

MINUTES OF THE THIRD [3RD] STATUTORY MEETING OF THE PENAL /DEBE REGIONAL CORPORATION (2016-2019 TERM) HELD ON FEBRUARY 23, AT THE CORPORATION'S HALL #218A S.S. ERIN ROAD, PENAL

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT:

Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy	Chairman of Council
Councillor Diptee Ramnath	Quinam/Morne Diablo [<i>Vice Chairman of Council</i>]
Councillor Roland Hall	Palmiste/Hermitage
Councillor Sheldon Lal	La Fortune
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 COUNCIL EXCUSED:

Councillor Brian Julien	Bronte
Councillor Shanty Boodram	Penal
Councillor Marsha Jaimungal-Khan	Union Hall/Esperance/Debe East

MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Mr. Raymond Seepaul	Chief Executive Officer
Ms. Aura Martin-Sealy	Corporate Secretary
Ms. Danielle Gene-Leben	Principal Medical & Health Officer
Mr. Nazim Ameerah	Engineering and Surveying Officer
Ms. Pearl Gallai	Financial Officer
Ms. Sheriffa Heru	Ag. Administrative Officer II
Mr. Steve Heru	County Superintendent
Mr. Sunil Ramnarine	Building Inspector
Mr. Zaffar Ali	Works Supervisor/Road Officer II
Mr. Andrew Dipchand	Accountant I
Mr. Ballyram Lalla	Inspector (Municipal Police)
Ms. Tara Bridglal	Clerk IV
Ms. Neela Ragbir	Clerk II
Ms. Pamela Motilal	Clerk I
Mr. Rishi Soogrim	IT Technician

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - 4

77. The meeting commenced at 9:35am with a prayer led by Councillor Brian Mohan.

78. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:**

a. Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy welcomed all present to the Third (3rd) Statutory Meeting.

79. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Chairman Alderman, Dr. Allen Sammy:

- a. Informed that our National Clean-up Campaign is scheduled for March 11th & 12th, 2017. He said that the Chief Executive Officer, Councillor Roland Hall and the management team are the ones to make this happen. He added that Councillor Roland Hall will speak more of this later in the meeting.
- b. Congratulated the Siparia Women's Group and P/DRC for the Kiddies Carnival which took place on 22/02/17. He informed that sixteen (16) bands and ten (10) Early Childhood Centres participated in the event. He said that the costumes were of high standard and the programme was well done. He added that light refreshments were served to everyone. He thanked the staff for their assistance with the electrical.
- c. Thanked everyone present and said that requests have been coming to the Corporation for assistance with the Police yard and the schools septic tanks. He reiterated that our funds are still very low.

80. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Minutes of the Second [2nd] Statutory Meeting held on January 30, 2017 be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings thereof.

81. **RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Minutes of the Special Statutory Meeting held on February 06, 2017 be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings thereof.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

[i] PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:

82. **Adoption of Minutes of the Second (2nd) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on January 09, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** and seconded by **Alderman Brian Mohan** that the Minutes of the Second (2nd) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on January 09, 2017 be adopted.

83. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Third (3rd) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on February 06, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** and seconded by **Alderman Brian Mohan** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-11 of the Third (3rd) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on February 06, 2017 be accepted.

84. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Third (3rd) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on February 06, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** and seconded by **Alderman Brian Mohan** that the Reports & Recommendations Nos. 1-11 of the Third (3rd) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on February 06, 2017 be adopted.

[ii] PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

85. **Adoption of Minutes of the Second (2nd) Public Health Committee Meeting held on January 12, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded

by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** that the Minutes of the Second (2nd) Public Health Committee Meeting held on January 12, 2017 be adopted.

86. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Third (3rd) Public Health Committee Meeting held on February 09, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-4 of the Third (3rd) Public Health Committee Meeting held on February 09, 2017 be accepted.

87. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Third (3rd) Public Health Committee Meeting held on February 09, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-4 of the Third (3rd) Public Health Committee Meeting held on February 09, 2017 be adopted.

[iii] PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

88. **Adoption of Minutes of the Second (2nd) Personnel Committee Meeting held on January 16, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Minutes of the Second (2nd) Personnel Committee Meeting held on January 16, 2017 be adopted.

89. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Third (3rd) Personnel Committee Meeting held on February 13 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-2 of the Third (3rd) Personnel Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2017 be adopted.

90. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Third (3rd) Personnel Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-2 of the Third (3rd) Personnel Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2017 be adopted.

[iv] FINANCE, PLANNING & ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE

91. **Adoption of Minutes of the Second (2nd) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on January 23, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Minutes of the Second (2nd) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Meeting held on January 23, 2017 be adopted.

92. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Third (3rd) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on February 20, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations, Nos. 1-14 of the Third (3rd) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on February 20, 2017 be accepted.

93. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Third (3rd) Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on February 20, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-14 of the Third [3rd] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on February 20, 2017 be adopted.

[v] FESTIVALS, HERITAGE & TOURISM COMMITTEE

94. **Adoption of Minutes of the First (1st) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on January 12, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** and seconded by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Minutes of the First (1st) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on January 12, 2017 be adopted.

95. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Second (2nd) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on February 09, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** and seconded by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-4 of the Second (2nd) Festivals, Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on February 09, 2017 be accepted.

96. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Second (2nd) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on February 09, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** and seconded by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-4 of the Second (2nd) Festivals, Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on February 09, 2017 be adopted.

[vi] SPORTS, YOUTH & GENDER COMMITTEE:-

97. **Adoption of Minutes of the First (1st) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on January 23, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Brian Mohan** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Minutes of the First (1st) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on January 23, 2017 be adopted.

98. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Second (2nd) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on February 20, 2017.**

RESOLVED:-Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Brian Mohan** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-9 of the Second (2nd) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on February 20, 2017 be accepted.

99. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Second (2nd) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on February 20, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Brian Mohan** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-9 of the Second (2nd) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on February 20, 2017 be adopted.

[vii] CITIZEN LIAISON, COMMUNICATIONS, SECURITY & SAFETY COMMITTEE

100. **Adoption of Minutes of the First (1st) Citizen, Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on January 16, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** and seconded by **Councillor Kheymwetti** that the Minutes of the First (1st) Citizen Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on January 16, 2017 be adopted.

101. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Second (2nd) Citizen, Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** and seconded by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-4 of the Second (2nd) Citizen Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2017 be accepted.

102. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Second (2nd) Citizen, Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** and seconded by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-4 of the Second (2nd) Citizen Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2017 be accepted.

[vii] THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

103. **Adoption of Minutes of the First (1st) Environment Committee Meeting held on January 12, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Minutes of the First (1st) Environment, Meeting held on January 12, 2017 be adopted.

104. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Second (2nd) Environment Committee Meeting held on February 09, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-3 of the Second (2nd) The Environment Committee Meeting held on February 09, 2017 be accepted.

105. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Second (2nd) Environment Committee Meeting held on January 12, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-3 of the Second (2nd) The Environment Committee Meeting held on February 09, 2017 be adopted.

[viii] BUILDING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE:

106. **Adoption of Minutes of the First (1st) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on January 16, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** and seconded by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Minutes of the First (1st) Building and Planning Meeting held on January 16 2017 be adopted

107. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Second (2nd) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** and seconded by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-2 of the Second (2nd) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2017 be accepted.

108. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Second (2nd) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** and seconded by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-2 of the Second (2nd) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2017 be adopted.

109. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Memorandum from the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government re: request for list of Projects within the Rural Areas of your Municipal Corporations for 2016/2017
To be discussed at the Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting

110. **PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS:**

- a. To supply for Uniform for Estate Constable.
Accepted

- b. To supply microwave and kettle.
Accepted.
- c. To supply and deliver metal ball valve.
Accepted.
- d. To supply parts for PCH 1197 Ford Everest Ranger.
Accepted.
- e. National Clean-up Launch on Saturday 11th March, 2017 document
Accepted
- f. List of Vouchers dated 23/02/17 Scavenging items 1-12 **\$168,613.65**
Approved
- g. List of Vouchers dated 23/02/17 Recurrent items 1-11 **\$95,265.19**
Approved
- h. List of Vouchers dated 23/02/17 Development Programme items 1-9 **\$59,373.61**
Approved
- i. Building and Layout Plans dated 23/02/17 items 1-6 Surish Ramkalawan & ors
Approved, except #3
- j. Memorandum from the Principal Medical & Health Officer Re: Report on list of vouchers submitted for approval at Statutory Meeting on 30/01/17
Noted.
- k. Estimate for Procurement of Major Vehicle (02/006/01)- **\$500,000.00**
Members of Council voted:

Approved by:

Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh
Alderman Brian Mohan
Alderman Purushottam Singh
Councillor Diptee Ramnath

Deferred to 06/03/17 [PIC Meeting]

Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh
Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan
Councillor Sheldon Lal
Councillor Roland Hall

Deferred to the Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting on 06/03/17

- 111. **MATTERS REFERRED:** NIL
- 112. **REPORTS AND REPLIES:** NIL
- 113. **PETITION:** NIL
- 114. **QUESTIONS:** NIL
- 115. **PERSONAL EXPLANATION:** NIL
- 116. **MOTION:**

MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR KUMARIE KUARSINGH

Whereas national concern is being expressed in the public and social media as well as by individual citizens over the rise in all forms of crime during the past year in Trinidad and Tobago.

And whereas the incidences of such serious crime is spreading to the Penal/Debe Region based on reports to Councillors and in the media.

And whereas residents of the region are expecting the Council to offer solutions to the rising crime scourge.

Be it resolved that the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation engage in urgent debate on the matter with the residents of the region including key stakeholders, using the appropriate tools and fora.

And be it further resolved that a plan of action be initiated with the key stakeholders to curtail the spread of criminal activities to the region, with great urgency.

Moved by Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh and seconded by Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan.

Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan:

Stated that crime is everybody's business and it has taken over our beautiful country. She said that we the citizens of this country have to stand up and say 'enough is enough'. She added that in the Electoral District of Rochard/Barrackpore East, there has been a spate of robberies and murders eg. Doubles vendor Raj, who was gunned down while trying to make an honest day's work. She spoke of Nadia Simms who went in search of a job and was found buried in a shallow grave days after she was reported missing.

Informed that her heart goes out to those families that has lost loved ones. She said the solution is community mobilization and the setting up of neighbourhood watch groups. She added that the government does not care for the poor people and they have no plans to deal with crime. She said that it is time for this government to do the right thing and step down as enough is enough.

Councillor Roland Hall:

Supported Councillor Kuarsingh for bringing a motion of this nature as it is much needed at this time. He informed that in the Electoral District of Palmiste/Hermitage, there were over eight [8] crimes in two weeks. He gave an example where on 17/02/17 at 10:30 am a 22 years old woman was taken from her home where her family was robbed. He said the car got into difficulties and so they switched cars at Claxton Bay leaving her there. He also informed that just last week four [4] young boys were robbed. He said Councillor Lal and himself went to the Hermitage Community Centre and spoke about crime.

Indicated that although there is a Police Station at La Romaine, crime is still high. He complimented the good Police Officers and suggested that areas need to be locked down. He spoke of the Community Comfort Patrol being removed from the area and said a petition was being done to the Ministry of National Security to re-instate them.

Alderman Purushottam Singh:

Supported the motion and informed that three [3] times his family was robbed at gunpoint and his vehicle stolen. He spoke of the current government and the state of crime in the country. He said that the citizens of this country are losing their freedom as crime is affecting us all.

Alderman Brian Mohan:

Supported the motion and said that crime has stained Trinidad and Tobago. He said that last evening whilst jogging at a recreation ground he decided to interview some of the people:

Woman with three kids – bring back Corporal Punishment, as long ago when there was licks, children would be obedient to their parents, teachers and the community.

Elderly man - people are losing their jobs in the private sector, URP, CEPEP, the construction industry. He said there were times when there were so many jobs and social programmes.

Farmer – said he was held at gunpoint three months ago where the bandits put him in a chair to sit and loaded a van with his pumpkin and drove off.

Woman – said that crime begins at home with the parents not accepting the responsibility and everything is a ‘hush, hush’ while the child doing what they want and going where they want.

Safety Officer – said that crime begins at school. He said at home, the child is good but as soon as he/she leaves home, they would go meet their boyfriend in the car. Also, sometimes the school has thirty [30] classes and twenty [20] teachers stays home and some leave by lunchtime. The kids are unsupervised as there is one safety officer and one security guard to manage one thousand [1000] children.

He further stated that if the government cannot deal with crime then they are part of the problem. He said that as an entertainer, he must be escorted to his vehicle after performing. He suggested that the Prime Minister, Dr. Keith Rowley, drive to this Corporation where we can show him ways to deal with crime or else he should resign.

Councillor Diptee Ramnath:

Congratulated his colleague, Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh for the motion and informed that there were times we referred to crime in other countries since it was strange to us. He said after, certain parts of crime came to us, because of certain activities and now it has reached home. He stated that crime is a serious concern and with the Carnival season upon us where there are many foreigners, things can get out of hand.

Enquired what was being done to ensure safety as many bars are being set up with their \$10.00 license. He reminded everyone that organizations eg. Churches use the picnic sites, beaches, recreation grounds during this time. He said that our families are at risk and our resources are limited. He suggested that we meet with the Senior Superintendent of the South Western Division to discuss measures to address crime. Also, we can network and appraise the burgesses through the Electronic Board and Newspapers.

Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh:

Informed that we wake up to news of bloody murder every day. Also, we go to work worrying about our families and return home at night scared in our houses. She said that according to the TTPS statistics, there were 420 murders in 2015 and a whopping 462 in 2016. She added that fifty [50] days into 2016, there were sixty seven [67] murders and for the same period seventy two [72] in 2017. She said the murder toll stands today 23/02/17 at seventy eight [78].

Indicated that in Latin America and the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago spends the most per capita on crime and private security. She said a study released on 03/02/17 by the Inter-American Development Bank, over \$1000.00 US per capita is spent. She asked what was being done.

Referred to the News and of the following:

Guardian 14/02/17, two [2] were held for gang rape, a woman beaten, robbed and gang raped in Gandhi Village.

Express 17/02/17, a man from La Romaine got three [3] years jail for armed robbery.

Newsday 20/02/17, bullet riddled body found in La Romaine.

Newsday 20/02/17, skeletal remains of a human found in the bushes at the M2 Ring Road, Debe.

29/01/17, family of three [3] in Gandhi Village robbed \$500.00 cash, \$6,000.00 worth of jewellery and the husband beaten.

09/02/17, Master Q Restaurant & Bar in Debe was robbed of \$5,000.00.

Stated that as the statistics show, crime is rapidly increasing and crippling the region and the citizens, groups, NGO’s are going as far as hosting Anti-Crime Walks and Candle Light Vigil to stand against crime.

She said there are many types of crime – murders, robberies, kidnappings, rape amongst others.

She proposed the following four [4] measures be taken:

Intervention & Prevention – to be geared towards the schools

Community Mobilization

Suppression

Advocacy & Awareness

Suggested that Council take the initiative to meet with all stakeholders starting with the Penal/Debe Chamber of Commerce, Communities, NGO's, Clubs, Police, and other groups to have consultations regarding crime. She hope in doing so, we can find solutions and so develop an action plan.

Reminded everyone that Members of Council took the oath to represent the people of Penal/Debe and unlike the present government whose plans have failed, whose promises have fallen through, they will continue to represent the people.

Unanimously approved.

OTHER PUBLIC BUSINESS:

117. Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh:

- a. Hoped that sometimes the public gallery can be filled so that when the Councillors speak the correct information can be passed on.
- b. Complimented the Road Officer II, Mr. Zaffar Ali and Councillor Diptee Ramnath for the quick response to assist at the Bhupsingh Park Ground for Kiddies Carnival. She said the work was completed within half an hour. She added that the Kids came out in their lovely colours and enjoyed themselves. Also, the event was crime and injury free.
- c. Informed that she was happy for the Clean –up Campaign scheduled for 11th&12th March, 2017. She said that we need to continue educating the public on cleanliness as people like to hold on to old things. She also spoke encouraging the burgesses to place bins at the front of their houses as many times the dogs tear the bags and then they complain that the garbage trucks did not pass. She hoped that the campaign would be meaningful to all.
- d. Applauded Councillor Roland Hall for querying the Building and Layout Plans as so many times people suffer because of the neighbour's construction. She said that both Administration and Councillors have their job to do and it is not always easy.
- e. Complimented Alderman Brian Mohan for conducting interviews with the people. She said that a lecturer once told her that the man on the street has the information we need but nobody cares to find out.
- f. Stated that men have removed God from their lives and are now thinking like the devil. She spoke about children having children after the Carnival Season and said that the older men do not know their place as they are around the young girls. She reminded that in the past, if the neighbour brought news to the parents the child will get a good cut tail but now the parents would curse the neighbour.
- g. Spoke about communication being important and we need to know and respect the various levels of authority with the Administration, Chief Executive Officer and the Police. She said that the people do not even attend the Town Meetings to educate themselves.
- h. Asked that we be vigilant in all things because crime is what it is. Also, we cannot just talk but must network with everyone – Ministry of National Security, Ministry of Education etc. In conclusion she asked that we do not spare the rod to spoil the child so that when they grow old they will not stray.

118. Alderman Brian Mohan:

- a. Commended Councillor Roland Hall for the initiative to address issues at Palmiste. He informed that he spent Valentine's Day at Palmiste and whilst walking he saw worms, and dirty water behind the sheds. He hoped that next year when he returns for Valentine's Day, it would be better.

119. Alderman Purushottam Singh:

- a. Endorsed the comments made by his colleagues on crime and said how upset he was with T&TEC and the non-functioning Street lights. He said if the lights were working near his home, then maybe he would not have lost his vehicle.

120. Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh:

- a. Informed that when she came into Council, many of the streetlights in the Electoral District of Barrackpore West were not lighting and to date nothing was done.
- b. Thanked the Works Supervisor Section for the estimate of the two [2] side screens at the Congo Recreation Ground and said that cricket is ongoing.
- c. Indicated that garbage is a huge problem in the Penal/Debe region as the garbage trucks were passing on non-scheduled days and sometimes just once per week. She asked that a meeting be set up to address this.
- d. Informed that she wrote Traffic Management for road signs at the junction of Laltoo Trace where there were three [3] accidents recently. She said that one car caught fire because of the pipeline and she raised the concern if there was an explosion.

121. Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan:

- a. Wished everyone a safe Carnival and to be aware of your surroundings at all times.

122. Councillor Sheldon Lal:

- a. Commended the CEO and Staff for their successful management with the limited resources.
- b. Reminded everyone that for the past year he kept lobbying for streetlights at the M2 Ring Road, Woodland. He said he asked Traffic Management to install lights with sensors. He said that this is a time bomb waiting to explode and he pleaded with the authority to address this.
- c. Informed of opened manholes on the pavement at Church Street where the high school meets the Early Childhood Centre. He said over 30,000 persons use the pavement daily. He added that he contacted the Ministry of Works and also the Road Officer I, Mr. Roopnarine but we have limited resources. He asked that another letter be sent to the Ministry of Works.
- d. Said that the garbage collection at La Fortune is good but the trucks are damaging the road. He said that BK Holding trucks are too large for the road so they damage the road and they are not taking any responsibility for this.

123. Councillor Roland Hall:

- a. Thanked officers for their hard work.
- b. Spoke of a situation on 22/02/17 where residents complained that Development Projects workers were urinating on their fence. He said he contacted the PIRO, Mr. Seunarine for portable toilets to be placed since the workers are there from 7:00am to 3:00pm. He asked that toilets be placed wherever our workers are stationed as many times the females go to the bar. He reminded everyone about the safety of the workers especially the females given the current crime situation in the country. He said he kept the tools, but due to the politics, he asked for it to be kept elsewhere. Also, he asked that the Corporation fill their tanks on the jobsite to avoid using water from the residents.
- c. Requested that the sign painter re-paint the signs at Block 6 &7 Palmiste.
- d. Informed that we are the legitimate caretakers of Palmiste Layby and so a committee must be formulated to address all the issues concerning it. He suggested that Alderman Purushottam Singh, Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh, Councillor Sheldon Lal and himself be part of this Committee. Also from Administration, he suggested the Corporate Secretary, the Principal Medical and Health Officer, Building Inspector, Planning Officer, Municipal Police, Works Supervisor, Road Officer and the Personnel & Industrial Relations Officer be included.
- e. Informed that on the 03/03/17 a meeting will be held with Contractors regarding the Clean-up Campaign on 11th & 12th March, 2017. He added that the opening will be held at the Francis Seupaul Recreation Ground and asked that Administration put all things in place for the event.

124. Councillor Diptee Ramnath:

- a. Informed that the Sports Committee Meeting was re-scheduled to the 16/03/17, following the Regional Co-ordinating Meeting.
- b. Requested the cleaning of cesspit at the Ramai Trace Hindu School situated at Penal Rock Road.
- c. Requested that a 2000 gallon water tank be installed at Quinam Beach for Carnival.
- d. Complimented the Ministry of Works for the work done at Penal Junction and said that it was a collaborated effort where the materials were provided by the Corporation and the labour by the Ministry.
- e. Thanked the CEO, Administration and Council for saving the jobs of workers as it is the first time in history where the Development Projects will be done in-house. He added that the burgesses will certainly benefit from this.
- f. Complimented the CEO, Chairman of Council and all the officers for their hard work. He appreciated the effort of the workers and said that he would call on officers at late hours and when he calls, even the CEO is still in office.
- g. Stated that the number of reports officers are requested to do takes up so much time and they are unable to efficiently supervise their work.
- h. Asked that the Heath Section get the public involved in the Clean-up Campaign.
- i. Informed that we are in the third [3rd] month of the year and asked that officers have their paperwork ready for projects to be undertaken.
- j. Said that a meeting was held with officers from the Ministry of Tourism and he hoped that projects at Penal and Barrackpore Market will start soon.
- k. Indicated that water remains a serious problem in the region as calls are coming from areas with water lines. He said it will cause problems when the Corporation must service WASA areas. He suggested that WASA provide us with their schedule because the public believes in the responsibility of the Corporation to provide the water. He added that they must be informed through Advertisement.
- l. Informed that he submitted a listing for streetlights to T&TEC and to date did not receive any response. He said WASA, Drainage Division and T&TEC all indicated their lack of funds. He added that the burgesses believe that it is the responsibility of their Councillor and we should make a public statement to inform them of the facts.
- m. Thanked all for their support.
- n. Informed that the official handing over ceremony for Morne Diablo Recreation Ground was held on 15/02/17. He stated that the function was a great success and the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs attended. He thanked the Council, Agencies, CEPEP and the Community for their assistance and support. He hoped that the upgrading of all recreation grounds would continue.
- o. Commended the Health Section for the work done at the market but said that there is need for additional tanks, a water pump etc.

125. Chairman, Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy:

Informed that he met with the Ministry of Tourism who indicated they have \$2 Million to utilize in all the Corporations. He said further discussion will be done.

Informed that he met with the Penal Police on 22/02/17 and has the assurance of the Central Police that they will be out on Patrol during Carnival at Quinam Beach and the Morne Diablo Beach.

Indicated that a venue need to be sourced to hold the next Statutory Meeting outdoors.

126. Members of the Public

- a. Chaitlal Singh informed that he own land at Railway Road, East Gandhi Village and last year someone started work in the property. He wrote the Town and Country Planning Division and did not receive a response. He also wrote to the Corporation and submitted pictures and to date nothing was done.

Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy informed Mr. Singh that the information was forwarded to the Engineer and Corporate Secretary who will meet with him after the meeting.

- b. Clydie Harripersad said he also owns property at Railway Road and now a building has been

constructed and he cannot access his place. He said he believed the Corporation gave approval for that building and requested assistance.

- c. Curtis Barker reminded everyone about the incident where he fell and injured himself at Palmiste in December 2016 and requested an update.

Inspector Lalla informed that the report will be done after Carnival.

d. **Mr. Premchand Sookoo:**

- i. He said that Mr. Raymond Seepaul was the best Chief Executive Officer he ever worked with. He added that his last day in office was 14/12/16 and deadlines were met by the Road Officer II, Mr. Zaffar Ali and Road Officer I, Mr. Neil Roopnarine.
- ii. He observed that under the Peoples Partnership government projects started in the first two months but things are different now.
- iii. He commended Councillor Kuarsingh on her motion and asked that the Acting Commissioner of Police devise a plan to curb crime. He spoke about a worker from the Corporation, Mrs. Sarah Basdeo whose family was robbed and they were spared their lives because she was pregnant.
- iv. He spoke about garbage collection and said the problems continue and if the Corporation is paying someone for not working, then we are condoning corruption.
- v. He commended Councillor Diptee Ramnath for his vision for Quinam/Morne Diablo and recalled that the former Prime Minister, Mrs. Bissessar was responsible for the Morne Diablo Recreation Ground.
- vi. He spoke about the recreation grounds having cricket going on and most of the streetlights not functioning.
- vii. He hoped that the next Statutory Meeting will be held in the community.

- 127. Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy thanked everyone for a fruitful meeting, the motion and terminated same at 12:20pm.

.....
Chairman
Statutory Meeting