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REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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Fifth Session (2014/2015)

TENTH PARLIAMENT

THIRTEENTH REPORT

**OF THE
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON
MINISTRIES, STATUTORY AUTHORITIES
AND STATE ENTERPRISES
(GROUP 1)**

**on the
Administration and Operations
of
the Anti-Corruption
Investigation Bureau (ACIB)**

**Ordered to be printed with the
Minutes of the Proceedings
and Notes of Evidence**

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THIRTEENTH REPORT

OF THE

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON MINISTRIES, STATUTORY AUTHORITIES AND STATE ENTERPRISES (GROUP 1)

ON
THE ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION INVESTIGATION BUREAU (ACIB)

Date Laid: HoR: May 29, 2015 Senate: June 02, 2015

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ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

ACIB	Anti-Corruption Investigations Bureau
CoP	Commissioner of Police
CCTV	Closed-circuit television
DPP	Director of Public Prosecutions
MoAG	Ministry of the Attorney General
PCA	Police Complaints Authority

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Committee's inquiry into the Anti-Corruption Investigation Bureau (ACIB) followed its inquiry into the Police Complaints Authority (PCA). Considering that the PCA is a civilian oversight body responsible for investigating *inter alia,* cases of serious police misconduct, the Committee determined that it would be useful to follow that inquiry with an inquiry into the state body responsible for investigating allegations of corruption primarily within the public sector.

The Committee's inquiry sought to:

- gain an understanding of the relationship between the Bureau and other related agencies such as the Integrity Commission; Fraud Squad, DPP, Financial Intelligence Unit, Transparency International, Police Complaints Authority and other regional and international organisations;
- acquire an appreciation of the major challenges confronting the Bureau;
- determine the status of matters that are being investigated by the Bureau;
- determine the major achievements of the Bureau for the period 2009 to 2013;
- gain an insight into the powers of the Bureau; and
- assess the adequacy of the Bureau's current manpower.

The Committee adopted its standard data collection methodology which included the collation of written and oral evidence. As such, the Committee solicited written responses to questions on the specific inquiry objectives set out above. After receiving and reviewing the Bureau's written responses, the Committee convened one (1) public hearing with the Acting Commissioner of Police and key officials of the ACIB to examine the relevant issues more closely. This hearing was held on Friday June 06, 2014.

Based on the oral and written evidence received, the Committee noted areas of the Bureau's operations that it found commendable as well as issues that needed to be addressed.

Additionally as a result of the inquiry, the Committee was able to observe that a number of issues faced by the ACIB resulted from a lack of manpower, financial resources and autonomy. The Committee noted that the Bureau was not only able to highlight issues it confronted but also proffered recommendations as to how it believed these issues could be alleviated.

As a consequence, the Committee proposed a number of recommendations aimed at enhancing the operations of the ACIB. We therefore submit this, our Thirteenth report, for the consideration and action of the Parliament, the Acting Commissioner of Police, the ACIB, the Ministry of the Attorney General as well as other stakeholders with responsibility forthe fight against corruption.

Summary of Recommendations

A summary of the recommendations proposed by the Committee is as follows-

i. Discussions should be held amongst line Ministries and heads of departments involved in combating corruption in order to facilitate cooperation between these agencies.
ii. The establishment of a well-resourced and autonomous anti-corruption organization in the medium to long-term.
iii. The implementation of recommendations submitted to the Committee by the Bureau.
iv. The hiring of suitably qualified non-nationals, on contract, to remedy the shortage of technically competent persons within the Bureau.
v. That the CoP make special allocations to the Bureau in the submission of annual draft estimates of expenditure.
vi. The introduction of non-monetary incentives by the CoP as a means of recognizing outstanding performance.
vii. The building of capacity within the Bureau to ensure it is able to initiate investigations into all matters as it deems necessary.
viii. That relevant authorities work together to develop strategies that will ensure state prosecutors attend, in a professional manner, to their matters which are before the court.
ix. The development of a website.
x. The drafting of the required legislative amendments that would enhance the operations of the Bureau.
xi. A review of the selection criterion.
xii. That priority be given to the sourcing of a suitable location for the Bureau.
xiii. The acquisition of the necessary fireproof storage.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Elton Prescott, SC[1]
Chairman

Dr. Dhanayshar Mahabir[2]
Vice-Chairman

Mrs. Christine Newallo-Hosein[3]

Mr. Jairam Seemungal, MP

Mrs. Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan, MP

Mr. Gerald Hadeed[4]

Mr. Ganga Singh[5]

Ms. Stacy Roopnarine, MP

Dr. Delmon Baker, MP

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[1] Mr. Elton Prescott, SC replaced Mrs. Corrrine Baptiste McKnight w.e.f. 23.09.2013

[2] Dr. Dhanayshar Mahabir replaced Prof. Harold Ramkissoon w.e.f. 23.09.2013

[3] Mrs. Christine Newallo-Hosein replaced Mr. Emmanuel George w.e.f. 03.03.2015

[4] Mr. Gerald Hadeed replaced Mrs. Christlyn Moore w.e.f 23.09.2013 who replaced Mr. Danny Maharaj w.e.f. October 16, 2012.

[5] Mr. Ganga Singh replaced Mrs. Verna St. Rose-Greaves with effect from October 16, 2012.

Mr. Faris Al-Rawi

Dr. Amery Browne, MP

Mrs. Patricia McIntosh, MP

1. THE COMMITTEE

Establishment

1.1 Section 66 of the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago declares, that not later than three months after the first meeting of the House of Representatives, the Parliament shall appoint Joint Select Committees to inquire into and report to both Houses in respect of Government Ministries, Municipal Corporations, Statutory Authorities, State Enterprises and Service Commissions, in relation to their administration, the manner of exercise of their powers, their methods of functioning and any criteria adopted by them in the exercise of their powers and functions.

1.2 Motions related to this purpose were passed in the House of Representatives and Senate on September 17, 2010 and October 12, 2010, respectively, and thereby established, inter alia, the ***Joint Select Committee to inquire into and report to Parliament on Ministries with responsibility for the business set out in the Schedule as Group 1, and on the Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises falling under their purview with regard to their administration, the manner of exercise of their powers, their methods of functioning and any criteria adopted by them in the exercise of their powers and functions.***

Powers

1.3 Standing Orders 71B of the Senate and 101 of the House of Representatives delineate the core powers of the Committee which include *inter alia*:

- To review and report on all matters relating to:
  - a. The statute law relating to the Ministry/body assigned to it;
  - b. The programme and policy objectives of the Ministry/Body and its effectiveness in the implementation of same;
  - c. Other matters relating to the management, organization of the Ministry or Body, as the Committee deems fit;
- To send for persons, papers and records;

- To adjourn from place to place;
- To appoint specialist advisers either to supply information not otherwise readily available, or to elucidate matters of complexity within the Committee's order of reference; and
- To communicate with any other Committee of Parliament on matters of common interest.

1.4 The entities that fall under the purview of the Committee are attached as ***Appendix I***.

Members

1.5 The Committee comprises the following members:

1.	Mr. Elton Prescott, SC	-	Chairman
2.	Dr. Dhanayshar Mahabir	-	Vice-Chairman
3.	Mr. Jairam Seemungal, MP	-	Member
4.	Mrs. Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan, MP	-	Member
5.	Ms. Stacy Roopnarine, MP	-	Member
6.	Dr. Amery Browne, MP	-	Member
7.	Dr Delmon Baker, MP	-	Member
8.	Mrs. Patricia Mc Intosh, MP	-	Member
9.	Mr. Ganga Singh	-	Member
10.	Mr. Faris Al-Rawi	-	Member
11.	Mr. Gerald Hadeed	-	Member
12.	Mrs. Christine Newallo-Hosein	-	Member

Past Members of the Committee

Name	Period of Service
Mrs. Rudrawatee Nan Ramgoolam	October 12, 2010 – June 27, 2011
Mr. Danny Maharaj	October 12, 2010 – June 24, 2012
Mrs. Verna St. Rose Greaves	September 09, 2011 – October 15, 2012

Mrs. Corinne Baptiste-McKnight	October 12, 2010 – August 01, 2013
Prof. Harold Ramkissoon	October 12, 2010 – August 01, 2013
Ms. Christlyn Moore	October 16, 2012 – September 05, 2013
Mr. Emmanuel George	October 12, 2010 - February 02, 2015

Secretarial Support

1.6 The following officers were assigned to assist the Committee:

- Mr. Julien Ogilvie - Secretary
- Mr. Indar Sieunarine - Assistant Secretary
- Ms. Kimberly Mitchell - Graduate Research Assistant

2 INTRODUCTION

Background

2.1 Subsequent to conducting an inquiry into the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) which deals with complaints regarding police officers, the Committee proceeded to inquire into the administration and operations of the Anti-Corruption Investigation Bureau (ACIB) as the agency responsible for investigating allegations of corruption primarily within the public sector.

Objectives

The Committee identified the following as the primary objectives of the inquiry:

1. **To gain an understanding of the relationship between the Bureau and other related agencies such as the Integrity Commission; Fraud Squad, DPP, Financial Intelligence Unit, Transparency International, Police Complaints Authority and other regional and international organisations.**
2. **To acquire an appreciation of the major challenges confronting the Bureau.**
3. **To determine the status of matters that are being investigated by the Bureau.**
4. **To determine the major achievements of the Bureau for the period 2009 to 2013.**
5. **To gain an insight into the powers of the Bureau.**
6. **To assess the adequacy of the Bureau's current stock of human resources.**

Conduct of the Inquiry

2.3 The Committee held one (1) public hearing with representatives of the Anti-Corruption Investigation Bureau (ACIB) on Friday June 06, 2014.

2.4 In preparation for the hearing, the Committee communicated with the ACIB to solicit written responses to a set or preliminary questions relevant to the objectives of the inquiry. The responses were received and used as the basis for supplementary questions posed at the hearing.

2.5 The following officials participated in the public hearing:

➢ Mr. Stephen Williams	Commissioner of Police (Ag.)
➢ Mr. Glen Hackett	Deputy Commissioner of Police (Ag.)
➢ Mr. Kenneth Cordner	Senior Superintendent, Court and Process
➢ Mr. Anthony Bucchan	Senior Superintendent (Ag.), ACIB
➢ Mr. John Frederick	Superintendent, ACIB

2.6 The Minutes of the meeting during which the public hearing was held are attached as ***Appendix II***.

2.7 The Verbatim Notes of Evidence of the hearing is attached as ***Appendix III.***

3. KEY ISSUES, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Relationship between the Bureau and other related agencies

3.1 In the execution of its mandate, the Bureau interacts with stakeholders internal and external of the Police Service. Internally, the Bureau liaises with several departments within the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. Externally, the Bureau collaborates predominantly with the Registrar General's office, the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Central Authority and the Elections and Boundaries Commission.

3.2 Cabinet Minute # 20 of January 11, 2002, authorized the Ministry of the Attorney General to procure any expertise required by the Bureau; the Ministry has also been providing legal advice and forensic expertise when requested. These requests, which are made through the Commissioner of Police, are usually fulfilled but there is no dedicated list of personnel from the Ministry of the Attorney General at the disposal of the Bureau. Nonetheless, the Bureau has not experienced any issues with the expertise, advice and service provided by the Ministry of the Attorney General.

3.3 The Bureau also interacts with the Integrity Commission, the Board of Inland Revenue and the Financial Investigations Branch in matters relating to white collar crime.

Findings

3.4 The Bureau interacts with a number of agencies in performing its mandate. As it concerns the separation of functions between these various bodies, we are of the strong view that given the scarcity of resources available for investigating white collar crimes, serious consideration should be given to rationalizing bodies involved in monitoring or investigating this type of criminal activity. For instance, there may be some natural overlaps between the Bureau and the Financial Investigations Branch. Both entities are under the purview of the Police Service, thus jurisdiction and line of authority ought not to impede the fusion of these entities.

3.5 The relationship between the Bureau and the Ministry of the Attorney General seems to be satisfactory in terms of the Ministry's supplementation of the technical expertise of the Bureau. Nonetheless, we are concerned that the Bureau may be too dependent on the resources and support of other agencies. The Bureau itself admitted that international best practice suggests that an anti-corruption organization should be well-resourced and should have an independent budgetary allocation as a means of ensuring the organization's autonomy. The Committee fully endorses this position.

Recommendations

A. **The Committee recommends that the various line Ministries and heads of departments responsible for organizations mandated to combat white collar crimes, hold discussions with a view of determining how best formal cooperation between agencies can be facilitated. Aspects of cooperation should include data sharing, joint investigations and the sharing of technical knowledge.**

B. **The ultimate goal should be to establish a well-resourced and fully autonomous anti-corruption organization. The Committee is cognizant that financial circumstances may not permit this in the short-term, but this must be considered a medium to long-term objective.**

Challenges confronting the Bureau

3.6 Officials of the Bureau stated the major challenges faced were:

- a shortage of manpower;
- obtaining information/documents from external agencies such as government institutions and state agencies;
- the improper accommodation for the staff of the Bureau;

- a lack of training programmes for staff, for example, Forensic Investigations, Intelligence Gathering and Analysis, Information Technology, Financial Crime Investigations, Cyber Crime investigations etc.;
- insufficient competence in the area of Information Communication Technology (ICT); and
- the lack of professional staff other than police officers available to the Bureau.

3.7 Recommendations proffered by the Bureau to overcome these challenges were:

- an augmentation of investigators to the staff at the Bureau;
- the implementation of Legislation to enforce the production of documents/information from government agencies;
- the implementation of Legislative Proposal for the amendment of the Prevention of Corruption Act Chapter 11:11 as it relates to whistleblowing;
- the provision of modern technology and proper storage facilities for effective filing/ safe keeping;
- the implementation of training programmes directed at improving skills in Forensic Investigations, Intelligence Gathering and Analysis, Information Technology, Financial Crime Investigations, Cyber Crimes etc.;
- the development of a Record and Data Management System to better analyze and record statistical data; and
- the increased availability of Specialist Professionals e.g. Auditors, Information Technology Specialists/Analysts.

3.8 Although categorized as a Class 1-Specialist Unit, the Bureau does not benefit from any special arrangements that would allow it to be properly resourced. It was submitted that, unless the Unit is able to attract the desired calibre of personnel, it will be unable to actually operate as an elite unit. Recruiting officers with the requisite competencies would require an enhancement of the current remuneration packages available to officers of the unit.

3.9 Instituting remuneration adjustments is not the remit of the Commissioner of Police but the Chief Personnel Officer. However, the Commissioner of Police indicated that he intends to make the necessary recommendations in order to assist the Bureau in attaining elite status.

Findings

3.10 The Committee noted the myriad of challenges confronting the Bureau. It was clear that several of these issues require urgent attention as they are seriously impeding the efficient operation of the Bureau. The Committee was concerned with the shortage of officers in the Bureau and contemplated to what extent some aspects of the selection practices impede the recruitment of a larger number of officers.

3.11 Concerning the challenges regarding evidence/information gathering, the Committee concurs with the Bureau's suggestion that the necessary legislative modification must be enacted to impose an obligation on members of the public to comply with the Bureau's requests (once reasonable and justifiable) for information. However, it may well be that the lack of cooperation experienced by the Bureau is a function of the current level of public trust and confidence in the Police Service.

Recommendations

A. **The Committee concurs with the recommendations submitted by the Bureau for the purpose of improving its operations. As a sub-group of the legislature, we are particularly interested in ensuring that the necessary legislative amendments are enacted.**

B. **The Committee noted that the ACIB has sourced officers from within this jurisdiction only. The Committee understands that certain criteria must be satisfied before persons from other jurisdictions are permitted to operate within the TTPS. As such, given the acute shortage of technically competent persons to fill vacancies within this and other units, we encourage the Commissioner of Police to utilize the powers vested in him under the Police**

Service Act and the Constitution, to expand the search for suitably qualified personnel to include non-nationals.

C. **Given the "Class one- Specialist Unit" status of the Bureau, we believe that the Commissioner of Police should examine the feasibility of making special allocations to these units based on their submission of annual draft estimates of expenditure.**

D. **The Committee is cognisant that the enhancement of remuneration for officers of the Bureau, is a matter for the determination of the Chief Personnel Officer. Nevertheless, the Committee encourages the Commissioner to explore non-monetary incentives as a complementary means of recognizing outstanding performance within specialized units.**

Matters investigated by the Bureau

3.12 The Committee was informed that investigations are primarily generated from complaints. However, we were advised that there was no "closed door" policy. There are matters in the public domain which may trigger an investigation but the Bureau currently has limited resources and is overwhelmed by the number of investigations it has to conduct.

3.13 If any member of the Bureau or the Police Service has reasonable grounds for suspecting that an offence has been committed, an investigation is initiated. However, in order to advance such an investigation, someone must be willing to give cogent and compelling information.

3.14 The Bureau, at the time of the inquiry, was investigating 287 reports, all of which were related to public officials. Cabinet Minute # 20 of January 11, 2002, that sets the Bureau's mandate, instructs it to focus specifically on corruption in the public sector. However, persons from the private sector have been included in investigations undertaken by the

Bureau in relation to commercial interactions between members of the public sector and the private sector.

3.15 The Bureau does not have an office in Tobago, consequently when it receives a report originating from Tobago, officers are sent to conduct the necessary investigations. In order to educate the residents of Tobago in respect of the procedure for making a report, several awareness programmes were conducted in 2011.

3.16 Issues that hinder investigations include:

- obtaining information from external agencies;
- the unwillingness of witnesses to participate in the process until matters are completed;
- a lack of forensic investigators, information technology specialists and attorneys;
- a lack of cooperation from persons in authority; and
- an inability to secure potential witnesses particularly those with institutional knowledge.

The process for receiving and attending to reports/complaints

3.17 The Bureau receives reports via correspondence from the Commissioner of Police, 'walk-ins' by members of the public and correspondence from other agencies.

3.18 When reports are received, the head of the Bureau would review same and identify areas that need to be investigated. Correspondence is then sent to the second in command to identify an investigator. The investigator is provided with a check list and through the use of timelines, the Bureau tries to keep abreast of every stage of an investigation.

3.19 When a 'walk-in report' is made, the Duty Sergeant, the sentry and an Inspector would take a recorded statement from the person and that statement is then vetted. The statement may be referred to the Assistant Superintendent and where necessary, after discussions with the Superintendent and the Senior Superintendent, a plan of action is developed, an investigator is identified and the investigation is then commenced.

3.20 All reports made to the Bureau are treated with confidentiality. The Bureau was of the opinion that there was a lack of public confidence that police officers treat reports with confidentiality. Accordingly citizens prefer to report matters involving corruption directly to the Bureau. The Bureau encourages individuals to assist investigations without fear of reprisals by reassuring potential witnesses and informants of the confidentiality with which information will be handled and by referring these individuals to witness protection programmes.

3.21 Efforts are made to keep persons who would have made a report apprised of the status of the investigation. When an investigation is completed, written correspondence is sent to the person concerned informing him/her of the status of the investigation and whether he/she is required to attend court .

Matters which were resolved or are before the Courts

3.22 The Bureau informed the Committee that 44 cases it investigated have been resolved by the Courts while 107 matters are pending in the Magisterial and High Courts. Persons from the Public Sector as well as the Private Sector have been the subject of court proceedings initiated by the Bureau.

3.23 The Bureau indicated that its success in this regard is measured by the number of investigations that progress unto the Courts for prosecution. The number of convictions secured is not used as a measure of success as convictions may be dependent on a number of external factors beyond the control of the Bureau.

3.24 It was submitted that 22 reports have been dismissed at the Court on the grounds of:

- death of the complainant or witnesses;
- Want of prosecution; or
- prosecution witnesses unwilling to proceed with the matter.

Time frame for an investigation and the storage of evidence

3.25 It was also submitted that there is no established time frame for an investigation. Therefore time frames are allocated depending on the projected intricacies of individual investigations. Schedules are discussed with supervisors and extensions granted when necessary.

3.26 The integrity of evidence is protected by the following measures:

- large documents are stored in vaults where the investigator and case manager(s) are the sole custodians of the keys;
- a Property Manager that oversees the general property of the Bureau; and
- simple documentary evidence such as forensic reports are kept secured in the investigator's possession.

Findings

3.27 It was absolutely clear to the Committee that the capacity of the Bureau must be strengthened to allow it to initiate investigations independently as opposed to relying predominantly on reports filed by members of the public. This approach is not unprecedented as other bodies vested with investigatory powers such as the PCA and the Integrity Commission may initiate investigations based on matters which exist in the public domain.

3.28 The challenges experienced by the Bureau in gathering evidence were already addressed above and the Committee reiterates its concurrence with the proposals proffered by the Bureau for enhancing its evidence-gathering capabilities.

3.29 The Committee noted with concern that cases which are presented to the Court are being dismissed for 'want of prosecution'; this perhaps is an indictment of the manpower shortages within the Bureau. It also brings into question the extent to which the DPP's Office is able to render reliable support to the Bureau in the prosecution of such cases. The Committee recognizes that these challenges confronting the prosecution of matters involving corruption are a representation of the general shortcomings confronting the state prosecution system as a whole.

3.30 The lack of a physical presence of several important state entities in Tobago is a matter of concern. As such, the Committee is cognizant that the requirement for a resident of Tobago to travel to Trinidad to file a report or complaint with the ACIB would be a serious deterrent to the Bureau's level of success in pursuing matters of corruption in Tobago. The Committee strongly suggests that the Bureau needs to analyze more vigorously the factors which may lead to a lack of cooperation by witnesses and take steps to facilitate the submission of information via a website or a secured internet platform.

Recommendations

A. **The Committee recommends that the Commissioner of Police, in collaboration with the MoAG, pursue the necessary measures to build the capacity of the Bureau to enable it to initiate investigations into matters as it deems necessary.**

B. **With respect to the shortcomings associated with the prosecution of matters before the Court, steps should be taken to improve the capacity and efficiency of State prosecutors.**

C. **To address the lacuna regarding a presence in Tobago, we strongly recommend that the Bureau establish a physical presence and develop its own website as a means of allowing persons in any part of the country to submit reports and evidence on alleged corrupt activities.**

D. **Stronger measures should be introduced in order to ensure confidentiality in the reporting of complaints.**

Major achievements of the Bureau

3.31 The Bureau reported that its major achievements since its inception are as follows:

- the prosecution of persons in local and foreign jurisdictions arising out of investigations into the New Piarco Airport Terminal Development Project;
- the extradition of foreign nationals to this jurisdiction to face trial in connection with the Piarco matters;
- the prosecution of senior public officials following the Piarco investigation;
- investigations into allegations of improprieties at the Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (UDeCOTT) regarding the Brian Lara Project. The findings of this investigation informed the institution of civil litigation against public officials;
- the prosecution of persons associated with the construction of the Brian Lara Stadium and others for one of the largest seizures of Firearms (18 assorted handguns and rifles) and ammunition (nine hundred and eighty (980) rounds-assorted calibre) as well as seven (7) narcotic devices and nine hundred and eighty-one (981) grams of marijuana together with an assortment of exotic paraphernalia;
- the prosecution of the main contractor and consultant associated with the Desalination Company (Desalcott) in Point Lisas. (N.B. The accused has since died);
- investigations into the National Road Enhancement Project (NREP). The findings have been submitted for advice; and
- improvements in public trust and confidence as evidenced by increases in the number of reports against police officers.

3.32 As mentioned earlier, in assessing its rate of success, the Bureau takes into account the number of matters that reached the prosecution stage as opposed to the number of convictions it secured. The Bureau submitted that 151 persons and 14 companies have been prosecuted by the Bureau.

Findings

3.33 The achievement of the Bureau thus far, in terms of the number of matters prosecuted and convictions secured was noted. The Bureau was established in 2002 and, according to information submitted, has prosecuted 151 persons and 14 companies. This translates to an average of 13 prosecutions per year which needs to be analysed in relation to the success achieved by similar agencies abroad.

Powers of the Bureau

3.34 The powers of the Bureau to conduct investigations into financial records and information are granted under the Prevention of Corruption Act Chapter 11:11 (Section 9), the Proceeds of Crime Act Chapter 11:27 and the Indictable Offences (Preliminary Enquiries) Act Chapter 12:01 (Section 5).

3.35 The Committee was informed that the Bureau will get involved in investigating allegations of corruption involving police officers if a report is made to the Bureau and it warrants an investigation. However, the Police Complaints Authority has jurisdiction to deal with reports of corruption relating to police officers. The Professional Standards Bureau of the Police Service gives support to these investigations. Prior to the advent of the PCA, these investigations would have been conducted by the Bureau.

3.36 The application of the Interception and Communications Act is not limited to any specific unit of the Police Service therefore wiretapping can be done by the Bureau as long as the necessary procedure and protocols are observed.

3.37 The Bureau was of the belief that it requires more legal powers to effectively execute its functions. The powers required include the authority:

- to summon persons who may have information;
- to demand the production of documents from persons or custodians; and
- to do all such things as it considers necessary or expedient for the purpose of carrying out its functions.

3.38 The Bureau informed the Committee that it has participated in a conference hosted by the United Nations on corruption and learned that the best practice from member countries was that Anti-Corruption Bureaus should be financially and administratively independent. In light of this international bench mark, the officials of the Bureau recommended that the Bureau should be removed from operating under the Ministry of the Attorney General and be made independent and accountable to Parliament.

Findings

3.39 The Committee endorses the Bureau's request for additional powers such as the power to compel persons under investigation or those deemed to be persons of interest, to furnish the Bureau with the required information. Despite the clear need for more powers and immunities, we are inclined to believe that the improvement in the Bureau's operations is more dependent on improvements in its internal capacity as well as on legislative amendments.

3.40Whatever legislative modifications which can be enacted to enhance the operations of the Bureau should be pursued.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Ministry of the Attorney General, in collaboration with the Commissioner of Police, arrange for the drafting of the required legislative amendments that would enhance the operations of the Bureau. These amendments should be introduced in Parliament during the First Session of the next Parliament.

Manpower of the Bureau

3.41 The manpower at the Bureau is 23 police officers, of varying ranks, which is 52% of the sanctioned strength of 44 proposed by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Human Resources Branch. The Bureau is of the opinion that it requires an in-house team of supporting professionals inclusive of an Attorney-at-Law, Accountants and Forensic

Investigators. At present, the Bureau is assisted by the legal advisers of the Police Service and in some instances it relies on the Director of Public Prosecutions in dealing with legal issues.

3.42 The Committee was informed that the legal authorities which guide the promotion of officers within the Bureau are the same throughout the TTPS. In fact, we were alerted to the fact that promotions within the TTPS have affected the complement of officers at the Bureau as officers may be removed from the Bureau and reassigned on promotion.

3.43 The Bureau's status as a "Class One Specialist Unit" demands that persons recruited to serve must be recommended by a suitably qualified police officer and must undergo an assessment process which includes evaluations of the following:

- the general performance of the police officer during his/her career in law enforcement;
- fitness as evidenced by the police officer's sick leave record;
- results of a polygraph examination;
- aptitude; and
- performance during an appropriate period of training at the specialist section.

3.44 In 2013, the Bureau embarked on an aggressive recruitment drive which is still in progress. Advertisements were made with the assistance of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Public Affairs Unit; and flyers were also distributed to Divisions, Sections and Branches of the Police Service and recommendations were invited from Divisional Commanders and Heads of Sections. However, these efforts have failed to attract suitably qualified applicants.

3.45 The Committee was informed that major challenges faced in trying to recruit police officers to the Bureau include the meticulous screening and selection process and the unappealing remuneration package.

3.46 Consideration is being given to presenting the Bureau as an option in the career path for police officers. This would be one key area that will be given priority for the period 2014 to 2016.

Training of officers within the Bureau

3.47 The police officers at the Bureau receive specialist training both locally and abroad via seminars and conferences. Networking is done for the purpose of keeping abreast with global developments.

3.48 Training opportunities that are available abroad have been identified by the Bureau which is in the process of developing a proposal document to submit to the Commissioner of Police for the necessary approval that would allow officers of the Bureau to engage in these training exercises.

3.49 A training programme is currently being developed to train new recruits in conducting investigations. To this end, a Manual is also being developed that contains information on how the Bureau functions and the processes and procedures for conducting a proper investigation. General training and development of members of the Bureau will take place over time, but there is a focus on investigative training during the years 2014 to 2016.

Findings

3.50 The Bureau is currently operating with a little over half of its sanctioned strength which compromises its ability to discharge its functions. The Committee noted that efforts have been made to recruit new officers to serve in the Bureau, but these efforts have not been fruitful. Perhaps if the Bureau were a fully autonomous body, similar to the PCA or the Integrity Commission, there might be greater access to the desired resources.

3.51 The Committee agrees that there should be a rigorous selection process and proper scrutiny to ensure the suitability of persons who are selected..

3.52 The Committee supports the proposal for the establishment of career-mapping within the TTPS for the purpose of identifying officers who may be suitable for serving in specialized units such as the ACIB.

3.53 There is a growing lobby against corruption across the globe. Therefore, we were pleased to learn that the Bureau has been networking with similar bodies in other jurisdictions. Through the attendance at seminars, conferences and study visits, officers of the ACIB can acquire additional knowledge and skills that can be applied locally.

Recommendations

A. **The Committee recommends that a continuous round of recruitment be undertaken to recruit new officers into the Bureau. In advertising positions within the Bureau, perhaps some emphasis should be placed on the level of expert training and career development that an officer may benefit from if he or she joins the Bureau.**

B. **The Committee endorses the creation of a Manual that comprises general information about the mandate of the Bureau as well as standard operating procedures to be adhered to when conducting investigations.**

C. **Given the shortage of manpower within the Bureau and other specialized units in the TTPS, we further recommend that serious consideration be given to expanding the pool of candidates for recruitment to include active police officers from within the Caribbean region and even the Western Hemisphere.**

OTHER ISSUES, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee noted the following findings and issues further to the stated objectives of the inquiry.

Accommodation of the Bureau

3.54 The Committee was also informed about the status of the accommodation of the Bureau. The committee learnt that the main office of the Bureau located at #33 Independence Square, Port of Spain was unsuitable as a result of the following:

- the facilities for staff and the storage of evidence are inadequate and archaic and also used for the storage of obsolete equipment;
- the furnishings are unsafe and not OSH compliant;
- the storage vaults for documents are not fireproof;
- there is no standby generator in the event of an electrical outage;
- there is no parking facility for visitors; and
- the compound is prone to flooding.

3.55 In relation to security and surveillance there are property keepers who are in control of exhibits and of the CCTV cameras that have been installed.

3.56 The Committee noted that the Bureau wrote to the Ministry of the Attorney General concerning its relocation. Feedback was received stating that efforts were being made to find an appropriate location for the Bureau.

3.57 An entire floor at the Riverside Plaza was allocated to the Bureau for the duration of an ongoing investigation. The location at the Riverside Plaza is secured and contains 2 fireproof vaults for the storage of evidence and may be preferred over the current location at Independence Square.

Recommendations

A. We recommend that greater priority be given to sourcing a suitable location to accommodate the operations of the Bureau.

B. The security of sensitive/classified information must not be compromised, therefore, while a venue for the Bureau's relocation is being identified, we suggest that the necessary fireproof storage facility be acquired.

Detection and prevention of corruption within the Bureau

3.58 The Committee noted that members of the Bureau are not subjected to polygraphs tests on an ongoing basis. However, if concerns are raised about the conduct of a member of the Bureau, the officer is singled out for a polygraph examination.

3.59 The Bureau agreed with a suggestion made by a Member of the Committee that a policy that provides for ongoing psychometric evaluation within the entire Police Service should be introduced.

Efforts at public outreach made by the Bureau

3.60 In relation to fellow police officers, promotional activities have been undertaken to sensitize other departments within the Police Service about the mandate of the Bureau. These activities involved engaging other Divisions of the Police Service and delivering lectures on corruption. However, these lectures have been discontinued due to staff shortages at the Bureau.

3.61 As a result of concerns raised by *Transparency International* regarding members of the public being uncertain about the process for making a report to the Bureau, a system to guide members of the public has been instituted. The Bureau has also communicated with the Acting Commissioner of Police regarding the creation of a website for the Bureau.

3.62 As such, the Committee reiterates its recommendation (stated above) for the establishment of a website for the Bureau in the short-term.

The Committee respectfully submits the foregoing for the consideration of the Parliament.

Mr. Elton Prescott, SC
Chairman

Dr. Dhanayshar Mahabir
Vice-Chairman

Mrs. Carolyn Seepersad Bachan, MP
Member

Mrs. Christine Newallo-Hosein
Member

Mr. Ganga Singh
Member

Dr. Delmon Baker, MP
Member

Mr. Jairam Seemungal, MP
Member

Ms. Stacy Roopnarine, MP
Member

Mr. Gerald Hadeed
Member

Dr. Amery Browne, MP
Member

Mrs. Patricia Mc Intosh, MP
Member

Mr. Faris Al-Rawi
Member

May 15, 2015

APPENDIX I

ENTITIES FALLING UNDER THE COMMITTEE'S PURVIEW

List of Ministries, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises that fall under the purview of this Committee:

1. ARTS AND MULTICULTURALISM

Carnival Institute
Naparima Bowl
National Academy for the Performing Arts (NAPA)
National Carnival Commission of Trinidad and Tobago
National Cultural Commission
National Theatre Arts Company
Queen's Hall Board
Trinidad and Tobago National Steel Symphony Orchestra

2. ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Law Reform Commission
Environmental Commission
Industrial Court
Council of Legal Education
Hugh Wooding Law School
Anti-Corruption Investigation Bureau
Equal Opportunity Commission
Equal Opportunity Tribunal
Tax Appeal Board
Central Authority
International Law and Human Rights Unit

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

National Association of Village and Community Councils
Village Councils
Export Centres Company Limited

4. EDUCATION

Local School Boards
National Commission for UNESCO
Education Facilities Company Limited
National Schools Dietary Services Limited
National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS)

5. ENERGY AND ENERGY AFFAIRS

Lake Asphalt of Trinidad and Tobago (1978) Limited
National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited
National Quarries Company Limited
Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (PETROTRIN)

Trinidad and Tobago National Petroleum Marketing Company Limited (NP)
Alutech Limited
La Brea Industrial Development Corporation
National Agro Chemicals Limited
National Energy Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited
NATPET Investment Company Limited
NATSTAR Manufacturing Company Limited
NGC NGL Company Limited
NGC Trinidad and Tobago LNG Limited
Phoenix Park Gas Processors Limited
Powergen
Trinidad and Tobago LNG Limited
Trinidad and Tobago Marine Petroleum Company Limited
Trinidad Nitrogen Company Limited
Trinidad Northern Areas Limited
TRINMAR Limited
TRINTOC Services Limited

6. ENVIRONMENT AND WATER RESOURCES

Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA)
The Environmental Management Agency
The Green Fund Advisory Committee
Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA)
Water Resources Agency

7. FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY

Central Tenders Board
National Insurance Appeals Tribunal
National Insurance Board
National Insurance Property Development Company Limited (NIPDEC)
National Lotteries Control Board (NLCB)
Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority
Trinidad and Tobago Unit Trust Corporation
Corporation Sole
Divestments
Investments
BWIA West Indies Airways Limited (New BWIA)
Caribbean Airlines Limited
First Citizens Holdings Company Limited
National Enterprises Limited (NEL)
Rum Distillers Limited
The Sugar Manufacturing Company Limited
Trinidad and Tobago Forest Products Company Limited (TANTEAK)
Taurus Services Limited
Caribbean Investment Corporation
Tourism and Industrial Development Company (TIDCO)
Trinidad and Tobago (BWIA International) Airways Corporation (Old BWIA)
Trinidad and Tobago Development Finance Limited
Caribbean Development Network Limited
Caribbean Microfinance Limited

Colonial Life Insurance Company Limited (CLICO)
First Citizens Bank Limited (FCB)
First Citizens Mortgage & Trust Company Limited
First Citizens Investment Services Limited
Trinidad and Tobago Mortgage Agency Company Limited

8. FOOD PRODUCTION

Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago
Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)
Cocoa and Coffee Industry Board
Livestock and Livestock Products Board
National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO)
Agricultural Development Bank (ADB)
Caribbean Food Corporation
Sea Food Industry Limited

9. FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Nil

10. GENDER, YOUTH AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Adoption Board
Children's Authority

11. HEALTH

Boards regulating the Practice of Medicine and Related Professions
Children's LIFE Fund Board of Management
Eastern Regional Health Authority
North Central Regional Health Authority
North West Regional Health Authority
South West Regional Health Authority
Dental Council of Trinidad and Tobago
Drug Advisory Committee
Emergency Medical Personnel Council of Trinidad and Tobago
Food Advisory Committee
Medical Council of Trinidad and Tobago
National Emergency Ambulance Service Authority
Nurses and Midwives Council of Trinidad and Tobago
Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Board
Pharmacy Council of Trinidad and Tobago
Opticians Council of Trinidad and Tobago
Princess Elizabeth Home for Handicapped Children

12. HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Committee
Rent Assessment Board
Caroni 1975
Community-based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Company Limited (CEPEP)

Estate Management Business Development Company Limited (EMBD)
Housing Development Corporation (HDC)
Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (UdecoTT)
Trinidad and Tobago Mortgage Finance Company Limited (TTMF)

13. JUSTICE

Nil

14. LABOUR AND SMALL AND MICRO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Boilers Examiners Board
Minimum Wages Board
Registration, Recognition and Certification Board
Friendly Societies
Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies
National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited (NEDCO)
National Productivity Council
Occupational Safety and Health Authority

15. LAND AND MARINE RESOURCES

Land Settlement Agency (LSA)

16. LEGAL AFFAIRS

Law Revision Commission (LRC)
Legal Aid and Advisory Authority (LAAA)
Police Complaints Authority (PCA)
Sentencing Commission
Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

APPENDIX II

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO AND REPORT ON GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES (GROUP I) AND ON STATUTORY AUTHORITIES AND STATE ENTERPRISES FALLING UNDER THOSE MINISTRIES HELD IN THE ARNOLD THOMASOS ROOM (EAST), LEVEL 6, AND IN THE J. HAMILTON MAURICE ROOM, MEZZANINE FLOOR, OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT, TOWER D, THE PORT OF SPAIN INTERNATIONAL WATERFRONT CENTRE, 1A WRIGHTSON ROAD PORT OF SPAIN ON JUNE 06, 2014

PRESENT

Mr. Elton Prescott, SC	Chairman
Dr. Dhanayshar Mahabir	Vice-Chairman
Mr. Jairam Seemungal, MP	Member
Ms. Stacy Roopnarine, MP	Member
Mrs. Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan, MP	Member
Mrs. Patricia McIntosh, MP	Member
Dr. Amery Browne, MP	Member
Mr. Emmanuel George	Member
Mr. Gerald Hadeed	Member
Mr. Faris Al-Rawi	Member
Mr. Julien Ogilvie	Secretary
Mr. Indar Sieunarine	Assistant Secretary
Ms. Kimberly Mitchell	Graduate Research Assistant
Mr. Johnson Greenidge	Parliamentary Intern

ABSENT

Mr. Ganga Singh	Member (Excused)
Dr. Delmon Baker, MP	Member (Excused)

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION INVESTIGATION BUREAU

Mr. Stephen Williams	Commissioner of Police (Ag.)
Mr. Glen Hackett	Deputy Commissioner of Police (Ag.)
Mr. Kenneth Cordner	Senior Superintendent, Court and Process
Mr. Anthony Bucchan	Senior Superintendent (Ag.), ACIB
Mr. John Frederick	Superintendent, ACIB

COMMENCEMENT

1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9: 35 a.m.

1.2 The Chairman indicated that Dr. Delmon Baker, MP and Mr. Ganga Singh had requested to be excused.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING HELD ON APRIL 22, 2014

2.1 The Chairman invited Members to consider the Minutes of the 28th Meeting held on April 22, 2014 and inquired whether there were any amendments.

2.2 The following amendments were proposed by members:

i. **Item 5.4 (i) (d) on page 5**- in the final line, delete the word **"can"** and replace it with the word **"might";**

ii. **Item 5.4 (ii) (a) on page 5** – in the first line, after the word "into" insert the word "**two**";

iii. **Item 5.4 (iii) (c) on page 5** - delete the word **"conducts"** and replace it with the word "**conduct";**

iv. **Item 5.4 (viii) (a) on page 6** –

- in the fifth line, delete the word **"addresses"** and replace it with the word "**address**"; and
- in the final line, delete the word **"fata"** and replace with the word **"fatal"**;

v. **Item 5.4 (viii) (c) on page 7** – in the first line, delete the word **"the"** appearing before the word "account";

vi. **Item 5.4 (ix) (a) on page 7** –

- in the first line, delete the word **"can"** and replace it with the words **"who wishes to, may"**
- in the final line, delete the word **"misbehavior"** and replace with the word **"misbehaviour"**
- in the final line delete the words **"and or"** and replace them with the words **"and/or"**
- in the final line, insert a **comma** after the word **"misconduct";**

vii. **Item 5.4 (x) (b) on page 7** – in the last line, delete the word **"under";**

viii. **Item 5.4 (xv) (a) on page 9 –** in the second line, delete the words **"a lot"** and replace them with the word **"several";**

ix. **Item 5.4 (xxi) (a) on page 11 –** in the third line, delete the word **"will"** and replace it with the word **"would";**

x. Item 5.4 (xxiii) on page 11 –

- in the third and fourth lines, delete the words **"immediately inquired into"** and replace them with the word **"investigated"**
- in the fifth line delete the word **"they"** and replace it with the words **"such complaints";**

xi. Item 5.4 (xxiv) (a) on page 11 –delete the word **"and"** after the word "complaint" and replace it with the words **"as well as";**

xii. Item 5.4 (xxiv) (b) on pages 11 and 12 –

- in the first line, delete the word **"was"** and replace it with the word **"were";**
- in the second line, delete the word **"mean"** and replace it with the word **"medium";**
- in the second line, delete the words **"made aware"** and replace them with the word **"apprised";**

xiii. Item 5.4 (xxv) (a) on page 12 –

- in the first line, delete the word **"Counsels"** and replace it with the word **"Counsel"**
- in the second line, delete the word **"was"** and replace it with the word **"were";**

xiv. Item 6.3 on page 12 – in the fourth line, delete the word **"cause"** and replace it with the word **"caused";**

xv. Item 6.4 on page 13 – in the final line, delete the word **"received"** and replace it with the word **"receive"**.

2.3 The motion for the confirmation of the Minutes was moved by Mrs. McIntosh and seconded by Mr. Hadeed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING

3.1 The Chairman brought the following matters to the attention of members:

- **Item 5.8 page 12**: the information requested from the PCA was received and copies were circulated to Members; and
- **Item 6.7 page 13**: the Draft Inquiry Proposals of NIPDEC and the EMBD were circulated to members.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS OF THE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (HDC)

4.1 The Committee agreed to accept the report as drafted. Mrs. Seepersad-Bachan volunteered to present the report to the House of Representatives.

4.2 A Member recommended that reports of the Committee should be reviewed by a member of staff from the Library before they are presented to the Houses of Parliament.

4.3 The Committee discussed whether information that came to its attention following the completion of an inquiry should be included in the relevant report. It was decided that such information should be excluded from the report to avoid prolonging the inquiry process.

PRE-HEARING DISCUSSIONS

5.1 The Committee discussed whether the ACIB as a unit of the Police Service, was under the purview of the Committee.

5.2 After hearing the views of members, the Chairman submitted that he was satisfied that the Cabinet Minute that established the ACIB identified the Ministry of the Attorney General as the supervising body. The Chairman also went on to state that in the publication of the *Gazette* outlining ministerial responsibilities (which has been guiding the Parliament), the ACIB was listed under the Ministry of the Attorney General and not the Ministry of National Security.

5.3 Lastly, the Chairman stated that the objectives of the inquiry do not seek to examine matters which are being investigated by the ACIB. The Chairman suggested that the Committee proceed with the inquiry and asked that Members exercise prudence, as necessary, when posing questions to the Bureau.

5.4 The meeting was suspended at 10:33 a.m.

[Members proceeded to the J. Hamilton Maurice Room on the Mezzanine Floor]

PUBLIC HEARING WITH OFFICIALS OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION INVESTIGATION BUREAU

6.1 The meeting resumed (in public) at 10:38 a.m. in the J. Hamilton Maurice Room.

6.2 The Chairman welcomed the officials and introductions were exchanged.

6.3 The Acting Commissioner of Police made opening remarks.

6.4 Detailed hereunder are the issues/concerns raised by Members of the Committee and the responses proffered by the Officials:

(i) Manpower challenges and the recruitment of officers to service the Bureau

a. The Bureau is currently operating below its approved staffing complement. It is a major challenge to recruit police officers to serve in the Bureau because of the meticulous screening and selection process officers must undergo.

b. In an effort to recruit police officers into the Bureau, the Bureau initiated a recruitment drive in 2013 which is still in progress. The Bureau is currently looking at developing a career path for police officers even from the point of entry into the Police Service. This issue would be one of the Bureau's key areas of focus over the next three (3) years (2014 to 2016)

(ii) Challenges in the investigation process vis-à-vis the cooperation of witnesses and the sharing of evidence

The Bureau indicated that during its investigations, it has encountered challenges in obtaining information and documents from Ministries and other bodies. The timeframe in which it takes to receive responses to requests for documents has caused delays in the Bureau's investigations. An official of the Bureau recommended that legislative measures be implemented, which would require agencies to furnish information on a timely basis.

(iii) **Lack of required expertise in the areas of forensic investigations**

The Bureau is required to source forensic expertise from the Ministry of the Attorney General and recommended that some members of the bureau be trained in that field.

(iv) Training of officers within the Bureau

a. The officials submitted that the police officers of the Bureau are a specialized team and receive specialist training. These police officers are exposed to local and foreign training via seminars and conferences. Networking for the purpose of keeping abreast with global developments is also done.

b. New staff entering the Bureau require training, therefore a training programme is currently being developed to train new recruits in conducting investigations. To this end, a manual is also being developed that contains information on how the Bureau functions and the processes and procedures for conducting a proper investigation. General training and development of members of the Bureau will take place over time, but there is a focus on investigative training during the years 2014 to 2016.

c. Officials also submitted that the Bureau was also in need of legal officers to provide guidance on a daily basis. The Police Service has legal advisers who assist the Bureau, however in-house expertise is required. In some instances, the Bureau would rely on the Director of Public Prosecutions to treat with legal issues.

d. The Bureau requests its technological resources from the Commissioner of Police who fulfils these requests on a continuous basis. The Bureau is currently assessing other, technologies that would enhance it investigative capacity.

(v) The efficiency and effectiveness of the Bureau in achieving its mission statement

Officials of the Bureau stated that they are faced with challenges but make every effort to do the best with what they have available. The Bureau conceded that conducting investigations is challenging, but the Bureau attempts to do in-depth investigations as well as provide feedback on the outcome of investigations to witnesses or victims. The Bureau tries to deal with reports in a timely manner and provide responses in order to make persons comfortable with making reports.

(vi) Are specialists positions identified and approved by Cabinet?

The Bureau is putting measures in place to build its human resource capacity. In the interim, the Cabinet Note that established the Bureau mandates the Ministry of the Attorney General to supply the required expertise. However, the Commissioner of Police is in charge of specialist staffing. Request for technical assistance from the Ministry of the Attorney General is made through the Commissioner of Police.

(vii) ACIB's interaction with other agencies/bodies involved in investigating or detecting white collar crime

a. The National Operations Centre (NOC) is a department of the Ministry of

National Security and does not perform an investigative function and officials were unable to confirm whether of the NOC conducts specialist training for members of the Police Service.

b. Within the Police Service, investigations regarding financial transactions are done by the FIB (Financial Investigations Branch). The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) is independent of the Police Service.

c. The Commissioner indicated that he was not aware of any "A team" of lawyers appointed to investigate fraudulent and criminal activities. Different units of the Police Service are assigned to investigate criminal activities, therefore, he contended that the responsibility to investigate criminal activities does not fall under the purview of the Ministry of the Attorney General.

d. The Bureau interacts with the Integrity Commission, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Board of Inland Revenue and the FIB.

e. With respect to the allocation of funds to specialized units such as the ACIB, the Police Service does not dedicate allocations for any Units in particular, all requests for funding are treated on a case by case basis.

(viii) Standing requests for specialist advice from the Ministry of the Attorney General

a. The Ministry of the Attorney General provides legal advice and forensic expertise requested but there is no standing list of officers from the AG's department at the disposal of the Bureau. Officials of the Bureau stated that the suggestion made by a Member of the Committee to develop a stand by relationship would be considered as they saw it as feasible.

b. Requests made to the Ministry of the Attorney General through the Commissioner of Police are usually fulfilled. The Bureau has not experienced any issues with respect to expertise, advice and services requested from the Ministry of the Attorney General.

(ix) The potential for the ACIB to draw on the expertise available in other agencies and the formalized pooling of these expertise

a. The Bureau endorsed the recommendation made by a Member of the Committee that there should be formal cooperation between the various agencies involved in investigating and detecting white collar crimes.

b. In light of this recommendation, the Bureau conceded that if it can harness the expertise available in the related agencies, then it would not be necessary for the Bureau to have them in-house. The officials agreed that such an arrangement can be easily established since the related agencies were state bodies and therefore all that was required was the necessary directives and or mandate.

(x) Involvement of the Bureau in determining its human resource needs

The Bureau participated in a conference hosted by the United Nations on corruption and the best practice from member countries was that Anti-Corruption Bureaus should be independent, so issues of separation of powers would not arise. Some countries have an independent anti-corruption commission that is independently staffed, funded and reports directly to Parliament. The officials of the Bureau recommended that the Bureau should be removed from under the Ministry of the Attorney General and be made independent and accountable to Parliament.

(xi) Is the Bureau legally empowered to engage in wiretapping?

The application of the Interception and Communications Act is not limited to any specific unit of the police service. Thus, there is authority for wiretapping to be done by any unit within the Police Service as long as the necessary procedure, and protocols are observed.

(xii) Are technically trained persons not attracted to the Bureau because of uncompetitive/unattractive remuneration packages?

a. There are regulations which govern negotiations regarding compensation for members of the police service. The Bureau is unable to respond to how the current compensation ranges within the police service affects its ability to recruit persons on a full time basis.

b. The Bureau stated that persons are more attracted to other units because incentives are available such as overtime. The Bureau does not offer such incentives and that is one of the issues to be addressed. Another issue that has hindered the Bureau from increasing its human resource capacity was that some technically qualified candidates may fail the polygraph test and therefore cannot be recruited.

(xiii) The period of time that the Bureau has been ineffective in recruiting personnel with technical expertise

The Police Service has a sanctioned strength for each division. However, when promotions occur, there is a displacement of human resources which would adversely affect the operations of a Unit such as the ACIB. These issues have existed prior to 2010.

(xiv) Is the Bureau currently better positioned to deal with investigations compared to six (6) years ago?

The Bureau is currently in a better position in that it was gradually getting the equipment and the assistance that it needs to complete investigations.

(xv) The Bureau's process for receiving and attending to reports of corruption

a. The Bureau receives reports via correspondence from the Commissioner of Police, 'walk-ins' by members of the public and correspondence from other agencies.

b. When reports are received, the head of the Bureau would go through the correspondence and identify areas that need to be investigated. Correspondence is then sent to the second in command to identify an investigator. The investigator is provided with a check list and through the use of timelines, the Bureau tries to keep abreast of every stage of an investigation.

c. When a walk-in report is made, the Duty Sergeant, the sentry and an inspector would take a recorded statement from the person and that statement is then vetted. The statement may reach as far as the Assistant Superintendent and after having discussions with the Superintendent and the Senior Superintendent, a plan of action is developed, an investigator is identified and the investigation is then commenced.

d. Officials of the Bureau stated that all reports are treated with confidentiality and information is not divulged to persons.

e. The Bureau submitted that due to the lack of confidence among members of the public with respect to police officers and confidentiality, citizens prefer to come directly to the Bureau to report matters involving corruption.

f. The Bureau tries to keep persons who would have made a report apprised of the status of the investigation. When an investigation is completed, written correspondence is sent to the person informing him/her of the status of the investigation and whether they are required to attend court.

g. The Bureau considers a case as being resolved when a conviction is secured.

(xvi) Why is the Bureau not treated as an "elite unit"?

Officials of the Bureau agreed that the Bureau should be treated as an "elite unit" but the Commissioner of Police has limited control in channeling additional resources into the Bureau, in order to give it an elite status. Officials suggested that in order to attract the "best" persons to the Police Service, there needs to be an enhancement in the remuneration paid to officers. However, the Commissioner of Police does not have the authority to deal with remuneration, since terms and conditions are determined through negotiations with the CPO. Nevertheless, the Commissioner intends to make recommendations so that the unit can be afforded the required status.

(xvii) Is the Bureau proactive in initiating investigations?

a. Investigations are primarily generated from complaints. However, this is not a "close door" policy. There are matters in the public domain which may trigger an investigation, but the Bureau currently has limited resources and is overwhelmed by the number of investigations.

b. If any member of the Bureau or the Police Service has reasonable grounds for suspecting that an offence has been committed, an investigation is initiated. However, in order to advance such an investigation, someone willing to give cogent and compelling information is required.

(xviii) Whether the Bureau has a reward and recognition system that grants fast track promotions to high-performing officers

The Bureau is guided by the Police Service Act and its Regulations and these statutes do not provide for the fast tracking officers. However, officials agreed that such a system should be introduce within the police service but this would require amendments to the Act and Regulations.

(xix) Measures in place to detect and prevent corruption within the Bureau

a. The Bureau does not subject its members to polygraph testing ongoing basis. Rather, whenever a concern is raised about a member of the Bureau, that officer is singled out for a polygraph examination. However, the Bureau agrees that a policy that provides for ongoing polygraph testing for the entire Police Service should be introduced.

b. The Bureau stated that there was limited capacity to conduct polygraph tests within the police service. By law, polygraph testing is only required at the recruit level, but officers applying to join the Bureau are subjected to a polygraph test since the Bureau is a specialized unit.

(xx) Accommodation of the Bureau

a. The Bureau's main office is located at #33 Independence Square, Port of Spain. The Bureau was recently allotted an entire floor at Riverside Plaza to treat with an ongoing investigation. The location at Riverside Plaza is secured and contains two (2) fireproof vaults to store evidence.

b. However, the location at the main office is not suitable for the Bureau. The space, including parking, is insufficient and there are flooding issues. There is also no fireproof vault for storing evidence. The Bureau had written to the Ministry of the Attorney General concerning its relocation and the Bureau has received feedback from the Ministry that stated that efforts were being made to find a proper location for the Bureau

c. The Bureau has property keepers who are in control of exhibits and with respect to security and surveillance, there are CCTV cameras installed at its main office.

(xxi) Sensitizing the public about the Bureau

a. The Bureau has been in engaging in activities to sensitize other departments within the police service about its mandate. This exercise involved engaging the divisions in the Police Service and delivering lectures on corruption. The Bureau also started to visit external bodies to conduct lectures on corruption, however due to staff shortages, these lectures have been discontinued at this time.

b. The Bureau has made representation to the Commissioner of Police regarding the creation of a website specifically for the ACIB. Based on concerns raised by Transparency International regarding members of the public being uncertain about the process of making a report to the ACIB, the Bureau has instituted a system to guide members of the public who may wish to make a report.

(xxii) Responsibility for investigating corruption within the Police Service

By law, the Police Complaints Authority has jurisdiction to deal with corruption relating to police officers and serious police misconduct. The Professional Standard Bureau of the Police Service gives support to these investigations. In the past, there were investigations conducted by the Bureau which concerned the conduct of police officers, the Bureau's involvement has been significantly diminished.

(xxiii) Reports from Tobago

The Bureau does not have an office in Tobago, therefore when the Bureau receives a report from Tobago, officers visit the island to conduct the necessary investigations. The Bureau indicated that residents of Tobago were made aware of the process/procedures involved in making a report to the Bureau as a result of several awareness programmes that were done on the island in 2011.

(xxiv) Whether prosecution or conviction is used as a measure of success

If a matter reaches the prosecution stage, the Bureau would consider this as an achievement. Convictions are not used a measure, since securing a conviction may be dependent on a number of externalities which are beyond the control of the Bureau.

(xxv) The rationale for the emphasis on investigating matters in the public sector rather than the private sector

a. Based on the Cabinet Minute which sets out the Bureau's mandate, the Bureau is mandated to focus specifically on corruption in the public sector. However, this should not be interpreted as there is no interaction with the private sector.

b. Persons from the private sector have been involved in investigations done by the Bureau because of their commercial interface with the public sector. Persons from both the private and the public sector have been the subject of court proceedings initiated by the ACIB. Nonetheless, the Bureau intended to eliminate the misconception that it was only responsible for dealing with corruption in the public sector.

(xxvi) Associating with foreign agencies to develop and train staff

The Bureau has identified training opportunities that are available abroad and was in the process of developing a proposal document to submit to the Commissioner of Police with a view to acquiring the necessary approval.

6.5 The Chairman thanked the officials of the Bureau for their attendance.

6.6 The Meeting was suspended at 12:31 p.m.

(Officials of the PCA exited the room)

<u>Requested information</u>

6.7 Further to the discussions which transpired during the hearing, the ACIB was asked to provide the following information to the Committee:

i. the number of specialist officers that are currently being trained to be recruited into the Bureau;

ii. whether the Bureau considered recruiting foreign officers to alleviate the shortage of officers with the required technical competencies/specialist training;

iii. are scholarships offered by the Bureau?

iv. why does the Bureau experience delays in obtaining information in light of their powers of search under warrant from a magistrate?

v. the date of the last conviction secured in a matter that was investigated by the Bureau.

POST-HEARING DISCUSSIONS

7.1 The meeting resumed at 12:35 p.m. at the same venue.

Next meeting date

7.2 The Committee agreed to hold its next meeting on June 25, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at which time the Committee would conduct a public hearing with officials of the Environmental Management Authority.

Delays in receiving Ministerial Responses

7.3 The Committee agreed that the Secretary should send a final letter requesting a Ministerial Response from the Ministries that have failed to submit same.

ADJOURNMENT

8.1 The meeting was adjourned to June 25, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

8.2 The Committee concluded its meeting at 12:43 p.m.

I certify that these Minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

June 18, 2014

APPENDIX III

NOTES OF EVIDENCE

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE TWENTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT APPOINTED TO ENQUIRE INTO AND REPORT ON GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES (GROUP I), STATUTORY AUTHORITIES AND STATE ENTERPRISES FALLING UNDER THEIR PURVIEW, HELD IN THE ARNOLD THOMASOS ROOM (EAST), SIXTH FLOOR, AND AT THE J. HAMILTON MAURICE ROOM (MEZZANINE FLOOR), TOWER D, THE PORT OF SPAIN INTERNATIONAL WATERFRONT CENTRE, 1A WRIGHTSON ROAD, PORT OF SPAIN, ON FRIDAY, JUNE 06, 2014, AT 9.35 A.M.

PRESENT

Mr. Elton Prescott SC	Chairman
Mr. Gerald Hadeed	Member
Miss Stacy Roopnarine	Member
Mrs. Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan	Member
Mr. Emmanuel George	Member
Dr. Dhanayshar Mahabir	Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Patricia Mc Intosh	Member
Mr. Faris Al-Rawi	Member
Dr. Amery Browne	Member
Mr. Jairam Seemungal	Member
Mr. Julien Ogilvie	Secretary
Mr. Indar Sieunarine	Asst. Secretary
Miss Kimberly Mitchell	Graduate Research Asst.
Johnson Greenidge	Parliamentary Intern

ABSENT

Mr. Ganga Singh	Member [*Excused*]
Mr. Delmon Baker	Member [*Excused*]

ANTI-CORRUPTION INVESTIGATION BUREAU

Mr. Stephen Williams	Ag. Commissioner of Police
Mr. Glen Hackett	Ag. Dep. Commissioner of Police
Mr. Kenneth Cordner	Snr. Supt. Court & Process
Mr. Anthony Bucchan	Ag. Snr. Supt. ACIB
Mr. John Frederick	Supt. ACIB

Mr. Chairman: Good morning. Welcome to the Acting Commissioner of Police and the members of the Anti-corruption Investigation Bureau. We are late in starting and, therefore, please accept an apology on behalf of myself as Chair and all of the members. We were engaged in very intense discussions about how we were to approach this body this morning, and I think you will find that we will progress smoothly as a consequence of the discussions we have had.

This is the meeting of the Joint Select Committee (Group 1), enquire into the Ministries which fall under our purview. The members of the committee who are present will introduce themselves. I will start on the extreme left with Mr. Faris Al-Rawi.

[*Introductions made*]

Mr. Chairman: May I invite you to introduce your team, please, Mr. Williams.

Mr. Williams: Thank you very much, hon. Chairman and members of the Joint Select Committee. I am Stephen Williams. I am at present the Acting Commissioner of Police of Trinidad and Tobago. I do have with me, by way of small changes from what would have been submitted in our submissions, we have a change in the leadership at the Anti-corruption Investigation Bureau, based on some recent promotions that we had. Anthony Bucchan, Acting Senior Superintendent, is now leading the Anti-corruption Investigations Bureau. Next to him is Superintendent John Frederick, who has also been recently promoted and was a Assistant Superintendent in the unit.

Mr. Kenneth Cordner who was the head of the Anti-corruption Investigations Bureau, as recently as of June 02, being transferred to head the Court and Process Branch. However, he has been brought before the committee as the head for the period of time that we will be looking at, by way of the administration and operation of the unit that we are now seeking to update the committee by way of its enquiry. On my left is the Acting Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Glen Hackett with responsibility for crime. We invited one other person; he is not here today and he will not attend, that is Mr. Carlton Alleyne, who is the Acting Assistant Commissioner for Crime. He had some urgent matters to address for us and he will not be here this morning.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you very much. May I just tell how we hope to proceed? I will read into the record the objectives of this enquiry and then I will invite you Commissioner to give us your opening remarks, and overview if you wish, and then we will proceed with members directing certain questions to you, and hopefully you would be able to provide us with full answers, because this is a public enquiry and it is meant to deliver to the public some information, if you like, of how you operate. It is not so much the operational issues, but the management of the organization that concern us.

I would firstly, if you will permit me, read the six objectives into the record. They are:

1. To gain an understanding of the relationship between the Bureau and other related agencies, such as the Integrity Commission, Fraud Squad, Director of Public Prosecutions, Financial Intelligence Unit, Transparency International, Police Complaints Authority and other regional and international organizations.
2. To acquire an appreciation of the major challenges confronting the Bureau.
3. To determine the status of matters that are being investigated by the

Bureau.

4. To determine the major achievements of the Bureau for the period 2009 to 2013.
5. To gain an insight into the powers of the Bureau; and 6. To assess the adequacy of the Bureau's current manpower.

As I say manpower, may I just take the opportunity on behalf of those members here to congratulate those who have been promoted and/or elevated and have joined your team.

So, Commissioner Williams, would you like to proceed then?

Mr. Williams: Thank you very much, Chairman, just to indicate that in response to the request of the Joint Select Committee to submit written responses, we have so submitted. There are some minor adjustments which are necessary to furnish the committee with. They have to do with numbers, and I will ask shortly the new head of the Anti-corruption Investigation Bureau, Ag. Sen. Supt. Bucchan, to update the committee on those minor adjustments, but they will appear on page 1 and page 4 in relation to numbers.

By way of preliminary indicators, the Anti-corruption Investigation Bureau is a unique unit, under the general control of the Commissioner of Police. It is a unit which Cabinet, by Minute 20 of 2002, established in the Ministry of the Attorney General. However, all police units are, in fact, have the line accountability to the Commissioner of Police, so this unit continues to operate with that line authority, that of the Commissioner of Police. The Office of the Attorney General provides certain support, by way of resources to the unit.

The day-to-day functioning of the unit is not under the control of the Office of the Attorney General, so any relevant matters have to be channeled by the office through the office of Commission of police to anybody. So the unit is directly under the control of the Commissioner for its operations.

At this point in time, I would like to just pass over to Ag. Sen. Supt. Supt. Bucchan, so that he can identify with the changes that I alluded to earlier, Chairman.

Mr. Bucchan: Good morning, Chairman and members of the committee. With respect to page 1, what we did not include there are the 17 matters that we did investigations but we did not have sufficient evidence to prosecute.

With respect to page 4, company prosecuted, we have 14 companies prosecuted there, when in fact it should be five companies prosecuted—that is (ii). Five companies prosecuted and 19 offences detected, and persons were charged.

Mr. Al-Rawi: Is that 19 persons charged?

Mr. Bucchan: Nineteen offences, because we are dealing with companies; five companies, but 19 offences.

Mr. Al-Rawi: So of the five companies, 19 offences.

Mr. Chairman: So fourteen was simply wrong?

Mr. Bucchan: Yes, there was some miscalculations with respect to that, Sir. Thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: Commissioner, were you through with your overview? Sorry, Mr. Bucchan, I understood you to be saying that at page 4 of the report, item (ii), that instead of companies prosecuted14, it should be five, and there are 19 offences detected and persons prosecuted.

Mr. Bucchan: The companies would have been charged for those.

Mr. Chairman: Much obliged. Is that okay, Mrs. Seepersad-Bachan.

10.50 a.m.

Mr. Chairman: So, very well. Commissioner, you were through?

Mr. Williams: Just one more line. Just to indicate, the Anti-Corruption Investigations Bureau continues to operate below the approved staffing complement. One of the major challenges we have is that of recruiting persons to the unit; however, we continue to make the effort to recruit persons to that unit, and that recruitment drive is still on. We had one in 2013 and we continue in 2014 to recruit persons. There may be a situation of persons are not necessarily attracted—and I am speaking about police officers—to function within the Anti-Corruption Investigations Bureau. So there is a challenge of recruiting. It is not a unit which we can just transfer individuals, anyone to the unit, we require officers to function at a certain level, and therefore, they must be particularly selected, screened, vetted, polygraphed, take them through all the requirements for entry into the unit. So it is not one which normally attracts officers.

Mr. Chairman: We will then proceed with some questions from this body. I regret that, Minister Seemungal has gone ahead of, you know, Mrs. Mc Intosh. Mr. Seemungal.

Mr. Seemungal: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner, I want to welcome you and your staff here as well, and I want to compliment you on the good work that you are doing within the police service.

This Bureau was set up in 2002 and since then you would have had a number of challenges. You pointed out one of them which is the recruitment and the filling of vacancies within your establishment. Can you—for the purpose of the wider population who would be looking on at the programme, and also for the record—identify some of the other challenges that you would have within your organization? And two, can you recommend, make some recommendations, as to how those challenges can be overcome?

Mr. Williams: I will pass that question on to the head of the Anti-Corruption Investigations Bureau, Mr. Bucchan, who is the longest serving member on this team here, so that he can effectively account for the challenges that they would be faced over the many years that he has been there, and with some recommendations.

Mr. Bucchan: Yes. Mr. Seemungal, with respect to the challenges of the Bureau, the Commissioner addressed the manpower shortage. It is one that we are going through a process now of recruiting personnel. As you mentioned, it is—the

Bureau—not one where persons would easily come into. There is process. The process we deal with, normally, interviews first. We do vetting with respect to the persons coming in, and then we normally do the polygraph testing that would assist us in bringing the right persons into the Bureau. So that is ongoing at this point in time. The Commissioner has also indicated in his strategic plan 2014 to 2016, that all specialist sections would be strengthened with respect to manpower. So that is a drive that is on now with respect to staffing all plain clothes sections or all specialist sections.

Another challenge that we have is that, most of the time our investigations come from Ministries more so, and there is a difficulty in obtaining information and documents from those agencies. We normally request documents via correspondence, and sometimes the time frame in which we take to receive those documents or responses cause our Investigations to be delayed. This is one of the areas that we are requesting or recommending that some legislative measure be put in place, so that these agencies or companies that we request information or documents from would respond on a timely basis, and do not take their own time in dealing with the issue of supplying us with that information.

When we look at training, the Commissioner has gone out of his way to train our members at the ACIB. There are certain areas, and that is expertise, when we look at forensic that we have to outsource, from time to time, through that arrangement with the Cabinet Minute with the hon. Attorney General's Department. We, at the Bureau, also suggested that some of our persons be trained in those specific areas. As we move ahead—as the first persons who would arrive on scenes with respect to Corruptionissues. It is one of the things that we have discussed, and we would like that to be recorded as a recommendation.

Staffing of the Bureau: sometimes we have to—people who are coming in, we have to train them. We have developed a programme, or we are in the process of developing that programme with respect to persons who would come into the Bureau as anti-corruption officers to do Investigations; that is ongoing.

What we also have ongoing is a manual with respect to standard operations and procedures which will assist us in running the Bureau as it is supposed to be run, and also to have our persons up to speed with respect to how the Bureau functions and what are the processes and procedures that are involved with doing a proper investigation.

With respect to technology, the Commissioner has gone out of his way to supply technology as we requested. He has done that. The thing is that we would have to go further, and we are looking at other technologies that we could use, so that it would enhance our investigative capacity. So that is being looked at present. Other than these challenges that I have mentioned and with respect to the recommendations that I have made at present, these are what we are trying to deal with at this point in time. Thank you very much.

Mr. Seemungal: Just a supplemental. With respect to outfitting your agency with specialist officers and specialized-type trained officers, how many officers do we have in that category who are being trained right now? And this is, one; and two, have you all thought of, if you do not have the officers available now, maybe recruiting foreign officers or an international advertisement that can attract officers as well to serve under this particular unit, to help with the shortage in these types of individuals?

Mr. George: Chair, I have a follow-up to that which I want to present. I just want to ask before. [*Crosstalk*] Just a follow-up. You are saying that the training that you provide is provided locally. Have you considered an assignment, a foreign assignment of relevant staff to a similar agency in a first world country that does the same kind of work, so that they can gain that on-hand experience as to how things are done, you know, by a first world country, state of the art, so that they can get that training direct? Have you thought about using that particular method of training?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Bucchan, before you respond. Minister Seepersad-Bachan has a question on the same point, and then we will go to Mrs. Mc Intosh.

Mrs. Seepersad-Bachan: Just quickly. Just to add to what is being said, because I think the major challenge—gentlemen, a special welcome to all of you. I see your major challenge here, one is systems. The second one is your human resource capacity, developing that cadre of skills Let us understand that these are areas that are new, in terms of forensic investigations and cybercrimes, et cetera, and it will be dynamic. It will continue to grow, it is not going to stay still. These are areas that are going to continue to grow over the years. I was just wondering, Commissioner, bearing in mind this constraint that you have and this particular challenge, are you looking at probably when you get police officers coming into the service, especially younger ones, are we developing a career path? And, you know, because you talked about providing the training. So you have a ready structured programme of training in these areas, and therefore, you offer it to police officers and then they can be then, you know, selected to go into the ACIB. So, I was just wondering in terms of that, and I mean, to add to what, Minister Emmanuel George was saying then, you know, you bring in the foreign sort of counterparts to assist in the development of this process.

And the other issue is whether there are scholarships that you have been offering those who would want to go and do the law, do cybercrime, take information—because you are saying that one the issues here is information technology as well. So they have to be versed, you know, in IT, and what is happening, especially because of cybercrime. So, I just wondered if that was something you were looking at.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you.

Mr. Williams: I will just address the last question, and then Mr. Bucchan will address the two previous questions from Ministers George and Seemungal.

Yes, the police service is in fact looking at the issue of developing career paths for officers, even from the point of entry, and that is one of the key focal areas that we are treating with over our three years, 2014 to 2016, within our planning cycle. There are areas though which Mr. Bucchan will speak further on, some specialist areas such as forensic accounting which is something which is not easily achieved in a short period of time. The officers from the unit, the Anti-Corruption Investigations Bureau, since they are a specialized team, they all gain specialist training. We have local training. They are exposed to foreign training. They are exposed to seminars, to conferences, and they are networking on the issue of global development. But it will, in fact, take a continuous process of progressing to get the Anti-Corruption Investigations Bureau, and some of the other units in the organization, to be at that point where we can and, in fact, say they are operating at their best. Whatever is now as obstacles in the path, we are trying to alleviate that.

When Mr. Bucchan spoke about making available resources, it has to do with the funding arrangements. So 2013/2014 budget has allowed me additional funding, so that I can acquire equipment, pieces of technology that they request and provide them with it. That is a continuous process. So the more that they request, we provide, but the training and the developing of the unit will be over time. But there is a clear focus on it over our next three years.

Mrs. Seepersad-Bachan: What I am really asking is, okay, over the 2014—2016 period in your new plan, could you say therefore, that you now have a structured programme in place, where you have actually started. Because I agree with you. You are not going to get it overnight, and this will also be a moving target, as you said, with global developments. Do you have a structured programme to say, okay, I can start from this year, and say, okay, I will be training, and it will be over a period of time before these officers actually go to the ACIB? That is what I was trying to get at.

Mr. Williams: Yeah. We have a structured plan in place, and it is now about implementing that plan over the three years.

Mrs. Seepersad-Bachan: And which will have the training programmes and so on, whether foreign or local.

Mr. Williams: Yes.

Mrs. Seepersad-Bachan: Right. Okay, thank you.

Mr. Bucchan: When we talk about training as the commissioner said, in the Anti-Corruption Investigations Bureau we need specialists. Specialists in the form of forensic experts. Specialists in form of attorneys who could guide us on a daily basis. In the police service we have legal persons who would assist us, but sometimes you need that expertise with respect to certain issues and how you treat with those particular issues. We have relied on the Director of Public Prosecutions, from time to time, in order to treat with those legal issues that we would have.

Forensically, the thing is, as we fall under that little ambit under the Attorney General's Department, who is mandated to provide those expertise for us, with respect to forensic expertise, what we do is when we have those requests we make that request through the Commissioner of Police to the Attorney General's Department for them to provide that specific expertise. So the thing is, it is only requests we will get those expertise done. What we are saying is that with respect to forensic—and the Commissioner said it in the 2014 to 2016 plan—there is that plan in train to train some of our members who could assist in the initial stages, if there is anything, to treat with some of those issues. And when it reaches a stage where we need that outside help, we can make that request for that outside help.

So when we talk about training and upgrading the ACIB, it is more the expertise. Generally, training at the ACIB, we train personnel with respect to recording statements, interviews, all those other things that we would do advanced training in, but with respect to those specific expertise we would need that training. We will request that that training be done with some of our members to assist with the smooth flow and the quick attending to those reports.

11.05 a.m.

Mrs. Mc Intosh: Good day, Mr. Bucchan, I am looking at your mission and I would like to quote it:

"To establish and maintain confidence in public and private institutions by conducting prompt, unbiased and professional investigations into all reports of corruption and related matters by applying all available modern technology with a trained and competent staff in partnership with the public."

And of course we just heard about all your woes, all the challenges in terms of staffing and human resources, and indeed, when I read your report I saw that the bureau was severely challenged in terms of ICT competencies, staffing, but also, in unwillingness of persons to come forward to give evidence. You find a lot of difficulty with that. Of course you have funding and even accommodation, and I am wondering—I have two questions to ask:

One, to what extent would you say that the bureau has been effective and efficient in realizing this mission? I ask that because just yesterday in the papers I noticed that there was an anatomy of white-collar crime, and the article stated that white-collar crime cases have soared by 75 per cent. They did not say the time frame, the period, but apparently it is soaring and there are no solutions, and I would just like to quote this, please:

"White collar criminal activity in Trinidad and Tobago though hardly ever reported is not unnoticed, it exists at various levels of society in both the public and private sectors. However the merits or demerits of any allegations of wrongdoing made are hardly ever thoroughly investigated and almost never comes before a criminal court."

So, I am concerned about that. And the second question that I would like to ask—

Mr. Chairman: Mrs. Mc Intosh, before you proceed to the second question, could you please identify the document for the purpose of the record?

Mrs. Mc Intosh: Yes, this came from yesterday's *Business Express*, June 04, 2014, page 12/13. It is a Chamber of Commerce article.

So, when I read this I know a lot of these white-collar crimes are due to a lot of corrupt practices, and if they are saying that they are soaring by so much as 75 per cent, I have to admit that the time frame is not there. I am worried and I know that you are hamstrung by a lot of challenges, so, to what extent would you say that you have been achieving this mission, which sounds good?

But, the other question I have to ask, you need a lot of these specialists to enable you to execute your mandate. Are these positions specialist positions? Is your structure well laid out and the specialists positions identified and approved by Cabinet to facilitate—to expedite the filling of these positions when you train and hire entities? Because I do not think these specialist positions are just sitting there waiting to be filed. Have they been identified in a structure and has Cabinet approved or in the process of approving any of them so that you can have quick filling of these positions so you can get your business on the road very quickly? Thank you.

Mr. Bucchan: Ma'am, with respect to, one, our mission statement, I understand that we have challenges, but with the challenges that we have, we make every effort to try and do the best that we could do with what we have. Investigation in itself is a challenge for us and you identified that with respect to the various concerns that we have, but whenever we deal with the public we give the public our best. We try to do an in-depth investigation, at the ending of those investigations whether they go to the court or whether they are closed for some reason, we cause the persons involve or the witnesses or the victims involved to be aware of what the outcome is. I think those are one of the things that we try to do so that people could be comfortable that when they come to make a report we deal with the report in a timely manner and give them that sort of response.

Yes, we have woes. We are not complaining about the woes but we would like those woes to be addressed so that we could work ahead speedily and without any hiccups. So that article that you read there just now that would be a day of the past. But the thing is, we are walking down this road, we are putting all measures in place, the Commissioner has indicated that and we are putting all measures in place so that we could treat with those situations with respect to staffing and we have not addressed any document or correspondence with respect to filling vacancies, with respect to forensic and other expertise.

I think one of the reasons is that, in our Cabinet Note that was made some time ago in 2002, the mandate of the Attorney General's department is to supply these expertise. We are now saying, listen, we need to have it on board instead of just having to request it, and analyzing all these documents or statements to say, well, listen, and now we need a forensic investigator to come in. If we have forensic investigators on board it would assist us, in a timely manner, to treat with matters. So, we are looking at that prospect of getting those expertise on board in the police service. I know that we have had discussions with respect to it and we are looking into those issues.

Mrs. Mc Intosh: Did I hear correct, if I may ask, that the Attorney General's office is responsible for this?

Mr. Bucchan: As far as the Cabinet Note, yes, ma'am.

Mrs. Mc Intosh: So, for funding and for staffing?

Mr. Bucchan: The staffing is with respect—

Mrs. Mc Intosh: For specialists?

Mr. Bucchan: For specialist section the Commissioner of Police is in charge of staffing. When we need expert advice with respect to forensic advice, we have to make that request through the Commissioner of Police to the Attorney General, because they, in fact, would have provided those expertise, and added to that, accommodation and equipment when we need those things.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Hadeed, I have two Senators lined up ahead of you, I am sorry. Are you through?

Mrs. Mc Intosh: I am not through, but I will stop.

Mr. Al-Rawi: Good morning everyone, I know that we all are in tight space of time. Thank you all for coming, Commissioner, especially bearing in mind the multiple hats that you wear inside of there.

Gentlemen, I have a string of questions so it may be interesting if you took a note. I wish to point out that there are multiple areas which coordinate from my perspective, and please correct me if I am wrong. There is the DPPs department, there is the Integrity Commission which has its own form of investigation, some of which may overlap with yours, there is the Board of Inland Revenue, there is the Fraud Squad which is a division of the police itself, there is the FIU, there is soon to be a procurement regulator as the new procurement laws are being proposed and, of course, we have to office of the Attorney General, there is also, from a training perspective, the NSOC operation that goes on.

Acting Commissioner, I am interested in what your actual budget is and how you spread your budget across divisions, for instance between the Fraud Squad, some aspects of NSOC operation and the operations of the ACIB?

Secondly, I wonder why it is that there cannot be a constant request, a standing request for specialist services through the Ministry of the Attorney General. It has in the last four years spent close to half a billion dollars on legal services, so I am just wondering how it is you could have been without the resources for specialist services on a standing basis, residing in the Ministry of the Attorney General itself.

The other issue that concerns me is, why it is in light of sections 5 and 9 of the Proceeds of Crime Act, why it is in light of similar provisions in the FIU legislation, why in light of other inter-arching pieces of reference, be it the Audit and Exchequer Act, be it the Constitution for the Auditor General, why is it where you have powers of search under warrant from a magistrate as in the Proceeds of Crime Act in section 5 and by a judge ex parte upon application in section 9, why is it that you are having the delays in obtaining the information that you require to be given to you and which is not being given to you?

The other perspective that I would like you to cast your mind to is, how it is the operation of this bureau fits in with other entities investigations? For instance, it is a matter of public record that the Ministry of the Attorney General has hired an A team of lawyers to conduct investigations of fraud and criminal activity? How is it you balance that unfettered limitless financing that goes through the Ministry of the Attorney General versus what you are saying is a very limited constricted financing on your side?

The last point that I would like to put on for now, if it is okay, is how it is proposed that you would like to have all of this operate together? You said that you would like to have specialists persons put inside of your division, ACIB, would it be a duplication of resources if the ACIB has forensic investigators, the Fraud Squad has forensic investigators, the FIU has forensic investigators, or would it be better to simply make a standing request of the Ministry of the Attorney General to have on staff the following number of attorneys, forensic auditors, et cetera, that you can have constant resource to for a purpose of finance?

I accept that the Commissioner of Police under the Constitution vested with management as the accounting officer under law can only deal with what is appropriated to him, but is it also not equally possible to make the request of the Ministry of the Attorney General and have that on a standing basis arrangement? Those are my questions for now.

Mr Williams: I would answer parts of your questions and hope that I am complemented by some answers through Mr. Bucchan for the other parts. But just to indicate NSOC is not a unit which is under the police service, so the issues around NSOC, and I think the name would have changed to NOC (National Operations Centre), is one which is under the Ministry of Nation Security, with a clear mandate, a different kind of mandate than the one that you have alluded to.

The second area I wanted to clear up, the FIU is not a unit which is also under the police service, we have an FIB (Financial Investigations Branch). So, that is the operating unit to address financial investigations.

Mr. Al-Rawi: Sorry, if I could clarify, what I was saying is that these entities all investigate suspicious transactions or aspects of fraud which may exist in the public sector as well. So, insofar as there are multiple institutions all investigating aspects of fraud and corruption, the coordination of those resources is what I am driving to.

Mr Williams: Well, I just wanted to help. The FIU is not the unit investigating, the FIB (Financial Investigations Branch) of the police service is the unit which investigates. So, I just wanted to correct it and say, it is not the FIU which is a separate entity, independent of the police service, it is the FIB (Financial Investigations Branch) of the police service investigates those matters.

11.20 a.m.

The NOC or NSOC has no investigative capacity, so I do not know—I just want to put, because we are dealing with a public hearing, here. I am totally unaware of any investigation that NSOC does—

Mr. Al-Rawi: Not investigation, by way of training for specialists within the service. Is that not what NOC does as well?

Mr. Williams: No, not to my knowledge.

Mr. Al-Rawi: I see.

Mr. Williams: Not to my knowledge. So I just wanted to clear those areas out. So that is not to my knowledge, and if it is not to my knowledge I can say the police service does not receive that in any direct way. As it relates to the team of lawyers for fraud and criminal activity, I am not too sure about that, so I cannot speak to that too. The issue about the Attorney General's office of that team you speak about, that "A team", I cannot speak about that. It has not been made available to me as the Commissioner of Police, any "A team". I just want to put that on record.

Mr. Al-Rawi: Just a question on that point. So the statements that we have had from the AG as to investigation for fraud committed at state enterprises through this "A team", the ACIB is not coordinated in that?

Mr. Williams: I do not know anything about any "A team" of lawyers to deal with fraud and criminal activities. As it relates to criminal activity, we assign different units of the police service to investigate criminal activities. So it is not under the Attorney General's office investigating any criminal activity, so I do not know about that "A team".

So I just wanted to clear those things as we go forward. Mr. Bucchan would just add in relation to some responses out of what you have in fact spoken about, especially the integration and coordination of numerous units within the broad rubric of the government agencies in relation to functioning.

Mr. Al-Rawi: The budget question, perhaps you can answer that.

Mr. Williams: The police service has a general budget for running the organization. We do not have dedicated budget for the units, like fraud squad, anti-corruption or any other unit. We treat with all the request—if you could call it from one pool, and treat with those requests, but we have not dedicated in any subway resources to the specific units.

Mr. Bucchan: With respect to the other departments or agencies that the ACIB would interact from time to time, the Integrity Commission is one of those bodies that we interact with from time to time. The DPP department who would give us more sound legal advice would interact from time to time. With respect to BIR, we have an ongoing investigation which our intention is to interact with the BIR at somewhere down the road, but that would be done. The FIB, we have that communication with the FIB, because on a daily basis we would network to find out whether we have anything that they themselves would be interested in, so that we could do that work together; that investigation together. So we have that communication with the FIB.

With respect to the Attorney General's department, and I would say it again, the Attorney General's department is mandated by the Cabinet Note to provide certain expertise. These expertise include, legal advice on request, when we request it, it is given; forensic when we request it, it is given—but the thing is we do not have anybody standing by to say that these are the persons that we would want to assist in investigations. There is not a listing as such, only when a request is made then we would know who are the forensic persons that would be involved?

Mr. Al-Rawi: But has putting in a stand by relationship ever been thought of?

Mr. Bucchan: Not before, not before you raised it, and it is something that we could look at, because it seems feasible that we could work with it so long that we have that expertise ready and rearing, so that we could have access to it immediately. That is a step in the right direction, because we understand that giving or hiring all these expertise to put in the ACIB, we have agencies in Trinidad and Tobago that could provide it. However, the thing is, if the proper structure is put in place so that we could access it on a readily basis like you said, at a moment's notice, instead of it going through that protocol of request and those sorts of things, then it would be fine working along those lines.

Mr. Chairman: May I, Sen. Al Rawi, are you through?

Mr. Al-Rawi: Mr. Chairman, the only thing that troubles me deeply is the situation with the building that is non OSHA compliant and the record, et cetera—

Mr. Chairman: Would you like to hold that so I can ask Dr. Mahabir to speak?

Mr. Al-Rawi:—but I can withhold that for a while.

Dr. Mahabir: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to continue along the line, initially started by Sen. Al-Rawi, and that is, that I am fully aware that the police service operates under its own rules and regulations. But this ACIB has been placed within the AG's office for a particular reason, and it has to be that white-collar crime is an activity which is something that is growing in significance, requires expertise which the police service has not been accustom to over the years to handling, and has really required the specialist expertise departments.

And I am simply enquiring of the Assistant Commissioner and of the Senior Superintendent Bucchan, whether given the plethora of agencies which now deal with white-collar crime, in particular, the Securities and Exchange Commission, which does the same type of investigations. We have the FIU, we have the Integrity Commission and you have had your traditional fraud squad, together with all the agencies mentioned by Sen. Al-Rawi, whether in fact it is not in the interest of really discharging your function effectively and really getting a firm handle on this growing, escalating practise of corruption across all agencies in the country, that it would not be a good idea for the police service despite the regulations, the strict regulations within which it operates, to have a procedure of regularity where it meets with these agencies on a quarterly basis, so that you would be able to compare notes.

The SEC which deals with securities fraud, the FIU which deals with another type, the Integrity Commission another type—so that you would be able to really understand if there are problems in common that you have with these other agencies, and then have a number of technical staff members who are working in these agencies who can then be recruited to assist with the particular problems of the ACIB.

In that situation, you have your core of police officers trained in police work making use of a pool out there of specialist investigators in accounting and financial fraud which is not normally police work. And in that way, we can make better use of the resources which exist within the ambit of the state. What that would mean is that the Minister of National Security, the Minister of Finance and the Economy and the Attorney General will all have to come together to allow the ACIB, an agency like the ACIB to make use of the facilities and the resources which are available in these line agencies. But this could only occur, you see, if in fact agencies communicate continuously. We know, Acting Commissioner that the big problem of 9/11 arose because the CIA and the other agencies just simply did not communicate. They all had information and the FBI did not trade with the CIA.

So, I think learning from that experience, I think it would be a good idea if, in fact, we can identify the pool of expertise which now exists within the state, which would then be available to you and they become basically adjunct police officers. But that is only a positive recommendation to get the work going.

The second is, I was just wondering, you see white-collar crime is not the typical kind of crime, it is complex. It is conducted by individuals with high levels of education, sophistication and training, and whether the law permits you to engage in the wiretapping of individuals suspected of these illicit transactions as is done, say, with the SEC in the United States working with the FBI, and whether you currently have a hotline where people on the outside could simply call you and tell you, I think there is some untoward activity and I would like you to check this out. Thank you so far, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Williams: Just to indicate that the recommendation submitted is a brilliant one, one which we would support. If we can get all the agencies to effectively be operating in that organized way, meeting on a regular basis, the pool of experts to provide support to the Anti-Corruption Investigation Bureau and you do not necessarily have to get the pool of experts inside the Anti-Corruption Investigation Bureau, it is a brilliant idea. It is one which I am sure can be worked out, because we are talking about governmental agencies, so it is a matter of getting some directives and some mandate, and that is something which can, in fact, be worked out. We do not have a dedicated hotline to the Anti-Corruption Investigation Bureau, so I cannot speak to that. Those are what I captured from what you presented.

Dr. Mahabir: And the issue of actually now listening on conversations and so on.

Mr. Williams: "Ohh", the issue of—I use the term wiretapping—

Dr. Mahabir: Not whether you do it, but do you have the power to do it?

Mr. Williams: Just to say, there is an Interception of Communications Act which is the law of Trinidad and Tobago and it is not limited to any specific unit. So the police service does in fact have the authority. There is a process where we are looking at issues around evidential—if we are looking to gain evidence out of an intercept, we go to a judge to get a warrant and we have a system to so do, and we explore it.

Mr. Chairman: Sen. Hadeed.

Mr. Hadeed: Thank you, Chair. With regard to recruitment, acting Commissioner, recruitment, there are over 13,000 vacancies in the public service. Is it that the pay, remuneration package that needs to be offered to these high technical people is not within the range that you can offer to these people to get them into the service? Question one.

Question two, in relation to the questions raised by the Opposition Senator, how long has these constraints been in effect? Has it only been in effect in the last four years? And has the AG's office ever refused assistance when asked from your division? Those are my three questions.

Mr. Bucchan: With respect to recruitment and with respect to the range, or salary, or incentive, the police service in itself is regulated with respect to salaries and negotiations and increase. How it affects bringing people into the organization is something that I would not be able to respond to, especially those expertise, I am not aware of the process with respect to bringing these expertise in, on a full-time basis, into the organization. So, I would not want to speak on that particular issue.

What I can say, is that with respect to the ACIB, and when we look at attracting the right persons to the ACIB the thing is, there must be some incentive to bring the proper or the right people into the ACIB. We find sometimes that persons may be more attracted to other sections because of that incentive, be it overtime, be it extra time and be it what, but with respect to the ACIB there is no incentive other than your salary that you treat with, and that is one of the issues that we have. Sometimes you will find with respect the recruitment, you may interview persons; you may bring them in; you may do the polygraph testing and they fail where the polygraph testing is concerned. So we cannot bring them in—so there are certain issues that we have to deal with there.

11.35 a.m.

With respect to the challenges that we have, is over time. Some of those have been rectified. With respect to the ACIB making that interaction with some of the agencies and having discussions, and we are having some favourable returns from it but still, generally, it is an issue. We have had discussions with the RGO with respect to supplying us with information and documents and we are getting the response that we need. We do not have any problems with it. We used to have, but we no longer have it. And the other agencies that we deal with, we meet with them and we have discussions, but some are still existing.

With respect of the AG department, any request that is made by the ACIB through the Commissioner to the AG, is readily given to us, so we do not have an issue with respect to any sort of expertise, advice, services, from the Attorney General's department. As long as we make that request through our

Commissioner of Police—and that is with respect to any expertise that we would need—it is available to us.

Mr. Hadeed: The question with regard to the enquiry raised by the Opposition Senator, has this problem been just over the last four years or it is from inception this thing is taking place?

Mr. Al-Rawi: Which problem is that?

Mr. Hadeed: The problem that you related to—you related earlier on in your discussions.

Mr. Al-Rawi: Sorry. Is it the A team you are speaking about?

Mr. Hadeed: Not the AG's office, the ineffectiveness of your ACIB being able to get the necessary people, personnel, this, that, the other—the questions he asked you.

Mr. Bucchan: Like I said, over time with respect to the ACIB, with respect to the challenges, if you look at the shortage, we have to remember that the police service is one where there are sanctioned strengths, that is for each division, each section. With promotion, there is displacement because of that sanctioned strength. That displacement also causes our demise with respect to that human resource that we have. Replacing that human resource is a challenge, to get the proper persons on board in order to be in the unit and also to deal with the investigations.

With respect to the agencies, those issues have been over time, and it is more than the four years that you suggested, but gradually those things are being done on that face to face with either the PS in the organization or somebody in authority with respect to the agency that we deal with. But we still have those similar issues, but those are being ironed out slowly but surely.

Mr. Chairman: Miss Roopnarine.

Miss Roopnarine: Thank you very much, Chairman. Good morning all, and let me say thank you, first of all, for your submissions and, secondly, for your presence here this morning. There has been much talk so far about the issue of white collar crime and I just want to state that, first of all, based on the reports that you have provided, that you seem to have had some success over the years. I see you have persons prosecuted, 151; companies prosecuted, five of those, 19 offences detected where persons were charged. In addition to which, you have also indicated to us in your report that of the reports made to the ACIB, you have had 44 cases resolved by the courts and so on. So that there is some level of success with the establishment of the ACIB.

So my question is in two parts. Would you say that you are in a better position today to treat with this matter as opposed to maybe five, six years ago? And could you also outline to members of the public, what is the process in terms of receiving a report? How is that report treated with? What investigations are done so that members of the public could understand, too, perhaps how you operate?

Mr. Bucchan: I would say that the bureau, as it is now, is in a better position, in the sense that we are gradually getting the equipment and the assistance that we need to bring investigations to completion, whether it be successful completions where it goes to the court, or whether to close it in a manner that all is satisfied. So the ACIB is getting that assistance and it is gradually increasing. I am hoping after this meeting that we have here today that it could only get better.

With respect to the process of reports, the ACIB receive reports via correspondence through the Commissioner of Police, through walk-ins—that people would walk into the bureau and make reports—and correspondence from other agencies. When dealing with these reports, when we look at the correspondence, in effect, that comes from the Commissioner, the head of the branch would go through the correspondence, look at it, identify areas that we need to look at, and that correspondence would be sent down through the normal chain, from the head to the second in command and identify an investigator.

When that investigator is identified, what we have is that, we have a way we sit down and we discuss the matter with the investigator and we would provide a to-do list. So that at every stage of the investigations we try to keep abreast of that. We give timelines, time frames, with respect to the investigations so that we would keep track of it. We also have gradual discussions, or discussions on a regular basis with respect to those types of investigations. Those types of investigations, writings via correspondence may be more of the more serious allegations that are made, and that is how we treat with it. At the end of the day, if the report came from the Commissioner, he will be brought up to speed with respect to reports on how a matter is going, or if he makes a request, we are in a position to let him know what the status is of that investigation.

When we look at walk-in investigations, and that is where people come from—either they were advised to come to the bureau and make that report—that report is first made to our sentry, who, on getting this report—we have a duty sergeant on every day at our desk to supervise the running of that particular reception area as we call it now. And when that report is made, the duty sergeant and the sentry and one of our inspectors, would sit down and speak to the person with respect to that report being made.

That, having been done, a statement would be recorded from that person and that statement would be submitted for vetting. It may reach as far as the Assistant Superintendent and he, having discussions with the heads, the Superintendent and the senior Superintendent, then we develop a plan of action, identify an investigator and proceed on a timely basis with that investigation.

Miss Roopnarine: Just one other thing, though. With respect to the walk-in reports for members of the public just coming in to make reports and so on, I would suppose that there is some level of confidentiality that this information this person is bringing to you will be treated with—and I am just saying that to reemphasize the point that members of the public can have confidence in the report being made and the organization of the ACIB itself.

Mr. Bucchan: Well, Ma'am, the ACIB treats with all reports confidentially. Whatever is dealt by the ACIB is dealt with in a professional manner. We do not divulge information to persons. That is treated in the strictest confidence. So confidentiality for the ACIB is not an issue.

Mr. Hackett: In furtherance to Miss Roopnarine's enquiry, I want to bring to the attention of this honourable committee that the Anti-Corruption Investigation Bureau has strict levels of confidentiality with which it treats with reports made through the public or otherwise, and has never, to this day, been brought into public odium with respect to its handling of these matters.

Mr. Chairman: Dr. Browne.

Dr. Browne: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and officers present, and I am going to resist the temptation of asking any leading questions designed to throw this or that administration into a good or bad light because this issue goes well beyond that. Corruption goes even beyond politics and feeds into politics. So I recognize that this unit, this bureau, has a very, very important mandate, because we are perceived as a highly corrupt society at all levels. And, yes, commendation is due for the numbers of investigations and charges brought—individuals and companies—but that is the numerator as provided, and I am always concerned about the denominator; what is out there, untapped, unaddressed, undetected, and I think that it is the burden that is before us today in this enquiry and how best the bureau can respond to that denominator, which I suspect—and many in this country suspect—is huge.

I have a few questions and it is three broad areas of enquiry that I would like to address to you. The first is with regard to this absence of some of the capacities—and we have mentioned it thus far. Some of the essential capacities for the functioning of the ACIB are absent in-house, and have to be sourced through the Ministry of the Attorney General. I believe I am correct in stating that. My question is: what role does the bureau play in guiding and directing that recruitment, and that where resourcing to ensure that there is best fit. And let us say after a particular investigation is completed, are there mechanisms and systems for feedback to ensure that agencies and capacities that may not have been best fit are no longer sourced or recruited? What is the degree of involvement of the bureau in the resourcing that occurs through the Ministry of the Attorney General? That is one direct question and that would cover, I mean, essential specialities, such as focus on money laundering, forensic accounting, et cetera, very real challenges.

The second broad area that I would like to address, and it was mentioned earlier: why is this unit not treated as an elite unit, given the challenge that we all agree is before us in Trinidad and Tobago? And the question might arise, well, why not all units? All police officers work hard, et cetera. But we are dealing with corruption here and my suggestion would be to find creative or innovative means of special remuneration or motivation for officers of the ACIB. I think at present there is just some sort of plain clothes allowance which is $200 and something a month. That is not going to motivate anyone. And the evidence is there, because in your submission you have indicated that police officers have not even been responding to recruitment efforts.

So it says that more must be done. Acting Commissioner, I am aware of the constraints, et cetera, but I could tell you one way that I have dealt with this in the past in another capacity at the National Aids Coordinating Committee if I have these caps and constraints, is to mobilize long-term consultancies or other components where they would be working very closely with the unit and you would have on a longer term basis, not just for particular cases or investigation—a longer term basis, those skills that you determine to be essential for you to address the challenge ahead of us. So that is another area that I would like to enquire. And the third one which I think is the one I would want to emphasize the most, has to do with this issue of reports, and we hear this from various agencies that we address here.

Because in Trinidad and Tobago, very often you only get complaints or issues or the scandal coming out when there is an aggrieved party.

11.50 a.m.

So when someone is aggrieved or feels cheated by a process that is when they start to sing, but there are many areas of corruption that may not aggrieve anyone or violate anyone as directly, even though we are all damaged. I am just wondering if you have any recommendations for change or even changes to the law to help us address what I am certain is that untapped need out there, where there may not be someone motivated to make a specific report, but there is a need for the involvement of this particular bureau. What we see unfortunately, is a lot of silence.

So, for example—I will give you a few examples—if there is a, let us say a media report of a robbery at the home of a public official and large sums of cash or jewellery—unusually large sums—were stolen in that robbery, no one is walking into the bureau or making a report, but there is something that should trigger concern. You may or may not agree in such a case. If a customs officer is observed driving a brand new Mercedes Benz and his salary is $8,000 or $9,000 a month, which sometimes cannot even pay insurance, does that constitute a report as such? Then you get into the ghost gangs in URP and other things that may not trigger someone calling the bureau, but we know there must be a concern in this country that we have to address.

So, what constitutes a report and how proactive can the bureau be in helping us address that denominator, that huge challenge that is all around us and among us with regard to corruption in Trinidad and Tobago? So those are my questions.

Mr. Williams: I will assist with part of the answers and I will get assistance to assist with the remaining parts. Why is the unit not treated as an elite unit? I would say the unit should be treated as an elite unit, but the Commissioner of Police has limited control in the things he can to do in treating that a unit as an elite unit.

In Trinidad and Tobago, it is critical that you position the unit with the kind of remuneration package and incentives that will allow people to function in a particular way, and you can effectively attract persons to the unit and to the organization. That has not happened over the years and it must happen. We speak about it. In fact, a gentleman came to Trinidad and spoke about the issue of attraction of remuneration and, you know, he got a lot of licks for saying that the police service need to be treated in a particular way if we want quality delivery of service. We have not been treated over all the years in a special way, but the society is singling out the police service with great demands, the same way the civil society singling out the police service. Therefore, the powers that be need to single out the police service and identify with the kind of remuneration that you want these persons to have so that they can attract the best to function within the police service. So there is a need and it is a need which we will discuss, find ways and means of how we can treat with it, but it is not the Commissioner can do it, he does not have the authority to so do it. Terms and conditions are done through in negotiated process with the CPO, and basically the CPO gets her endorsement from the Minister of Finance and the Economy.

So the unit, I am saying, should be treated as an elite unit. We will make recommendations so that the unit can be treated as an elite unit. Part of the discussions as we engage here, is why the unit cannot be given a special allowance like the unit SAUTT was given. Those persons were given a $5,000 special allowance. It actually attracted persons from the police service. It triggered an immediate response for persons to go to SAUTT from the police service when it was created, because it was seen that if you create the attraction persons will go to the unit. So I am saying something like that can, in fact, attract the persons to the unit which Mr. Bucchan has indicated, no attraction.

In relation to generally why limit to complaints, we generally limit to complaints but it is not a close door to only complaints. There are things which are out there in the public domain which might trigger an investigation, but, again, we need to understand that right now this unit has limited resources and they are overwhelmed with the number of investigations. So therefore, we have to build capacity as one and I am being generally guided by reports in the first instance, and if there are other issues out there which we can treat with, we will treat with, but not everything that goes by way of a publication in the newspapers will trigger an investigation. So those are my contributions up to this point.

Mr. Chairman: You prefer another question, or would you like to provide the answer first? Mr. Hackett?

Mr. Hackett: Just to elucidate on Member of Parliament, Amery Browne's enquiry. It is not that the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service only investigate reports that are made to it, you alluded to an analogy where, if a newspaper report is carried where somebody has been robbed of a large amount of money, whether a situation like that would trigger an investigation. I will tell you that once we at the anti-corruption bureau or any member of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, any unit, has reasonable grounds for suspecting that an offence has been committed, we will initiate an investigation. However, when that investigation is initiated, ideally what is needed as a platform to launch an extensive investigation is when we identify someone who can give us cogent and compelling information to start that investigation.

So, to use your point, if we initiate an investigation of somebody have been robbed of large amounts of money and we interview that person and that person says, "Well, you know, the report is erroneous. I have never lost that money", you go to the reporter, she said or he said, “This is what I have”, it comes back to the point that the Commissioner is saying. The resources are so limited that to go into forays, as it were, of investigative processes would really stymied the investigative process with those that are under investigation and where there is compelling and cogent information to treat with. So, just to elucidate on that matter.

Dr. Browne: I do not know if they are through. It is a lot I could say on that point, but I do not want it to be too much of a back and forth, but something the Ag. Commissioner said triggered a follow-up issue and that is with regard to steps that are taken to prevent corruption within the Anti-Corruption Investigations Bureau. I know that the issue arose in the submission with regard to polygraph testing when officers, let us say, recruited—if that is the right word—into the bureau, but what about those that currently service? What measures are taken to help? Because there would be some important, maybe valuable information to others that might reside within the unit itself. What steps are taken, what systems are in place to help manage that? We are all human beings I would assume, and, for example, is the polygraph repeated on a regular basis and how frequently? I was encouraged to just throw in a little point in case we do not have time about the current inappropriate location, buildings, structure systems, parking, security for evidence, staff, issues of moral, et cetera. So that is a little spin, but the issue of corruption—I am not accusing anyone or any unit of anything, but within I think we need to address that as well.

Mr. Chairman: Commissioner, before you respond, may I just invite Dr. Mahabir to do a supplemental to that and we shall go forward?

Dr. Mahabir: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, for indulging me. It is a supplemental to that raised by Member Amery Brown, and I was alerted to this by my colleague on my right, MP Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan, and, that is, the issue of corruption within the police service is one that is always in the public domain and we needed to get clarity from the officers as to whether in fact the corruption investigation within the police service is done by the ACIB, by internal affairs or the Police Complaints Authority. We are not sure as to where the jurisdictions lie with respect to the corruption within the service.

The second is with respect to the elite unit, the Assistant Commissioner indicated that it should be an elite unit, but while we wait for that to be recognized and instituted, is it that within the ACIB you have a system where officers who are high performers, who have been able to build a larger number of cases than others are recognized for their work and are given some kind of fast track to promotion based upon their productivity in the organization?

Thank you very much.

Mr. Williams: I will just deal with parts of the questions that have been posed. The last issue of fast-tracking promotion, we are guided as an organization by the Police Service Act and its regulations and we do not have authority to fast track. So we have to follow what is there. Should there be a fast-tracking mechanism, I would say, yes, there should be, but that would require amendments to the Act and regulations to facilitate that.

Testing on an ongoing basis, we do not have a policy to test, by way of polygraph testing all the specialist units on an ongoing basis. What we do, the ACIB and the other units, where we have any concerns about individual officers, we do in fact single them out for polygraph examination. But, as an organization, we would love to get to the point where we can in fact have ongoing testing with a set approach to have ongoing polygraph testing of the units, but we not have it at this point in time.

The issue of accommodation, I will speak on one part of the accommodation. We have recently been assigned what was normally referred to as Riverside Plaza. An entire floor at Riverside Plaza has been allocated to the Anti-Corruption Investigations Bureau. Especially with a major investigation they are doing, the issue of securing exhibits and everything else, we have allocated an entire floor at Riverside Plaza to accommodate the demands of the Anti-Corruption Investigations Bureau, but there are some additional demands in relation to accommodation which the head of the branch will in fact speak to.

Mr. Bucchan: With respect to the accommodation at the ACIB, as the Commissioner indicated we were allotted a floor at Riverside Plaza with respect to treating with a specific investigation, and that is ongoing there. Whatever we request, as it goes along we get that type of assistance from the Commissioner. With respect to our location, that is our main office which is situated at No. 33 Independence Square, Port of Spain. All of us here know that is a very old building. That is the A.S. Bryden building situation right on the corner there.

Our concern is that for the ACIB, the location number one is not fitting for the ACIB. We are situated where there are two taxi stands right on the corner there. PH taxis, all sorts of things happen there. Other than that, it is a building where things are stored on the compound. So it restricts space, number one, when we have any type of rainfall, flooding issues—and Dr. Amery Browne alluded to that. There are issues with respect to it.

Parking is also an issue. We have sought the assistance of traffic branch to get some signs so that we could allot parking both for our personnel and probably persons who would come to visit from time to time.

12.05 p.m.

But we are saying that where the ACIB is located, at this time, is not a proper place for us. Sometimes we need to treat with confidential witnesses and we need to go to other places in order to do that, or we use our heavily-tinted vehicles to bring them to our area to do a proper interview. So those are the types of challenges that we have with respect to the accommodation re: the ACIB. With respect to our exhibits and securing of those exhibits, we have property keepers who are in control of these exhibits. Security with respect to the building, we have our CCTV set-up so that we can view both outside—well, mostly outside of our building—to make sure that things happen the way it is supposed to happen. But, like I said, the accommodation, as we say, we are making do with what we have to facilitate what we have to do but it should be that the ACIB is placed in a better location to fit what we do, number one, with respect to confidentiality. We are situated on George Street in Port of Spain and we know how that area is on Independence Square, and hence we raised the question of relocation for the ACIB.

Mr. Chairman: This is a follow-up, sorry?

Dr. Browne: There is one area that—[*Interruption*]

Mr. Chairman: It has not been touched?

Dr. Browne: Yes, just to mention it very quickly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The additional area was, as was asked earlier, the degree of involvement of the Bureau, as the system currently stands, with the recruitment and sourcing of those external capacities and skills through the Ministry of the Attorney General, and the type of feedback to ensure best fit with those services.

Mr. Cordner: Chair, if I may? The Anti-Corruption Investigation Bureau participates in the annual conference hosted by the United Nations on corruption, and the best practices from member countries really involve any Anti-Corruption Investigation Bureau being independent so the issues of separation of powers would not arise. Some countries have, for example, an anti-investigation commission that is independently staffed, funded and reports directly to the Parliament. So the issue of any corrupt practices would stand scrutiny like the integrity commission. And the fact that this ACIB is under the Office of the Ministry of Attorney General is something that I would like to recommend should be removed.

Mr. Chairman: Where, Mr. Cordner?

Mr. Cordner: Well, I have recommended the commission—an independent anti-investigation commission, not necessarily police officers but would be staffed by specialists in the field and be accountable to the Parliament.

Member of Parliament, Dr. Browne, spoke about being proactive. One of the things that we have started was to sensitize other departments. We started in-house by going around to different divisions in the service and delivering lectures on corruption. We have also gone externally to the last one being the Unemployment Relief Programme but because of challenges with staff and all of that, we were unable to continue on a more regular basis, but we would like to continue that. I would also recommend—I have already spoken to the Commissioner on this—in setting up a website. The police service has a website, yes, but the anti-corruption—because it is being practised elsewhere so that members of the public can go to the website and have their concerns addressed, make comments, make recommendations and so on, so that they can know exactly what we do. As it stands, they do not.

Now, when I was at the Anti-Corruption Investigation Bureau, we met with Transparency International and Transparency International was telling us that there are persons out there who would like to make reports but they do not know where to go, they do not know where the Anti-Corruption Investigation Bureau is; and they have already put a system in place, as of September last year, where they facilitate members of the public to direct them where they can go if they need to make reports of alleged corruption.

So these are some of the things that, I think, we need to do so that the general public can know more about anti-corruption or of what we do.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you very much. May I just say that time is running out on I have a question from Minister Hadeed and then Minister George, and then I have a couple of questions myself. We will see how it goes, Mr. Seemungal.

Mr. Hadeed: This is just a supplement question following on Dr. Browne's. The request for accommodation, have you put forward a request? If so, to whom?

And at the present time, have you received any information as to whether or not the request for new accommodations are being pursued vigorously?

Mr. Chairman: The question of accommodation, you might want to tell us if Tobago is within your purview. Okay. If you could address the question of accommodation broadly inclusive of the streets of Tobago.

Mr. Al-Rawi: Is Riverside Plaza temporary for all or a short-term fit? Is your evidence properly looked after? Your report has an alarming statement in there that your evidence is at risk, through no fire vault.

Mr. Hadeed: I have requested that you answer a question: who have you requested accommodation from, and if so, have the particular division been looking for accommodation or they just shelved it? This is my question.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you very much.

Mr. Bucchan: With respect to your question, Mr. Hadeed, the Bureau has written correspondence concerning relocation to the AG's department with respect to location. Feedback that we are getting is that they are looking for a proper location, so we have gotten some feedback with respect to it.

Mr. Williams: Just to deal with one of the hanging questions which was not answered and it has do with the issue of who is responsible for investigating corruption. What is happening is that under the law, Police Complaints Authority has jurisdiction to deal with corruption relating to police officers and serious police misconduct. That is legislated for. The Professional Standard Bureau of the police service give due support to those investigations as it relates to corruption.

Traditionally, you had greater activities taking place by way of investigations being conducted by the Anti-Corruption Investigation Bureau as it relates to police officers, that is now minimized, almost eliminated.

Mr. Chairman: I have been hinting that you need to address us on what are your activities—or are your activities isolated to Trinidad or how do you treat with

Tobago, if separately?

Mr. Bucchan: With respect to Tobago, so long as we have a report from Tobago, our personnel are sent to Tobago to conduct investigations. We do not have an office set up in Tobago to treat with ACIB issues so when that report comes to us, we would travel to Tobago and we would conduct our investigations.

Mr. Chairman: So may I? In the circumstances, assuming that members of the public do have a report—whether they be whistle-blowers or otherwise—and who reside in Tobago, are they sufficiently aware of the process to reach you in Port of Spain?

Mr. Bucchan: Yes, Sir. The Bureau has conducted some awareness programmes in Tobago. That was done in 2011. We need to cause that to happen again because we had a team then that deals with educating the public, creating the awareness, from time to time, to different agencies, but, as you are aware, because of our shortage, we are unable to do that. But we know that we need to look at that, hence the reason Mr. Cordner would have indicated that we need to set up a specific website so that the persons could treat—we could get all the information through that area so that we could send people to Tobago, as we are accustomed doing, to treat with those issues.

Mr. Chairman: Is it that a report to a police station or a cop on the beat is not expected?

Mr. Bucchan: With corruption issues, citizens or individuals prefer to go to the persons who deal with corrupt issues. As you are aware, the confidence that the public has with respect to the police officers and how information is divulged is a concern, so they would likely ask to go to the correct area or the area that has the capacity to treat with it in order for their report to be dealt with properly.

Mr. Chairman: Minister George.

Mr. George: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and as you had indicated, I am mindful of the time so that my questions would be brief. I have three questions though. The first one has to do with the issue of white collar crime and that is an issue that had been raised by almost all of my colleagues here this morning. The very first page of your report,under the heading "Status of Investigations", reads as follows:

"There are two hundred and eighty-seven (287) reports that are currently being investigated by the Bureau."

And you have two bullet points, which I would say:

- Public Officials - two hundred and eighty-seven (287)
- Private Sector - Nil"

Now, that is very strange because it suggests that only public officials are involved in white collar crime, and I know that you do not want to send that signal at all, and the sense around the country and the sense from what you have gathered from my other colleagues here speaking today, is that there is a public perception out there that there is a lot of white collar crime. So what signal does this send and what does the Bureau intend to do, in my view, to address the imbalance that appears from this item that you have here regarding the "Status of Investigations"?

The second question also has to do with investigations but it is related to the achievements of the Bureau, and I am asking this question in the context that a person is innocent until proven guilty. But, under "Achievements of the Bureau", my question is: is an achievement when you bring a matter to prosecution or when you bring a matter to conviction?

My third question relates to the issue of staff development and training, and I had earlier on asked whether the Bureau had considered, as an option for training of its staff, associating with other agencies—other brother and sister agencies abroad—to have some hands-on training of its personnel by assignment for a period of a year, maybe two years, so that they can garner on-the-job training, so to speak, and therefore be able to bring back to the agency what the cutting edge operation of an ACIB is like.

Well, I have a fourth question, which is really a follow-up to a statement made by the Commissioner.

12.20 p.m.

That question is, what is the constraint to the implementation of ongoing polygraph testing? Because you indicated that it was not something that you do currently. One suggests that if you have the resources to do it, how come it is not being done on an ongoing basis, so that persons who belong to the agency are subjected from time to time to polygraph testing.

Let me conclude by saying, that I appreciate very much the answers that you have given as a group here today. We understand the constraints under which you operate, and we hope that as a result of what we are doing here today, this investigation, that some benefit will come to the agency that will improve its operation. So I want to congratulate you on the work that you are doing, and also on the responses that you gave here today.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Williams: Just to give some quick responses and Mr. Bucchan may add to what I am saying. Polygraph testing in Trinidad and Tobago has to do with capacity. There is limited capacity to test persons by way of polygraph examination, and the police service by way of law. Now, the process is by way of—if you can call it administration. So we see a need to put officers under a polygraph examination in the organization going to a specialist unit. By way of law, the only requirement is at recruit level, and we have to polygraph every, single individual who enters the organization at recruit level. So the capacity in the country is limited. So the issue of polygraphing has to do with capacity.

The issue of achievement being identified whether by way of prosecution or conviction, the organization has no total control over the issue of conviction. We have control over the issue of prosecution. So when we speak about achievement, we will speak about it in the context of prosecution, and not conviction, because conviction may depend on witnesses attending or not, and somebody may feel I am not to attend the matter false. So, therefore, you cannot say, I have not achieved by doing all that you would have been able to do, and pass the—if you can call it, the milestone of having a matter reach the standard that the DPP had given you direction to prosecute. So, therefore, we are guided by the issue of prosecution and not conviction.

On the issue of white-collar crime, and why the emphasis on public officials, is that the mandate by Cabinet in the establishment of the unit, it was given a mandate and I will just quickly read:

With the question of corruption particularly in the public sector.

So the emphasis by way of Cabinet for the unit, is to focus specially on public sector corruption. That does not eliminate the issue of whether there is any connection to private sector, but the dominant focus is on public sector corruption. Mr. Bucchan will add whether there had been issues around the private sector investigation.

Mr. Bucchan: Most of the time in our investigations you will find that the private sector would play a part in all investigations at the ACIB. You will find that the private sector would play a part in those investigations, because of businesses conducted by the public sector and the private sector. But we do not indicate, well, listen, this company is involved and so is the private sector, because most of the times some of the persons in the private sector are placed before the court together with persons who would be—who are in the public arena. So the thing is, we would have to look at this specific area, Mr. George. We would have to look at this specific area to make it more explanatory, so that we do not have that misinformation or verifying or clarifying this particular issue, but we will take note of it and include it whenever we meet again.

With respect to development and training, foreign training. We have identified areas aboard that we would like our people to be trained. We are in the process of preparing that document to send to the Commissioner of Police, because we realize how important it is for our expertise, and not just expertise alone, but the development of our staff is vital to the success and the integrity of our organization, our group, the ACIB. So the thing is, we are in the process of preparing that list to send to the Commissioner with respect to it. I know that the Commissioner would facilitate us with respect to foreign training. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Chairman: Commissioner, could you just tell me, can the public be given some kind of assurance that the current time lag between a report being made, and some response being given to the complainant could be reduced? Do you have a time lag that you find acceptable?

Mr. Bucchan: Mr. Chairman, with respect to reports made. What we try to do is to keep the persons who are involved, especially the person who would have made a complaint, apprised of every aspect of the investigation. When that investigation is completed, we also prepare a document to send to the person letting them know what the status of the investigation is. If it has to go to court, well then, the persons know that they would have to attend court, but if it is that there is insufficient evidence within the investigation, in order to treat or to put persons before the court, well then, we inform them via correspondence, the status of that investigation. So we give them feedback with respect to those investigations.

Mr. Chairman: That seems quite admirable. I have one more questions. In your report you speak of cases being resolved in the court, and we are uncertain what you mean. Is that distinguished from cases that are dismissed or cases that fail for want of prosecution?

Mr. Bucchan: When we said the cases were resolved in court, it depends on whether the matter was dismissed. It included the dismissed matters or conviction matters.

Mr. Al-Rawi: Sorry, page 1:

"(iii) Forty-four (44) cases have been resolved by the Courts.

(iv) Twenty-two (22) were dismissed and one hundred and seven (107) pending…"

Is resolved meant to indicate a conviction?

Mr. Bucchan: A conviction.

Mr. Al-Rawi: It is?

Mr. Bucchan: It is.

Mr. Al-Rawi: Are you sure?

Mr. Bucchan: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Al-Rawi: Okay. I would recommend that we use the word "conviction". May I ask when the last conviction was?

Mr. Bucchan: I do have that information and—

Mr. Al-Rawi: Okay. And my last question, sorry, please. You did not answer the question about the safety of the evidence, and whether the Riverside single floor is meant to be for the preservation of evidence in general. In your report you said that you do not have a fireproof safe, you are prone to flooding, and that you store all evidence at the ACIB. What happens if you have a fire, does everything just disappear?

Mr. Bucchan: No. With respect to—now, the ACIB's main office is at Independence Square, Port of Spain, and we have issues with that building. Other than that we have, like I said, we have security cameras that are set up with respect to security of the building. We also have property keepers who have control over the evidence that we have there.

With respect to Riverside, Riverside is also secured, because we have those systems that we use a card to go into. We also have—our intention is also to set up those camera systems within the corridors of the floor. But fireproof safes, we have two fireproof vaults over at Riverside to treat with evidence on this particular investigation that is being conducted.

Mr. Al-Rawi: I see, so that is only for one particular—

Mr. Bucchan: That is only for one particular location.

Mr. Al-Rawi:—but otherwise you do not have a fireproof safe for your other stuff?

Mr. Bucchan: No, we do not have.

Mr. Al-Rawi: Okay.

Mr. Hadeed: Do you have a shredding machine there too?

Mr. Bucchan: Yes, Sir. We have a shredding machine. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Al-Rawi: Is it within your contemplation that we would be addressing the situation of the better preservation of evidence, for instance, along the lines taken by the Ministry of Legal Affairs, which is with a retrofit of a new safe, et cetera, or is that awaiting the relocation issue?

Mr. Bucchan: We are seeing how we could deal with it temporarily with respect to probably getting those combination, heavy duty vaults, in order to store what we have to store, but relocation should take care of that completely.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you very much, Members and our guests. I regret that as interesting as this is, we must bring it to a close. Firstly, however, let me thank you Commissioner and the members of the bureau for having come before us, and giving frank exposés of what have been happening. I doubt that there is any Member who appears to be not satisfied with your responses. Well, I am only guessing by their facial expressions.

We do wish that the public would have taken cognizance of all that you have said, and in particular as to the means for their reaching the bureau and providing it with information. We know that there is a problem of confidence in the police service generally, and today's answers could have gone a long way to improving that relationship between yourselves and the public.

Members of the Joint Select Committee, thank you very much for your cooperation. I just want to invite you to stay back for a few minutes after we are done, so that we can fix dates for the next meeting.

Thank you all very much, Mr. Commissioner, thank you, and all the best to you.

Mr. Williams: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and Members.

Mr. Chairman: You are welcome.