

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH [7TH] STATUTORY MEETING OF THE PENAL /DEBE REGIONAL CORPORATION (2016-2019 TERM) HELD ON JUNE 29, 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 Kheymwetti Chulan	Rochard Road/Barrackpore East
Councillor Brian Julien	Bronte
Councillor Shanty Boodram	Penal
Councillor Marsha Jaimungal-Khan	Union Hall/Esperance/Debe East
Councillor Vijay Rampersad	Debe West
Alderman Brian Mohan	
Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh	
Alderman Purushottam Singh	

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL EXCUSED:

Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh	Barrackpore West
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MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Mrs. Sheriffa Heru	Administrative Officer II (Ag)
Ms. Danielle Gene Leben	Principal Medical & Health Officer
Mr. Nazim Ameeral	Engineering and Surveying Officer
Mr. Steve Heru	County Superintendent
Mr. Sunil Ramnarine	Road Officer I/ Building Inspector (Ag)
Mr. Zaffar Ali	Works Supervisor I / Road Officer II
Mr. Vishnu Seunarine	Personnel & Industrial Relations Officer (Ag)
Mr. Andrew Dipchand	Accountant I
Mr. Ballyram Lalla	Municipal Police Inspector
Mr. Chris Baboolal	Municipal Police Constable
Mr. Dinesh Sirju	Municipal Police Constable
Mrs. Tara Bridglal	Clerk IV
Ms. Pamela Motilal	Clerk I
Ms. Aviva Vesprey	Clerk I
Mr. Dennis Gopie	Vice Chairman's Personal Assistant
Mrs. Indira Jaglal	Clerical Assistant (Contract)
Ms. Ivana Saney	On- the-Job –Trainee

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 04

277. The meeting commenced at 9:20 am with a prayer led by Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh.

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

Welcomed all present to the 7th Statutory Meeting. Commended Members of Council and Administration for their magnificent response to the effects of storm Bret and the havoc it created in the Penal/ Debe region. He also commended outdoor workers for their voluntary work during the weekend.

Stated that the Eid Function held on 28/06/17 was excellent and well executed.

Reminded Members of Council that the Civic Awards will be held at 5.30 pm on the 08/07/17 at Doc's Ranch.

279. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. **Administrative Officer II (Ag):**

- a) Apologized for the absence of the Chief Executive Officer and informed that he is engaged in another Meeting.

280. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Minutes of the Sixth [6th] Statutory Meeting held on May 22, 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 Brian Julien** that the Minutes of the Special Statutory Meeting held on June 27, 2017 be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings thereof.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

[i] PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:

281. **Adoption of Minutes of the Sixth (6th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on May 01, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Brian Julien** and seconded by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** that the Minutes of the Sixth (6th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on May 01, 2017 be adopted.

282. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Seventh (7th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on June 05, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Brian Julien** and seconded by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-17 of the Seventh (7th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on June 05, 2017 be accepted.

283. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Seventh (7th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on June 05, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Brian Julien** and seconded by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** that the Reports & Recommendations Nos. 1-17 of the Seventh (7th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on June 05, 2017 be adopted.

[ii] PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

284. **Adoption of Minutes of the Sixth (6th) Public Health Committee Meeting held on May 04, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Minutes of the Sixth (6th) Public Health Committee

Meeting held on May 04, 2017 be adopted.

285. Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Seventh (7th) Public Health Committee Meeting held on June 08, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-3 of the Seventh (7th) Public Health Committee Meeting held on June 08, 2017 be accepted.

286. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Seventh (7th) Public Health Committee Meeting held on June 08, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-3 of the Seventh (7th) Public Health Committee Meeting held on June 08, 2017 be adopted.

[iii] PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

287. Adoption of Minutes of the Sixth (6th) Personnel Committee Meeting held on May 08, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Minutes of the Sixth (6th) Personnel Committee Meeting held on May 08, 2017 be adopted.

288. Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Seventh (7th) Personnel Committee Meeting held on June 12 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-2 of the Seventh (7th) Personnel Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2017 be adopted.

289. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Seventh (7th) Personnel Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-2 of the Seventh (7th) Personnel Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2017 be adopted.

[iv] FINANCE, PLANNING & ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE

290. Adoption of Minutes of the Sixth (6th) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on May 11, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Minutes of the Sixth (6th) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Meeting held on May 11, 2017 be adopted.

291. Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Seventh (7th) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on June 27, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Reports and Recommendations, Nos. 1-9 of the Seventh (7th) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on June 27, 2017 be accepted.

292. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Seventh (7th) Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on June 27, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-9 of the Seventh [7th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on June

27, 2017 be adopted.

[v] FESTIVALS, HERITAGE & TOURISM COMMITTEE

293. **Adoption of Minutes of the Fifth (5th) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on May 08, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Shanty Boodram** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Minutes of the Fifth (5th) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on May 08, 2017 be adopted.

294. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Sixth (6th) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on June 08, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Shanty Boodram** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1 of the Sixth (6th) Festivals, Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on June 08, 2017 be accepted.

295. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Sixth (6th) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on June 08, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Shanty Boodram** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1 of the Sixth (6th) Festivals, Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on June 08, 2017 be adopted.

[vi] SPORTS, YOUTH & GENDER COMMITTEE:-

296. **Adoption of Minutes of the Fifth (5th) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on May 11, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Brian Mohan** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Minutes of the Fifth (5th) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on May 11, 2017 be adopted.

297. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Sixth (6th) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on June 27, 2017.**

RESOLVED:-Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Brian Mohan** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-8 of the Sixth (6th) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on June 27, 2017 be accepted.

298. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Sixth (6th) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on June 27, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Brian Mohan** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-8 of the Sixth (6th) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on June 27, 2017 be adopted.

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

299. **Adoption of Minutes of the Fifth (5th) Citizen, Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on May 08, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** and seconded by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Minutes of the Fifth (5th) Citizen Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on May 08, 2017 be adopted.

300. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Sixth (6th) Citizen, Liaison,**

Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** and seconded by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-4 of the Sixth (6th) Citizen Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2017 be accepted.

301. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Sixth (6th) Citizen, Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** and seconded by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-4 of the Sixth (6th) Citizen Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2017 be accepted.

[vii] THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

302. Adoption of Minutes of the Fifth (5th) Environment Committee Meeting held on May 04, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** and seconded by **Councillor Vijay Rampersad** that the Minutes of the Fifth (5th) Environment, Meeting held on May 04, 2017 be adopted.

303. Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Sixth (6th) Environment Committee Meeting held on June 08, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** and seconded by **Councillor Vijay Rampersad** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-2 of the Sixth (6th) Environment Committee Meeting held on June 08, 2017 be accepted.

304. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Sixth (6th) Environment Committee Meeting held on June 08, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** and seconded by **Councillor Vijay Rampersad** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-2 of the Sixth (6th) Environment Committee Meeting held on June 08, 2017 be adopted.

[viii] BUILDING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE:

305. Adoption of Minutes of the Fifth (5th) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on May 08, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Minutes of the Fifth (5th) Building and Planning Meeting held on May 08 2017 be adopted

306. Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Sixth (6th) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-4 of the Sixth (6th) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2017 be accepted.

307. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Sixth (6th) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-4 of the Sixth (6th) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2017 be

adopted.

308. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Memorandum dated 07/06/17 from Road Officer I, PDRC to County Superintendent, PDRC.
Re: Legal action from Mr. Shawn Ross.
Referred to Physical Infrastructure Meeting.
County Superintendent to investigate and report.
2. Letter dated 08/06/17 from Pearl Gallai. Re: Request to purchase the Dell laptop and cell phone that was assigned to her by PDRC.
Administration has a system in place and recommended this purchase.
3. Letter dated 01/06/17 from the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, Senator the Honourable Kazim Hosein. Re: Sincere thanks for your unreserved efforts in the National Clean- Up Campaign 2017.
Noted.
4. Email from Sergeant Eavis Lewis, Barrackpore Police Station to Chairman Dr. Allen Sammy.
Re: Request to use the GP Recreation Ground to host Crime Walk on 08/07/17.
Approved pending availability and caution fee waived.

309. PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS:

- a. List of Vouchers dated 29/06/17 – Recurrent Scavenging, Item Nos. 1-21, **\$311,127.64**
Approved.
- b. List of Vouchers dated 29/06/17- Recurrent Expenditure, Item Nos. 1-7, **\$81,393.76**
Approved.
- c. List of Vouchers dated 29/06/17- Development Programme, Item Nos. 1-2, **\$4,921.88**
Approved.
- d. List of Vouchers dated 29/06/17- Unspent Balances. Item Nos.1-6, **\$193,765.51**
Approved.
- e. List of Vouchers dated 29/06/17- Water Trucking. Item Nos. 1-16, **\$170,540.80**
Approved.
- f. Building and Layout Plan dated 29/06/17- Item Nos. 1-9, Marsha Austin & ors
Approved.
- g. Memorandum dated 13/06/17 from Chief Executive Officer to Members of Council and Staff.
Re: Development Programme Projects 2016/1017
Accepted.
- h. Schedule of Council Meetings for July 2017
Approved.
- i. 1st Minutes with Residents and Land Developers of Chester Street, Debe held on 08/06/17 at the Council Hall.
Referred to Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting.

310. MATTERS REFERRED: NIL

311. REPORTS AND REPLIES:

1. **Councillor Vijay Rampersad:**
28/06/2017:

a) Items received from PDRC for the relief of flood victims of tropical storm Bret.

From the Chairman's Office:

28 Swiss hampers
10 buckets
6 mops
19 hampers
10 cases of water
2 bags of snacks
20 hampers
10 cases of water
1 bale of laundry detergent
10 packs rice
10 packs red beans

b) From DMU (Items issued for the period 20/06/17- 25/06/17)

23/06/17:

29 sheets (4x6)
29 mattresses (4x6)

24/06/17:

20 mattresses (4x6)
8 mattresses (4x6)

25/06/17:

10 mattresses (3x6)

2. Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan:

a) Items received from PDRC for relief to flood victims of tropical storm Bret in the Electoral District of Rochard /Barrackpore East.

Chairman Office:

23/06/17:

10 Swiss hampers
10 Maritime hampers
1 tarpaulin

24/06/17:

5 cases (5L) water
5 cases (small) water
1 box clothes
1 bag snack
7 hampers

25/06/17:

11 mattresses
10 bags rice
10 bags red beans
10 rage sprays
1 bale of laundry detergent

b) DMU:

21/06/17:

4 tarpaulins
4 mattresses (3x6)
10 mattresses (4x6)

23/06/17:

11 sheets (4x6)

12 mattresses (4x6)

24/06/17:

10 mattresses (4x6)

25/06/17:

8 mattresses (4x6)

3. Councillor Sheldon Lal:

- a) Informed that the Electoral District of La Fortune was not severely affected by the storm so he did not received anything from the Chairman's Office. He stated that two (2) roofs were blown off and was referred to the DMU.

4. Councillor Shanty Boodram:

23/06/17:

a) From Chairman's Office:

20 Swiss hampers

10 cases (small) water

3 boxes of used clothes

20 hampers from American Marketing

1 box of rage spray

20 packs rice

20 packs red beans

1 bale of laundry detergent

6 bottles of oil (small)

Five (5) buckets and three (3) mops were used by fourteen (14) workers to clean premises.

b) From DMU:

8 tarpaulins

26 pillows

7 (3x6) mattresses

12 (4x6) mattresses

21/06/17:

6 tarpaulins

6 (3x6) mattresses

23/06/17:

4 tarpaulins

c) Radio Jaagriti donated 75-80 hampers

Surudaye Mungroo gave a donation in the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1000), which was used to purchase cleaning items from Jwala Persad Supermarket.

Presentation College Students past and present distributed eight (8) mattresses and foodstuff to residents in her district on 25/06/17.

Fat Boy Coconut Water donated coconut water to those affected by the storm.

Thanked the Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar's Office, they donated ten (10) hampers.

5. Councillor Brian Julien:

a) 25 hampers from PDRC

7 hampers from Chairman's Office

Mr Mungroo, former Chairman of Self Help gave a donation in the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1000), which was used for hampers from Jwala Persad Supermarket.

3 mattresses form DMU.

6. Councillor Roland Hall:

- a) Informed that his Electoral District was not severely affected by the storm. However, persons who called him were referred to the DMU.

7. Councillor Diptee Ramnath:

a) From Chairman's Office:

23/06/17:

20 hampers

24/06/17:

30 hampers

25/06/17:

10 perishable hampers

10 cases of water

1 box used clothes

1 box fly spray

1 bale of laundry detergent

b) 26/06/17:

From DMU:

4 tarpaulins

12 mattresses

8. Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy:

a) Donations made to his Office:

JCA Marketing- 40 (5 litres) water

Ms. Indra Roopnarine- 40 (4x6) mattresses, 68 hampers

Blue Waters Products- 200 (12 x 1.5 L) water

Maritime Financial Group- 80 hampers, also donated sandwiches and cleaning products.

Mr. Shiva Roopnarine, President of Penal/ Debe Chamber of Commerce- donated 50 lunches on two (2) Occasions.

Councillor Nadia Khan Mohammed- donated clothes and foodstuff.

Dr. Aneil Mahabir- 22 mattresses

National Council of Indian Culture (NCIC)

A number of Churches such as the New Testament Church.

Mr. Clinton Sookhan

Ms. Hackshaw

Mr. Premsingh

- b) Stated that Members of Council and the DMU worked in a manner which is unbelievable. Commended Mr. Hasmath and his team from DMU, Technical Department, Police, AO II, CEO and other staff for going beyond the call of duty.
- c) Suggested Public Education and Environmental Cleanliness Program be expedited.
- d) Informed that there was no coordinated efforts by the Army to help affected persons. He stated that soldiers can only act on directives, so he blamed the Minister of National Security. He added that this is geographic discrimination because there was a major disaster in the region and as such, there was no response from the Ministry of Works and the Ministry of Agriculture.
- e) Stated that CEPEP responded and assisted Penal/ Debe.
- f) Thanked the Office of Member of Parliament (MP) for Oropouche East, Dr. Roodal Moonilal and Oropouche West, Ms. Vidia Gayadeen Gopeesingh. Also thanked the Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar's Office for their support.

312. PETITION: NIL

313. QUESTIONS: NIL

314. PERSONAL EXPLANATION: NIL

315. MOTION:
MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR DIPTEE RAMNATH:

- Whereas there exists a 99 acre parcel of state land located at Penal Quinam Road Penal.
- And whereas there is a willingness by stakeholders to partner with the Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation for the establishment of a Botanical Garden/ Nature Park/ Recreational and Educational Park among other uses on the said parcel of land.
- And whereas there is an absence of similar sites and projects within the Penal/ Debe region.
- Be it resolved that the Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation take the necessary steps to obtain the said parcel of land from the state for the establishment of this said park.
- And be it further resolved that the Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation and other relevant stakeholders meet to discuss development plans for the said park with a view to implementing a programme of action within a reasonable period of time.

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

Councillor Shanty Boodram:

Stated that this is an excellent motion brought forward by Councillor Ramnath to the Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation. She said that we have to rally to get this land available for the use of a Botanical Garden/ Nature Park Centre. She added that this will be from generation to generation. She mentioned that although the motion was moved there will be a process to develop this park and it will be a tourism attraction in the Penal/ Debe region. She suggested that moringa, herbal plants and fruit trees be planted and maybe later on a sporting complex can be included. She complimented Councillor Ramnath for this motion.

Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh:

Stated that the land located at Penal Quinam Road is a beautiful site and it should not only be developed by PDRC but also by other ministries. She said that retired Agriculturists can come forward and share ideas as well to make that parcel of land a wonder of the world in the future.

Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy:

Informed that some stakeholders already came forward with ideas pertaining to the 99 acre parcel of land. He added that this park can be at a minimal cost especially if other ministries and non- government agencies are involved.

Councillor Diptee Ramnath:

Thanked all members for their contributions. He spoke about different types of trees that can be planted in the 99 acre parcel of land such as hog plum, balata, black sage and cedar to name a few. He added that these trees can provide food for wild life and the younger generation can also learn the different species of trees. He said that from the fisheries section, they can also distinguish the various types of fishes such as cascadura and guabine. He stated that these are some of the things they want to embark in the parcel of land. He mentioned that cocoa, coffee and all the fruits in Trinidad and Tobago and as well as from other areas should also be included in this park. He said that a small fee can be charged to the public to spend a day at the park so that money can be generated and employment can be created. He stated that this park will be one of a kind in Trinidad and Tobago and he do

hope with all these ideas in mind that support will be rendered from other agencies to make this a reality.

Unanimously approved.

OTHER PUBLIC BUSINESS:

316. Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh:

- a) Stated that she is always proud to see members of the public attending the Statutory Meeting.
- b) Questioned if citizens of Trinidad and Tobago were prepared for Tropical Storm Bret or are they ready for another storm. Stated that the storm was an act of God that man had no control of. She also questioned who was responsible for the flood, not God because he has land deposit to receive the water. She added that on the other hand, men always feel that they are God and they want to be like Him. She said that one has to be knowledgeable in everything and must have a mixed lifestyle.
- c) Mentioned that she drove through certain areas in Trinidad and observed thousands of food boxes accumulating in the rivers. She said that there is a big river located behind her house called the Nagessar Channel and it is not impossible when she looked at the things that came out of there. She added that it is not impossible because we as a people must be more careful of how we dispose of our personal belongings. She reiterated that she brought this up in a previous meeting that we must learn to educate burgesses to place a bin at the front of their homes.
- d) Informed that people should keep their white waste safe until the truck passes to pick it up. She said that there were computers, refrigerators and televisions in the rivers and the public thinks it is the Corporation's responsibility.
- e) Mentioned that some persons pretend they do not know how the business of the Corporation is conducted and she said that as Members of Council we should educate them. However, in doing so she added that we have to be very careful, smart and make the right decision.

317. Alderman Brian Mohan:

- a) Thanked his colleagues for their contributions they made. Also thanked Members of Council and Administration for all the hard work they did during the period of Tropical Storm Bret.
- b) Informed that the Prime Minister made a statement that squatters will not receive any benefit from the money that would be released to help flood victims. However, he added that ninety percent (90 %) of the citizens who were affected are squatters south of the Caroni River. He mentioned that more than fifty percent (50 %) of the citizens south of the Caroni River are farmers. He said that there are many agricultural farmers who did mega projects/farming and lost millions of dollars. He questioned how these people are going to recover. Thanked the public for supporting the people but the Government is not doing anything. He appealed to the Prime Minister to do what is right and serve the people because they are ones who vote for him and they can also be the ones to remove him from Office.

318. Alderman Purushottam Singh:

- a) Extended condolences to Vijay Ramai and his brother for the passing of their father.
- b) Stated that we are not ready for a storm and questioned what lesson was learnt after Tropical Storm Bret.
- c) Enquired if Penal/ Debe received any help from the Government to clean drains after the storm. He said that each Councillor should be given a backhoe for a few days to clean watercourses in their area.
- d) Suggested that hurricane straps and J bolts should be placed in houses to avoid the expenses incurred to repair roofs. He stated that there will be other storms because of global warming and how the entire system shifted south of the equator.

319. Councillor Vijay Rampersad:

- a) Mentioned that long ago he used to wait for the storm to see what will take place, but now as a Councillor for the past (4) years you have to think about other people and how their lives will be affected. Informed that he was at the Disaster Management Unit (DMU) for a few hours on the night of the storm and observed what Administration had to go through to put things in place.

b) Thanked:

- i) Mr. Hasmath and other staff for assisting him in his Electoral District which was affected the worst in terms of flooding.
- ii) Councillors such as Shanty Boodram and Marsha Jaimungal –Khan for their contributions.
- iii) The Offices for the Members of Parliament (MP's) for Oropouche West and East, Ms Vidia Gayadeen Gopeesingh and Dr. Roodal Moonilal for transmission of information within his area.
- iv) The Alderman of PDRC because they went out there and assisted as well.
- v) The Police for maintaining law and order during the distribution exercise.
- vi) CEPEP for coming out and doing a marvellous job.
- vii) Chairman and his Office for assisting in all ways possible.

320. Councillor Sheldon Lal:

- a) Thanked the Almighty that there was no fatality after Tropical Storm Bret and also for sparing his Electoral District. He mentioned that he was able to lend his resources to another agency in an attempt to restore T&TEC supply to the burgesses of Penal/ Debe. He added that most of the loss of supply was as a result of fallen trees.
- b) In support of Alderman Brian Mohan's presentation, he appealed to the Government that Twenty-Five Million Dollars (\$25 M) will not even compensate the farmers of Woodland.

321. Councillor Shanty Boodram:

- a) Thanked her Political Leader and Member of Parliament the Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar for calling Councillors, Aldermen, Chairmen, Mayors and UNC Activists to be on the alert because there is a storm coming. She questioned where the Prime Minister was. She mentioned that the day the Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar was sworn in as Prime Minister, she left and visited flooded areas. On the other hand, she stated that the Prime Minister, Dr. Keith Rowley knew about the storm but he left and went Tobago. She added that the Government has failed us, but the people of Trinidad and Tobago are the ones who are helping us.
- b) Informed that the squatters in her Electoral District felt relieved when she visited and distributed hampers to them because they were flooded out.
- c) Thanked the MP's Office for Siparia Constituency and the La Costena Garden Village Council for assisting Sasha Chance and her family. They housed and fed them at the La Costena Community Centre and donations helped that family. She mentioned that Alderman Mohan and a person by the name of Saleem built a temporary home for them. She informed that according to the newspaper, the Ministry of Social Development was going to help the Chance family, but to date nothing was done. She said that the Government and the Ministry of Social Development have to step in and help this family as well as other stranded families and stop playing politics with people lives.
- d) Thanked Dr. John from Siparia Health Centre who made contributions to the burgesses of Penal/ Debe.
- e) Commended T&TEC on the fantastic job they did by restoring electricity to the burgesses who were affected. Also commended CEPEP, the Municipal Police and the volunteers who assisted and bought relief the people.
- f) Thanked her Secretary Melisa Mulchansingh, the Driver Ravi Gangadhar, the CEO, Chairman and the DMU for all their contributions they had given. She reiterated that the Government has failed the people of Trinidad and Tobago.
- g) Appealed to the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government to bring in the resources like they did for the Clean-up-Campaign. She stated that we need action and we need it now.
- h) Said that she will continue to work with the Chance family to ensure what the Government can do to provide relief for them.

322. Councillor Marsha Jaimungal- Khan:

- a) Informed that not much residents were affected in her Electoral District, but she got reports from thirteen (13) persons who were affected by the storm. Thanked the MP's Office for Oropouche East, Dr. Roodal Moonilal for assisting residents with hampers.
- b) Appealed to the Minister of Works and Transport, Mr. Rohan Sinanan to visit the residents of Wellington Road, Debe because they are badly affected by flooding. She mentioned that Rajendra

Sharma of #70 S.S Erin Road, Debe was affected after the storm and his house is still flooded with stagnant water. She informed that the crossing by the doubles sheds is blocked with thousands of bottles and suggested that the road be cut across in order for the water to run off and to alleviate the flooding problems in the area.

- c) Sympathize with the family of Videsh Subar who was brutally murdered with his caretaker. She informed of the kidnapping of the owner of Puff and Stuff Bakery this morning (29/06/17) and the kidnappers are calling a ransom of \$250,000 for his safe return. She said that the Prime Minister do not care what is taking place in this country, unlike the Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar, she will address the nation when the country is in a state like this. She stated that Dr. Keith Rowley announced that he is going to have a reshuffle in his Government. She suggested that he should reshuffle himself and step down as Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago because he is not capable of running this country.
- d) Informed that there was a notice in the newspaper last week which stated that the road in Lalbeharry Trace will be closed. However, to date nothing was put in place for the work to start.
- e) Requested that the person who is performing the duties of the Health and Safety Officer to visit the gangs. She informed that she visited the gangs and observed that the drains are filled with stagnant water and very dirty. She added that the workers were not provided with disinfect and soap for them to be comfortable to perform their duties.

323. Councillor Brian Julien:

- a) Stated that God is good and thankfully no life was lost after Tropical Storm Bret. He said that the burgesses of Penal/ Debe are the ones to be blamed for the flooding problems because they are filling up all the land. He added that when Caroni was in operation all the drains were cleaned. However, people tend to blame the Corporation, but Town and Country Planning Division has a part to play as well.
- b) Said that most of the drains in Penal/ Debe region are in a good state, but PDRC cannot take the responsibility for those that falls under the purview of the Ministry of Works.
- c) Informed that his Electoral District was not severely hit as his fellow colleagues and he sympathize with those who were affected. Thanked the MP for Oropouche East, Dr Roodal Moonilal for assisting him with hampers, CEPEP for cleaning homes in Mussarapp Trace, the Corporation for providing trucks to remove debris and the DMU. He suggested that the phone system in the DMU be improved especially during a disaster.
- d) Stated that the Government is not doing anything to bring relief to the people affected by Tropical Storm Bret. Thanked God for the kind- hearted citizens of Trinidad and Tobago and hats off to them.

324. Councillor Roland Hall:

- a) Thanked Members of Council and Administration for their performance upon Tropical Storm Bret. He stated that the areas which were directly hit, he will continue to pray for the Councillors and he rendered his support.
- b) Questioned how many times we talk about the crime situation and lack of services without any betterment. He stated that we have a Government who do not care.
- c) Think Councillors were the suitable ones to distribute hampers and mattresses to the burgesses because they were in touch with them. He mentioned that whilst Councillors were delivering to the people there was a feedback from Administration that they were misusing hampers and not delivering to the correct persons. He thanked Administration for their support but added that comments such as these should not be made. Thanked God for the Councillors and encouraged them to stay strong and continue to work harder.
- d) Reiterated on the non-caring Government of Trinidad and Tobago and added that the region of Penal/ Debe should not give up as well as the citizens of the country. He stated that we should keep working towards the betterment of the people and this country. Asked God to continue to bless PDRC, the country and also the Government to create a better standard of living.

325. Councillor Diptee Ramnath:

- a) Stated that the Government is no treat to Trinidad and Tobago but a treat to the Comedian called 'Sprangalang' because they now take over the comedy festival portfolio.

- b) Congratulated the Chairman, CEO, DMU and all Members of Council for the tremendous work they put in within the last week of Tropical Storm Bret. He stated that prior to the storm systems should be put in place, such as setting up a hotline and improving the communication system. He also added that at least one (1) proper shelter should be available.
- c) Informed that he saw the presence of the Army throughout Penal/ Debe and enquired what was their purpose and who gave them directives.
- d) Emphasized about a retention dam in Haggard Trace. He questioned if the Ministry of Works tested the pumps at Tulsa Trace and if those at Goodman Trace were cleared prior to the storm. He enquired if Heavy Equipment Drivers from the Corporation were assigned to an area before so that they can assist people affected by Tropical Storm Bret. He suggested that these are some of the basic measurements that should be put in place apart from the hampers and tarpaulins.
- e) Stated that the Ministry of Works, Highways and Drainage Division does absolutely nothing in the region of Penal/ Debe. He enquired what is in place for the burgesses in the region who lose their jobs in Caroni Limited and they cannot get employment in the Corporation due to financial constraints. He questioned if the Ministry of Agriculture will address affected farmers of the Penal/ Debe region. He stated that measures should be taken prior to a natural disaster and we should not wait until one arises to make things right. He also suggested that the necessary Agencies be put on standby.
- f) Requested that the Corporation put the necessary resources for every drains both earthen and concrete under the jurisdiction of PDRC to be cleared immediately.
- g) Informed of collapsed box drains at Goodman Trace and Old Rochard Road Junction and requested that this be investigated.
- h) Suggested that something be put in place to remove all damaged appliances from the roadside.
- i) Complimented the CEO and all Officers of PDRC for the good work they did to bring relief to the burgesses of Penal/ Debe.

326. Member of the public:

- a) Vijay Ramai- Owner and Operator of Fun Splash Water Park in Debe and Owner of Hindustani Expo. (Next to Bicks)
- b) He informed that he is here together with his younger brother who is the President of the Dr. Roodal Moonilal Ramai Trace Hindu School. He stated that they are here to represent a number of Organizations within their community of Ramai Trace. He asked the Corporation to consider renaming and dedicating the Congo Village Recreation Ground in honour of one of their public servants Mr. Premchand Sookoo.
- c) Suggested if communication of what transpired in this meeting can be forwarded to the public so that they will be aware of what is taking place in this Council.
- d) Asked if the Corporation will consider Fun Splash Water Park as one of the stakeholders to develop the 99 acre parcel of state land located in Penal Quinam Road.

327. Thanked everyone for a fruitful meeting and terminated same at 12:20 pm.

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Chairman
Statutory Meeting