

MINUTES OF THE FIRST [1ST] STATUTORY MEETING OF THE PENAL /DEBE REGIONAL CORPORATION (2016-2019 TERM) HELD ON DECEMBER 20TH, 2016 AT THE CORPORATION'S HALL #218A S.S. ERIN ROAD, PENAL

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT:

Alderman Allen Sammy	Chairman of Council
Councillor Diptee Ramnath	Quinam/Morne Diablo [<i>Vice Chairman of Council</i>]
Councillor Roland Hall	Palmiste/Hermitage
Councillor Brian Julien	Bronte
Councillor Shanty Boodram	Penal
Councillor Sheldon Lal	La Fortune
Councillor Marsha Jaimungal-Khan	Union Hall/Esperance/Debe East
Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh	Barrackpore West
Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan	Rochard Road/Barrackpore East
Councillor Vijay Rampersad	Debe West
Alderman Brian Mohan	
Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh	
Alderman Purushottam Singh	

MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Mr. Raymond Seepaul	Chief Executive Officer
Ms. Aura Martin-Sealy	Corporate Secretary
Mr. Nazim Ameerai	Engineering and Surveying Officer
Ms. Sheriffa Heru	Ag. Administrative Officer II
Mr. Steve Heru	County Superintendent
Ms. Pearl Gallai	Financial Officer
Mr. Ballyram Lalla	Inspector (Municipal Police)
Mr. Rajesh Duncan	Ag. Corporal (Municipal Police)
Ms. Cameela Samsundar	WPC (Municipal Police)
Mr. Andrew Dipchand	Accountant I
Ms. Tara Bridglal	Clerk IV
Mr. Rudy Loknath	Planning Officer
Mr. Zaffar Ali	Road Officer II
Mr. Ramesh Roopnarine	Road Officer I (Debe)
Mr. Victor Pustam	Public Health Officer
Ms. Denise Baboolal	Public Health Officer
Mrs. Yuclan Balwant	Public Health Officer
Mr. Hameed Hasmath	Disaster Management Field Officer
Ms. Neela Ragbir	Personnel and Industrial Relations Officer (Ag)
Mr. Vishnu Moonasar	Workshop Foreman
Mr. Ramdhan Goberdhan	Transport Foreman

Ms. Vashti Ramsumair	Chairman Secretary
Ms. Kumarie Ramroop	Clerk I
Ms. Melisa Siew	Clerk I

1. The meeting commenced at 9:25am with a prayer led by Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh.

2. **CHAIRMAN’S OPENING REMARKS:**

Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy welcomed all present to the First (01st) Statutory Meeting and wished everyone a Holy and enjoyable Christmas and also a fruitful and rewarding New Year 2017. He hoped to have a productive New Year in the absence of state resources. He added that there are Members of Council who are very experienced in various spheres of life and is sure that they would use their wisdom during 2017 and beyond. He informed that today’s meeting would be a long one and hoped that each Member of Council went through their documents. He added that after the Confirmation of Minutes, the Statutory Meeting would be adjourned and Council would go straight to Committee stage, where the Chairperson of each meeting would chair their relevant meeting from their seat. He stated that the recommendations coming out of each meeting would be recorded for the purpose of the Statutory Meeting when it continues. He further stated that he hoped that all Members of Council leave this Council Hall satisfied and must adhere to the collective decision.

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- a. Alderman Sammy informed that the Christmas Religious and Staff function which was carded for 23/12/16 has been bought forward to 21/12/16 at 10:00am. He stated that both he and Councillor Ramnath would be unable to attend as they had prior engagements.
- b. Chief Executive Officer Mr. Seepaul informed that Dr. Danielle Jene- Leben has asked to be excused.
- c. Councillor Hall informed that he attended a toy giving Christmas treat for children at Pond Street held by Party Group #16 on 18/12/16.
Councillor Lal stated that the party group was organised by Councillor Hall. He added that three hundred (300) children attended and it was a success.
- d. Councillor Boodram informed that she, together with Alderman Mohan and Alderman Singh joined with the residents of Penal and environs for a candle light vigil held at the Republic Bank Car Park on 16/12/16 at 5:00pm. This was a walk to highlight the crime situation of the country and the Penal/Debe region. She thanked the Municipal Police for being present at the event and also thanked all for attending.
- e. Councillor Julien informed that he attended a Christmas treat held at Kennedy Park on 18/12/16 at 2:00pm. He also informed that on 22/12/16 another Christmas treat would be held at the Golconda Recreation Ground at 3:00pm.
- f. Councillor Jaimungal-Khan informed that she attended a Christmas treat at Kennedy Park and also at Blues Highway Bar at Beckles Street North. She added that she would be distributing hampers in her Electoral District on 23/12/16.
- g. Councillor Ramnath informed that on the 21/12/16 the Political Leader of the United National Congress would be launching the toy drive in the Region commencing at Penal Rock Road.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

4. **RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** and seconded by **Councillor Shanty Boodram** that the Minutes of the Special Statutory Meeting held on December 16th, 2016 be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings thereof.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

[i] PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:

5. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the First (01st) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on December 20, 2016.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** and seconded by **Councillor Shanty Boodram** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-9 of the First (01st) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on December 20, 2016 be accepted.

6. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the First (01st) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on December 20, 2016.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** and seconded by **Councillor Shanty Boodram** that the Reports & Recommendations Nos. 1-9 of the First (01st) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on December 20, 2016 be adopted.

[ii] PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

7. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the First (01st) Public Health Committee Meeting held on December 20, 2016.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-15 of the First (01st) Public Health Committee Meeting held on December 20, 2016 be accepted.

8. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the First (01st) Public Health Committee Meeting held on December 20, 2016.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-15 of the First (01th) Public Health Committee Meeting held on December 20, 2016 be adopted.

[iii] PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

9. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the First (01st) Personnel Committee Meeting held on December 20, 2016.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal Khan** and seconded by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Reports and Recommendations

Nos. 1-3 of the First (01st) Personnel Committee Meeting held on December 20, 2016 be adopted.

10. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the First (01st) Personnel Committee Meeting held on December 20, 2016.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal-Khan** and seconded by **Councillor Kheywetti Chulan** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-3 of the First (01st) Personnel Committee Meeting held on December 20, 2016 be adopted.

[iv] FINANCE, PLANNING & ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE

11. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the First (01st) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on December 20, 2016.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** and seconded by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal-Khan** that the Reports and Recommendations, Nos. 1-4 of the Thirty-First (01st) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on December 20, 2016 be accepted.

12. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the First (01st) Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on December 20, 2016.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** and seconded by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal-Khan** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-4 of the First [01st] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on December 20, 2016 be adopted.

13. **CORRESPONDENCE**

a. Letter dated 12/12/16 of Ministry of Works and transport Drainage Division South of S.S Erin Road Penal. Re: Request for construction of a box drain to be completed at #462 Penal Rock Road Penal. (Verona Mc Kain 325-3827)

Noted, Copy to Councillor Ramnath.

b. Letter dated 16/12/16 from Ms. Rita Antoine of 34 Rahaman Avenue Bamboo Village La Romaine.Re: Urgent request for box drain at the side of her home.

Road Officer to investigate.

c. Letter dated 7/11/16 from San Fernando City Corporation of City Hall, Harris Promenade, San Fernando. Re: Heartfelt thanks to you for your hard work, dedication and time to render services towards the 'Help 4 Haiti Charity Drive'.

Noted

14. **MATTERS REFERRED: NIL**

15. **PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS: NIL**

16. **REPORTS AND REPLIES: NIL**

17. **PETITION: NIL**

18. **QUESTIONS:** NIL
19. **PERSONAL EXPLANATION:** NIL
20. **MOTION:** NIL

OTHER PUBLIC BUSINESS:

21. **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh:**

- a. Stated that today is the first (01st) Statutory Meeting and welcomed the newly elected Chairman and the two (2) new Councillors and Aldermen. She added that she has known Dr. Sammy for a number of years and can see that he would use his wealth of knowledge to add to the good will of the Penal/ Debe to make it the best.
- b. Asked for everyone to work in accordance with God, use wisdom and treat everyone with love and respect.
- c. Wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2017.

22. **Alderman Brian Mohan:**

- a. Informed that this is his first Statutory Meeting and he looks forward to working with everyone to make the region a better place. He wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

23. **Alderman Purushottam Singh:**

- a. Thanked all for giving him an opportunity to serve as an Alderman and stated that our duty is to better the Corporation and he looks forward to working with everyone.

24. **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh:**

- a. Thanked the people of the Penal/Debe Region and the Party for putting faith in her to serve as a Councillor and said she would do her best to serve the people. She added that she looks forward to working with everyone and wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

25. **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan:**

- a. Wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and she looks forward to working with all for the New Year.

26. **Councillor Sheldon Lal:**

- a. Wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

27. **Councillor Shanty Boodram:**

- a. Wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and wished that the crime will be reduced in the upcoming year. She added that the Prime Minister needs to solve the problem of crime in the country. She stated that the former Prime Minister was voted out of Parliament and some also wanted the same for the Local Election but it did not happen.
- b. Welcomed Dr. Allen Sammy and thanked the outgoing Chairman Mr. Sookoo for his dedication at P/DRC.

- c. Stated that some of our own people were not on the ground with us for the Local Elections to help us to keep PDRC as the flagship Corporation. She congratulated Councillor Lal for helping to bring this Corporation as a UNC Corporation today and stated that we are here to work together as a team. She added that she would try her best to serve the burgesses of the Penal area.
- d. Thanked all in Administration for all the assistance given and she looks forward to continue working with everyone.

28. **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal-Khan:**

- a. Congratulated Dr. Sammy for being elected as Chairman and Councillor Ramnath as Vice Chairman.
- b. Thanked the Political Leader of the UNC for giving her the opportunity to serve the people once again as a Councillor and wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017.

29. **Councillor Roland Hall:**

- a. Complimented all the Councillors who returned and the new Councillors and Aldermen present in Council.
- b. Stated that he is happy for the new Chairman and Vice Chairman of Council and is sure that one would see a different relationship between the Chairman and Vice Chairman.
- c. Thanked the former Chairman for a certain type of dedication. He added that he was not happy how he ended his last term in office. He added that one must realise that you are in a working environment and at the end of the day must say thanks to God for giving you the health and strength and be thankful for having a job. He added that you cannot be leaving an assignment and decide to criticise the people that put you there. He stated that one must start to plan for their retirement early. He further added that one must learn to enjoy the workplace and when you leave the work place you leave it.
- d. Stated that Members of Council and Members of Administration need to work together for the betterment of our country and the burgesses.
- e. Thanked the Political Leader of the UNC for giving him the opportunity to be back in office once again as the Councillor for Palmiste/Hermitage and stated that Palmiste /Hermitage is not an easy seat to bring home.
- f. Stated that he look forward to working with the new Chairman and wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

30. **Councillor Diptee Ramnath:**

- a. Congratulated the Chairman and all Members of Council elected for the 2016/2019 Term in office.
- b. Stated that our finances are maybe the smallest in Trinidad and he is looking at the problems we are encountering and wondering if the services that we are providing to our burgesses are satisfactory. He suggested that we look at ways to ease the burden of the burgesses.
- c. Suggested that we need to look at other Corporations that have vehicles like a compactor etc and look at the possibility of acquiring some of these used equipment, bring it up to standard and use it to provide quality service to the burgesses.

- d. Asked that we need to look into the collection of fees seriously as we are unable to receive anything tangible from this.
- e. Requested the Municipal Police to assist with the toy drive on 21/12/16 at 8M Penal Rock Road.
- f. Commended the Administrative Staff for the tremendous work they did in the absence of Council.
- g. Stated that P/DRC was able to increase their votes and when votes are increased that indicates that you are doing something right.
- h. Wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

31. **Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy:**

- a. Stated that we must recognise the former Chairman’s contribution for serving as a Councillor for 33 years and 8 months.
- b. In the absence of financial resources, he said that we have human resources which is the use of our brain power to develop our region.
- c. Informed that Councillor Chulan gave suggestions of planting plants on either side of the main road to beautify the area, as well as exciting the school’s children in an environmental campaign of art and cleaning the environment. He stated that we need to think of ideas to involve people through sport and culture.
- d. Stated that he looks forward to working with everyone in the New Year.

32. There being no further business the Chairman thanked all and closed the meeting at 12:25 pm.

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 Chairman
 Statutory Meeting