

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH [4<sup>TH</sup>] STATUTORY MEETING OF THE PENAL /DEBE REGIONAL CORPORATION (2016-2019 TERM) HELD ON MARCH 27, 2017 AT THE CORPORATION'S HALL #218A S.S. ERIN ROAD, PENAL**

**MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT:**

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 Kheywetti Chulan	Rochard Road/Barrackpore East
Councillor Vijay Rampersad	Debe West
Councillor Brian Julien	Bronte
Councillor Shanty Boodram	Penal
Councillor Marsha Jaimungal-Khan	Union Hall/Esperance/Debe East
Alderman Brian Mohan	
Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh	
Alderman Purushottam Singh	

**MEMBERS OF COUNCIL EXCUSED:**

Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy	<b>Chairman of Council</b>
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**MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:**

Ms. Sheriffa Heru	Administrative Officer II, (Ag) Chief Executive Officer
Ms. Aura Martin-Sealy	Corporate Secretary
Ms. Danielle Gene-Leben	Principal Medical & Health Officer
Mr. Nazim Ameeral	Engineering and Surveying Officer
Ms. Pearl Gallai	Financial Officer
Mr. Steve Heru	County Superintendent
Mr. Rudy Loknath	Planning Officer
Mr. Sunil Ramnarine	Building Inspector
Mr. Zaffar Ali	Works Supervisor/Road Officer II
Mr. Vishnu Seunarine	(Ag) Personnel & Industrial Officer
Mr. Andrew Dipchand	Accountant I
Mr. Ballyram Lalla	Inspector Municipal Police
Ms. Satisha Persad	Woman Police Constable Municipal Police
Mr. Dinesh Sirju	Police Constable Municipal Police
Mr. Victor Pustam	Public Health Officer
Ms. Yuclan Balwant	Public Health Officer
Ms. Tara Bridglal	Clerk IV
Mr. Hameed Hasmath	Disaster Management Unit Field Officer
Mr. Vishnu Moonasar	Workshop Foreman
Mr. Ramdhan Goberdhan	Transport Foreman

Ms. Vashtie Ramsumair	Chairman Secretary
Mr. Dennis Gopie	Vice Chairman's Personal Assistant
Ms. Pamela Motilal	Clerk I
Ms. Aviva Vesprey	Clerk I
Ms. Nadia Harrylal	On- the -Job Trainee

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

Mr. Premchand Sookoo  
Mr. Curtis Barker

128. The meeting commenced at 9:35am with a prayer led by Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh.

129. **VICE CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:**

- a. Councillor Ramnath informed that in the absence of the Chairman Dr. Allen Sammy he will be chairing the meeting. He welcomed all present to the Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Statutory Meeting and asked that Members of Council and Administration cooperates to ensure a speedy and fruitful meeting.

130. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. **Councillor Brian Julien:**

- a. Informed that he visited Ms. Mohammed of Herrera Trace, Circle Drive on 25/03/17 concerning a drainage problem and he would inform the RO II to do a site visit.

2. **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersingh:**

- a. Complimented Mr. Naresh Ragoonanan and Councillor Kuarsingh for a great job on the "Walk against Crime" held on 25/03/17.

3. **Councillor Roland Hall:**

- a. Informed of a meeting on security at Hermitage Community Centre on 28/03/17.
- b. Complimented Councillor Kuarsingh for the fantastic job on the march against crime held on 25/03/17.

4. **Councillor Shanty Boodram:**

- a. Informed that the two (2) events; the Lectures on Indians in the Diaspora and Spiritual/ Shouter Baptiste Liberation Day which were held on 20/03/17 and 24/03/17 respectively was a success. She also thanked both Members of Council and Administration for their assistance towards these events.
- b. Commended Councillor Kuarsingh for the march against crime on 25/03/17 and all those who took part. She also commended the Member of Parliament (MP) for Siparia, Oropouche East and West and other MP's throughout the country who supported this venture.

5. **Alderman Brian Mohan:**

- a. Informed that he and Councillor Ramnath as well as members from the media had a site visit at Bunsee Trace Mud Volcano and the sea coastline on 22/03/17. He further informed that these visits were successful and published on the Sunday Guardian.

6. **County Superintendent, Mr. Steve Heru:**

- a. Reminded Members of Council that the deadline for submission of projects for the draft estimate 2018 is today. (27/03/17)

131. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Vijay Rampersad** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Minutes of the Third [3rd] Statutory Meeting held on February 23, 2017 be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings thereof.

**REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**[i] PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:**

132. **Adoption of Minutes of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on February 06, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Brian Julien** and seconded by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal- Khan** that the Minutes of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on February 06, 2017 be adopted.

133. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on March 06, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Brian Julien** and seconded by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal- Khan** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-14 of the Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on March 06, 2017 be accepted.

134. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on March 06, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Brian Julien** and seconded by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal- Khan** that the Reports & Recommendations Nos. 1-14 of the Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on March 06, 2017 be adopted.

**[ii] PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:**

135. **Adoption of Minutes of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Public Health Committee Meeting held on February 09, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Minutes of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Public Health Committee Meeting held on February 09, 2017 be adopted.

136. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Public Health Committee Meeting held on March 09, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-3 of the Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Public Health Committee Meeting held on March 09, 2017 be accepted.

137. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Public Health Committee Meeting held on March 09, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-3 of the Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Public Health Committee Meeting held on March 09, 2017 be adopted.

**[iii] PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

138. **Adoption of Minutes of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Personnel Committee Meeting held on February**

**13, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal- Khan** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Minutes of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Personnel Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2017 be adopted.

139. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Personnel Committee Meeting held on March 13 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal- Khan** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-2 of the Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Personnel Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2017 be adopted.

140. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Personnel Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal- Khan** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-2 of the Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Personnel Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2017 be adopted.

**[iv] FINANCE, PLANNING & ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

141. **Adoption of Minutes of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on February 20, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** and seconded by **Alderman Brian Mohan** that the Minutes of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Meeting held on February 20, 2017 be adopted.

142. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on March 20, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** and seconded by **Alderman Brian Mohan** that the Reports and Recommendations, Nos. 1-9 of the Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on March 20, 2017 be accepted.

143. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on March 20, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** and seconded by **Alderman Brian Mohan** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-9 of the Fourth [4<sup>th</sup>] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on March 20, 2017 be adopted.

**[v] FESTIVALS, HERITAGE & TOURISM COMMITTEE**

144. **Adoption of Minutes of the Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on February 09, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Shanty Boodram** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Minutes of the Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on February 09, 2017 be adopted.

145. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on March 09, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Shanty Boodram** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-2 of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Festivals, Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on March 09, 2017 be accepted.

146. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on March 09, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Shanty Boodram** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-2 of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Festivals, Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on March 09, 2017 be adopted.

**[vi] SPORTS, YOUTH & GENDER COMMITTEE:-**

147. **Adoption of Minutes of the Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) 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 Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Minutes of the Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on February 20, 2017 be adopted.

148. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on March 16, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:-**Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Brian Mohan** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-7 of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on March 16, 2017 be accepted.

149. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on March 16, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Brian Mohan** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-7 of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on March 16, 2017 be adopted.

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

150. **Adoption of Minutes of the Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) 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 Vijay Rampersad** that the Minutes of the Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Citizen Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2017 be adopted.

151. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Citizen, Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** and seconded by **Councillor Vijay Rampersad** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-2 of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Citizen Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2017 be accepted.

152. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Citizen, Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** and seconded by **Councillor Vijay Rampersad** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-2 of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Citizen Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2017 be accepted.

**[viii] THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:**

153. **Adoption of Minutes of the Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Environment Committee Meeting held on February 09, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Minutes of the Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Environment, Meeting held on February 09, 2017 be adopted.

154. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Environment Committee Meeting held on March 09, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-2 of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) The Environment Committee Meeting held on March 09, 2017 be accepted.

155. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Environment Committee Meeting held on March 09, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kheywetti Chulan** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-2 of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) The Environment Committee Meeting held on March 09, 2017 be adopted.

**[viii] BUILDING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

156. **Adoption of Minutes of the Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Minutes of the Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Building and Planning Meeting held on February 13 2017 be adopted

157. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-3 of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2017 be accepted.

158. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-3 of the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2017 be adopted.

159. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. Contractor Registration Application form. Re: Bram's Contracting Limited of #222 Scott's Road, Penal.  
**Normal procedure.**
- b. Letter dated 14/03/17 from Sharda Maharaj- Ramjattan, Principal (Ag) of Parvati Girls Hindu College. Re: Requesting assistance for half load of materials and a steam roller to do resurfacing work in the School yard.  
**Approved.**
- c. Letter dated 03/03/17 from the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, Land Management Division, Commissioner of State Lands. Re: Assistance in the removal of unauthorized structures on State Lands.  
**Noted.**
- d. Letter from Keisha Balliram Bajnathsingh of #18-8 Murray Trace Extension, Murray Trace, San- Francique, Penal. Re: Requesting permission to rent a vegetable stall at the Penal Market.  
**Referred to the Market Clerk.**
- e. Application No. T7L 2285/2016 from the Ministry of Planning and Development, Town and Country Planning Division. Re: Notice of refusal of permission to develop land at Lot No. 8 La Bel Air Road, La Romain, San- Fernando.  
**Noted.**
- f. Letter dated 06/03/17 from Shaffina Hamid, Head Teacher of Debe A.S.JA E.C.C.E Centre, 107 A S.S Erin Road, Debe. Re: Requesting permission to use the Congo Village Recreation Ground to host Sports and Family Day on 29/04/17 from 8.30 am to 2.00 pm.  
**Approved pending availability.**
- g. Letter dated 06/03/17 from Pastor Ramnarine Ramjeawan of New Creation Pentecostal Assembly of 4 M.P Penal Rock Road, Best Trace P.O Trinidad. Re: Seeking approval for the use of the Penal Rock Road Recreation Ground to host Annual Easter Sports Day on 17/04/17.

**Approved pending availability.**

- h. Fixed Date Claim Form between Ramoutar Seenath and Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation.  
Re: Read for details.

**The Corporate Secretary asked for Council’s approval in order to forward to the Attorney- at - Law to put a defence.**

**Approved.**

- i. Letter dated 21/03/17 from Kenny Arjoon, Chairman of La Romain/Debe Pastoral Region.  
Re: Canaan Presbyterian Church- Walkathon “Making T&T a better place carded for 08/04/17 at 7.30 am. Requesting a donation of bottle water for a minimum of four (400) hundred persons

**Approved for ten (10) cases of water for the event.**

- j. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statement of the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation for the year ended 30/09/2010.

**Noted.**

- k. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statement of the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation for the year ended 30/09/2011.

**Noted.**

**160. PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS:**

- a. List of Vouchers dated 27/03/17 – Recurrent Expenditure, Item Nos. 1-16, **\$137,897.38**

**Approved.**

- b. List of Vouchers dated 27/03/17- Development Programme, Item Nos. 13, **\$59,560.01**

**Approved.**

- c. List of Vouchers dated 27/03/17- Unspent Balances, Item Nos. 1-8, **\$76,331.17**

**Approved.**

- d. Building and Layout Plan dated 27/03/17- Item Nos. 1-10, Ronald Ogeer & ors

**Approved EXCEPT item 9 & 10- Deferred to Building and Planning Committee Meeting pending a site visit.**

- e. Completion Certificate dated 27/03/17- Item Nos. 1-3, Surish Ramkalawan & ors.

**Approved.**

- f. Estimate to pave roadway with hot asphalt mix, Kennedy Park Stockpile Phase II- **\$71,312.50**

**Deferred to Physical Infrastructure Meeting pending a site visit.**

- g. Development Programme Draft Estimates 2017 (with projections for 2018 & 2019)

**Approved.**

- h. Programme of Works for the period 01/04/17-30/06/17- Roads Department, Penal District,

**\$2,135,681.50**

**Approved.**

- i. Programme of Works for the period 01/04/17-30/06/17- Roads Department, Debe District,

**\$2,375,945.97**

**Approved.**

**161. MATTERS REFERRED: NIL**

**162. REPORTS AND REPLIES: NIL**

163. PETITION: NIL
164. QUESTIONS: NIL
165. PERSONAL EXPLANATION: NIL
166. MOTION: Motion in the name of Councillor Diptee Ramnath- Deferred to Fifth Statutory Meeting.

**OTHER PUBLIC BUSINESS:**

167. **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh:**

- a. Stated that a bully is someone who physically attacks you and is not only a school child. On the other hand, a victim of a bully is one who goes through the pain, always hurt and uncomfortable.
- b. Said that a bully can be at the school, workplace and even in our home. Presently, the Ministry of Education is still contemplating on what to do with a nine year old bully at the school. However she blamed the parents for having bullies at nine years old. At homes a husband can be a bully to his wife and she is always afraid and in the workplace the boss can have the workers uneasy. For example, when he walks through the door and call his secretary to his office, she is afraid because he attacks with full force and makes sexual advances towards her.
- c. Added that in this Chamber we are victims of bullying and are unaware. She further added that bullying occurs when a person uses his strength to influence harm or intimidate those who are weaker. Bullies harm their victims not only physically but by their voice, power and body language.
- d. Informed that many times a bully can get emotional and they are a coward. However, one must use strategy to keep the bully away and to avoid any confrontation. She further informed that if a bully's behaviour is uncontrollable, one should seek professional help.
- e. Mentioned that there are many people who are victims of bullying and she advised all to use their wisdom that God has given to them to put an end to bullying.
- f. Added that the Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar and other Members of Parliament (MP) marched against crime on 25/03/17, but crime has grown from a bully to a murderer and a rapist. She concluded that we must put an end to these things by sending a message and setting a precedent.

168. **Alderman Brian Mohan:**

- a. Stated that the point made on bullying by Alderman Rampersadsingh is a very critical one and people are being bullied every day of their lives. Bullying led to a lot of criminal activities and people are fearful for their lives. He said that the Government has turned a deaf ear to crime and apparently they do not know how to handle this.  
He suggested that the Prime Minister visit the Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation and solutions can be offered to him on how to deal with crime.
- b. Informed that the Penal/ Debe Foundation held a March against crime on 25/03/17 and they did a very good job and the turnout was excellent. However, one of the MP brought to his attention a stench emanating from a drain located on the left hand side just before the traffic light in Clarke Road Junction. He suggested that the drain be cleaned.

169. **Alderman Purushottam Singh:**

- a. Stated that crime and security affects everyone. He informed that he attended the march against crime on 25/03/17 held by the Penal/ Debe Foundation. He added that the Government is not taking heed to crime in this country despite marches and protests. Unfortunately crime has become a norm in Trinidad as compared to long ago and people are accepting it.

170. **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh:**

- a. Informed that on 24/03/17 the Ramai Trace Hindu School, members from the Parent/ Teacher Association (PTA), parents and children protested at the front of Parliament to complete and move into their new school. She further informed that she was a past student of that school and she also protested. Ramai Trace Hindu School is ranked as one of the ninth excelling primary



schools by the Ministry of Education and yet again false promises that the school will be open by September of this year.

Said that she is appealing to the Ministry of Finance to allocate \$10 million to complete the schools. She stated that the Ministry of Education was allocated the second biggest amount in the budget allocation for the year 2015/2016 as well as for the year 2016/2017. She questioned why the Ramai Trace Hindu School, Parvati Girls Hindu College, Shiva Boys Hindu College and other schools in the Penal/Debe region are not opened. She pleaded to open the schools, the children are suffering.

- b. Informed that she and her colleagues attended the “Power to the people crime awareness and round table event” held on 25/03/17 by Penal/ Debe Foundation which she is a part of. She sincerely thanked the Opposition Leader the Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar for her support in the march. She also thanked the Member of Parliament (MP’s) for Oropouche East and West, Fyzabad, Caroni, Caroni East, Princes Town and Cumuto/ Manzanilla. They all came out as Leaders in this Country to support and march against crime, something that is not seen with the present Government. She thanked Members of Council from the Princes Town, Siparia, Couva/ Tabaquite/Talparo and Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation for their support in the success of this venture. She finally thanked members of the Penal/ Debe Foundation, the young, dynamic group who has set forth to tackle crime in our region.
- c. Informed that if the Government cannot deal with crime, members of the Penal/ Debe Foundation are drafting a policy paper to send to the Prime Minister of our country and also the Opposition Leader.

**171. Councillor Vijay Rampersad:**

- a. Said that crime in this country is out of hand and nothing can stop the criminals out there despite all the laws. He said that people are held at gunpoint every day, people are marching and protesting against crime but their voices are not being heard. He said that only when someone in authority is in the same situation as persons affected by crime then action may be taken to do something about crime in Trinidad.

He informed that crime affected our own region in abundance in areas such as, Ramsamooj Trace, Gopie Trace and Rahamut Trace to name a few. He is appealing to the Minister of National Security to establish a strategy to deal with crime because you could never tell when that day is meant to be for you.

**172. Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan:**

- a. Endorsed everything that her colleagues spoke about on crime and bullying. She mentioned that at the last Statutory Meeting she spoke about crime also and she said ‘enough is enough’. She informed our Opposition Leader used those same words at the march against crime on 25/03/17.

**173. Councillor Sheldon Lal:**

- a. Said that Inspector Lalla and his team of Officers could be doing something more fruitful to preserve law and order in the Penal/ Debe region rather than giving their assistance to remove garbage in an area.
- b. He pleaded again with Traffic Management for a traffic light to be placed at M2 Ring Road, the four road junction that separates Woodland from La Fortune. He explained that on 26/03/17 there was another near miss between a truck and car and no one seemed to know when to stop. He said that Traffic Management need to do a site visit on a morning between 7.00 am to 8.00 am when there is traffic and he will accompany them or else he will resort to the media. He concluded that this is to ensure the safety of the lives of the travelling public in Trinidad and Tobago.

**174. Councillor Shanty Boodram:**

- a. Requested two (2) tonnes of coal mix be utilized in the Electoral District of Penal to do speed humps. She informed that she went on a site visit with Traffic Management on 23/03/17 and the residents of Satnarine Trace are asking for seven (7) speed humps.

**Approved by Members of Council.**

- b. Said that Alderman Rampersadsingh spoke about bullying but when you have a Prime Minister who is a bully and not listening to anyone what do you expect from the Government. She made reference to a story from the “Morning Brew T V Program” where an Imam said Enterprise is locked down and he is calling on Imam Abu Bakr to assist, not the Commissioner of Police or the Minister of National Security, but an Imam because the people will listen to him. She added that this is the state that the country has reached now and reiterated on the four (4) recent murders in Penal/ Debe which were unsolved. She stated that the Police Officers have so much to do and she commended them because their lives are at risk in carrying out their duties.
- c. Informed that the Opposition Leader the Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar marched with us on 25/03/17. She stated that there were many walks/marches in the region already concerning crime. However, the Government is not taking heed hence the reason why we have to tell them to step down, call an Election and put back the Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar to lead this country again. She said that under the People Partnership crime was down, but with the present Government crime is on the rise every day and you are not safe anymore. She stated that people have to ask who is next.
- d. Informed that a parent had to run down a child in a school in Penal because the child was bullying her daughter. She questioned what the Minister of Education is doing about school violence and bullying.
- e. Mentioned that property tax is upon us. Everyday people are being laid off, no jobs and now this Government is introducing property tax. She questioned how they are going to hire persons to do the survey, if its friends and family or through the Corporation to hire people within the region.
- f. Said that she saw pictures on Bunsee Trace Mud Volcano, and Tulsa Trace Picnic Site posted on social media. She further said that as Chairman of Festivals, Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting, she would like to see some work done on these sites. Also asked if funds can be utilized from Recurrent to help fix the Digits Trace Mud Volcano as well.
- g. Said that she would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government for working hard and making a difference.
- h. Thanked the Chairman of the Health Committee on the Clean –up Campaign. Also thanked the Health Department and volunteers from her Electoral District who came out on 11/03/17 and 12/03/17, as well as all the workers who removed solid waste for the past week and more in each Electoral District.
- i. Enquired if the water distribution programme will be starting tomorrow (28/03/17) and requested that the two (2) roving water trucks be utilized in areas such as, Satnarine, Teemul and Naipalia Traces.

**175. Councillor Marsha Jaimungal Khan:**

- a. Stated that crime is out of hand in this country. She informed of an incident in her Electoral District on 24/03/17 where an old lady who lives alone was approached by two men dressed in T&TEC uniforms. They told her that T&TEC is coming to collect dues for not paying her light bill and if she do not pay, they will disconnect her.
- b. Thanked the volunteers from her district who came out to assist in the Clean- up Campaign. She informed that she did not get any assistance from workers of the Corporation.
- c. Said that we as Councillors of the Corporation are here to develop Penal/ Debe and to make better lives for the burgesses of the region. She added that from Traces we want to develop into Roads and Avenues. However, when Councillors requested assistance for roads that does not fall under the purview of the Corporation, they are told it is private roads and this is a burning issue. She said that she would like the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government to intervene regarding this matter.
- d. Enquired about the sum of one million dollars (\$1M) that was approved by Members of Council for the purchase of materials to use in each Electoral Districts. She requested in writing all the funds that were received and how the materials were utilized.
- e. Requested that she do not want Recurrent Funds to do Development Projects (DP) in her Electoral District.

**176. Councillor Brian Julien:**

- a. Stated that crime is a major issue in this country and we all accept crime because no one seems to do anything about it. In his view, white collar crime is the most dangerous type of crime because the man in the jacket and tie knows people are doing wrong and agrees with that. However, he gets away with murder because society rather look at the man with the gun and cutlass
- b. Thanked the volunteers from his Electoral District who worked hard for the Clean- up Campaign and they were the ones who made a difference.

**177. Councillor Roland Hall:**

- a. Complimented all Members of Council who touched on the burning issue of crime. Also complimented the Penal/ Debe Foundation for doing a fantastic job on 25/03/17 to march against crime in the region and to identify what is happening in the country.
- b. Informed that he is having a meeting concerning security tomorrow evening (28/03/17) at Hermitage Community Centre. He added that the residents will be attending this meeting to find out how much they will have to pay for security in their area because of the lack of the patrols. He informed that this meeting was planned for residents of Hermitage and areas alongside Hermitage. However, more meetings will be planned for different blocks in Palmiste. He requested if Administration would finance the mike for the area this evening (27/03/17) and the mike person will be charging four hundred dollars, (\$400.00)
- c. Mentioned that in reporting crimes, the Police are having difficulties to locate Street names because the Sign Painter painted some incorrectly. He requested that the Road Officer II look into this matter so that it would not be misleading.
- d. Informed that a detailed report on the Clean- up Campaign will be submitted at the Public Health Committee Meeting. Complimented all Members of Council, volunteers and Administration for their contributions on this venture. He hoped that Administration would submit a statement on the expenditure on the Clean –up Campaign.
- e. Informed that the following members of Administration have been selected to form a Sub Committee alongside Members of Council to deal with issues relating to the Palmiste Park Lay By.
  - i. Ms. Aura Martin Sealy- Corporate Secretary
  - ii. Dr. Danielle Gene- Leben- Principal Medical and Health Officer
  - iii. Mr. Nazim Ameerah- Engineer and Surveying Officer
  - iv. Mr. Sunil Ramnarine – Building Inspector
  - v. Mr. Ballyram Lalla- Municipal Police Inspector

**178. Administrative Officer II, (Ag) CEO, Ms. Sheriffa Heru:**

- a. Informed that Administration are in the process of organizing the call cards.
- b. Thanked all Members of Council and Heads of Sections for their rendered support during the last eight (8) days of acting as the Chief Executive Officer.

**179. Financial Officer, Ms. Pearl Gallai:**

- a. Informed that the telephone Virement in the sum of \$60,000 is still awaiting signature from the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government.

**180. Members of the Public:**

- a. Curtis Barker enquired about the status of the incident where he fell and injured himself on December 2016 at the Palmiste Park Lay By. Councillor Ramnath informed him that Inspector Lalla will respond to him after the investigation is completed. However, after the meeting he can meet with the Inspector for an update on this matter.
- b. **Mr. Premchand Sookoo:**
  - i. Informed that his first day of becoming a Councillor was on 13/04/1983 and he performed for thirty-three years and eight months. He added that he had the honour and privilege to wear the chain that many longed to wear for six (6) years. However, it is not his intention to return as a Councillor or Alderman, but he is interested in the functioning of the Corporation.

- ii. Congratulated and commended all Members of Council for the manner in which they made their presentation on crime and bullying. He said that whilst spending hours at the various Committee Meetings, can we safely say if the burgesses are fully aware of what is taking place in this Chamber. Some may say yes and some no. He mentioned that he heard some time ago that the Statutory Meetings will be held at the various Communities and he do look forward to seeing that becoming a reality.
- iii. Enquired if the Clean- up Campaign was really a success because there are eyesores at Cuchawan Trace Junction and Clarke Road by the proposed site to the travelling public. He stated that paying for work not done is a crime and condoning corruption. He informed that on 22/03/17 garbage was picked up on 24/03/17 instead at Lalbeharry Trace No.1 and No. 2. He said that the contractual agreement should be looked at and someone is condoning the reports that is taking place with the collection of garbage.
- iv. Stated that illegal structures are expanding in the region and people continue to build. He enquired if the Corporation is condoning this.
- v. Informed that there need to have motions at the Statutory Meetings. Congratulated the Chairman for the magnificent job that this Council is doing, but we can only be proud of this when members of the Community becomes fully aware of the operations of this Council

**181. Councillor Diptee Ramnath:**

- a. Enquired an update on the phones, call cards and stamps for Members of Council. Reminded Administration that for months they did not receive these items which are requirements to perform their duties and requested that Administration ensure that Council get these urgently.
- b. Thanked both Administration and Members of Council for the tremendous work done at the Clean-up Campaign. He added that the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, Contractors, Administration, Members of Council and volunteers volunteered their services towards this event which was a success and is ongoing.
- c. Complimented the Technical Officers for all their hard work. He added that with over five hundred (500) complaints/ requests to investigate with limited members of staff, he wanted to recognise the efforts put out by these Officers. He said that we have to continue to work together in order to make Penal/ Debe a better place for our burgesses.
- d. Complimented the Penal/ Debe Foundation for their efforts and the way they organized the march on 25/03/17 to bring success. He added that other Organizations may follow the pattern of this march to bring some relief with respect to crime in Trinidad and Tobago.
- e. Stated that we should look forward to continued good work and to keep Penal/ Debe as the best Regional Corporation in Trinidad and Tobago.

**182.** Councillor Ramnath thanked everyone for a fruitful meeting and terminated same at 11:35pm.

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 Chairman  
 Statutory Meeting