

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH [5TH] STATUTORY MEETING OF THE PENAL /DEBE REGIONAL CORPORATION (2016-2019 TERM) HELD ON APRIL 24, 2017 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 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:

Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan	Rochard Road/Barrackpore East
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MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Mr. Motilal Ramsingh	Chief Executive Officer
Mrs. Aura Martin-Sealy	Corporate Secretary
Ms. Danielle Gene Leben	Principal Medical & Health Officer
Mrs. Sheriffa Heru	Administrative Officer II (Ag)
Mr. Nazim Ameerl	Engineering and Surveying Officer
Ms. Pearl Gallai	Financial Officer
Mr. Steve Heru	County Superintendent
Mr. Sunil Ramnarine	Road Officer I/ Building Inspector (Ag)
Mr. Zaffar Ali	Works Supervisor/Road Officer II
Mrs. Neela Ragbir	Personnel & Industrial Relations Officer (Ag)
Mr. Andrew Dipchand	Accountant I
Mr. Rajesh Duncan	Municipal Police Corporal (Ag)
Ms. Cameela Samsundar	Municipal Woman Police Constable
Mr. Dinesh Sirju	Municipal Police Constable
Mrs. Tara Bridglal	Clerk IV
Mr. Vishnu Moonasar	Workshop Foreman
Mr. Ramdhan Goberdhan	Transport Foreman
Mrs. Vashtie Ramsumair	Chairman Secretary
Mr. Dennis Gopie	Vice Chairman's Personal Assistant
Ms. Pamela Motilal	Clerk I

Ms. Kumarie Ramroop

Clerk I

Mrs. Indira Jaglal

Clerical Assistant

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Premchand Sookoo

Mr. Curtis Barker

Mr. Ralph R. Umraw

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA: 05

183. The meeting commenced at 9:45am with a prayer led by Rev. Ralph R. Umraw

Rev. Umraw gave both Members of Administration and Council some inspirational words. He said that no matter what we say, do or believe we are bankrupted without love. The best use of life is love, opportunity to help anyone and life without love is worthless. He stated that busyness is an enemy of relationships. Time is the most gracious gift, relationships take time and effort, love is time and time is love. He said that the greatest gift you can give someone is your time which is a sacrifice and an essence of love. He stated that you can give without loving but you cannot love without giving. He advised that one has no guarantee of tomorrow, express your love now.

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

Welcomed all to the 5th Statutory meeting. He thanked Rev Umraw for his message and he urged all present to adhere and listen to the words of Rev. Umraw in spite of the stress one may be going through. He also welcomed the CEO, Mr. Motilal Ramsingh and he said that he look forward to a fruitful working relationship with him. He acknowledged the 100th birthday of Mr. Sookdeo Nancoo of Nancoo Trace and stated that he will visit him and discuss the history of the Penal/ Debe region. He informed that he wished to have a video library of people who are 100 years old or who are close to approaching that age and who can tell us about the evolution of Penal/ Debe. He informed that we must document what we do so that we can leave a legacy and people must feel sufficiently motivated that the contribution that they are making will lend to the enhancement of the development of the region.

185. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. **Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy:**

Said that the cries of Members of Council were heard on the water crisis that is ongoing in the region for some time which started at the end of March and has become the worst over the past twenty-one days in the Penal/ Debe region. He added that it is a great cause for concern because he made every effort to use the normal channels which is the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government. He mentioned that he prepared a statement that speaks to the politics of water and this is necessary because the supply of potable water by WASA to the Penal/ Debe region has assumed crisis proportion. He added that this experience is the worst since 2008 where people had to resort to watercourses and wells to obtain their supply of water for drinking and other purposes. He informed that last week a senior Politician made a statement that there is no shortage of water. If this is in fact so, why the Penal/ Debe region is not receiving an equitable supply of water on a daily basis. He stated that the effort to provide water to all on a 24/7 basis is being enjoyed by certain areas of this country. Are we not being told the truth about no water shortage for the Government to protect itself from delivering goods and services to the nation? He said that water is being used by the Government to punish the people of Penal/ Debe for not supporting them and he emphasized that water is the new political tool. He informed that there is indeed a shortage of water at the dams contrary to what is being told because he consulted WASA. He further informed that the Caroni damp was cut back from 44 million gallons per day to 30 million gallons and this supply extends from Kelly Village, Caroni to Cedros and every community in between. To compound this there are distribution points at which water is then boosted or transferred to other communities along the way, so it does not come directly. He informed that the Navet damp releases 19 million gallons per day of which 2 million goes to the Golconda booster station. He added that Debe, Picton, Esperance, Barrackpore and Penal Rock Road gets its supply from this system. However, not only does Penal/ Debe gets water from this system but also Princes Town. He stated that we as a people of Penal/ Debe refused to cower by the vindictiveness of the Government in depriving the taxpayer's residents the sacred right to water. He informed that WASA apologized on television and the newspaper when the booster station at Val Park shut down for twenty- four hours. He questioned when last Penal/ Debe got an apology from WASA. He concluded that the only way one may get action in this country

is by blocking the road or burning debris. He questioned is that the way people are living that they have to resort to those types of measures to enjoy rights and privileges? He mentioned that the Corporation delivered truck borne water supply to 1440 homes during the first sixteen days of their water distribution programme. In conclusion, he informed that Council will discuss and decide what action can be taken to address the issue of water.

Councillor Diptee Ramnath:

Thanked the Chairman of Council for comments made regarding the water crisis in the Penal/ Debe region. He pointed out that the Corporation provides truck borne water to areas without water lines. There are twelve (12) areas that are supplied with water, ten (10) are bounded, one area in Penal and the other in Debe to assist. He informed that before PDRC started the Water Distribution Program, WASA indicated that they will be unable to supply three (3) loads of water to Penal/Debe. He stated that WASA said that they are providing water on a scheduled basis in the region. However, the burgesses are unable to receive the supply. He informed that the drivers of the contracted trucks from the Corporation are being threatened by residents in Grants Trace for water and he would like the Police to investigate this matter. He added that residents have to resort to violence to get water. He stated that WASA is not doing anything to improve the supply of water in the Penal/ Debe region and they are neglecting the water wells and dams such as Petrotrin. He informed that PDRC applied for three million dollars (\$3M) for the Water Distribution Program but only received eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000). However, he hope that the Corporation will put things in place for additional funding because water is essential. He suggested that PDRC meet with the Head Personnel at WASA and make a decision regarding this water crisis. He hope that today's call will not go to deaf ears and something should be done to bring relief to the burgesses of Penal/ Debe.

Councillor Shanty Boodram:

She informed that this water crisis is an ongoing issue in the Penal area. She added that within 2010-2015, Penal/ Debe never had this problem for water before and there are numerous calls from people for water. She stated that this is total victimization to the highest in the region. According to the 'Morning Panchite' five (5) persons called and said that the Minister of Public Utilities is not aware of the water crisis in Penal/ Debe region. She questioned what is he doing and she stated that this Government is out of control and they do not have a clue how to run this country

2. Councillor Roland Hall:

- a. Informed that there were numerous calls for the lack of water in the Hermitage and Gandhi Village areas.
- b. Announced that he will be in Tobago from 27/04/17 to 01/05/17.

3. Councillor Diptee Ramnath:

- a. Informed that the Coastal Protection Unit will be at Quinam Beach for a site visit on 27/04/17 and they will be doing a documentary. He recommended Russel Kovar and Winston Hansraj from the Mendez area to make a contribution towards that.
- b. Stated that water continues to be a serious problem in the Penal/ Debe region and burgesses are constantly calling and threatening with protest action. He added that on the 24/04/17 (today) at Penal Rock Road he had to visit and make peace with the residents who threatened to protest. He said that he is seeking Council guidance with regard to this crisis and how we should proceed as a united Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation.

4. Councillor Shanty Boodram:

- a. Informed that there is a serious water problem in the Penal area. Residents are complaining for the past three (3) to four (4) months in areas such as Ramdeen Trace, Aquart Village, Teemul Trace, Satnarine Trace, Bobby Avenue and Clarke Road.

5. Councillor Marsha Jaimungal- Khan:

- a. Stated that the concerns regarding water remained a burning issue within the Penal/ Debe region. She said that she spoke to residents in the high point areas such as HDC Serenity Heights, Cuchawan Trace and Wellington Road. She added that WASA is responsible for providing water to residents who have water lines but they are not doing anything and they are refusing to answer calls. She suggested that the Chairman of Council intervene and maybe do a press release with regards to water in the region.

6. Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh:

- a. Informed that a serious water problem also exist in the Barrackpore West area as well. Transfer Village, Congo Village, Lower Barrackpore, Katwaroo Trace, Mohess Road and the lists goes on. She said that the lack of water is horrible, people are not getting water and that is not what they are paying their bills for at the end of the month, something must be done.

7. Councillor Brian Julien:

- a. Informed that water is the biggest problem in his Electoral District and it remains a burning issue that needs to be addressed urgently.

8. Councillor Sheldon Lal:

- a. Informed that he gave Ms. Baboolal a report on 20/04/17 pertaining to someone who is building a house at Jones Development and removing the rubble from his property to another resident's property and requested that this person be served a notice.

9. Councillor Vijay Rampersad:

- a. Informed that there is a serious water problem in his area also especially the high point areas such as Batchyia and Cuchawan Trace. He added that water is a necessity and WASA should put measures in place to provide water to the burgesses.

186. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Shanty Boodram** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Statutory Meeting held on March 27, 2017 be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings thereof.

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 April 13, 2017 be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings thereof.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

[i] PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:

187. Adoption of Minutes of the Fourth (4th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on March 06, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Brian Julien** and seconded by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** that the Minutes of the Fourth (4th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on March 06, 2017 be adopted.

188. Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth (5th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on April 03, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Brian Julien** and seconded by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-10 of the Fifth (5th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on April 03, 2017 be accepted.

189. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth (5th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on April 03, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Brian Julien** and seconded by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** that the Reports & Recommendations Nos. 1-10 of the Fifth (5th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on April 03, 2017 be adopted.

[ii] PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

190. Adoption of Minutes of the Fourth (4th) Public Health Committee Meeting held on March 09, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** that the Minutes of the Fourth (4th) Public Health Committee Meeting held on March 09, 2017 be adopted.

191. Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth (5th) Public Health Committee Meeting held on April 06, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-3 of the Fifth (5th) Public Health Committee Meeting held on April 06, 2017 be accepted.

192. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth (5th) Public Health Committee Meeting held on April 06, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-3 of the Fifth (5th) Public Health Committee Meeting held on April 06, 2017 be adopted.

[iii] PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

193. **Adoption of Minutes of the Fourth (4th) Personnel Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal- Khan** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Minutes of the Fourth (4th) Personnel Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2017 be adopted.

194. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth (5th) Personnel Committee Meeting held on April 10 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal- Khan** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-2 of the Fifth (5th) Personnel Committee Meeting held on April 10, 2017 be adopted.

195. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth (5th) Personnel Committee Meeting held on April 10, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal- Khan** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-2 of the Fifth (5th) Personnel Committee Meeting held on April 10, 2017 be adopted.

[iv] FINANCE, PLANNING & ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE

196. **Adoption of Minutes of the Fourth (4th) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on March 20, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Minutes of the Fourth (4th) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Meeting held on March 20, 2017 be adopted.

197. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth (5th) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on April 13, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Reports and Recommendations, Nos. 1-4 of the Fifth (5th) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on April 13, 2017 be accepted.

198. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth (5th) Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on April 13, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-4 of the Fifth [5th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on April 13, 2017 be adopted.

[v] FESTIVALS, HERITAGE & TOURISM COMMITTEE

199. **Adoption of Minutes of the Third (3rd) 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 Minutes of the Third (3rd) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on March 09, 2017 be adopted.

200. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fourth (4th) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on April 06, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Shanty Boodram** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-3 of the Fourth (4th) Festivals, Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on April 06, 2017 be accepted.

201. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Fourth (4th) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on April 06, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Shanty Boodram** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-3 of the Fourth (4th) Festivals, Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on April 06, 2017 be adopted.

[vi] SPORTS, YOUTH & GENDER COMMITTEE:-

202. **Adoption of Minutes of the Third (3rd) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on March 16, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Brian Mohan** and seconded by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** that the Minutes of the Third (3rd) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on March 16, 2017 be adopted.

203. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fourth (4th) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on April 13, 2017.**

RESOLVED:-Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Brian Mohan** and seconded by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-6 of the Fourth (4th) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on April 13, 2017 be accepted.

204. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Fourth (4th) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on April 13, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Brian Mohan** and seconded by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-6 of the Fourth (4th) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on April 13, 2017 be adopted.

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

205. **Adoption of Minutes of the Third (3rd) 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 **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Minutes of the Third (3rd) Citizen Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2017 be adopted.

206. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fourth (4th) Citizen, Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on April 10, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-4 of the Fourth (4th) Citizen Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on April 10, 2017 be accepted.

207. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Fourth (4th) Citizen, Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on April 10, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-4 of the Fourth (4th) Citizen Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on April 10, 2017 be accepted.

[vii] THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

208. **Adoption of Minutes of the Third (3rd) Environment Committee Meeting held on March 09, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** and seconded by **Councillor Vijay Rampersad** that the Minutes of the Third (3rd) Environment, Meeting held on March 09, 2017 be adopted.

209. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fourth (4th) Environment Committee Meeting held on April 06, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** and seconded by **Councillor Vijay Rampersad** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-6 of the Fourth (4th) The Environment Committee Meeting held on April 06, 2017 be accepted.

210. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Fourth (4th) Environment Committee Meeting held on April 06, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** and seconded by **Councillor Vijay Rampersad** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-6 of the Fourth (4th) The Environment Committee Meeting held on April 06, 2017 be adopted.

[viii] BUILDING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE:

211. **Adoption of Minutes of the Third (3rd) 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 Minutes of the Third (3rd) Building and Planning Meeting held on March 13 2017 be adopted

212. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fourth (4th) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on April 10, 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 Fourth (4th) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on April 10, 2017 be accepted.

213. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Fourth (4th) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on April 10, 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 Fourth (4th) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on April 10, 2017 be adopted.

214. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Letter dated 12/04/17 from Nicholas Rampersad of #29 Ragoonanan Trace, Penal. Re: Application for the position of Media Coordinator.
Referred to PIRO.
2. Media Release dated 14/04/17 from the Ministry of Planning and Development, Corporate Communications Unit. Re: Government and UN collaborate for first SDG Vision 2030 Mission in Trinidad and Tobago.
Noted.
3. Letter dated 03/04/17 from Margaret Mc. Dowell, Chairman, National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago, Ministry of Planning and Development. Re: Introduction of six (6) newly appointed members of the Trust and looking forward to meet to discuss our goals and objectives.
Noted.
4. Letter dated 11/04/17 from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government. Re: Mr. Motilal Ramsingh assigned as Chief Executive Officer at Penal / Debe Regional Corporation with effect from 18/04/17.
Noted.
5. Letter dated 13/04/17 from Jerry Ferguson, Chief Executive Officer of Tide Wind Energy. Re: Penal/ Debe waste to Energy Facility, Offering their services to the Corporation to dispose waste at \$450.00 per ton.

Meeting to be arranged with Tide Wind Energy to have further dialogue and express interest in their service.

6. Report from Dr. Allen Sammy, Chairman of the Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation. Re: Chester Street drainage.

Noted.

7. Letter dated 21/04/17 from Rekha Roopnarine, Treasurer of the Gandhi Village Community Group. Re: Requesting a donation to host 100 years of freedom of indentured Laborers in Trinidad and Tobago on 28/05/17 and also extending an invitation.

Referred to Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting.

215. PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS:

a. CEO Award dated 19/04/17- Hire of equipment to remove bulk waste.

Accepted.

b. CEO Award dated 13/04/17- To supply and deliver 2 piece chemical resistant PVC suit

Accepted.

c. Memorandum dated 10/04/17 from CEO of Sangre Grande Regional Corporation to Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government. Re: Election of Local Government Bodies 2016/2019.

Noted.

d. List of Vouchers dated 24/04/17- Recurrent Scavenging, Item Nos. 1-27, **\$504,263.67**

Approved.

e. List of Vouchers dated 24/04/17- Recurrent Expenditure, Item Nos. 1-35, **\$187,693.00**

Approved.

f. List of Vouchers dated 24/04/17- Development Programme, Item Nos. 1- 25, **\$213,584.34**

Approved.

g. List of Vouchers dated 24/04/17- Unspent Balances, Item Nos. 1-6, **\$37,125.00**

Approved.

216. MATTERS REFERRED: NIL

217. REPORTS AND REPLIES: NIL

218. PETITION: NIL

219. QUESTIONS: NIL

220. PERSONAL EXPLANATION: NIL

221. MOTION:

MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR DIPTEE RAMNATH

- Whereas the accommodation for primary and secondary school children in the Penal/Debe Region continues to be a matter of great concern.
- Whereas there are various primary and secondary schools housed in temporary accommodations.
- Be it resolved that we call upon the Ministry of Education to give us an update with respect to accommodation for St Domonic's RC School, Dr. Roodal Moonilal Ramai Trace Hindu, Parvati Girls' College and Shiva Boys' Hindu College.
- Be it further resolved that the Ministry of education put all things in place to ensure that the schools are completed as early as possible for students and staff to occupy.

Moved by Councillor Diptee Ramnath and seconded by Councillor Shanty Boodram.

Councillor Shanty Boodram:

Informed that she heard in the news that Minister Garcia said that all schools will re-opened today. She said that our schools must be a place for students to learn and for Teachers to teach

in safety. She thanked the Vice Chairman and Councillor for the Electoral District of Quinam/ Morne Diablo for bringing this motion on various issues affecting our schools in Penal/Debe. She said that she campaigned in the 2016 Local Government Election and highlighted the importance of the Parvati Girls Hindu College, Shiva Boys Hindu College, St Dominic's Roman Catholic School, Ramai Trace Hindu School, Barrackpore West Secondary School and the University South Debe Campus in the Penal/ Debe region. She added that on 26/01/17, there was a fiery protest outside the St. Dominic's RC School because it was closed down due to its dilapidated conditions and students do not have a proper place to call school. She further added that also on the 24/03/17, parents and teachers from the Ramai Trace Hindu School protested outside Parliament concerning the school not being opened even though ninety percent of the work was completed. She spoke about Parvati Girls Hindu College and said that the student population there is 650 and the staff is 31. She informed that the date the school started was on the 29/05/13 and the completion date was September 2015. She stated that there are serious problems at that school such as overcrowding of both staff and students as the facility was initially built for the Debe Hindu School and it is in a state of disrepair. She informed that the pre-fabricated units that were used as temporary accommodation are dilapidated particularly in the sixth form classes where the ceiling, walls and doors are severely damaged. She added that classrooms are hot and air conditioned units are not an option as the electrical system needs to be upgraded. She further added that no information regarding the state of completion for the new facility has been forthcoming from the Ministry of Education or its Agent. She informed that in May 2015 the Principal was advised by the then Minister of Education that the building was eighty percent (80 %) completed and was given the assurance that classes of the new facility will be given in September 2015. However, we still await for this school to be opened.

Mentioned that the student population at the Shiva Boys Hindu College is 762 whereas the staff is 68. She informed that there are critical issues such as serious infrastructure issues, cracks throughout the building, inadequate facilities, no assembly hall, no rooms available for certain classes such as art, music and theatre, insufficient space for labs and science, electrical problems and overheating panel boxes that affect this college. She further informed that again the Ministry of Education has not been forthcoming with information regarding either repairs at the present location or completion of the new facility. However, they continue to excel both in education and sports. She said that they were recently crowned the National Secondary School intercol Champion.

She spoke about the St Dominic's RC School where the present accommodation is at the Penal Community Centre. She said that it is inaccessible for many reasons and yet again no information has been forthcoming from the Ministry of Education regarding repairs to the temporary location or the completion date of the school. She informed that within the last month the sewer system was overloaded twice and the school had to rely on PDRC in this regard. She added that the facility at the Community Centre was not designed to facilitate round the clock usage bearing in mind extra-curricular activities. She said that one of the primary reasons why the original school building was shut down is because of the lack of fencing and this problem also exist at the temporary location. She added that parts of the building is without a reliable electricity supply and this poses a challenge of the day to day operation of some classes. She added that some of the air conditioned units are not functional in parts of the building. She further added that the present accommodation cannot facilitate the schools operational needs since there is not enough space available for both staff and students.

She questioned what is happening to the Debe South UWI Campus. She said that three years has passed and this campus is still waiting to be opened. She pleaded for the completion of these schools and children are crying out "we want our schools." She informed that when the former Prime Minister was demitted from office, seventy-eight (78) schools were under construction some were ninety-five percent (95%) completed whilst others were between fifty (50%) and eighty percent (80%) completed. However, they are left to decay under this present Government. She complained that its victimization again to the highest from water to schools and the list goes on.

Informed that 104 schools were constructed under the Peoples Partnership Government which includes 67 Early Childhood Day-care Centres, 31 Primary and 6 Secondary Schools. She added that under the previous Government the Prime Minister had desires and plans such as physical education, technical and vocational education, girl guides and cadet unit mentorship programmes, student council, home-work centres, circle of hope seniors, doubling the student support services unit from 300 to 700, hiring 200 Safety Officers, filling the Dean vacancies and much more whereas this present Government has no plans and no clue how to run this country. She said that teachers fear for their lives and safety in the schools and this was highlighted as headlines in the newspaper. She added that there is a need for disciplinary crisis throughout schools in the country. Eighteen months (18) in Government and there is a dramatic decline in the education system. There were laptops for every secondary school child under the

Peoples Partnership Government and she questioned what this present Government is doing for children. She concluded that no laptops but violence everywhere and the world is looking at the violence that is taking place in the school system via social media. Parents, teachers and also she as the Councillor for the Electoral District of Penal are asking for the Minister of Education to step down because he cannot perform.

Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh:

Commended Councillor Ramnath for bringing a motion of such importance to this meeting and she endorsed everything Councillor Boodram said pertaining to the schools. She spoke about the Dr. Roodal Moonilal Ramai Trace Hindi School which falls in her area. She informed that this school is ranked as one of the ninth excelling primary schools by the Ministry of Education. She further informed that the school is ninety percent (90%) completed but construction was stopped in September 2015. However, on November 11, 2015 students were moved to the Hanuman Milan Mandir at # 5 MM Penal Rock Road. She added that the relocation was supposed to be a temporary one but after eighteen months (18) the students are still there and they have to travel 34 -40 kilometres per day to attend classes. She mentioned that the location was not clearly meant to house students for such a long period of time in terms of the washroom and classroom facilities.

She pleaded with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago that they should not play politics with education, the future of the nation is in the book bags of schoolchildren. She pointed out that some people have book sense whilst some have common sense and there are some who are blessed with both. However, the action of this Government is nonsense. She said that the schools that were being built at the corner of the roundabout at Katwaroo Trace for example, the cost to repair, fix and open a school cost more, when they could have continued and finished the others and she questioned where is the common sense in that. She stated that the Government are here to serve the people and they are clearly not doing that. She stated that headlines in the newspaper this morning states that there is only doom in Trinidad and Tobago, there is fear and darkness all over. She added that the Government is serving their pockets, they are serving job loss and unemployment in our country. She stated that this is nonsense and she as Councillor for Barrackpore West will not stand for it. She said that she is not only calling for the Minister of Education to step down, but the entire Government to step down and the only person who can lead this country properly is the Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar and the Opposition. She concluded that our country prospered, developed and was pulled out of the darkness from 2010 to 2015 under the Peoples Partnership Government and they can do it again.

Alderman Brian Mohan:

Informed that for the past two years there are six (6) buildings at the Barrackpore West Secondary School which needs urgent repairs. He further informed that the roof is leaking and the children on the top floor gets wet whenever it rains. However, request was made to the Ministry of Education but nothing was done. He added that three (3) of the buildings have cracks and it is a very harmful environment for the school children. He also stated that the car park is in a very dilapidated condition. He pointed out that this Government do not have a heart for education, they like to keep people down and education is a weapon for them. He mentioned that under the Peoples Partnership, the Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar did everything in her power to put education

first because she always said that education is the key to poverty. In conclusion, he said that this Government in every sector has failed, they are not capable of running this country and the entire Government should resign.

Councillor Diptee Ramnath:

Thanked all Members of Council for supporting this motion. He informed that he visited every school in the Penal/ Debe region and there is a document with respect to all the problems faced at the various schools. He spoke about the St. Dominic's RC School where a wall at the back of the school caved and needs to be stabilized. He said that these children are making a sacrifice to go to the Community Centre which is very small, no air conditioned units and problems with the sewer system.

Informed that the Ramai Trace Hindu School was supposed to be completed and at present the previous Chairman of PDRC, his home is being used as a transfer station for the children from this school. He stated that the every single school which was housed temporarily need their cesspit cleaned and water supply on a weekly basis. At present there is a rat infestation at the compound and they also need their surrounding clean. He informed that the Ministry of Education continue to visit the school and make promises to the Principal, staff and Maha Sabha that the school will be completed, but to no avail because they have failed to honour their payments to the Contractor. He added that the Government failed to give the school children

what they duly supposed to get.

Said that the Parvati Girls Hindu College is overcrowded and the students have to travel a long distance to attend classes. He added that there are many problems at this school and nothing is being done. He further added that despite its conditions the schools continue to perform excellent in Penal/ Debe, for example, the Shiva Boys Hindu College which got national scholarships. He pointed out that the schools requested assistance from the Corporation regularly regarding cesspit problems, air conditions, yard, furniture, water and lights to name a few. He added that every school in Penal/Debe has problems and he questioned if the burgesses are not paying taxes and why are they being treated so unfairly. He informed that there was an Early Childhood Centre being built in Rock Road where the job started and overnight everything was moved out from that area. Millions of dollars was spent on that project to get it completed and now it is condemned.

Mentioned that the Penal/ Quinam Government Primary School was built and the Government failed to officially open it. He added that Barrackpore West Secondary School have serious problems with their building and recreational facilities. He concluded that this Government continue to turn a blind eye to Penal/ Debe and necessary action should be taken to bring relief to the burgesses of Penal/ Debe.

Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy:

Informed that many schools have been calling the Corporation for assistance, but we have no jurisdiction or authority to enter any school to help anyone. He said that the Corporation are faced by a dilemma and he questioned what we can do. He added that the Corporation assisted schools such as the Parvati Girls Hindu College with their water mains and cesspits, Debe Presbyterian with a supply of water, Monkey Town Government with their recreation ground and Penal Government requested assistance with fencing their recreation ground for safety reasons. He added that PDRC also assisted Holy Faith Convent with rolling their ground, St. Dominic's with the cleaning of their cesspit at the Community Centre, Clarke Rochard Government Primary with removal of dogs from their school. He further added that PDRC cut all the grounds and virtually supplied all of them with water. He said that the region are producing in spite of all the challenges being faced at schools and as such top SEA and national scholarship students resides within Penal/ Debe.

Congratulated Councillor Ramnath for the timely motion and all the contributions from Members of Council. He informed that there are forty- two (42) Temples in the region, a number of Majids, Churches and over thirty (30) recreational grounds that we take care of. Also there are a number of sporting organizations and cricket teams and he questioned what will happen if they were to be removed from the landscape. He concluded that we must persevere in spite of what is happening.

Unanimously approved.

OTHER PUBLIC BUSINESS:

222. Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh:

- a. Welcomed Mr. Ramsingh, Chief Executive Officer to Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation.
- b. Stated that she was filled with joy this morning with Rev. Umraw inspirational speech about love to Members of Council. She said that love is very important in this world right now because we are lacking love. She added that people can have all the money and luxury but if there is no love then they have nothing.
- c. Stated that Members of Council were enthusiastic when presenting their motions.
- d. Said that water is life and cries were heard from Council concerning water. She informed that we must speak out and challenge our words which have power to face the promises that never materialized.

223. Alderman Purushottam Singh:

- a. Informed that he together with Councillor Rampersad toured the Debe West Electoral District concerning street lights. He said that street lighting is a major issue within the region and no one seemed to care and do anything about it, not T& TEC and not even the Minister of Public Utilities.
- b. Enquired what is being done to curb crime in Penal/ Debe. He said that someone was robbed recently at Suchit Trace and people keep complaining about the crime situation but to no avail.
- c. Informed Council that he will be absent on 01/05/17 because he will be going to Grenada to celebrate their first official Indian Arrival Day.

224. Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh:

- a. Welcomed the CEO and she said looked forward to working with him.

- b. Informed that WASA's website highlighted that water is pivotal to human existence. She said that the need for water is clearly understood, yet citizens are suffering in Barrackpore West. She added that days turned into weeks as residents were unable to receive a supply of pipe borne water. She further added that the water pressure and the schedule of supply are problematic, valves are not being opened to residents for weeks and citizen's calls to WASA are put on hold far too long. She said that citizens are not paying bills for this distasteful level of service and this is not what they deserved.
- c. Informed that a transformer had blown in the Oropouche area and affected the South Oropouche booster station, but these water issues existed prior to this. She said that on behalf of the burgesses of Barrackpore West, she urged WASA to fulfil their vision to be the best performing water utility in the western hemisphere. She also urged the Minister of Public Utility to cease with feeding lies to the general public, there is indeed a water issue. She also urged the Minister to fulfil his duties to serve the people and bring a solution to these water woes.

225. Councillor Sheldon Lal:

- a. Informed that he grasp the opportunity since the media is present at this meeting to highlight the issue with the four road junction at Woodland which separates Woodland. He said that he did not receive any calls from the Ministry of Works pertaining to this matter. He added that traffic comes from the Siparia and Point Fortin areas to gain easy access to the incomplete Sir Solomon Hochoy Highway. He informed that there are four (4) stop signs at the four road junction which no one pays heed to. He added that the only way accidents or loss of limbs are prevented is because vehicles coming from the Siparia or La Romaine region have no choice but to slow down because of two (2) landslips there. However no drivers who are accessing the M2 Ring Road stops. He stated that as a UNC Councillor for the Electoral District of La Fortune, he is begging Traffic Management who falls under the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure to please pay us a visit or install the sensitive traffic lights.
- b. Informed that at the La Romaine High School 'run off' water from a neighbour's premises is entering the school and flooding their recreational facilities. He requested that the Road Officer II and his team do a site visit. He added that the Road Officer went there and solved the problem by blocking off the water from entering but the resident unblocked it.
- c. Informed that at Seepaul Boulevard there was a project started by the Unemployment Relief Programme (URP) and was halted as soon as the People Partnership Government came out of power. He further informed that at present eight (8) residents back walls are on the verge of collapsing and he requested a site visit and assistance from the relevant Officers.
- d. Informed of a blocked watercourse at Sankar Development which is a private Development but the Corporation is the Agency to abate any health hazard.
- e. Informed that a shed collapsed at Lagoon Junction to Concord Road which was used by the elderly for sheltering purposes when travelling. He added that the residents seek a sponsor and they are willing to rebuild the shed. He requested that the Corporation pay a visit and give them the assurance to rebuild the shed before the sponsor do what he has to do.

226. Councillor Shanty Boodram:

- a. Welcomed the CEO Mr. Ramsingh to the Corporation. She said that she had the privilege to work with him before and he is a person of action and she know that he will bring relief to the burgesses of the Penal/ Debe region.
- b. Welcomed Rev. Ralph Umraw from her Electoral District who took the opportunity to be here to bring inspirational words of love. She said that we have seen no love in this country with this Government in power. She added that this is not a caring Government but one of victimization to the highest and as our former Prime Minister said, they have no clue on how to run this country. She questioned why Penal/ Debe is being victimized for something essential as water. She added that people are complaining and she visited residents at Aquart Village, Ramdeen Trace, Old Quinam Road, Satnarine Trace and Teemul Trace. She stated that we are a United National Congress (UNC) run Corporation and one that we are proud of with UNC Council Members and we stand here today to say that we are not going to take victimization from this Government.
- c. Informed that another issue that is crucial and will affect every citizen in this country is property tax. She said that people are calling and enquiring about what to do and want to rally against property tax. She informed that senior citizens 65 years and older will not have to pay property tax but it will be deferred after death to their children to pay. She added that people are out of jobs, there are no medicine/ beds in the hospitals, water crisis in our Electoral Districts, food prices went up and crime are major issues that are affecting this country. On the other hand, this Government want to introduce property tax at this time. She concluded that the People National Movement, (PNM) should step down and let the Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar run this country and then we will see good things ahead again.

227. Councillor Marsha Jaimungal Khan:

- a. Welcomed back the CEO Mr. Motilal Ramsingh to the PDRC.
- b. Requested an update on the clean- up campaign. She said that during the campaign there were promises that the excavator would clear watercourses and also for CEPEP to clear vacant lots. She added that vacant lots within the region remained a burning issue and she would like the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government to intervene with regards to this matter.
- c. Reiterated that at the last Statutory Meeting she enquired about the sum of one million dollars (\$1M) that was approved by Members of Council for the purchase of materials be used in each Electoral Districts. She requested in writing all the funds that were received and how the materials were utilized.
- d. Informed that since 2014 the Kennedy Park Clubhouse was wired and to date there is no electrical supply there. She requested an update pertaining to this and would also like the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government to intervene on this matter.
- e. Informed that the abandoned Caroni lands in the Esperance area is being transformed into a squatting area and she would like the Minister of Agriculture to look into this.

228. Councillor Brian Julien:

- a. Welcomed the CEO Mr. Ramsingh and stated that his presence will be highly appreciated in Penal/ Debe.
- b. Informed that water is a major problem in his Electoral District especially in areas such as Sugar Road, Bronte, Borde Narve and Upper Barrackpore. He said that several calls were made to Officers from WASA but to no avail. He mentioned that he spent approximately four thousand dollars (\$4000.00) from his personal allowance to buy water for the burgesses from his district. He said that WASA do not care and they should be assisting the people. However, he added that the burgesses believe that Councillors are the ones to provide them with water. He stated that WASA have to understand that this day and age people cannot be suffering for water, it is very difficult. He pleaded with WASA and the Minister of Public Utilities to assist people in areas such as Sugar Road, Bronte, Borde Narve, Upper Barrackpore, Cottage Road, Diamond, Lengua, Golconda and Congo Hill, Barrackpore.
- c. Informed that EMBD built a road from Cottage Road, Barrackpore to St. John and another road from the Police Station in Barrackpore to Borde Narve. However many trucks traverse there and damaging the road making it impassable. He further informed that he contacted the Engineer from EMBD Mr Baksh to visit but to no avail and so he requested that Administration contact Mr. Baksh to address this matter in order to bring relief to the people.
- d. Requested an update on Assiah Trace be submitted at the sixth (6th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting.

229. Councillor Roland Hall:

- a. Welcomed the return of the CEO, Mr. Ramsingh.
- b. Said that he heard Councillor Jaimungal-Khan mentioned that after the clean-up campaign certain areas remained as a dump. He added that it puts Penal/ Debe as well as him as Councillor for the area he represents in an embarrassing position. He informed that as soon as the CEO came he put things in place for excavation and trucks. He added that the excavator is working in Penal and it will come to Debe on 24/04/17 (Today)
- c. Informed that he will not be taking any blame for lack of action by the Corporation and similarly he is not taking any blame for WASA. He added that we have to let the public know that this Corporation pay to supply a certain amount of water free of charge to the burgesses and WASA should take the blame for not delivering water to them. He further added that T&TEC should also take the blame for not repairing street lights and he informed that in his Electoral District there are more than forty (40) street lights not working. He stated that the Minister of Public Utilities is not aware of the water crisis in Penal/ Debe, so maybe he is not aware of the street lights problems also. He questioned if the Minister of Education knows that the schools in Penal/Debe are not opened. He said that certain matters have to be prioritized and the Government should get their act together with respect to schools, hospitals, T&TEC and WASA. However if they cannot do so they should step down and let the People Partnership run this country. He mentioned that nothing is happening to the new highway. He added that the University in Debe was supposed to be opened in 2016 similar to the hospital, but when there is a Government who does not know how to manage things this is what happens.
- d. Quoted a portion of an article on page 10 from a newspaper dated 23/04/17 by the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, which states that “Staff of local Government bodies indicated that a tough stand on this courtesy, poor service and unwillingness to act on complaints from citizens this nonsense has to stop.”
- e. Stated that he begged for street lights for his Electoral District for quite some time. He said that at times Officers are complimented for their hard work, but there are priorities when Councillors ask

for something and would like to see it done because they are here to provide a service to the people. He concluded that Administration must put things in place to make the Councillors happy who would in turn make the people who they serve happier.

- f. Requested Administration to make the necessary arrangement with finances in the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for miking done on 27/03/17.

Approved by Members of Council.

230. Councillor Diptee Ramnath:

- a. Welcomed the CEO Mr. Motilal Ramsingh.
- b. Informed that the Government is responsible for the serious crisis Trinidad and Tobago is facing today and they want to make Penal/ Debe an example of this crisis. He stated that from the smallest allocation given amongst many other problems faced in Penal/ Debe this Government is working to demoralize the burgesses. He said that the message sent today from Members of Council of the Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation to the Government is that they are not going to give up this fight.
- c. Thanked the Chairman of the committee and the Health Department for the tremendous work they did for the clean-up campaign. He mentioned that assurance was given for CEPEP and other Agencies to continue to work as well as equipments to be on site to ensure that the clean-up campaign was completed. He added that Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation had to hire equipment which was supposed to be voluntary and they had to source funding to complete that project on time.
- d. Enquired what WASA have in place to increase the production with respect to the water situation in the Penal/ Debe region. Pertaining to the tremendous leaks and no Contractors, he said that the Corporation gave WASA the assurance to assist them to repair the lines so that burgesses can get water and they did not respond. He questioned why the hydrants throughout Penal/ Debe is not being opened by WASA and suggested that their Management Team formulate a plan with the Corporation to bring relief to the people because most of the funds being spent is in the areas that WASA is supposed to be supplying water.
- e. Informed that over one hundred (100) street lights in the Electoral District of Quinam/Morne Diablo are not working. He mentioned that many letters were sent to the Chairman and CEO of CEPEP for cutting the areas but to no avail.
- f. Informed of the erosion at Quinam Beach Facility and pleaded that it be repaired.
- g. Said that implementation of the property tax will be a tremendous burden to the burgesses. He mentioned that PDRC may be unable to maintain the Picnic Site if a fee is not charged. He added that the Corporation will now have to generate funds in order to keep it afloat because no assistance is given by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.
- h. Informed that the springs and dams in the region are not kept and the roads are not repaired. He added that he cannot recall any projects under any Ministry that took place within the Penal/ Debe. He said that PDRC have to work together to ensure that the burgesses reap a fair share of the benefits for the taxes and commitment to Trinidad and Tobago.

231. Thanked everyone for a fruitful meeting and terminated same at 12:40pm.

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Chairman
Statutory Meeting