Joint Select Committee on Land and Physical Infrastructure

Summary of Proceedings
Public Hearing Summary
Virtual Public Hearing
Wednesday February 15, 2023 at 2:25 p.m.

Topic:
Inquiry into the various measures in place to address the challenges of climate change in Trinidad and Tobago.

Objectives of the Inquiry:
1. To assess the impact of climate change in Trinidad and Tobago;
2. To understand the challenges faced in treating with climate change; and
3. To examine the effectiveness of measures being taken to mitigate against the impact of climate change.

Committee Members:
The following Committee Members were present:

i. Mr. Deoroop Teemal – Chairman
ii. Mrs. Lisa Morris-Julian, MP – Vice-Chairman
iii. Mr. Symon de Nobriga, MP – Member
iv. Mrs. Renuka Sagramsingh-Sooklal – Member
v. Mr. Anil Roberts, MP – Member

Witnesses Who Appeared:
Officials from the Ministry of Planning and Development (MOPD)

- Ms. Marie Hinds - Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Ms. Meera Ramesar - Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Mr. Kishan Kumarsingh - Head, Multilateral Agreements Unit
- Mr. David Persaud - Manager, Environmental Policy Planning Division
- Ms. Petal Howell - Programme Coordinator, Green Fund Executing Unit
- Ms. Candice Ramsaran - Director (Ag.), Town and Country Planning Division
- Dr. Ancil Kirk - Head, Development Planning Unit, Town and Country Planning Division
- Mr. Kerry Pariag - Director (Ag.), Town and Country Planning Division
Officials from the Environmental Management Authority (EMA)

- Mr. Hayden Romano - Managing Director
- Ms. Xiomara Chin - Strategy & Research Co-ordinator
- Ms. Nisha Ramsahai - Strategy & Research Co-ordinator
- Ms. Jiselle Joseph - Assistant Manager, Technical Services
- Mrs. Anna-Lisa Arlen-Benjamin - Project Manager

Officials from the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA)

- Dr. Rahanna Juman - Director (Ag.)
- Mr. Christopher Alexis - Research Officer

Officials from the Ministry of Works and Transport (MOWT)

- Mrs. Sonia Francis-Yearwood - Permanent Secretary
- Mr. Ronald Alfred - Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Ms. Katherine Badloo Doerga - Director of Drainage (Ag.)
- Mr. Anil Mohansingh - Director of Highways
- Mr. Don Rambarran - Shoreline Management Specialist
- Mr. Hayden Phillip - Programme Director, Programme for Upgrading Roads Efficiency

Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries (MALF)

- Ms. Coomarie Goolabsingh - Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Mr. Denny Dipchansingh - Conservator of Forests (Ag.), Forestry Division
- Mr. David Ram - Director (Ag.), Regional Administration South
- Ms. Nerissa Lucky - Director (Ag.), Fisheries Division
- Mr. Frankie Balkissoon - Director (Ag.) Land and Water Development Division (Engineering Division)

Officials from the University of the West Indies (UWI)

- Prof. Michelle Mycoo - Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, Programme Coordinator of MSc. Urban and Regional Planning Programme, Dept. of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management
- Dr. Ronald Roopnarine - Lecturer – Agri and Environmental Risk Management, Faculty of Food and Agriculture
- Dr. Ricardo Clarke - Senior Lecturer – Environmental Physics, Dept. of Physics, Faculty of Science and Technology
Key Issues Discussed:

The following are general issues discussed during the hearing:

Key Issues Discussed with Officials from the Ministry of Planning and Development (MOPD)

Opening remarks

i. The meteorological records are indicating that ambient temperatures are on the rise and the intensity of rain fall is increasing, giving rise to unprecedented flooding and the associated damage to physical infrastructure, communities, households and life. The climate models project events to worsen over time.

ii. The projected impact is expected to be both direct and indirect on every facet of human wellbeing and the resources that such wellbeing depend on such as agriculture, food production, human health, water resources, and physical infrastructure.

iii. As a Small Island, Trinidad and Tobago stands to be more impacted in these sectors such as, in our coastal zone where most of the socio economic activities take place.

iv. Trinidad and Tobago also accounts for relatively high emissions of greenhouse gases on account of its fossil fuel and industry based economy.

Closing remarks

v. The MPD is committed to supporting its sister agencies in doing whatever it takes to ensure that the overlap and non-performance does not continue to occur.

Key Issues Discussed with the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries (MALF)

The status of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries’ Draft Strategic Plan and the period for which it is intended to cover

vi. The Draft Strategic Plan is in the process of being vetted before submission to the Cabinet. The Strategic Plan will cover the period 2022-2026.

The number and type of staff needed at the Forestry Division to address its understaffing challenge

vii. The Foresters and Forest Rangers received its full complement of Game Wardens and 396 Honorary Game Wardens. Honorary Game Wardens are given the same authority in legislation as Game Wardens and assist on a voluntary basis.

viii. The process commenced last weekend with the issue of letters to sixty-eight (68) Honorary Game Wardens to assist the Forestry Division with enforcement.
The relationship between the Forestry Division and TTPS in addressing matters of squatting and illegal quarrying

ix. Any forest officer is empowered to charge for offences under the following three (3) main pieces of legislation:
   a. The Forest Act, Chap. 66:01;
   b. The Conservation and Wild Life Act, Chap 67:01; and
   c. Sawmills Act, Chap 66:02.

x. Forest offences sometimes have a wide cross-spectrum e.g. persons who commit the offence of quarrying may not be able to be charged under the Forest Act due to the lack of evidence.

xi. The Forestry Division relies heavily on the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) in instances where persons cannot be charged under the Forest Act.

xii. A recently appointed Taskforce through the TTPS assisted with the issue of illegal quarrying. The Forestry Division also has been working hand in hand with State land officers and the EMA. Joint patrols also assist the MALF’s Paredial Larceny Squad.

xiii. The Paredial Larceny Squad and the EMA’s enforcement officers are also empowered under the TTPS.

Details on the TTPS Taskforce established to lend support to the Forestry Division

xiv. The Taskforce directly liaises with the Commissioner of State Lands and the Forestry Division in looking at illegal offences especially quarrying.

xv. The commissioning of the Taskforce has contributed positively to the gathering of evidence and to investigations and has also allowed the Forestry Division to charge under the Forest Act.

The need to review the Forest Act and penalties for offences as a deterrent to offenders

xvi. The Minister of Finance indicated in the last Budget that he will increase the fines and penalties for illegal timbering to $100,000. The Forestry Division supports the increase in fines and penalties.

The MALF’s recommendation to treat with the issue of overlapping of forest management policies and laws

xvii. The Forestry Division is of the view that having officers precepted is a step in the right direction given that it allows officers to take action under different pieces of legislation.

xviii. The other issue is the power of eviction which lies with the Commissioner of State Lands. Officers are able to charge persons for an offence but will not be able to evict such persons.

xix. The legislation will emanate from the different polices.
xx. Once strong policies have been established, it will lead to strong legislative reform that can empower the Forestry Division differently.

xxi. The penalties for slash and burn is being looked at in the revision of the legislation.

xxii. The following two (2) issues overlap when considered slash and burn:
    a. Vegetation being removed;
    b. The illegal ignition of fires outside of set timeframes.

xxiii. Penalties for slash and burn requires review and needs to be increased.

**Whether the MALF’s Draft Strategic Plan enables the organisational capacity to address food security by using adaptation measures**

xxiv. The MALF is looking at the issue of ensuring food security for both local consumption and export in the local and regional markets respectively.

xxv. The MALF through one of its State bodies, The National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO) plays an integral part in farm to table.

xxvi. The MALF is looking at adaptation and how it relates to it in its Strategic Plan.

**A dedicated Climate Change Unit or Division to assist with cross-agency coordination to treat with climate change challenges in a holistic way**

xxvii. The MALF is seeking to get involved in:
    a. more reforestation;
    b. outreach to capture farmers, fisher folks as well as youths by reaching out to schools including at the University level;
    c. strengthening its Multilateral Agreements; and
    d. law enforcement efforts.

**Mitigation of flooding during the rainy season**

xxviii. The MALF offers relief to farmers who are affected by flooding through a process involving its extension officers.

xxix. A programme developed by the Agriculture Development Bank (ADB) is used to determine the value of the claims for relief from flooding.

xxx. In terms of incentives, the MALF provides a number of incentives such as irrigation and pond construction to encourage the efficient use of water.

**Redress from MALF or the Agricultural Development Bank’s programme for flood losses**

xxxii. For the years 2017 to 2022, 4,716 farmers received relief payments at a value of TT$41,407,250.54
xxxii. Under the natural disaster relief programme, farmers received a relief, not compensation.

xxxiii. The natural disaster relief programme is designed to help farmers to restart; it is not designed to compensate them totally for their losses.

xxxiv. In order to compensate farmers, the natural disaster relief programme will need to be reviewed.

xxxv. The MALF has records on losses incurred by farmers from devastating floods in 2018 and 2021 given that extension officers verify losses that farmers claim.

Closing Remarks

xxxvi. There is need for more collaboration amongst State agencies.

Key Issues Discussed with the Ministry of Works and Transport (MOWT)

Policies, framework and legislation on climate adaptation responses for which the MOWT is responsible

i. The polices and legislation for which the MOWT is championing are:
   - The Shipping Bill (2020);
   - The National Transportation Policy;
   - The Strategic Drainage Plan;
   - The Development of Drainage Guidelines for Developers;
   - Amendment of Technical Specifications for the Conduct of Road Construction Works.

ii. The frameworks the MOWT is a major driver of for certain areas are:
   - The Comprehensive National Coastal Monitoring Plan; and
   - The Shoreline Management Plan for Manzanilla Beach.

Potential Green Solutions as a solution to coastal erosion

iii. The MOWT has been using Green Solutions where it is practicable based on soil type and the intervention required.

iv. The MOWT had success with some plant types as well as the different formations.

v. The MOWT has been addressing the area of Green Solutions with the understanding that the solution cannot simply be the use of traditional solutions in the area of concrete and steel.

vi. One of the MOWT goals in its strategic plan is the implementation of Green Solutions.
vii. Over the past ten (10) years the MOWT has been using some Green Solutions especially in the form of mechanical stabilizers along with geo-textiles across Trinidad.

viii. A project using geo-textiles was done in Moruga.

ix. In 2017, the Cabinet approved a project in Moruga involving 21 landslips to be done by another agency before handed over to the MOWT. However, three (3) years later the number of landslips increased to eighty (80) on the same road.

x. Fifty (50) of the landslips have been completed with the same budget using green solutions, seven (7) are ongoing and sixteen (16) more are to be completed. The project will require additional funding.

xi. Sometimes, the MOWT uses a hybrid of Green Solutions and traditional methods because a pipe foundation is needed for some types of soil to provide mechanically stabilised soil. The advantages of using Green Solutions for are twofold: cost and the environment.

xii. The MOWT is improving its solutions with advances in technology.

xiii. The MOWT had success with implementing green engineering and the use of nature based solutions.

xiv. Nature based solutions were used in the coastal protection works conducted at Quinam.

xv. The MOWT has commenced planting of sea grapes at Calmapas, Guayaguayare.

xvi. The MOWT also plans to roll out another project in South of Manzanilla using a mix of vegetated dunes which is a mix of beach nourishment and coastal vegetation.

xvii. The MOWT agrees that its solutions should not be limited to traditional engineering as there are a lot more sustainable solutions that will work in harmony with the environment.

Whether Geo-textiles are used with vegetative solutions

xviii. Geo-textiling involves the wrapping of soil or sand in geotextile fabric to strengthen the base which is then grafted with vetiver grass or a coconut shell layer upon which grass is planted.

Mechanisms at the MOWT for risk assessment monitoring and evaluation of high risk areas

xix. The MOWT engages in monitoring and reporting under its district system and seeks to put systems in place to monitor certain areas.

xx. The MOWT is organized in terms of a district system both for its Highways and Drainage Departments.

xxi. At a district level, there is a responsibility to monitor the roadways under the MOWT’s remit and there is a reporting system from its monitoring that is placed into a wider risk assessment programme.
xxii. The MOWT has an ongoing project under its Coastal Protection Unit, A National Coastal Monitoring Programme that commenced approximately two (2) years ago which seeks to identify issues at an early stage by working with the EMA and IMA to have the requisite equipment placed in such a manner to closely monitor the nation’s coastline.

xxiii. The programme is executed in conjunction with the MOWT’s Critical Coastal Protection Programme which was developed from a coastal assessment of coastlines in Trinidad.

**Dredging of Rivers**

xxiv. Dredging of rivers is a very complex process and is not done on an annual basis.

xxv. The MOWT agrees that the dredging of rivers is a critical issue and is looking at the dredging of rivers in its 2023/2024 programme.

**The issue with the Manzanilla Road**

xxvi. The Manzanilla Road was first constructed in 1942, built on sand, yellow boulders and macadam.

xxvii. The Nariva Swamp is a catchment that has eleven (11) sub catchments flowing into it. Of the eleven (11) sub catchments, there are eight (8) entry points for waters, rivers.

xxviii. Prior to four (4) years ago, there was no outfall for the swamp except for the Nariva River. Due to the increase in rainfall and global warming, the 2018 rainfall event resulted in six (6) breaches and the Manzanilla road was destroyed.

xxix. The MOWT worked with the UWI in relation to a study in 2008, the Wild Fowl Trust and the MOWT’s Coastal Department.

xxx. Annually, the Manzanilla road floods because it was built in the absence of an outfall for the swamp, besides the Nariva River and without roadside drainage.

xxxi. The MOWT reconstructed 800m of roadway in 2018 before the breaches.

xxxii. Structurally, the reconstruction works were done correctly but the swamp could not handle the amount of water due to increases in rainfall. The increase in rainfall events in 2022 resulted in sixteen (16) additional breaches in 3.7km of roadway.

xxxiii. The MOWT has approached the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) which is providing technical assistance and also contacted the UWI, the MOWT’s Coastal Unit and Drainage Unit. The MOWT has reached out to the IDB to assist with Modelling.

xxxiv. The MOWT recognised that the structural works, worked and has an idea of what works can be undertaken with improvements.

xxxv. A coastal study was done in the Manzanilla area and certain solutions that was supposed to be done with respect to revetments will be included in new solutions.
The status of the Strategic Drainage Plan done through the Corporacion Andina de Fomento (CAF)

xxxvi. The Strategic Drainage Plan is a living document and the plan will change as studies continue. Based on the 50% of the Plan priority projects, the MOWT has different projects listed.

xxxvii. As the studies continue, the information on the gaps identified for the rest of Trinidad will be fed back into the Strategic Drainage Plan and the projects will be reprioritized.

xxxviii. Rainwater harvesting is one part of the solution and has to be done at a developmental level. The MOWT, along with the MOPD, encourages rainwater harvesting with developments seeking approvals and ensures that post development flow does not exceed pre development flow. A certain amount of storage will be required which may not contribute significantly to the watercourse.

The MOWT Strategic Drainage Plan and the Climate Change reality

xxxix. The Strategic Drainage Plan was originally based on existing studies done in the past, and would not have taken into account the current level of climate change and adaptation measures required.

xl. When developing studies that have been prioritised, the MOWT has to incorporate mitigating factors for climate change before presenting the studies as final projects to be done.

xli. The MOWT is taking into consideration the suggestions coming out of the plan and is continuing with the studies from the Strategic Drainage Plan where gaps have been identified.

xlii. The MOWT is working on the other 50% of the plan in conjunction with the plans and projects that came out of the studies.

xliii. The MOWT has to build in the mitigating factors in the projects from the Strategic Drainage Plan based on the observed climate change experiences such as increased intensity of rainfall.

xliv. The MOWT is trying to focus on priority areas that have experienced a high level of flooding. The MOWT is taking one area at a time and is currently focusing on the Central area, particularly the Caroni River.

xlv. The MOWT has to continue studies on the Port of Spain and St. Ann’s areas where there are gaps. South Oropouche is an area the MOWT is currently focused on. The projects from the South Oropouche area will include looking at expanding channels. However, the project implementation for the South Oropouche area still has to be fleshed out.

xlvii. The MOWT is aware that Dr. Cooper is also currently involved in projects along the South Oropouche area therefore the MOWT did not want to duplicate efforts in that area.
MOWT solutions to addressing deterrents for undertaking major drainage works

xlvii. The MOWT has to consider the cost of implementation of projects. In some areas, a mixture of efforts by the MOPD and implementation by the MOWT are required.

xlviii. The Strategic Drainage Plan is not just a MOWT plan, it involves all ministries and agencies coming together to implement policies.

xlix. Other factors have to be taken into consideration, such as some persons building too close to watercourses, some on embankments and some engaging in construction in major flood prone areas not just the drainage aspect.

li. The MOWT is responsible for the major watercourses and not for the building of drains.

li. The strategic approach the MOWT is taking is how to prevent impact on people.

lii. The MOWT in its projects and major plans can look at firstly improving on the areas that require embankment works and also examine the overall areas to determine the cause of continuous flooding and the mitigation strategies that could be implemented.

liii. Areas where the MOWT has observed repeated flooding are flood plain areas where water is supposed to spill.

liv. Some of the suggestions in the studies were to relocate residents but realistically this cannot be done.

lv. Alternatively, the MOWT is looking at capacity building via dredging of river mouths which will assist with faster water run-off, repairing gate structures and water structures will assist to control water run-off.

The effect the 4bn gallons of water lost under roadway infrastructure and land for the past six (6) years will have on current infrastructure

lvi. The MOWT has stated in the past that the water lost under roadway infrastructure will damage the integrity of roadways.

lvii. Damages to the road network infrastructure from a cost perspective is extremely difficult to quantify.

lviii. The MOWT can provide the cost of damage to a specific roadway over a given period of time, if identified.

Closing remarks

lix. The MOWT will continue to pursue greater collaboration with the UWI.
Key Issues Discussed with the University of the West Indies (UWI)

i. In the MALF’s Draft Strategic Plan’s strategy, there is need to determine if it will cover innovations such as:
   - The circular economy;
   - Principles in relation to waste management;
   - A new project in collaboration with the FAO on insect farming which can create new livelihood for farmers.

ii. Assessments on post study events will assist with understanding the implications associated with climate change such as data on the amount of losses incurred by farmers, for example, from devastating flood events in 2018 and 2021.

iii. There is need to determine whether the plan included any consideration for the CARICOM 25 by 2025 initiative.

iv. There is need to determine if pay-outs were received from the Parametric Disaster Insurance issued by Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company (PCRIC) and whether the MALF received an allocation from the pay-outs to pay farmers.

v. The Water Resources Agency (WRA) is responsible for monitoring particularly with respect to flooding events and has a portal in collaboration with the MET Office, the ODPM and MOWT where information on, for example, river levels can be accessed in real time which is part of a CFEWS project (Communities Flood Early Warning System)

vi. In addition, the WRA is looking at developing a Multi hazard early warning system to inform the public initially.

vii. Many agencies and ministries are part of the Multi hazard early warning system.

viii. The UWI is interested in Nature based solutions and is examining same as part of the circular economy and climate change. Nature based solutions should be extended to green roofing, use of vetiver grass, coconut matting and geo-textiling.

ix. There are studies that show that the main issue with respect to landslides is water management.

x. There is need to determine whether green solutions are being examined for a stabilisation effect in terms of landslides or whether it is being examined as a general solution that can be implemented at the community level using green roofing or green water harvesting.

xi. There is need to be cognisant that the Manzanilla road was destroyed four years ago and rebuilt seemingly without considering environmental factors, which is why in 2022 it was again destroyed.

xii. In terms of managing floods and water in general, it seems as if the focus is on the symptoms, such as the lack of dredging.
xiii. Very little was discussed on reducing the run-off rates and water that is flowing into catchment areas rapidly. With hydrology, increasing the lag time to allow rivers to drain efficiently is examined.

xiv. There is need to address the agility of the governance system to determine whether public agencies can develop partnerships that can respond in a very agile way to flooding which involves dealing with harmonisation of legislation and building capacity for implementation of various policies and projects and enforcement of the legislation.

xv. There is need for sound empirical evidence which comes from scientific investigation to access adaptation finance. UWI is available to provide the robust science that can inform various policies and implementation action.

Key Issues raised with Officials from the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA)

The Status of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Programme and the IMA’s major challenges

i. The IMA chaired a steering committee to develop an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Policy Framework Strategy and Action Plan in 2012. The Draft Policy was first submitted to the MOPD in 2014.

ii. In 2017, an Inter-Ministerial Committee was appointed to finalise the Policy. The Policy has been finalized and submitted to the MOPD in 2020 and has been awaiting Cabinet’s approval.

The extent of coordination between the IMA and MOWT in relation to the Integrated Coastal Zone Programme

iii. The Integrated Coastal Zone Programme is not a programme of the IMA but of the MOPD.

iv. The MOWT’s Coastal Protection Unit has been a member of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Committee since 2012.

v. The intention of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Committee is to foster collaboration to solve problems that cross a wide sector spatially, temporarily and economically.

Whether the IMA is advanced in terms of designated spatial planning areas

vi. Land use planning is done by the MOPD.

vii. The IMA is beginning a process in Marine Spatial Planning to examine the environment and the activities that are occurring and how to properly manage those activities to reduce damages and encourage economic growth without significantly affecting some ecosystems that exists in the marine environment.
The research being done by the IMA

viii. The IMA through its Coastal Monitoring Programme has been monitoring coastlines, shorelines, beaches and waves throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

ix. The IMA has been routinely collecting information on beach profile data and littoral data, including wave heights which it makes available to all State agencies upon request. The IMA also prepares reports that it submits to agencies and make same public.

x. In addition to coastline monitoring, the IMA also monitors coastal ecosystems: mangroves forests, coral reefs, and sea grass beds.

xi. Trinidad and Tobago’s coral reefs, in particular, are susceptible to the impacts of climate change, particularly elevated sea surface temperature which causes coral bleaching.

xii. Trinidad and Tobago has experienced two (2) massive bleaching events in 2005 and 2010 where there was mass coral mortality and limited recovery of corals.

xiii. The IMA collaborated with the Climate Change Centre in Belize and has established a Coral Reef Early Warning System which involves water quality buoys collecting physical parameters such as temperature, PH’s that assists with the IMA’s monitoring programme.

xiv. The information from the Coral Reef Early Warning System feeds into wider regional monitoring programme, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric agency data set which is used to issue Coral Bleaching alerts for the region.

xv. The IMA’s data is made available upon request and through its reports, such as its State of the Environment Report and other technical reports.

xvi. Coral Bleaching was detected in Tobago and most reefs in Tobago were impacted, especially the second bleaching event occurred even deeper, e.g. Speyside.

xvii. The IMA worked with the THA as well as with other stakeholders to develop a Coral Reef Bleaching Response Plan to detect coral bleaching. One of the things the IMA observed after a bleaching event is more coral diseases occurrences.

The adaptation strategies the IMA has examined and implemented

xviii. In developing the integrated coastal zone management policy, the intention is to build an adaptation to climate change.

xix. With regard to coastal ecosystems in particular, the IMA’s intention is building coastal resilience.

xx. In building resilience, there is need to remove impacts that can be controlled such as pollution.

xxi. The IMA is also looking at rehabilitation for coral reefs, sea grasses and mangrove forests.
The IMA’s role in regeneration and rehabilitation of corals reefs

xxii. The IMA has observed that reefs are decreasing in hard corals and other species of corals are dominating.

xxiii. In monitoring coral reefs on a regular basis, the IMA can determine the species that are more susceptible to coral bleaching events and coral diseases and those that are resistant to those impacts.

xxiv. In developing the restoration plan, the IMA looks at coral recruiting. In 2022, the IMA looked at coral spawning by documenting coral spawning events to identify species that can be used for rehabilitation procedures.

The IMA’s recommendations on how to address the challenges of overlapping jurisdiction, the independent syndrome and lack of coordination by having twenty-nine (29) institutions under laws and policies with responsibility for coastal management

xxv. In developing the Integrated Coastal Zone Policy, a gap analysis which examined the legal and institutional framework for coastal zone management and climate change adaptation was done. The gap analysis identified all the policies, legislation and agencies with a role to play in coastal management.

xxvi. The first thing that needs to be done is to implement coordinated cooperation among State agencies and other agencies that have a stake in coastal and marine environment.

xxvii. Some studies were done and the IMA is examining agencies to determine the agencies that can perform the coordinating role or to create a commission with State agencies that will have decision making ability and to coordinate all coastal issues by all State agencies to ensure there is a cohesive approach to management.

Closing Remarks

xxviii. The IMA is willing to work and collaborate with all agencies.

xxix. In moving forward, the IMA has to ensure that it collects the data that is required by State agencies for decision making.

xxx. Developing a national research agenda will be critical.

Key Issues Discussed with the Environmental Management Authority (EMA)

The need for State agencies to be aware of the National Environment Policy

i. One of the priorities of the NEP is addressing Climate Change and environmental and natural disasters.

ii. Section 31 of the EM Act stipulates that all ministries and agencies must comply with the NEP.
iii. The EMA urges authorities when preparing their respective Strategic Plan to ensure they are aligned to the NEP.

View the Hearing:
The hearing can be viewed on our YouTube page via the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPcbwLI5Dkc

Contact Information:
You may contact the Committee’s Secretary at jsclpi@ttparliament.org or 624-7275 Ext. 2232.

Committees Unit
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