

**Ministerial Response**  
**to the**  
**Tenth Report of the Joint Select Committee established to inquire**  
**into and report to Parliament on Municipal Corporations and**  
**Service Commissions**  
**(with the exception of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission)**  
**on the**  
**Administration of the Port of Spain City Corporation**



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
**Ministry of Local Government**

06<sup>th</sup> February, 2014

**Ms. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel**  
Clerk of the House  
Parliament  
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
Levels G-7, Tower D  
International Waterfront Centre  
1 A Wrightson Road  
**Port of Spain**

Dear Ms. Sampson-Meiguel

**Tenth Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to inquire into and report to Parliament on Municipal Corporations and Service Commissions on the Administration of the Port of Spain City Corporation**

My letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 refers.

The final response by the Ministry of Local Government Re: Tenth Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to inquire into and report to Parliament on Municipal Corporations and Service Commissions on the Administration of the Port of Spain City Corporation is as follows:-

1. The Honourable Minister agrees in principle with the recommendations.
2. The Ministry has undertaken to procure a Human Resource Consultant to determine Relevant Organizational Structures for each Municipal Corporation. The Ministry of Local Government is at present evaluating the Tenders received and a decision would be made shortly.
3. **Human resources**  
The Human Resource Unit is presently being pursued with Ministry of Public Administration. The Ministry along with the Corporation would ensure the revised Human Resource Organizational Structure would include Industrial Relations Officers.

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**OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY**

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...Embracing All



**4. Overtime**

Draft Proposal for the Implementation of the recommended shift system is completed. The proposals are to be discussed with the appropriate bargaining units with a view to arriving at a new Collective agreement. The Corporation has in their possession documentation for implementation of the shift system. An important benefit to the Corporation of the intended shift system is expected reduction in expenditure on overtime. In this regard, effective March/April 2014 short term employment contracts over a three month period will be initiated specifically for weekends and public holidays. This would eliminate the need for certain employees to work beyond their normal schedules. The proposal will be placed on the table for discussion of the new Collective Agreement.

**5. Public Health**

The Ministry of Local Government has offered 50 scholarships to employees in an Associate Degree in Environmental Studies at the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT) which would qualify them to be Public Health Inspectors. Also in finalizing the Organizational Structure of Corporations, the Public Health Inspectors would be incorporated.

**6. Municipal Police**

At present a Cabinet Note is being prepared on Recruitment on a Contract Basis for a Assistant Commissioner of Police. Also, Cabinet has agreed to a Special Tax Free Allowance of \$1000.00 for Municipal Police Officers. The Administrative arrangements for harmonization of the compensation package of Municipal Police Officers will be dealt with in the transformation exercise and the Assistant Commissioner would oversight this process. The Permanent Secretary has also written to the Commissioner of Police for a meeting on the matters raised.

**7. Vacant Lots**

The Corporation never discontinued maintaining its record of vacant lands in the city of Port-of-Spain.

With respect to the issue of keeping updated assessment records, in light of the removal of the responsibility of the collection of rates and taxes from the purview of the Corporation to the Ministry of Finance and Planning, the Corporation has returned to updating its assessment records.

**8. Submission of Reports to Parliament**

The Ministry will ensure the Corporation fulfils their obligation to ensure full compliance with the Law. The Ministry will assign one of its Legal Officers to liaise with the Corporation to ensure compliance with the Law.

**9. Rodent Infestation**

Implementation of the first recommendation is underway. Public awareness in respect of public health issues including the above is an on-going activity of the Health Education Department. To this end the Corporation has been engaging in lectures and distribution of pamphlets on Public Health Education. Further, Public Health Inspectors, Litter Prevention Wardens and Vector Control personnel are involved engage in one-to-one exchanges with home owners and/or occupiers.

**10. St. James Market**

The project has experienced serious delay. The vendors select for displacement to the St. James Market were vendors on the Western Main Road. These vendors have expressed little or no interest in relocating to the St. James Market.

In any event relocation of the vendors from the Western Main Road to the St. James Market would have incurred significant un-budgeted costs to the Corporation in overtime payments to Market Clerks, Police Officers and daily rated cleaners.

**11. Insufficient Vehicles**

The Minister would put a team to do an inventory and a needs requirements by April 2014.

**12. Disaster Management**

The Ministry signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) re: Urban Model of Risk Reduction Management Centre. This pilot would be implemented in Mayaro/Rio Claro Regional Corporation and then would be rolled out to other Corporations.

**13. Coordination of Implementation**

A Deputy Permanent Secretary would be assigned to ensure oversight of the above strategies are timely and effective.

*Amroodeen Ali*  
*Permanent Secretary (Ag.)*