. Hosein: Unfortunately, due to a personal emergency, the person is not here today.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. So how many members make up this project management unit?

Mr. Hosein: Four persons.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay so, are you in a position to indicate to us how you all conduct project analysis, project monitoring, project evaluation; how do you identify the initial cost of your projects; how do you conduct your procurement and so on? Now, I know it is a lot that I am asking in one question, but I am trying to get a sense of how that project management unit interacts with the contractors and whoever is actually doing the job in each one of these pools.

Mr. Hosein: In terms of the project cycle, project identification, formulation, and so on, Mr. Jackson could give you some information about that in terms of—

Ms. Deonarine: Well, before you pass it over to him, could you give us a sense of the oversight? Is the project management unit responsible for oversight over the persons who are actually conducting the work?

Mr. Hosein: Yes.

Ms. Deonarine: How regularly is that oversight—how actually is that oversight conducted? Is it done on a month-to-month basis? How is this follow-up done?

Mr. Hosein: No, it is done not a month-to-month, but site visits are conducted regularly, sometimes daily or weekly depending—during the course of the work being implemented.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay so, during project management—and you have that oversight taking place, when there are challenges that arise during the construction of any one of these pools or whatever maintenance is taking place, how are these challenges relayed back to the Ministry and what are the steps involved to make sure that the problem is resolved? Is the project management unit chartered with the responsibility of making decisions at that point in time, or do they need to come back to the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs to address the challenges that may occur?

Mr. Hosein: Okay. Well, the construction would be different from upgrade works. For example, in terms of construction, it might be through UDeCOTT and Sports Company performing the monitoring role there. In terms of upgrades and developmental work at the pools, I suppose it depends on the level of the challenge. If it is that, for example, something major like the flooding in Cocoyea, well, that would be escalated. But if it is something that is of less serious nature that could be made within the unit, it would be made at that level.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. So I am glad that you brought up the Cocoyea example with the defective pump. How long did it take for the problem to be identified and for it to be rectified? Because, as I understand from Mr. Hackshaw, you all had to call in WASA to come in to take a look. It was an underground problem. What I am trying to get at is, how long—from identification to solving

the problem—how long that took.

Mr. Hosein: I cannot say at this point in time, but it was a conundrum at the time as to how—where this water is coming from, how it is—so it was a technical engineering kind of thing, the issue. The officers in PMU, they have an engineering background, but yet they still could not figure it out and that is why we sought external assistance from the Ministry of Works and Transport, and WASA. In terms of the exact timeline, we could provide that in writing.

Ms. Deonarine: You have an idea of the average at this point in time?

Mr. Hosein: I would not want to give you inaccurate information.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. All right. Thank you. We would like to receive that in writing. Madam Chair, if you allow me? Now, Mr. Hackshaw, could you describe for me what exactly is your role? Because your nameplate is saying Physical Education and Sport Officer II. Could you tell me what are your key responsibilities?

Mr. Hackshaw: My key responsibilities in my position in the Ministry?

Ms. Deonarine: Um-hmm. No, in terms of the oversight with the pools.

Mr. Hackshaw: Oh, okay. My oversight for the pools is that throughout Trinidad with the seven community swimming pools, I am the lead in terms of have oversight—I report to my director of concerns that happened within the community swimming pools. So the warden or facility manager at the facility would relate their information to me, and I will take it on to my director in my department.

Ms. Deonarine: And the communication between the three persons who oversee each individual pool, is on a regular basis with you?

Mr. Hackshaw: Every day. Daily.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. And then you report whatever challenges or any problems that they may identify to Mr. Charles—

Mr. Hackshaw: Correct.

Ms. Deonarine:—and then from there, what happens? So, in the case of the water pumps, when it goes to Mr. Charles what happens after?

Mr. Hackshaw: No. Well, in case of the situation happening in Cocoyea, that was a situation which was handled through the project unit, right? But, yes, it will affect the sport division as well. So, my recommendations will go to my director, and his recommendations, from what I gathered, will go to the project unit. So that is the chain of command right there. So, the information that

we have, we do not have the expertise to determine what exactly happens at the facility. The engineers in the project unit will be able to determine that.

Ms. Deonarine: So, how about challenges that may occur that are of a lower tier, at a lower risk level?

Mr. Hackshaw: Challenges, for example, chemicals needed, supplies are needed at the swimming pool, maybe lighting issues, water problems. These issues will come to me directly from the manager or the facility manager or the warden and we will try to address it within the department.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. All right. Now, in that instance, have you all been having any issues with safety in the pools?

Mr. Hackshaw: Safety?

Ms. Deonarine: Safety, in terms of any crime, anybody thieving anything from anyone?

Mr. Hackshaw: No. We have not encountered any problems like that recently. No.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. All right. Madam Chair, that is it for now.

Madam Chairman: Member Antoine, I believe you have a question?

Brig. Gen. Antoine: The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs and SporTT seem to be aware of the construction of a swimming pool in Maloney, although you say it is not budgeted for Malabar, or D'Abadie/O'Meara, for a pool there. However, you are in discussions with UDeCOTT about site visits and so forth. So, at some point in time, this year, UDeCOTT would hand over either one pool or two pools to SporTT for it to begin its maintenance project, also its security, and we have ascertained that cost about \$600,000. So we are looking at between \$600,000 and \$1.2 million. And each pool requires a pool warden, a pool attendant, two swim instructors, four assistant instructors. So there is a cost. There will be a cost to be incurred by SporTT and Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs for the maintenance of these swimming pools. Is there any allocation in the budget for this; and if not, where would you be acquiring the funding for these new pools that are coming on stream?

Mr. Hosein: Once a decision is made by the Cabinet for the construction of the pool, then there is the option at the mid-year review to seek a supplementary allocation for increase in our recurrent to cater for staffing, and so on, at the new pool.

Brig. Gen. Antoine: So I could look forward to that in the mid-year review, once the pools come on stream?

Mr. Hosein: I cannot anticipate the decisions of Cabinet.

Madam Chairman: Okay. I just want to ask Mr. Charles, this new comprehensive maintenance plan will be administered by you, your department, and Mr. Hackshaw, and the wardens, would I be correct?

Mr. Charles: Madam Chair, currently that is so. We anticipate that with the incoming of MTS, that they would provide some input and—

Madam Chairman: That will be the janitorial and the sort of landscaping and security.

Mr. Charles:—and landscaping. There is some maintenance aspect in some of them, so MTS would have some input into the plan. So the plan may be reshaped a bit depending on their input.

Madam Chairman: Right. But what I am specifically interested in, the pumps, sand filters and chlorinators—three aspects—because I remember in a last conversation we would have had with you about pools, these would be three aspects that regularly cause our pools to be down. Would I be correct?

Mr. Charles: Yes, Chair.

Madam Chairman: Your comprehensive plan would have taken into account your history with various pools and the defects with your pumps, your filters, and your chlorinators?

Mr. Charles: Yes, Chair.

Madam Chairman: Right. What challenges would you have in administering your plan to ensure that you limit the downtime for your pools as a result of issues with your pumps, your filters, your chlorinators?

Mr. Charles: Madam Chair, the biggest issue that we anticipate we will have with the releases of funds in a timely manner for us to pay a service provider to treat with issues. That would be the largest issue.

Madam Chairman: And for the first quarter—because you say your plan was created fiscal 2020 and you started executing your plan. Have you been able to keep your programme thus far?

Mr. Charles: So far, at the pools that we have opened, we are able to keep things going. Yes.

Madam Chairman: And none of them, the ones that are opened, have been down for these recurrent issues like pumps, filters, chlorinators?

Mr. Charles: No, not since we have been—

Madam Chairman: Not since. So, let me ask you something. If you had to, in these early days, judge the success or failure of your plan, how would you judge it?

Mr. Charles: At what level you are asking, Chair, I would say so far we have been fairly

successful. I am not one to give—

Madam Chairman: No, I do not want you to blow your own trumpet. But what I am really asking is—I am sure or I hope you would have data with respect to say, comparing a previous year, same period, say fiscal 2019, fiscal 2018, comparing your first quarter and seeing the number of occasions you had downtime in your pools based on pumps, filters, chlorinators, and comparing it with now, have you been able to do something like that to gauge if you were fairly successful?

Mr. Charles: It is early days yet, Chair, but just from an oversight, without getting into data, it is a favourable comparison compared to a need to last year.

Madam Chairman: So, if I push a little more—because I remember Diego Martin being down. It would have been maybe June 2018, because you would have been here with us shortly after that. And it was an issue with filters, and so on, why the pool was down for a period of three months or more—that is what I am remembering. Your plan should alleviate that kind of issue?

Mr. Charles: Yes, Chair, correct.

Madam Chairman: And let me ask something. In terms of the budgetary process, Mr. PS, with your request—because you would request for the quarter coming before the end of the current quarter. Would I be correct?

Mr. Hosein: Yes.

Madam Chairman: Would you have been taking into account the budgetary allocations which will be required to support the successful execution of the plan?

Mr. Hosein: Okay. The request would be made from the sports division to the accounting executive, and given our allocation, we would be making those, taking into account the maintenance plan. The challenge, though, is that our allocation itself is very limited, and even for the works that we are proposing to be done at Couva and Cocoyea, we had to do some virement. So given the limitations in our financial allocation, yes, that is the approach we are taking.

Madam Chairman: So, your allocation, your budgetary allocation, under recurrent, cannot currently support your comprehensive plan?

Mr. Hosein: There would be challenges there, especially coming to the latter part of the financial year, and we will have to look in terms of virement and transfers, yes.

Madam Chairman: All right. So you know that already, have you started looking at how you support your plan? Because earlier, you said you have to delay certain things, you have to be currently reviewing your plan. I want to know if there is an overall look at how you are reviewing

your plan to fit your budgetary allocation and yet minimize downtime.

Mr. Hosein: That is an ongoing process and we will especially do so coming to our mid-year in terms of identification of areas where we would want to request supplementary allocation.

Madam Chairman: Thank you. Let me ask one other thing. With Laventille, you had indicated that there was an increase in the cost of some—I think it was about a little over \$700,000 because you all had not taken into account the International Swimming Federation regulation and the International Building Code; do I understand that correctly?

Mr. Hosein: The variation was to bring the pool up to—yes, international standards.

Madam Chairman: All right. Let me ask something. Why was that not taken into account from inception? Would not any pool you are putting down be required to be in accordance with international standards, or you could build a pool beneath international standards? I do not know.

Mr. Hosein: I am not aware as to why that was not done. But subsequently, it was drawn to the attention of the Ministry and we did a Cabinet Note in order to do the additional work to bring it up to international standards.

Madam Chairman: All right. What lesson we learnt from that omission or failure, or lack of rationale—I do not know. What lesson we learnt from that apart from having an increased cost of \$700-and-something-thousand? What lesson we learnt?

Mr. Hosein: One of the lessons we learnt is that, in terms of interrogating the proposals that we get from agencies like UDeCOTT, and so on, in terms of requesting information, to ensure that it is up to international standard. So our technical expertise, for example, in Physical Education and Sport Division, we need to bring that to bear in reviewing those proposals.

12.25 p.m.

Madam Chairman: So the pool in—is it Morvant? The pool in Morvant, is that not the pool that has begun?

Mr. Hosein: Yes.

Madam Chairman: Yes. Is it in accordance with International Swimming Federation regulation and International Building Code 2012?

Mr. Hosein: Well, what I am being told by Mr. Charles is, yes.

Madam Chairman: You know, body language is something else, you know.

Mr. Charles: Madam Chair, as per our inspection and looking at what it is, we can say, yes.

Madam Chairman: So that you are confident that Morvant has complied with the regulation?—

because you told me that you know how to interrogate the process, that was the lesson learnt.

Mr. Charles: They are compliant so far.

Madam Chairman: And they will be monitored for continued compliance?

Mr. Charles: Continued monitoring—

Madam Chairman: And that is key.

Mr. Charles:—is taking place.

Madam Chairman: And who is going to do that?

Mr. Charles: It is a joint effort between Sport Company and the Ministry—

Madam Chairman: And the Ministry of Works and Transport.

Mr. Charles:—of Sport and Youth Affairs.

Madam Chairman:—Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, and that falls under you, Mr. Charles?

Mr. Charles: Yes.

Madam Chairman: Okay. And therefore, in the other pool that is planned that Mr. Jackson told us about, is this a standard that is going to be insisted upon and complied with?

Mr. Charles: Yes, Madam Chair.

Madam Chairman: All right. So I take it for all pools, this is a requirement?

Mr. Charles: Yes, Madam Chair.

Madam Chairman: Right? Are there any other international best practices that need to be taken into account in the pools that are scheduled for 2020?

Mr. Charles: Other than what is already established?

Madam Chairman: Well, that is “other”. Are there any other, other than this that you did not know about that you found out along the way? Are there any other standards that need to be complied with in the pools that we are currently putting down?

Mr. Charles: As far as construction goes, no. No, Madam Chair.

Madam Chairman: All right. As far as anything else?

Mr. Charles: Well, after construction then we will be dealing with things such as the chlorine and things like that, so we will deal with that.

Madam Chairman: All right.

Mr. Charles: And that is the job—that will be the job of the pool attendant to ensure that the chemical levels will be sustained.

Madam Chairman: Right. Are there—our pool attendants, are they exposed to regular training

to keep abreast with international practices and standards and so on?

Mr. Charles: Not as regularly as we would like, but they are trained, as you call it, semi-continuously.

Madam Chairman: What does that mean?

Mr. Charles: We try for once a year, Madam Chair.

Madam Chairman: Okay. And they were last trained when?

Mr. Charles: I do not have that information with me right at this time, but I could give you in writing.

Madam Chairman: So could you tell us in writing, and could you also tell us when is the next training session programme for?

Mr. Charles: Yes, Ma'am.

Madam Chairman: Okay? And I will allow a last question, member Mark.

Mr. Mark: Just a few, Madam Chair. Mr. Charles, in terms of international best practice and standards, your trainers, how often we ought to be exposing them to rigorous training—any new developments in that particular area of their skills sets in compliance and in accordance with well-established international standards and best practice. What are we in compliance with that, can you advise? You said right now it is semi, once a year. What does the international best practice say, if you want to get the best out of those persons who are training people to swim as the case may be?

Mr. Charles: Member Mark, did I hear you say at the end, “including training people to swim”?

Mr. Mark: Well, well, yes and so on. Well, I mean to say, that is one—well, yes, I said that, but I was doing it from the perspective of best standards, best practice rather, and international standards as it relates to the question that was raised by the Chair.

[Madam Chairman exits committee room]

Mr. Charles: Very well, member Mark. As regards to dealing with the chemicals in the pools, those international bodies bring out—every year they will bring out updates to what it is they are doing, and so we will look at it, identify what changes, minor, major, et cetera, and update our staff with regard to that. We cannot say from one year to the other if this is something major or minor which will require us to keep training going. We would understand also that in different countries they would—and institutions with different budgets, they will be better placed to do things at a higher level or more frequency than we can.

Mr. Mark: All right. Our Chairman had to leave because we have a sitting, as you know, in a short while, so we will have one final question from our colleague, Sen. Deonarine.

Ms. Deonarine: Thank you, again, member Mark. I am wondering when you all decide to construct a new pool and you all receive proposals from various contractors to carry out the construction, what are the expertise of the members who consist of the evaluation committee? I know you cannot tell me who the persons are because it is confidential, but what is the expertise of the persons who conduct the evaluation or the review of these proposals?

Mr. Hosein: Usually, okay, for such a decision to be made to construct a new swimming pool, it is done by Cabinet, and Cabinet would decide in accordance with the current CTB Regulations and Act.

Ms. Deonarine: CDB?

Mr. Hosein: Central Tenders Board.

Ms. Deonarine: CTB.

Mr. Charles: Yes.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay.

Mr. Charles: If it is, for example, that UDeCOTT would undertake the project, and it would be using their procurement procedure, UDeCOTT's procurement procedure.

Ms. Deonarine: So the evaluation committee is decided by Cabinet?

Mr. Hosein: The process would be—

Ms. Deonarine: No. I am just trying to find out who, what is the expertise of the persons who review the proposals, because I am trying to understand why it is an oversight like that would have taken place where you all missed the international standards in terms of the construction of the pool.

Mr. Hosein: Okay. So if Cabinet, for example, decides that in the construction of a particular swimming pool, that UDeCOTT would under that particular project, and the procurement would be using UDeCOTT's procurement regulations. Yes? So their evaluation team, UDeCOTT's evaluation team.

Ms. Deonarine: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Mark: All right. May I at this time on behalf of the Chairman, on behalf of all our members, record and register our appreciation to the Permanent Secretary and to your team for being here this morning and into this afternoon. Before we bring the proceedings to a close, Mr. Permanent

Secretary, would you like to make a few brief closing remarks?

Mr. Hosein: Chair, on behalf of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, I want to express our appreciation to you and other members of the Committee for engaging us in this exercise. We recognize that the issue of maintenance of community swimming pools is a very important one given that the number of beneficiaries of this particular infrastructure, this particular sport infrastructure, and the Ministry is committed to improving our service to the public in this regard, and we thank you very much for all your suggestions. Thank you.

Mr. Mark: Well, again, on behalf of our Committee and the Chairman, we would like to thank you and your team, and if you need any further information, clarification on matters that we have discussed today, we will certainly communicate with you in writing, and if necessary, and we need you back, we will also do that. But for the time being, thank you so very much, and do have a safe journey to your respective areas of work. Thank you, and this meeting now stands adjourned. Thank you very much.

12.38 p.m.: *Meeting adjourned.*