

**Response
to the
Sixth 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
Re-evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of
the Statutory Authorities' Service Commission**



Statutory Authorities Service Commission Department

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REF: SASC: 1/3/5 Vol. II

26th March, 2014

Ms. Jacqui Sampson Meiguel
Clerk of the House
Office of the Parliament
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Level G-7
Tower D
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
IA Wrightson Road
Port of Spain

Dear Madam

Outstanding Responses to Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to inquire into and report to Parliament on Municipal Corporations and Service Commissions

- **6th Report – Re-evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of Statutory Authorities Service Commission**

I wish to refer to your letter of 20th March, 2014 on the subject at caption and forward the under-mentioned responses to your proposals/recommendations:

- i. **Vacancies/Promotions/Appointments: Urgent stakeholder consultation is needed to find ways to deal with the Authorities that continue to function with public officers and non-public officers.**

The Statutory Authorities Service Commission noted the recommendation of the Joint Select Committee and initiated action by scheduling meetings with the various Authorities with respect to their tardiness in submitting recommendations for the filling of vacancies, appointing and promoting staff.

The Commission also highlighted the importance of timely submission of Performance Appraisal Reports to this process.

- ii. **Regulations: The SASC Act Chapter 24:01 should be amended to give increased powers to the Statutory Authorities Service Commission to seek redress with respect to Authorities and/or officers who do not adhere to the instructions of the Statutory Authorities Service Commission.**

This is a matter of policy and outside the remit of the Statutory Authorities Service Commission. The Commission has been holding consultations with key stakeholders to address the concerns expressed.

- iii. **Constraints: A new building to be located by December 2013 to allow Statutory Authorities Service Commission to overcome the constraints presently experienced.**

The Joint Select Committee may wish to note that the Statutory Authorities Service Commission had acquired a building at No. 109 Abercromby Street, Port of Spain. However, because of the bureaucratic process, the building was rented to another entity. The Statutory Authorities Service Commission in its search has since acquired Goodwood Building, Henry Street, Port of Spain and is now awaiting approval from the Property and Real Estate Services Division.

- iv. **Responsibility for Decision-making: Each Authority under the Statutory Authorities Service Commission's purview should be properly informed about each other's roles and functions and the parameters of each authority and for undertaking tasks.**

The Commission through its visits and meetings with the Management at the Authorities has been informing them about their roles and functions in relation to the regulations of the Statutory Authorities Service Commission. This activity is on-going.

- v. **Chairman's Authority: The Chairman of the Statutory Authorities Service Commission, just like those of all other Service Commissions, should be given authority for delegation of functions.**

This is a matter for consideration by Cabinet regarding Government's policy and vision for the Statutory Authorities Service Commission. The Commission is concerned about the possibility of political influence that can be a consequence of granting additional power to the Chairman.

The above information is submitted for your consideration.

Yours respectfully
STATUTORY AUTHORITIES SERVICE COMMISSION

Ms Charleen Phillip
Executive Officer (ag)