



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

TENTH PARLIAMENT

THIRD REPORT OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON MINISTRIES, STATUTORY AUTHORITIES AND STATE ENTERPRISES (GROUP 2)

ON

THE SPORT COMPANY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (SPORTT)

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

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THE COMMITTEE

Establishment

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.

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 2, 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.*

The business as well as the entities which fall under the purview of your Committee is attached as *Appendix I*.

Membership

The current membership of your Committee is as follows¹:

- Dr. James Armstrong - Chairman
- Dr. Victor Wheeler - Vice Chairman
- Dr. Tim Gopeesingh, MP
- Mr. Clifton De Coteau, MP
- Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie
- Mr. Collin Partap, MP
- Mr. Kevin Ramnarine

¹ Dr. Tewarie was appointed to this Committee w.e.f. from September 09, 2011

- Dr. Lincoln Douglas, MP
- Mrs. Lyndira Oudit
- Ms. Alicia Hospedales, MP
- Mr. Fitzgerald Jeffrey, MP
- Dr. Lester Henry

Secretariat Support

Mrs. Nataki Atiba- Dilchan	-	Secretary
Ms. Candice Skerrette	-	Assistant Secretary
Ms. Candice Williams	-	Graduate Research Assistant

Powers

Standing Orders 71B of the Senate and 79B of the House of Representatives delineate the core powers of the Committee which include *inter alia*:

- to send for persons, papers and records;
- to adjourn from place to place;
- to appoint specialist advisers either to supply information which is 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.

INTRODUCTION

Background

In October 2010, a new management Board was appointed at the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT).

Recent developments, along with continued delays in past projects like the Brian Lara Cricket Stadium and Academy in Tarouba, have raised the concern of your Committee about the management role, oversight responsibilities and procurement practices of the Sport Company.

As such, your Committee has made the administration and operation of the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago a priority area of inquiry.

Objectives

The objectives of this inquiry encompassed the following:

- to gain insight into the reasons behind the beleaguered Brian Lara Cricket Stadium and Academy project;
- to gain insight into the status of works at the various recreational grounds across Trinidad and Tobago
- to determine what measures have been put in place to deal with delays and cost overruns, and any attendant penalties for contractors;
- to gain an appreciation of other projects being undertaken by the Company;
- to ascertain other roles of the company, if any, in sport marketing, sport medicine and sport management.

Conduct of the Inquiry

On Friday May 13, 2011, representatives of the SPORTT were invited to a public hearing. Prior to this, notice was given as to the general objectives of the inquiry and written submissions were requested from the Company. These responses provided the basis for the supplementary questions pursued at the hearing.

SPORTT was represented at the meeting of Friday May 13, 2011 by:

Mr. Ashwin Creed	Permanent Secretary (Ag.) MSYA
Mr. Errol Ashby	Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Rhett Chee Ping	Chairman, SPORTT
Mr. Neil Chapman	Executive Manager, Facilities
Mr. Sebastian Paddington	Director, SPORTT
Dr. Anyl Gopeesingh	Director, SPORTT
Mr. Leon LeGendre	Project Engineer
Mr. Tyrone Marcus	Senior Legal Officer, MSYA
Mr. Steven Basdeo	Project Coordinator, MSYA

Several issues raised at the hearing warranted detailed responses which were subsequently submitted in written form to your Committee.

The final draft of this Report was considered and approved with amendments at the meeting of the Committee held on Friday January 13, 2012.

The Minutes of the meetings of the Committee with regard to this inquiry are attached as ***Appendix II***.

The Notes of Evidence of the hearing held on Friday May 13, 2011 are attached as ***Appendix III***.

THE EVIDENCE

Mandate

SPORTT, established under the Companies Act Chap 81:01, in 2004, is a special purpose company created to implement the National Sport Policy of Trinidad and Tobago.

SPORTT is the delivery arm of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs for sport services, and is mandated by Cabinet to:

- Establish a Sport Commission of Trinidad and Tobago.
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Education, University of the West Indies (UWI), and other relevant agencies on the establishment of an Institute of Sport at UWI St. Augustine and University of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Provide advice and make recommendations to the Ministry responsible for sport on matters relating to sport and physical education;
- Administer sports as agreed to by the Ministry responsible for sport;
- Implement suitable programmes for total participation in sport and high performance sport;
- Design and set standards for national coaching programmes and for coaching certification;
- Deliver specific sport programmes;
- Manage and maintain sport facilities;
- Provide and oversee project management services for the implementation of specific sport infrastructural projects; and
- Manage and maintain sport facilities previously under the jurisdiction of the former Caroni (1975) Limited;

Organizational Structure

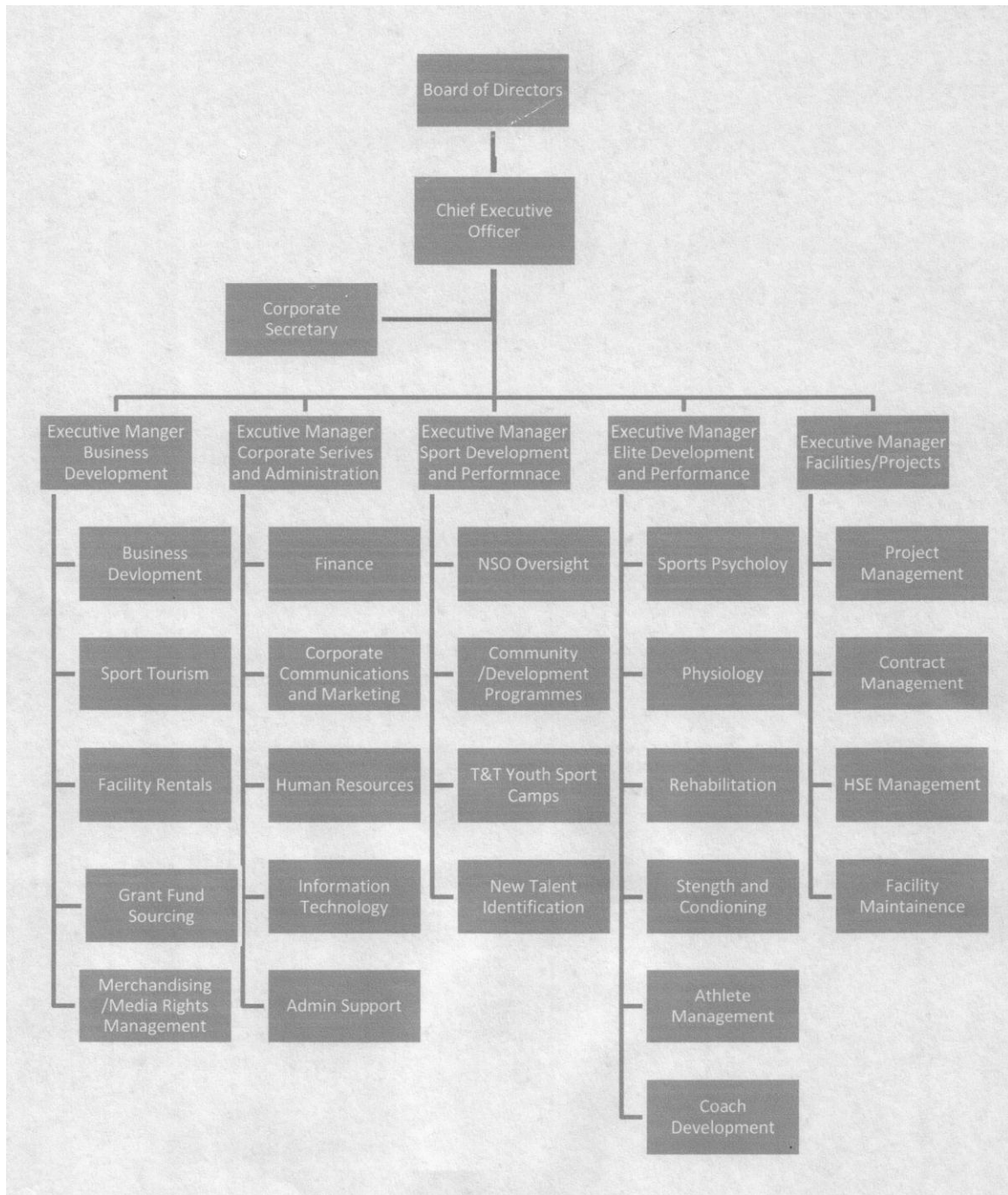
Following the appointment of its new Board in October 2010, the Company undertook a restructuring exercise which entailed the establishment of the following:

- A Business Development Unit which will be responsible for Sport Marketing, establishing sport as an industry and developing Sport Tourism within Trinidad and Tobago in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism;
- A High Performance Unit which contemplates the development of Pathway Model by National Sporting Organizations (NSOs); and

- o A Facilities Management Unit.

The Australian Sports Commission was requested to conduct an evaluation on the Units of SPORTT and recommendations were put forward for consideration.

PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



Strategic Objectives

SPORTT's activities from 2004-2010 originated from an administrative model based on a structure approved by the Public Sector Negotiating Committee (PSNC). Consequent to the appointment of a new board which was appointed in October 2010, a consulting firm was hired to assist with the establishment of the organisational structure. The strategic planning process was being established since previous board did not develop any strategic or operational plan.

Financial Management

The final controls are in the process of being established in conjunction with the new proposed structure for the organization. Three board members are the only current cheque signatories for the company. A finance manager assumed duties on May 16th 2011.

The company has never employed an internal auditor (even though it was part of the structure approved by the PSNC). However the new organisational structure will include this position.

The overall budgetary allocation for SPORTT was a little over \$100,592,300 for the fiscal year 2011. However, this was initially reduced by \$6,200,000 and then further reduced by \$34,000,000. As at April 30, 2011 the following was expended:

- NSO Activities - \$22,048,976.32
- Community Activities - \$2,487,692.39
- Athletes and Other Organizations - \$375,257.61

Sports Management

The Sport Plan for the next two years will be driven by the National Sport Policy established in 2002, and the Strategic/Operational Plan of the Ministry of Sport. This plan was laid in the Parliament. The plan includes the sport infrastructure, upgrading the sport plan and sport programming.

The execution of sporting initiatives in Trinidad and Tobago is the responsibility of the various NSOs for the respective sports and SPORTT's role is to facilitate the execution of the mandates of each NSO. SPORTT is responsible for providing support for the development of the fourteen (14) sporting disciplines of tennis, sailing, cycling, cricket, football, hockey, swimming, basketball, track & field, netball, boxing, rifle shooting, golf and volleyball.

The NSOs are now managed based on a grant funding arrangement which focuses on the following investment centres:

- Development
- Participation/Community Outreach
- High Performance
- Capacity Building
- Administrative Services

Criteria have also been established by SPORTT for accessing funding which include the submission by NSOs of the following:

- Strategic Plan and Annual Operational Plan
- Quarterly Reports
- Development Plan for their respective sport based on the Pathway Model specific to their sport
- Audited Financial Statements and Detailed Budgets.

Sporting Programmes

There are three major areas under the sport programme as follows

- (i) high performance sport or elite sport;
- (ii) total participation in sport or sport for all; and
- (iii) sport as an industry.

The **Pathway Model** is a logical progression of athletes, coaches and officials in administration through a development system. NSOs are charged with the identification of the level of resources and services necessary to develop and maintain elite level athletes in their respective sport. The elite athlete pathway encapsulates the following elements:

- developing and evaluating of sport programmes
- acquiring the right people
- accessing the best athletes
- developing of sports science and sports medicine capabilities
- acquiring and accessing facilities
- offering financial support of athletes
- sustaining an adequate budget
- building strategic partnerships with key organizations.

High Performance or Elite Sport Programme

The Elite Sport Programme commenced in 2004 and received policy approval in 2006. The athletes in the programme must meet certain criteria which include:

- (i) being ranked in the top forty (40) of their respective discipline or thereabouts;
- (ii) being a medalist at the regional, international or continental games;
- (iii) representing Trinidad and Tobago at sanctioned international meets; and
- (iv) being available for national championships.

The programme has a fixed total ceiling of \$5 million, however, athletes may be financed up to \$250, 000 a year. This money is disbursed in tranches and the first tranche is based on positive reports and performances from the previous year, whereas the second tranche is based on the current year.

It is the intention of SPORTT to provide sports medicine services to national athletes and national teams, which will be facilitated, in part, by returning scholars who are qualified in the areas of Sport Sciences at the Ph.D level and Masters level. The existing system utilizes the voluntary service of well-educated persons in the area of sport and exercise medicine. One of the challenges being faced is the lack of a central environment where athletes can access high quality care. These services will be provided at national facilities.

The elite policy, which was previously related to Olympic sports, is presently being expanded to include non-Olympic Sports. In addition, SPORTT is attempting to make athlete eligibility more flexible and creating a sub-tier for sub-elites.

Competence Assessment

Upon the establishment of SPORTT in 2004, there was a report done by the Australian Sport Commission for the development of sport in Trinidad and Tobago. These recommendations were never implemented. SPORTT is presently attempting to implement these recommendations in the areas of infrastructure, systems and procedures.

Consequent on some of the findings in the Australian Report, the development of the competence of the athlete is now a focus of sport programmes engaged by the Sport Company for the last two (2) years. There have been three sport specific workshops conducted for the disciplines of rugby, soccer (football), netball and volleyball. At present, there is a competency assessment being conducted of the national cricket teams.

Anti-Doping Programme

The Ministry, in conjunction with the Trinidad and Tobago Olympic Committee (TTOC) and other sporting stakeholders, has created Draft Anti-Doping Rules which will provide a regulatory framework for drug use in sport.

Trinidad and Tobago as a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code (WADA) is responsible for enforcing the WADA Code, random testing and education of its national sport elites and establishment of supporting legislation and anti-doping rules in keeping with the Code.

Thought is being given to the creation of the Trinidad and Tobago Anti-Doping Organization (TTADO). TTADO will become the established Anti-Doping Organisation in Trinidad and Tobago and will take over that function from the TTOC.

Additionally, an Anti-Doping in Sport Bill has been drafted which should be tabled for debate during 2011. The enactment of this anti-doping legislation will signal another tangible step in the drive towards doping-free sport in Trinidad and Tobago.

Life Sport Programme

SPORTT is also in the preparation stages of a 'Life Sport Programme' which treats with at risk youth in communities in a sports-related capacity.

The objectives of this particular programme are:

- To provide an alternative opportunity for young males to be involved in positive development through sport
- To train young people in a specific sporting discipline for one year
- To foster the development of 10%-20% of participants as emerging athletes to become outstanding sport performers
- To ready a cadre of 80-90% of young males, through social skills and psychological training, for entry to certified industry specific and other forms of apprenticeship training
- To develop a cadre of young males to become certified coaches in the disciplines of Football, Windball Cricket and Basketball

- To bring about social transformation of participants by fostering and developing attributes of self-image, self-confidence and self-concept

Implementation of the programme will include (i) consultations with various stakeholders, (ii) the roll out of pilot programmes in ten (10) communities and (iii) monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Sports Marketing

SPORTT is now going through a restructuring exercise which entails the establishment of a Business Development Unit which will be responsible for Sports Marketing, establishing sport as an industry and developing Sport Tourism in Trinidad and Tobago in collaboration the Ministry of Tourism.

Sports Marketing is a component of Business Development, and it is intended that the initiatives of the Business Development Unit at SPORTT would benefit the national community, the national sporting fraternity and to make sport an industry in Trinidad and Tobago.

Sports Medicine

A High Performance Unit is now being implemented by SPORTT and qualified personnel, taken from a pool of returning nationals qualified up to the Ph. D and Masters levels of education in sports sciences, will comprise the staff of this Unit. In the initial implemental stages these persons will be assisted and facilitated by a Consultant.

High Performance Units will be established at various stadia throughout Trinidad and Tobago with the Head Unit being established at Hasley Crawford Stadium.

Sports Medicine is a component of the High Performance System and it is intended that SPORTT would offer the following clinical services:

- Injury Management;
- Sport Nutrition;
- Injury Prevention/Protection;
- Performance enhancement;
- Sports Medicine;
- Elite Coaching;

- Physical Therapy;
- Psychology;
- Talent Search;
- Performance Analysis;
- Skill Acquisition;
- Facility Provision and Training Environment;
- Biomechanics;
- Adult Career and Education; and
- Strength and Conditioning.

Sport Infrastructure Plan

The sport infrastructure plan is inclusive of (i) mega projects (ii) multi-purpose sport indoor facilities (iii) community sport centres and (iv) community recreation grounds.

Mega Projects

SPORTT intends over the next two years to invest in the construction of mega-facilities of the National Aquatic Centre, Mucurapo, National Tennis Centre, Tacarigua, National Cycling Centre, Mt. Hope and three (3) Multi-Purpose Sport Indoor Facilities at Charlieville, Couva and Fyzabad using a Design/Build/Finance contract arrangement. The services of a Consultant will be procured to oversee this arrangement along with an experienced multi-disciplinary consulting team from SPORTT.

Brian Lara Stadium

The Brian Lara Stadium was not a project executed by the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (SPORTT). The status on the construction of the Brian Lara Stadium is being developed in collaboration with Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (UDeCOTT), the executors of the project, which will be sent to the Ministry of Sport.

Regional Grounds

Projects are selected by SPORTT based on stakeholder discussions, information from regional corporations and information from Members of Parliament. Cabinet prioritizes the projects and SPORTT through the Ministry of Sport is given the relevant instructions.

The following regional grounds have received Cabinet approval and priority for upgrade works:

<u>Phase I</u>	<u>Phase II</u>
Penal Recreation Park, Penal	Buen Intento Recreation Ground, Princes
Mayaro Recreation Ground, Mayaro	Town
India Ground, Malabar	Pascal Road, Maraval
Dass Trace, Cunupia	Eddie Hart, Tacarigua
Ojoe Road, Sangre Grande	Coronation Park, Point Fortin
Preysal Recreation Ground, Couva	Samaroo Recreation Ground, Endeavour
Hickland Village Park, Fyzabad	Moruga Recreation Ground, Moruga
Irwin Park, Siparia	Alescon Comets, Chaguanas
	Battoo Avenue, Marabella

Community Recreational Facilities

Cabinet has mandated SPORTT to act as project manager for the rehabilitation and upgrade of thirty two (32) Community Recreation Facilities under the jurisdiction of the regional corporations. The total estimated cost is \$54,269,100. Funding is provided under the Infrastructure Development Fund for the implementation of projects.

Fourteen (14) projects were recently restarted or are in the process of being restarted over the next few months. These grounds are Bonair Gardens Recreation Facility, Du Bisson Recreation Grounds, Chankar Trace Recreation Grounds, Aranguez Recreation Grounds, Postman Drive Recreation Facility, Samaroo Grounds, Grand Slam, Techier Terrace, Davis Lane, Prizgar Lands, Mt. Dor, Cockrane Village Basketball Court, Salazar Street Recreation Facility, San Pedro Hard Grounds and Hard Court Chickland.

Community Programmes

A programme of activities has been planned for the next financial year to develop sport infrastructure in the rural communities.

Procurement and Tendering Procedures

The Community Grounds were tendered using a selective tender (bid and build) method where contractors from a prequalified list were invited to tender/bid for the projects. The approach used for the regional grounds was stated as the design-build procurement while the approach used for the community grounds was bid-build procurement system.

Cost overruns

Four measures have been put in place to deal with delays and cost overruns:

- The use of Design-Build procurement systems;
- Consultants will be engaged to manage projects;
- SPORTT will be enforcing the liquidated damages; and
- SPORTT will ensure that the Performance Security is valid and enforceable until all works are completed.

Sport Facilities Management

Facilities rental

The SPORTT Board was not satisfied with the existing policy as it did not meet certain requirements commensurate with the level of investment in sporting facilities. Consultants are currently reviewing the rental policy.

SPORTT in Tobago

The Dwight Yorke Stadium is the only facility in Tobago that is under the aegis of the Ministry. All other facilities are managed by the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) and sport programming is managed by the THA Sport Unit. Nonetheless, Tobago benefits from all national programmes.

Under 17 Women's World Cup

SPORTT was responsible for the improvement of infrastructure to facilitate the Under 17 Women's World Cup. The costs incurred with regard to the tournament included:

- Refurbishment works for Mannie Ramjohn Stadium, Ato Boldon Stadium, and the Hasely Crawford Stadium was \$16,386,650.00;
- Refurbishment works for Larry Gomes Stadium was \$7,282,214.63;
- Refurbishment works for Dwight Yorke Stadium was \$4,267,820.43;
- The cost for Project/Construction Management/Engineering Consultancy Services for five (5) stadia was \$2,080,000.00;
- Field Works from July to September for Hasely Crawford Stadium and Larry Gomes Stadium was \$313,282.38;
- Field Works from August to September for Ato Boldon Stadium and Mannie Ramjohn Stadium was \$179,400;

- Rental of temporary score boards was \$496,800 (due to late arrival of procured score boards); and
- Procurement of Scoreboards was \$3,045,337.04.

OBSERVATIONS/FINDINGS

Although the SPORTT has been in existence since 2004, the evidence received by your Committee indicates that the basic structures for the operation of an efficient and effective organization are still non-existent.

There has been an admitted failure to implement the recommendations of the Australian Sport Commission although the Sport Company's mandate was predicated upon the Australian model. This has resulted in several deficiencies including:

- an unsuitable corporate structure
- inadequate staff complement at both the administrative and technical levels
- the lack of proper systems of financial auditing
- stagnated efforts in the areas of sport marketing and sport medicine
- mismanagement of sporting facilities
- stymied community sporting programmes
- ad-hoc/discordant relationship with the line Ministry

Notwithstanding its history the Company appears, at this juncture, to be commencing efforts to achieve the mandate established 7 years ago and your Committee is encouraged by the expressions of eagerness from the current Board to follow through on the recommendations of the Australian Sport Commission. This charted strategic direction should include the establishment of necessary units for Corporate Operations, Business Development and Facilities Management. Also of note are the initiatives being taken in the competency assessment of athletes and in the advancement of sports medicine, and the provision of clinical services to national athletes and teams.

However, during the preparation of this Report, your Committee has noted the newspaper reports related to the resignation of both the Chief Executive Officer, as well as the Chairman of the Board. It therefore appears that the trend of instability in the leadership of the organization continues. Your Committee remains perturbed about future progress of the Sport Company given this recurrent situation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the fore going, your Committee recommends the following with regard to the future operations of the SPORTT:

- the completion of a strategic plan within in the next three (3) months which will facilitate the alignment of responsibilities and prescribe yearly operational goals. As such, consultations in this regard should be speedily concluded to advance the implementation of the strategic /operational plan based on the recommendations of the Australian Sports Commission.
- the adoption of the proposed management structure which appears feasible. This must include the development of internal auditing and corporate governance policies in keeping with best international practices.
- the establishment of a formal system of liaising between SPORTT and the Ministry of Sport, whether through monthly meetings and/or reports in accordance with the Performance Management Manual of the Ministry of Finance for State Enterprises.
- the introduction, as soon as possible, of Anti-Doping legislation for the consideration of the Parliament
- some examination should be given to the human resource challenges with the aim of identifying the possible contributors to the cycle of administrative collapse.
- the advancement of efforts in the area of Sports Medicine, in consultation with the UWI and the relevant NSOs.
- the upgrade of the SPORTT website to promote its usability as a vehicle of communication particularly to deal with queries relating to services offered to eligible athletes.
- sports marketing, sports medicine and sports tourism programmes should be actively pursued.

- there should be a significant increase in the number of community recreational facilities to undergo rehabilitation and upgrade.
- there should be active consideration for training and re-training of national coaches from various sports.

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

Sgd.
Dr. James Armstrong
Chairman

Sgd.
Dr. Victor Wheeler
Vice Chairman

Sgd.
Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie
Member

Sgd.
Dr. Tim Gopeesingh, MP
Member

Sgd.
Mr. Clifton De Coteau, MP
Member

Sgd.
Mr. Collin Partap, MP
Member

Sgd.
Mr. Kevin Ramnarine
Member

Sgd.
Dr. Lincoln Douglas, MP
Member

Sgd.
Mrs. Lyndira Oudit
Member

Sgd.
Ms. Alicia Hospedales, MP
Member

Sgd.
Mr. Fitzgerald Jeffrey, MP
Member

Sgd.
Dr. Lester Henry
Member

January 13, 2012

APPENDIX I

BUSINESS ENTITIES

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

1. Local Government

- Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Company Limited
- Community Improvement Services Limited
- East Port of Spain Development Company Limited
- Palo Seco Agricultural Enterprises Limited
- Rural Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago

2. National Security

- Defence Force Commissions Board
- Defence Council
- National Drug Council
- Strategic Services Agency
- Youth Training Centre Board of Management

3. Office of the Prime Minister

- Sport and Culture Board of Management

4. People and Social Development

- Social Welfare District Boards
- Trinidad and Tobago Association in Aid of the Deaf
- Trinidad and Tobago Blind Welfare Association

5. Planning and the Economy

- Advisory Town Planning Panel
- Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI)
- Chaguaramas Development Authority
- Council for Innovation and Competitiveness
- Economic Development Board
- National Population Council

6. Public Administration

- Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT)
- Government Human Resources Services Limited (GHRS)

7. Public Utilities

- Regulated Industries Commission
- Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA)
 - Water Resource Agency
- The Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC)

- The Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation (TTPOST)
- Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (TSTT)

8. Science, Technology and Tertiary Education

- Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT)
- Board of Industrial Training
- College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts (COSTAATT)
- Eastern Caribbean Institute of Agriculture and Forestry (ECIAF)
- John S. Donaldson Technical Institute
- National Institute of Higher Education (Research, Science and Technology)
- National Training Agency
- San Fernando Technical Institute
- Teachers Training Colleges
- Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute
- University of the West Indies
 - Open Campus
- University of Trinidad and Tobago:
- Metal Industries Company Limited (MIC)
 - Government Vocational Centre
- National Information, Communication, Technology Limited (iGovTT)
- Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme Limited (YTEPP)

9. Sport

- National Stadia Board of Management
- Regional Complexes
- Trinidad and Tobago Boxing Board of Control
- Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

10. Tobago Development

- Tobago Regional Health Authority

11. Tourism

- Zoological Society of Trinidad and Tobago
- Tourism Development Company Limited

12. Trade and Industry

- Betting Levy Board
- Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards
- Trinidad and Tobago Racing Authority
- Weights and Measures
- Evolving TecKnologies and Enterprise Development Company Limited (e-TecK)
- Export-Import Bank of Trinidad and Tobago Limited
- Trinidad and Tobago Free Zones Company Limited
- Business Development Company Limited
- Point Lisas Industrial Estate
- Trinidad and Tobago Entertainment Company Limited (TTent)
- Trinidad and Tobago Film Company

- Caribbean Leasing Company Limited (CLCL)
- National Flour Mills
- Premier Quality Services Limited (PQSL) subsidiary of TTBS

13. Works and Infrastructure

- National Infrastructure Development Company Limited (NIDCO)
- National Maintenance Training and Security Company Limited (MTS)

14. Transport

- Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago
- Air Transport Licensing Authority
- Pilotage Authority
- Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago
- Public Transport Services Corporation
- Transport Board
- Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority
- Caribbean Airlines Limited
- The Vehicle Maintenance Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited
- National Helicopter Company Limited
- Point Lisas Port Development Corporation Limited (PLIPDECO)
- LIAT (1974) Limited

15. Gender, Youth and Child Development

- Adoption Board
- Children's Authority
- Interdisciplinary Child Development Centre
- Princess Elizabeth Home for Handicapped Children
- Trinidad and Tobago Association for Retarded Children

APPENDIX II

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**MINUTES OF EIGHTH MEETING OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT
APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO AND REPORT ON GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES
(GROUP 2), STATUTORY AUTHORITIES AND STATE ENTERPRISES FALLING UNDER
THOSE MINISTRIES, HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, RED HOUSE, PORT OF SPAIN,
ON FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2011**

PRESENT

Dr. James Armstrong	Chairman
Dr. Victor Wheeler	Vice-Chairman
Mr. Clifton De Coteau, MP	Member
Mrs. Lyndira Oudit	Member
Mr. Fitzgerald Jeffrey, MP	Member
Ms. Alicia Hospedales, MP	Member
Dr. Lincoln Douglas, MP	Member
Dr. Lester Henry	Member
Mrs. Nataki Atiba-Dilchan	Secretary
Ms. Candice Skerrette	Assistant Secretary
Ms. Candice Williams	Graduate Research Assistant

ABSENT

Mr. Kevin Ramnarine	Member (Excused)
Dr. Tim Gopeesingh, MP	Member (Excused)
Mr. Collin Partap, MP	Member (Excused)

SPORTT OFFICIALS

Mr. Ashwin Creed	Permanent Secretary (Ag.) MSYA
Mr. Errol Ashby	Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Rhett Chee Ping	Chairman, SPORTT
Mr. Neil Chapman	Executive Manager, Facilities
Mr. Sebastian Paddington	Director, SPORTT
Dr. Anyl Gopeesingh	Director, SPORTT
Mr. Leon LeGendre	Project Engineer
Mr. Tyrone Marcus	Senior Legal Officer, MSYA
Mr. Steven Basdeo	Project Coordinator, MSYA

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m. and informed members that Dr. Gopeesingh, Mr. Partap and Mr. Ramnarine had indicated their inability to attend the meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

2.1 The following corrections were made to the Minutes:

Insert in "Matters Arising"

Pg 2 Paragraph 3.1 The information provided from PSAEL re: the lease of lands from PSAEL to UTT was still not satisfactory.

Insert after "Paragraph 4.2 Bullet 1"

- what were the internal/external auditing arrangements in place at CFCL

Insert after "Paragraph 4.2 Bullet 2"

- whether subsequent to Cabinet Minute No. 2520, which required the lease of lands from PSAEL to UTT, such leasing took place.

Add at the end of Paragraph 5.1

"It was also agreed that a list of current and future projects would be requested from SPORTT."

2.2 The motion for the confirmation of the Minutes, as amended, was moved by Mr. Clifton De Coteau and seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald Jeffrey.

2.3 The Minutes, as amended, were thereby confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

Pg 2 Paragraph 4.2 *PSAEL had responded to the query on the land acquisition arrangements. This was circulated.*

Pg 2 Paragraph 4.2 *IGovTT had responded to the query on the status of the contracts with CFCL and IDA International. This was circulated.*

Pg 3 Paragraph 4.2 *PS Ministry of STTE's had responded to the query regarding the leasing of PSAEL lands to UTT. This was circulated.*

Pg 3 Paragraph 5.2 *PS National Security had submitted a document re: ODPM.
This was circulated.*

3.2 Mrs. Oudit expressed dissatisfaction with the information requests made to PSAEL and IGovtt. It was agreed that specific questions for PSAEL and IGovtt would be submitted to the Secretariat by Mrs. Oudit for onward transmission.

PRE-HEARING SUBMISSION

4.1 The Chairman acknowledged the receipt of a written submission from Mr. Renson J. Wright.

4.2 The format for the conduct of the hearing was discussed and agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 The Committee agreed that at its next meeting on Friday June 10, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. (*in camera*) and 10:00 a.m. (*in public*), it will commence the inquiry into the administration and operations of Office of Disaster and Preparedness Management (ODPM).

(The meeting was suspended and resumed in the Parliament Chamber)

HEARING WITH THE OFFICIALS OF SPORTT

6.1 The Chairman welcomed SPORTT officials and apologized for the late start. Introductions on both sides were made and the Permanent Secretary was invited to make opening remarks.

6.2 The following matters were discussed with the representatives of Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT) and the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs (MSYA):

(a) Mandate of SPORTT

Officials indicated that the mandate of SPORTT is primarily to oversee sporting objectives as outlined in the National Sport Policy. The Company served as the implementation arm for projects and any related responsibilities with the National Sporting Organizations.

(b) Appointment of Board

The Committee was told that there were thirteen (13) members on the Board of SPORTT which was appointed on October 26, 2010.

(c) Selection of Projects

The Committee was informed that instructions for projects came to the Ministry and Sport Company by way of Cabinet Minute. The MSYA collected information from stakeholders, which was forwarded to Cabinet, which made the priority listing for projects.

(d) Programme of Activities

Officials indicated that the activities of SPORTT, for the next three to four years, would be driven by the 2002 National Sport Policy. However, this policy is currently under review and may be expanded to include additional sport plans.

Although, the Company was based on the Australian Sport Commission model, the 2004 recommendations of the Commission had not been implemented regarding infrastructure, procedures and systems.

(e) Delayed Projects

It was noted that some “megaprojects” had been lagging for the last decade. Members were advised of the decision of the new Board to re-evaluate the tenders previously awarded to ensure that the processes were transparent. From the initial reports regarding these major projects, it appeared that the process was satisfactory.

(f) Relationship with National Sports Organizations (NSOs)

The point was made that the executors of sport were the National Sporting Organizations. The Ministry and SPORTT facilitated the development of these organizations, through assistance in the areas of governance procedures, administrative procedures and staffing. NSOs receiving funding were required to produce strategic plans, operational plans, accounting statements and performance metrics. Further, NSOs are now required to sign service level agreements based on deliverables and targets.

MSYA Officials indicated that support to elite athletes which began in 2004 focused initially on Olympic sports. The elite programme is being expanded to include non-Olympic sports. A sub-tier for sub-elites was identified as athletes on the brink of becoming elite, who need assistance. A total of \$5 million per year was allocated toward this, with a maximum of \$250 000 per athlete which is delivered in tranches. Defined performance levels had to be met to qualify for each tranche.

The Ministry has recognized the need to build athlete capacity and encourages NGOs to engage in rural projects.

(g) Regional/Recreational Grounds

Members sought updates on the activities that were planned for areas e.g. Bon Air, Princes Town and Couva. They were advised that some of these projects were under the purview of the regional corporations.

The Yolande Pompey Grounds was in the first phase of completion of the facilities for cricket, football and jogging.

The Mondo track at the Dwight Yorke Stadium is scheduled for repair in 2011/12.

(h) Under-17 Women's World Cup 2010

Information was sought on the cost and benefits of hosting the U17 Women's World Cup 2010. Officials conveyed that SPORTT was responsible for improvements of sport facilities for the hosting of the U-17 World Cup 2010 while other arrangements fell under the aegis of the Trinidad and Tobago Football Federation (TTFF).

The Committee indicated that a written request for follow-up information would be submitted to SPORTT.

(i) Rental policy

The Committee was advised that the rental policy was being reviewed consequent on a consultant's report.

(j) Human Resources

There were challenges with regard to human resource capacity. Basic financial resources, IT and communication services were now being addressed. Restructuring was being conducted under the advice of D Edge Management Consultants.

In the area of sport medicine and the expansion of the high performance unit, the Company is aiming at recruiting several returning national scholars pursuing studies in the areas of PhD Sport Science and PhD Sport Medicine.

It is intended that these persons would provide service at national facilities to national teams.

(k) Athlete Development Workshops

SPORTT officials indicated that all national athletes had been assessed for competence. Thus far, sport specific workshops had been conducted in the areas of football, netball, rugby and cricket. The next sport planned to have its competency assessment, is cricket. The results and recommendations from the workshops will be tabulated.

(l) SPORTT in Tobago

Members were advised that most of the sport activity in Tobago was managed by the THA; only the Dwight Yorke Stadium falls under the ambit of MSYA. Tobago was included in national sporting events.

(m) Finance

The overall allocation to SPORTT was TT\$100M for the fiscal year 2010/11 but this was reduced in May 2011 by TT\$40.2M.

(n) Personal Financial Assistance

In response to a query, the Committee was advised that MSYA did not provide financial assistance for academic study. Assistance was limited to physical preparation of the athlete.

(o) Youth Programmes

Officials conveyed a 'Life Sport' and an 'Anti-Doping' Programme which were soon to be rolled out by the Ministry. Officials made a request for a private session with the Committee to provide further details on these areas of activity.

6.3 The adjournment was taken at 12:04 p.m.

I certify that these Minutes are true and correct.

Sgd.
Chairman

Sgd.
Secretary

May 20, 2011

APPENDIX III

NOTES OF EVIDENCE

OFFICIALS OF THE SPORT COMPANY

Mr. Errol Ashby	Chief Executive Officer, SPORTT
Mr. Rhett Chee Ping	Chairman, SPORTT
Mr. Neil Chapman	Executive Manager, Facilities and Engineering
Mr. Stephen Basdeo	Project Coordinator, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs
Mr. Tyrone Marcus	Senior Legal Officer, MYSA
Mr. Leon LeGendre	Project Engineer, SPORTT
Mr. Anyl Gopeesingh	Director, SPORTT
Mr. Sebastien Paddington	Director, SPORTT

Mr. Chairman: Okay. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the Sport Company and colleagues. First, let me apologize really for the late start. We had some pre-hearing discussions and meeting so we ran a little late, so our apologies for that.

As you are aware, this Joint Select Committee has been set up, really to enquire into various ministries and statutory bodies as a requirement of the Constitution and reports being sent to the Parliament, and these reports will contain findings and recommendations which would be to your benefit as well and would also assist the Parliament in having some sort of oversight on executive bodies within the Government, so that it is quite an important exercise. I would like to welcome you and express our appreciation for your attendance.

Before we start, I would like to ask the Sport Company to introduce yourselves, the members that are here, and after that we would have introductions from the Members of Parliament.

Mr. Creed: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am Ashwin Creed, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs. Mr. Chairman and members I want to thank you for inviting members of the Ministry and the Sport Company to this meeting. We are here as a team to address any concerns or questions you may have, regarding matters relating to sport. Let me take the opportunity, before making some general comments, with your indulgence, to introduce the members of our team.

[Members of the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT) were introduced by Ashwin Creed, Acting Permanent Secretary Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs]

[Members of the Joint Select Committee introduced themselves]

Mr. Chairman: Thank you very much. If we can now get some idea from you or whoever, on the company and how you are structured and what are your objectives, so that we can have an appreciation really of what the Sport Company is about.

Mr. Creed: Mr. Chairman, based on that question I would ask Mr. Errol Ashby, the CEO to articulate that.

Mr. Ashby: Thank you. The mandate of the Sport Company, as laid down by the Cabinet and Government of Trinidad and Tobago is to oversee, generally, a number of sporting matters that have been set out in the National Sports Policy. Specifically, we are the implementation arm of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs—Implementation in the areas of the construction maintenance, management of

facilities, capital projects, as well as on the programmatic side. We are responsible for 14 of what we refer to as national sporting organizations such as cricket, football, swimming, basketball, netball, et cetera. So, based on the mandate of the sport policy, we have to ensure that sport in Trinidad and Tobago achieves those policy objectives. That, in a nutshell, is the mandate of the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited, generally speaking.

Mr. Chairman: All right. In your structure, you do have a full complement on your board right now?

Mr. Ashby: Yes, we have 13 members, a Chairman who is here, Mr. Chee Ping and a Deputy Vice-Chairman, Dr. Lamsee Ebanks, particular as well as Mr. Paddington and Dr. Gopeesingh, so it is a full complement.

Mr. Chairman: Is this a relatively new board?

Mr. Ashby: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: As of?

Mr. Ashby: As of October 26, I believe, 2010.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you very much.

Mr. Jeffrey: My concern is this: Who makes the selection of projects for communities and on what basis is this done? I say so, in some constituencies, for example La Brea, there is an absence of recreational facilities to be developed and I am trying to find out why.

10.55 a.m.

Phase one and phase two, there are a number of projects here, but nowhere are there any projects in La Brea and that is of great concern to me. In some areas, for example, we have large recreation grounds, no pavillions, no toilet facilities and that is hurting. I would like to know what kind of response you have on this.

Mr. Creed: Mr. Jeffrey, I have noted your concerns. What I am aware of is that the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago through the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs is given its instructions by way of Cabinet Minute. So I will endeavour to get from the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs the criteria used in selecting geographically the locations for sporting facilities. I will do that. But in terms of the actual criteria used we are not aware, we are just given instructions that these are the areas, the geographic locations that the Cabinet has approved, construction, refurbishment or development of sporting grounds and facilities.

Mr. Jeffrey: I could just take, for example, one recreation ground, the Point D'or Recreation Ground, where you have a lot of activities, but no pavillion, no toilet facilities and to me that is a health hazard that really wants attention.

Mr. Chairman: If I can just get some clarification. Are you saying that the project activities, your work programme in terms of a spatial context, as is being asked, that is determined by the Cabinet? The Cabinet tells you okay, look, you should do this here, do that there, is that what you are suggesting?

Mr. Creed: Yes. yes.

Mr. Ashby: No, Mr. Chairman, the information going forward to Cabinet regarding projects is

normally based on stakeholder discussions, information coming from the various regional corporations, information probably coming from Members of Parliament who would be working along with our Minister in terms of priorities. The projects are then selected and they go to Cabinet, at the end of the day the Cabinet remains that body that decides on priorities, and based on the Cabinet decision, the Ministry through the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago implement.

Mr. Chairman: So the work programme actually comes from the organizations through the Ministry to Cabinet and then Cabinet—Okay that is clear.

Ms. Hospedales: Okay—

Mr. Chairman: Sorry, before you—is it in response to the same point?

Ms. Hospedales: It is in response to something that was raised by PS Creed.

Mr. Jeffrey: Are you saying then, that the Member of Parliament should write the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago in relation to those areas that need development?

Mr. Creed: I do not see a problem with that.

Mr. Jeffrey: Okay, thank you.

Mr. Creed: Because the programme of activity really that is before the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago right now involves projects that will flow from the last dispensation, and new projects that were added on to the programme of activity under recreational grounds, under regional projects.

Now, the sport infrastructure plan involves several levels of infrastructure work. First, we have the mega projects that we are looking at and this has been on the Ministry's books for almost a decade. I refer specifically to, Mr. Chairman, the National Aquatic Centre, the National Tennis Centre and the National Cycling Centre, the details of which would be articulated by the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago in a while. We have three multi-purpose sport indoor facilities, 16 community sport centres, or what we refer to as regional grounds, and then community recreation grounds and those recreation grounds are those that fall under the ambit of local government, and that would have been probably based on discussions with those regional corporations and their priorities.

We also have existing projects, the existing sport plan that is supposed to be upgraded and those are the other stadia, the Hasley Crawford, the Ato Boldon, the Larry Gomes, the Mannie Ramjohn, the Dwight York those facilities. The Hasley Crawford is now almost over 30 years old, and the other stadia we have had some depletion with respect to those stadia and we are now looking—as a matter of fact, we have a Cabinet mandate from the last administration to upgrade those facilities, and the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago is also pursuing that.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you.

Mrs. Oudit: Mr. Chairman, could I ask a question? Sorry.

Mr. Chairman: Sorry, is it on the same? Could you go ahead and then after—

Ms. Hospedales: Mr. Chairman, just to tag on a comment made by PS Creed with respect to the consultations or discussions that are held with local government as well as the Members of Parliament, when it comes to the selection of recreational grounds in their particular geographic location.

I am asking were those consultations held anytime after May 24 to current with any of the MPs? And how did you all come up with the selection of these recreational grounds? Again I am asking, because I remembered approximately over a month ago the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs during a Cabinet news briefing stated that they received the findings of the consultant and that Bon Air Recreational Ground was selected as a recreational ground to be upgraded, but it is nowhere on the list for either phase one or phase two.

Mr. Creed: I think what you are seeing in phase one and phase two relates to what we call regional type grounds and I think the Bon Air ground may fall under the corporation type recreational grounds.

Ms. Hospedales: It falls under the Tunapuna Regional Corporation.

Mr. Creed: It is listed in our estimates.

Dr. Douglas: Mr. Chairman, thank you gentlemen for coming this morning, I appreciate your willingness to answer our questions. My first question is related to the make-up—I am sure this is not your total board, but I am not seeing any women and that—I do not know if you have, but it might pose a problem especially since at the Tacarigua ground they have been agitating for facilities for women who go there to play—there are facilities that are needed in general, but at least a lot of the women footballers have nowhere to be private; men too, but we could “bob and weave” as the story goes.

But I am also interested in the overall philosophy, or the general direction and I do not know if this is articulated by the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago or by the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs, that the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago is going. What is really your agenda or motivation?

Mr. Creed: To respond to that Dr. Douglas, as the CEO indicated the sport plan over the next couple of years, next three, four years is really driven by the national sport policy, that sports policy was established in 2002 it was approved by the Cabinet and laid in the Parliament at that time. We are currently reviewing that policy because it was since 2002, and it is time that we try to see whether a lot of it is still relevant, however we are still driven by that policy. The plan really revolves around two areas, the sport infrastructure, expanding the sport plan, upgrading the sport plan and sport programming.

Under sport programme, there are three major areas that we look at, one what we describe as high performance sport or elite sport; total participation in sport or sport for all and we have now added sport as an industry.

When the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago was established in 2004 there was a report that was done by the Australian Sport Commission, because the company is really following the Australian model, the recommendations of which were never implemented. The Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago at this time is not attempting to implement those recommendations, specifically as it relates to infrastructure, systems and procedures.

Under high performance sports, at the Ministry level we continue to support elite athletes, this started in 2004 when athletes were preparing for the Athens Olympics, the actual policy was approved by the then government in 2006, and we continue to support elite athletes. It is based on several criteria, you must be ranked in the top 40 of your sporting discipline or thereabouts, you must be a medalist at the

regional, international or continental games, you must represent Trinidad and Tobago at sanctioned international meets, and you must make yourself available for your national championships. What we are doing now though is—that elite policy related mostly to Olympic sports—we are now expanding that to include non-Olympic sports, we are trying to make the eligibility a little more flexible and we are now creating a sub-tier for sub-elites, those are the athletes who are on the brink of becoming elite who need some help.

11.05 a.m.

The high performance system is based on a pathway model. The executors of sport really are the national sporting organizations and we are now encouraging them, based on how the Sport Company manages them, to do a number of things: to try to increase the critical mass in sport because to sustain the sport you must have numbers. When we evaluated the sport system, we realized that there was no focus on development, so, in terms of how the company manages them and how we manage our NSOs, we are getting them to focus on development and to build athlete capacity and capacity as it relates to coaches, officials and so on.

In describing the pathway system, the pathway really is a logical progression of athletes, coaches and officials in administration through a development system. So NSOs now, when they are applying for their subventions to the Ministry or to the Sport Company, must produce several things. They must produce a strategic plan of the organization; they must produce a development plan showing that pathway model for their specific discipline; and, obviously, they must produce their accounting documents, their audited financial statement and those regular things. They must have their constitutions and so on. There is a policy for grant funding for these organizations and we are now focusing on getting them to operate more strategically and to be able to manage their affairs.

There was a question, when I looked at the submission from the Joint Select Committee, on sports medicine.

Mr. Chairman: Could we leave that for a while?

Mrs. Oudit: Good morning. I have a few questions and they come from several things. Again, I am referring, Mr. Creed, to the submission of information requested by this Committee of you and some of the responses I listened to your indication that several centres started over a decade ago. I see under question 4: Any other construction projects being undertaken by the company and expected date of commencement and completion? Your response, meaning the company's, indicated that over the next two years, the State would invest in construction of the following mega facilities under the design/build/finance contract arrangement. The services of a consultant would be procured to oversee this arrangement.

What is interesting is that they were the very projects you identified as started over a decade ago—as you were calling them out, I was looking at them; I thought you were reading—National Aquatic Centre, Mucurapo; National Tennis Centre, Tacarigua; National Cycling Centre, Mount Hope; three multi-purpose indoor sports facilities, Charleville, Couva and Fyzabad. Now, please forgive me if you are unable to answer, but if these projects you identified started over a decade ago, then how is it that this response is telling us that over the next two years these will be done; and secondly, that the services of a

consultant will be procured to oversee this arrangement?

The second question starts off by your response indicating that the Sport Company is the implementing arm of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs. If this is a newly constituted board and some members are very newly constituted—in any organization, once you are newly constituted, you must know where you came from and the extent of success—you just indicated that the strategic plan of this Sport Company was modeled under the Australian model; however, recommendations were not implemented with regard to systems and procedures. You are reviewing the old policy and you indicated that several of them you simply did not and so you have to come up with a new policy.

My question is, in reviewing the old policy, to determine the extent of success so that you will know what you have to do in your new policy, since 2004—2010 what happened in the interim? From 2004 to 2010:

- (1) your recommendations were not implemented;
- (2) your projects were not done; and
- (3) you are now saying that you are coming up with a new policy. What measure of accountability—I know this is a newly constituted board; I know that many challenges will come out of this particular Committee's work and I see you have a legal officer and all of that. There are a number of areas that clearly would have discrepancies. I think it is the purpose of this Committee to determine, not only where you are moving to in the next five years or so, but the measure of accountability from 2004 to present; at least from the time you started.

My last question: You indicated that your elite programme from the last dispensation will be continued—and you have continued; I have absolutely no problem with that—but with reference to the percentage of your allocations, what is for the elite programme and what amounts, in terms of funding, go to the non-elite? When I say non-elite, I mean the general, struggling young athletes who need a lot of support and who may not be the elite presently. What percentage of your funding goes to the non-elite programmes, with specific reference to your rural communities, in the development, as you indicated, of infrastructure, because there is a difference in the requirements for rural sporting activities and facilities? The land space and land use will be different and the type of facilities that you put down.

You indicated that you would like to build critical mass and capacity. In order to do that, the elite programme, while it is a good initiative, will not build your capacity neither give you the critical mass you require. You must have a large percentage focused on rural communities, rural development and the overall development of the sporting industry in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Creed: Remember I indicated that the executors of sport really are the national sporting organizations. The Ministry and the Sport Company are there to facilitate the development of these organizations and we are now pushing them into the area of doing community outreach, spreading their sports, and we are applying the funding in accordance with that.

With respect to the elite athletes' programme, the fixed amount that was approved by the Cabinet then, they gave us the \$5 million. That is the total ceiling. Athletes can get up to 250,000 a year. The money is given out in tranches. You get a first tranche based on reports and performances from the previous year and a second tranche is only given based on current year.

The Ministry has always been, and I think the Sports Company itself, involved even in community programmes. The Ministry has several community programmes: its national sports festival, its district sports festival, that it engages in every year. I am sure that the Sport Company recognizes the importance of sport infrastructure for those rural communities and I know that the programme of activities for the next financial year would include a lot of work in those rural areas. As a matter of fact, there are more details they can provide for us in terms of some of the infrastructure work they will be doing over the next two or three years that will satisfy the suburban and rural areas.

Mrs. Oudit: Could I ask a supplemental question because I know that you have gone to the last two questions I asked and not the first two. In response to your statement a while ago, if the Sport Company has in the past and will continue to focus on rural communities, I have no information in here where all your major projects are—Mucurapo, Tacarigua, Mount Hope, Couva—is the information simply not given in this?

Mr. Creed: I am sure they have walked with the information and they can give you the details.

Mr. Chairman: You might have other information now, could we request that you send it for us a little later on. It might be lengthy.

Mr. Ashby: Yes, it would.

Mrs. Oudit: I suggest, because I asked several questions, that I give it writing. It would allow you to look at the questions and submit your responses.

Mr. De Couteau: While I am a Member of this Committee and a Member of Parliament for Moruga/Tableland and my interest should really be with the grounds in my area like Marac, the area from which our West Indian female captain comes, Marissa Aguilera; Penal Rock, Grand Chemin, St. Mary's, Warwell, Cunjal and all the other grounds in Moruga, Tableland, I would like to ask something about Princes Town, Yolande Pompey Ground, where I served as local government representative for seven years. For 17 years, Yolande Pompey Ground, formerly called Transport, was supposed to be some regional complex, with your lawn tennis courts, swimming pool and then it was scaled down. There was a large sign indicating that something good would happen. Could the representative here shed some light and bring some music to the ears of the sportsmen in Princes Town as to whether Yolande Pompey would be a reality? What level, we do not know.

I ask because the PS said that most likely you all would have that information. I would like to get that music to my ears as well as to—well, not to all the constituencies—but if you can be specific as to what is in the bag for Moruga/Tableland, Marac, Grand Chemin, Penal Rock, Warwell, Renown, Cunjal, Strivers, Robin Singh, St. Mary's Recreation Grounds; any of the grounds identified there. Are they in the scheme of things? I would be happy to hear that.

11.20 p.m.

Mr. Neil Chapman: To the Chairman, Member from Moruga, what I can tell you with respect to the Yolande Pompey, which I have some information on here, is that we are proposing to resume works at Yolande Pompey between now and at the end of the fiscal year which is the phase one works. Phase two would complete the grounds, in terms of the stands and the major part of the infrastructure, but right now we will be doing the outfield, the restoration of the pitches and the jogging track.

The reason why these things were not done in the months before is because of the reduction in staff for the sports company and we did not have engineers, and so, to go out and deal with that. We are now putting things in place to do that and actually I am pleased to tell you that that is on the cards right now. We have costings and everything, so you will see some activity there very soon.

Mr. De Coteau: So would there be an A or a B, would the field will be a football field? What are some of the plans—or just a ground with a pavilion.

Mr. Neil Chapman: No. At this time point in time we have a cricket pitch, football field, jogging track, fenced, and so on. In the second phase is where we are going to have the pavilion with the lights and the toilets, among other things. Still, there is going to be communication, again, with the residents in the area to ensure that we meet the requirements.

Mr. Chairman: Miss Hospedales?

Miss Hospedales: Thanks Mr. Chairman. My question to the members of the Sports Company is with respect to the under-17 World Cup that was held by the Ministry and/or Sport Company. Can you tell us the amounts disbursed for each stadium to bring each facility up to the required standard for the tournament? Specifically identify all sums paid by contractors for the rental of all equipment including generators, container offices, et cetera.

Mr. Chairman, I would probably have to supply the question, but I am asking still. Specifically identify all sums paid for the installation of IT infrastructure and the names of the contractors. D, specifically identify, by contractor, the amount spent on regrassing of each stadium. Specifically identify all sums disbursed on repairs to the lights at each facility, the names of the contractors and the brief description of the works. Specifically provide total amounts paid on security, the name of the firms providing the security services. Provide details of the amount spent on the hotel accommodation, meals, transportation. Specifically identify the amount spent on refreshments, entertainment for guests of the Ministry. The total amount spent by the Ministry and/or Sport Company to host this tournament inclusive of all sums specifically identified above. We would also like you all to state the benefit provided to this country for the hosting of the tournament and—well the prospective that such sums spent could have been better invested in the development of women's football.

Mrs. Oudit: Mr. Chairman, could I suggest before you answer that? That is a question for the Order Paper. That is a parliamentary Order Paper question, and that should be filed as a question on the Order Paper because that is a very, very detailed question.

Mr. Chairman: Okay, it is a detailed question and what we will do is address it after and we will get a listing from Miss Hospedales and we will then determine how we would communicate with the company in order to address that issue.

To follow up on something that Mrs. Oudit raised with respect to question four—and I do not think you touched upon. I have noticed that all of the projects, it says “status: reevaluation of bids completed.” Why was it necessary to reevaluate all the bids which apparently already had preferred contractors identified? That is the impression one gets. That there were contractors who were identified as preferred contractors, but you have since, in every case, reevaluated all the bids and now have either the same or different preferred contractors. Are these the same contractors as would have been identified

before or are they new contactors? What process was really used in the cases of new contractors for identifying these contracts? Could you shed some light on that please?

Mr. Paddington: Good morning, I am Mr. Sebastian Paddington. The board made a determination to ensure transparency and accountability with the procurement process both in the pre-tender, tender, award of contract, as well as project management phases to ensure that we, as a board, could certify the previous processes that was utilized.

To go through in detail and given the four levels of major projects which we were undertaking—when I mean four levels, I am talking about the nation centers, the regional centers which is 16 listed by Cabinet note. The local recreational grounds and the fourth level will be the upgrades of the existing stayed in facilities which we own. They are all at various stages of development. Like I said, some in pre-tender, some in tender, some in award of contract and what not.

We felt it necessary that, before we move forward and given the document control and data that we had at our disposal when the board was convened, that we gather experts in the appropriate field whether it be project management, whatever—marine experts—are necessary to review data that we had at hand, documents we had at hand, review awards that were given before we can give our stamp of approval to the process that was taken. We only completed—we have received reports for all four levels but we are still in the process of reviewing regional centers, the local recreational grounds and the stadiums upgrade. The national centers are the most advanced and that is why we are moving forward now with the negotiation with the preferred design builder of the nation centers.

Mr. Chairman: As a follow up, you said you were interested in transparency, and so on. Are you satisfied with what you found? And- could you indicate whether you had to make modifications in terms of, perhaps, disqualifying a preferred contractor and you now have a new contractor. In a nutshell, what were the findings of your investigations?

Mr. Paddington: Like I said the one report which we have gone through in detail was for the national centers the aquatic, the cycling, the tennis and three—we call them National Youth Facilities. Our findings were that the procurement procedure was generally along the line of transparency and accountability. And that had allowed us to continue the process towards the final round of interviews and negotiations, and so forth. So we were able to continue from where the previous administration left off on those projects.

The other three levels, we are in the process of reviewing reports submitted by the consultants and we hope to have some findings shortly. So that the board can be informed and make decisions accordingly.

Mr. Chairman: Okay, thank you. Dr. Henry?

Dr. Henry: I would like to ask something. I hope may be quick, but insightful, in terms of the sports company's rental policy facilities, and so on. Do you have one, and could you enlighten us as to what is the process or procedures involved? Especially in light of some of the big shows, and so on, that generated millions of dollars in revenue. What are we getting out of it? Secondly, I understand that the company is undergoing a somewhat of a restructuring in the HR area, and this is, more or less, hampering a lot of things getting done. So, is it a fair assessment to say that a lot of your work is being hindered by

this or nothing is actually happening? Could you enlighten us on that?

Mr. Ashby: With regards to your first question, as Mr. Paddington indicated, the rental policies is one of the areas that the consultants have reviewed and have given us a report on. Because what was in existence did not make the requirements that the board felt that was needed with the level of investment in stadium and other infrastructure that the people of Trinidad and Tobago had many in these facilities. So that is one of the areas of the reports that we have gotten that we were reviewing as we speak. In terms of the restructuring exercise, yes we have had some hiccups and some impediments with regards to moving forward, but we at the same time in terms of parallel tracks we are trying to get down as much as possible internally as well as by via outsourcing through consultants. We have one management consultant with us right now that is assisting us with our restructuring process. So, yes we have had some challenges, we have had some bumps, but will have to move forward and we are trying the best, under the circumstances.

Dr. Henry: Does your office have any HR consultants?

Mr. Ashby: D Edge Management Consultants. D-Edge.

Mr. Creed: Mr. Chairman, could I just add something to what Mr. Ashby is saying? I want to make the point in particularly for Mrs. Oudit. The company was never structured properly, never structured properly. We expected that the first board would have implemented the recommendations of the Yorke's training commission. As a matter of fact, the structure still remains relevant with some minor adjustments because the mandate has changed.

When the company was set up, it was set up to look at national sporting organization and sporting programmes. The company was subsequently given the mandate of overseeing the sport infrastructure construction.

So that, what is happening now with the company, is that the company is now setting up itself properly. For example, there was no business development unit of the company. That is important for sport marketing, and these things. There was no HR set up in the company. So your corporate services like your HR, finance, IT, communication; that is now being set up properly. Under the facility side, we are now setting up properly to deal with facility management and to provide the staff in there to deal with projects and engineering and so on. The whole question of sport development is now being set up properly. How do you develop sport? There is a sport development unit now that is being headed by an executive manager and they are now treating with that. What was the other area, or high performance; they never set up the high performance unit. That is now being set up. Just want to make that point.

Mr. Chairman: Miss Hospedales?

Miss Hospedales: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I just want to go back to one question that I asked earlier with respect to the total cost to host the under-17 World Cup Tournament. Could you all tell us what was the overall cost? And could you also tell us what was the benefit to the country. I would really like to here.

Mr. Ashby: That information is not in hand at this point in time but I will provide it for you. Just to clarify, we could only provide on infrastructural works that sport was mandated to perform. That is the only piece that we. If any other cost, it would have to be provided by the Ministry. But we were

given a specific mandate with regards to the under-17 tournament.

Mr. Creed: Even to correct that, the only responsibility of the Ministry and the Sport Company was to deal with improvement of the infrastructure. Operational issues were dealt with by the Trinidad and Tobago football federation.

Mr. Chairman: Mrs. Oudit?

Mrs. Oudit: I wanted to go back to your last thing. Mr. Creed I am very impressed by your responses, especially at the very beginning when you indicated that what you request of the NSO now, include their strategic plan, their pathway model, their counting documents and their constitutions. To me, that is how this Sport Company should have been doing its business in the past. Coming from an organizational prospective, from what I am hearing, you all seem to have a strategic direction because you now understand or you wish to implement the vision or the original mission of Sport Company. Again, I said Sport Company's mandate is an implementing arm. It was not merely for construction or repairs as the case maybe. So somewhere along the line, what is coming out to me is that the mission of Sport Company was put aside and the actives and operations of Sport Company were channeled into other areas which meant that at the end of the day, if anyone was to ask if the Sport Company was a success based on its mission, the answer would have been no. However, it might have been very successful in some projects. I am very optimistic that if this is the direction that the Sport Company is heading now and this is the manner that you are charting a strategic direction, it sounds very good and I wish you all the best with it.

11.35 a.m.

Mr. Creed: To access funding now, from the Sport Company and the Ministry, these NSOs must now sign what we call "service level agreements" that tie them in to performance targets. They must sign service level agreements based on deliverables and based on targets.

Mr. Chairman: Dr. Wheeler?

Dr. Wheeler: Yes, I just want to ask Dr. Gopeesingh, you said that the high performances unit is now being set up and under that is mentioned sports medicine, has any work been done along recruiting staff, setting up any facilities yet, and how far have you reached with that?

Mr. Creed: With respect to staffing, we are fortunate in that based on some forward planning, we have some returning scholars who are qualified in the areas of Sport Sciences at the PhD level and at the Masters level that we would absorb into that unit. Based on sports medicine and Dr. Gopeesingh can take over from here, because he is qualified in sport medicine. Sports Medicine really is those clinical services that you provide to the athlete in the development of the pathway model; how you support the athlete in terms of his biomechanics, in terms of his physiology, injury prevention, as he moves along the pathway to the elite level. It is the intention of the Sport Company to provide those services to national athletes and to national teams. Those services will be provided at our national facilities and our facility is now in the upgrade, would be set up to execute that mandate. Dr. Gopeesingh, I do not know if you want to add anything?

Dr. Gopeesingh: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Joint Select Committee. Our talent pool in Trinidad is actually quite small, so every time we lose an athlete to injury or an athlete gets

injured and it is not treated, they actually lose significant percentage of their performance. And if we lose one per cent of our athlete population, we are significantly challenging our abilities to perform at a competitive level in contrast to much larger countries that have significant larger numbers of base players, essentially.

Over the last many years, athletes have been cared for but in a very unsystematic way; in a very ad hoc way, and one of the challenges that we face is to try and create a central environment where athletes can get high quality care, where we can introduce prevention strategies so they do not get injured in the first place and, of course, we can entertain all the performance enhancement qualities that would improve performance, that would really take an athlete from a developmental stage to a really high elite stage. And we are very fortunate in Trinidad to have quite a number of young, well educated, very passionate people in sports and exercise medicine, in rehabilitation, in exercise science, who have over the last many years given their services voluntarily on national duty taking care of athletes and we are really, really blessed to have these passionate people in Trinidad. We just need to create a system that will allow them to function and do their work.

Mr. Chairman: Dr. Wheeler?

Dr. Wheeler: Just one follow-up. How are these services being offered in Tobago? How do you plan to offer it in Tobago?

Dr. Gopeesingh: Definitely, in fact, two of our members who work in our national teams are from Tobago and certainly Tobago has to have an important part because Tobago's development in athletes are quite—high elite athletes come from Tobago, so certainly, Tobago is a big part of it. As well as, keeping with rural areas, Toco, those areas produce a lot of track and field to our elite athletes; South Trinidad, very deep, so we cannot, you know set up a central area but we must have facilities to get out to our athletes and help as much as we can.

Mr. Creed: What we discovered based on the Australians evaluation and then we had a subsequent evaluation done by a consultant of the sport system that used the Australian's report as baseline data, is that we had realized that the athletes are not developing in the right way. What they are doing is putting the skill before development when it is the other way around, skill must follow development. In order words, you must have the competency to deliver the skill. We have the skills, but not the competency to deliver the skill. So, two years ago, we started to treat with that issue, we brought in a consultant that did an awareness programme described as building recomplete athlete.

Since that, we have done physical competency assessments of all our national athletes. We have done three sports specific workshops for four disciplines, rugby, soccer, netball and volleyball; as we speak we are doing cricket to be followed by a competency assessment of our national cricket team, both the men and women team, and this is all geared towards the competency for development. You see, again, we put the skill before the competency but we do not have the competency to execute the skill. What it relates to really is strength preparation; we are not doing it the right way.

The other piece of that also, is that, when we did the evaluation we realized that there was also the question of mental preparation. Again, the Ministry took the lead and we have a three-year programme that is being completed this year on the whole question of mental preparation/sport

psychology. So we have been doing things, right, to enhance our sport programming.

Mrs. Oudit: Could I just ask a question?

Mr. Creed: Yes.

Mrs. Oudit: Could you call back the sport that you started with, you said soccer?

Mr. Creed: All right, we did a sport specific workshop for soccer and this is not coaching, this is strength training as it relates to the specific discipline.

Mrs. Oudit: Soccer as in football?

Mr. Creed: Soccer as in football—netball, volleyball and rugby that is rugby sevens. And we have completed cricket this week, but the cricket is following a much more comprehensive programme in that we have completed the sport specific workshop. We are now going into the competency assessment of all the national cricketers, so that, the full national woman team, full national men team, they will see their results, the results is based on a scale of one to five and then there would be recommendations for improvement for each individual athlete to be followed by a six-week foundation programme, to be followed by a six week development high performance programme that will take the national team into the TT20 competition in India in September.

Mr. Chairman: I just wanted to follow up on the exchange between Dr. Wheeler and Dr. Gopeesingh, with respect to a bit more on Tobago and I am raising this because we do have a submission to the Committee from, a query from someone in Tobago, Mr. Renson Wright, who is lamenting the fact that one, he was an athlete and felt that during his time, he did not really receive this sort of support and now that he has kids and so on, where there is some potential, that he does not feel that anything is happening in Tobago. How do you relate, how does the Sport Company relate or function in respect of the THA and facilities and so on in Tobago and some of the high-tech things that you are talking about which are located, perhaps here in Trinidad and how does Tobago then benefit from this so that we can enlighten this?

Mr. Creed: They have benefited from these programmes, but you know Tobago is a sensitive place in terms of going into Tobago, in that we must have discussions with the Tobago House of Assembly.

Mr. Chairman: Well this is why I ask you, what is the relationship with the THA and how does that work, I mean, what you have in mind?

Mr. Creed: Well, with respect to facilities, the Dwight York Stadium still remains under the ambit of the Ministry that is controlled by the Ministry. Any other facility in Tobago, again, would have to come from the you know, from the THA, but in terms of sport programming, I mean they have their own sport unit set up at the THA you know, and they run their programme. But any national programme they benefit from.

Mr. Chairman: Well, for instance here, he is saying that the Mundo track was supposed to be repaired in 2009, and that this hindered a number of plans.

Mr. Creed: My information is that that is carded for I think for 2011 or 2012.

Mr. Chairman: 2011/2012?

Mr. Creed: Yes, 2012.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, Ms. Hospedales.

Ms. Hospedales: Through you, Mr. Chair, earlier Acting Permanent Secretary, Mr. Creed, he made reference to several programmes that are being implemented under sport, stating that many of these programmes started approximately two years ago. Could you tell us exactly when was the Grant Funding Policy established and when was it approved by Cabinet?

Mr. Creed: The Grand Funding Policy was approved by Cabinet, I believe in 2009.

Ms. Hospedales: And I have another question I want to ask. Could you tell us whether or not you all are following the pathways model?

Mr. Creed: Well, it is not the Ministry, it is the National Sporting Organizations that are expected to follow the pathways model. We have given them until the next budget to bring that information to us in terms of their development programme. We gave them a grace period to organize themselves.

Ms. Hospedales: So you said that the NSO's are the ones are implementing the—

Mr. Creed: They are the executing ambit.

Ms. Hospedales: The executing ambit. Could you tell us exactly what is the Sport Company or the Ministry actually doing with respect to ensuring that, if you are following the pathways model that it is actually executed in the correct way?

Mr. Ashby: As acting PS stated, we have implemented what was called a "Service Level Agreement" with the NSOs and they are supposed to provide us with their strategic plan, operational plans and performance metrics, so it is basically, we because of a lot of reasons, one important one is that a lot of these NSOs have international bodies that have rules and regulations, so a lot of the them, for instance, even football, it is very ticklish to try to mandate or instruct these national sporting organizations because we might end up in situations where they say, there is being governmental interference and they pull back from the country.

So our carrot, so to speak is funding, but the funding has to be in a particular context and that context is development of the sport. So we have been trying to work with them because the reality is, a number of the NSOs, their membership, members are voluntaries who have the best interest of the sport at hand but in terms of the modern tools to really run the NSO, we have to assist them to get to that level to compete with their counterparts in other countries. So what the Sport Company endeavours to do is to help them with reconstituting themselves, establishing proper governance procedures, helping them with administrative support, whether financial or otherwise, but the execution, the catalyst for change, is the NSO.

Ms. Hospedales: Just for clarity, I would like to know exactly when was the pathways model or concept actually established?

Mr. Creed: I think that pathway model was based on the sport plan that was approved I think in 2010, early 2010, I think.

Ms. Hospedales: So, I would like to say, Sir, for the record, that I am happy to see you all are

still implementing our policies.

Mr. Chairman: Dr. Douglas?

Dr. Douglas: If you can give me the answers now it will be helpful but you could submit it in writing later on I presume. I am interested in what is the overall budget of the Sport Company and allocation, how does either general or specific of how this budget is allocated? I am also interested in what is the relationship between what or how, or how has it been the relationship between the Sport Company and the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, and what are some of the challenges in implementing the model as you see it right now or the philosophy that you have proposed?

Mr. Ashby: Dr. Douglas, I thank you for that question and it dovetails on Dr. Henry's question with regard to human resources. To give you an idea, we were allocated a little over a \$100,000,000 for fiscal 2011. We are in May and between March and April of this year, that \$100,000,000 allocation was reduced by \$40.2 million. So we have a mandate—40.2 million dollars, so 40 per cent roughly of what we were supposed to, in terms of finances, to support our activities has been removed from us—well redirected. So we still have the same demands that are increasing with severely limited financial resources. So there is a challenge and it impacts on the human resource aspect that Dr. Henry mentioned earlier.

The relationship between Sport Company and the Ministry, we are trying to put the formal interface in place because as PS, Mr. Creed stated, for the last few years it has been kind of ad hoc because with the structures and systems were not put in place.

11.50 a.m.

One of the things we are trying to do is to put those things in place so that we can clearly know what our roles and responsibilities are and, can be held accountable for those roles and responsibilities moving forward. It is a tall order, but it has to be done because of the expectations by the population on sports and the Ministry with regard to sport. We all know the nature of sport worldwide and in Trinidad and Tobago, and the impact that they can have on a country and sometimes the discrimination nature of the population when it comes to sport.

Mr. Creed: Just to add to what Mr. Ashby is saying, the relationship in a nutshell, is symbiotic, is good. It is a good relationship now. Mr. Chairman, I want to make a recommendation. I have attended this meeting several times with the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs and previously under the local government, there are a number of things that we can inform the committee, but the logistic does not allow us to do it. It is possible then, for example, to do a presentation to this committee in a committee room to get a better understanding of where we are going. I do not know if it was ever done before. It is just a suggestion I am throwing out.

Mr. Chairman: This is something we will take into consideration and get back to you on it. Dr. Douglas, you wanted to ask a question?

Dr. Douglas: Through you, Mr. Chairman, I would like to see the budget with its subsequent allocations in a written form if that is possible—if we could make a request for that?

Mr. Chairman: That should be submitted.

Mrs. Oudit: I have one question. I see here that the committee did meet with the officials in the 9th Parliament on July 07, 2009, November 18, 2009, December 02, 2009 and March 09, 2010. The indication is that no report was submitted to Parliament. Is there any particular reason that you would know.

Mr. Creed: Is that the annual report or reports on the—

Mrs. Oudit: Your reports.

Mr. Creed: Annual reports.

Mrs. Oudit: Yes.

Mr. Creed: I think all the Ministry reports have been submitted.

Mr. Chairman: Anyone else? One other question that we had from Tobago has to do with something called the "National Youth Month", is that something under the Sport Company or under the Ministry?

Mr. Creed: That is under Ministry and that is—

Mr. Chairman: It is under the Ministry?

Mr. Creed: That is under the Ministry and that is on the Youth Division side of the Ministry.

Mr. Chairman: All right. Because it was felt that the activity does not really cover Tobago. That was the impression that was indicated here. Any other questions? Miss Hospedales?

Miss Hospedales: I would like to ask: what is currently being done to advance women soccer; how much money is being invested; and if you all have any active programmes that are currently being done to support the development of women soccer?

Mr. Creed: The Ministry has its annual women and girls in sport that we try to reach out to young women. Football is part of that programme, however, again, the development aspect of even women soccer falls right back squarely in the Federation.

Mrs. Oudit: Mr. Chairman, could I just clarify my previous question that Dr. Wheeler pointed out to me. The reports that were not submitted to Parliament were not from Sport Company, but in fact were from the previous Joint Select Committee. Those reports were never submitted to Parliament, but your Sport Company officials did meet with the previous Joint Select Committee. This comes out of what you just said, that you have been here before and you have given information in the past, but what I am indicating now is that in the statement from our committee is that there has been no reports submitted, 2009 or up until the 3rd—

Mr. Creed: Is that coming from the Ministry of Sport Company?

Mrs. Oudit: There is no Joint Select Committee report that came to Parliament despite several meetings that officials from sport companies had with a similar committee like this one in the past.

Mr. Creed: Okay, I am clear.

Mrs. Oudit: You see, my question mistakenly said a while ago that it was administrative reports there, but it is not. It has to do with the Joint Select Committee report.

Mr. Chairman: Okay. Thanks.

Dr. Douglas: Two questions. One is that I have received requests from a lot of young people

who have gone abroad to study on sports scholarship and, for whatever reason they end up in a predicament or the school cut their scholarship or whatever. I know one young lady who was on the national football team, went abroad to study and through whatever takes place—I have studied abroad for a long time so I know of the different machination that could happen over there. They are appealing to me for some kind of funding to finish. Does that fall under your Olympic Sports or some—the criteria that you were given for supporting athletes? My second question is: in addition to what I have requested before, I think the same request that you are making of the MSCOs, I do not know if something like that was submitted to the developmental plan and audited financial statement? Mr. Chairman, I do not know if we received anything like that, but to the extent that they request that of other organization, I think it will be prudent for us to request that of the Sport Company.

Mr. Chairman: What report are you referring to?

Dr. Douglas: On page 7, I see we have criteria established by sport for accessing funds, 1,2, 3, 4. I think those would be nice for us to have too, of the Sport Company it is available.

Mr. Creed: Definitely with the first question, the answer to that is, no, because you are talking about athletes who goes on those athletic scholarships in the United States. The Ministry funding really is for physical preparation and we really do not treat with academia.

Dr. Douglas: The primary reason for being there is because of sport. So we do not have any facility within the Sport Company or the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs to support athletes studying abroad?

Mr. Creed: No.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any issues, you think, that you would like to bring to our attention that were not raised? This report as you are aware would be submitted to Parliament and it is an opportunity that you might wish to highlight on.

Mr. Creed: Mr. Chairman, in response to Mrs. Oudit, we recognized the importance of community aspect of sport. It is not just high performance that relates to sport, but the fact that we have to focus on participation, encouraging people to get involved in physical activity and, generally community typed initiatives. As a matter of fact, we are preparing a programme which we will describe as a life sport programme. It is a community programme. It is in the preparation stage and this is something we would like to present to the committee, which treats with at risk youth in communities, but sport related

Mr. Chairman: Okay. I would like to thank the team for attending and responding to the questions. As indicated, we have a number of issues that we will follow up on. So what we shall do is send you a written request through the Secretariat and, we will appreciate it very much if you can respond as quickly as possible so that we can proceed with the finalization of the report. It has been indicated that so far no reports have been submitted with respect to the Sport Company, so we certainly would like to correct that. We look forward to getting your response as quickly as possible.

Mr. Creed: Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank you on behalf of our team at Sport Company and the Ministry, and we certainly would follow up on request of the Members in the due course.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you very much.

Mr. Creed: Mr. Chairman, we have an extensive programme going on right now to deal with anti-doping. We forgot to deal with it, but probably on the next occasion we will submit the information to you.

Mr. Chairman: Okay.

Mr. Creed: It is before the LRC right now.

Mr. Chairman: At our next correspondence, we will raise it. All right. Thank you.

[11.59 a.m.: *Officials of Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago left the Chamber*]

12.04 p.m.: *Meeting adjourned.*