

MINUTES OF THE EIGHT[8TH] STATUTORY MEETING OF THE PENAL /DEBE REGIONAL CORPORATION (2016-2019 TERM) HELD ON JULY 31,2017 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 Kumarie Kuarsingh	Barrackpore West
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 ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Mr. Motilal Ramsingh	Chief Executive Officer
Mrs. Sheriffa Heru	Administrative Officer II (Ag)
Ms. Neralla Rampersad	Corporate Secretary
Ms. Danielle Gene Leben	Principal Medical & Health Officer
Mr. Zaffar Ali	Works Supervisor I /Road Officer II
Mr. Sunil Ramnarine	Road Officer I/ Building Inspector (Ag)
Mr. Vishnu Seunarine	Personnel & Industrial Relations Officer (Ag)
Mr. Andrew Dipchand	Accountant I
Mr. Ballyram Lalla	Municipal Police Inspector
Mr. Ravindra Bachoo	Municipal Police Constable
Ms. Satisha Persad	Municipal Police Constable
Mrs. Tara Bridglal	Clerk IV
Ms. Gwendolyn Peters	Communication Technician- DMU
Ms. Vashtie Ramsumair	Chairman Secretary
Ms. Pamela Motilal	Clerk I
Ms. Aviva Vesprey	Clerk I
Mrs. Indira Jaglal	Clerical Assistant (Contract)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 03

328. The meeting commenced at 9:15am with a prayer led by Councillor Brian Julien.

329. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Welcomed all present to the 8th Statutory Meeting on the eve of Emancipation Day. Commended and reminded Members of Council and Staff that there is a beautiful display outside the Corporation's Council Hall put together with limited resources. He informed that the exhibit will be displayed until 04/08/17 after which some of the items will be returned to the company named Kamara from Chaguanas who willingly lent their products to the Corporation. He also thanked them for rendering their support.

He stated that people claim they live in a pleural society and that they are multicultural and live together in peace and harmony, but do they truly know each other. He said that we as a people collectively, have not done enough to promote the achievements of Africans in Trinidad and Tobago. He informed that the display showed the origin of slavery and the achievers of black African history. He suggested that if we have an active cultural village which promotes different races both past and present, then it will have a great impact on society. He encouraged everyone to enjoy Emancipation Day on 01/08/17 (Tomorrow) and he informed that Trinidad and Tobago was the first nation in the world to proclaim an Emancipation Day. He also informed that Alderman Mohan was invited to sing at Caribana and Alderman Singh was honoured by the Government of Grenada and St Vincent for the cultural work he was doing. He said we should be proud of our own Members of Council for the fine work they are doing internationally and congratulated them both on what they are doing for the culture of Trinidad and Tobago.

330. ANNOUNCEMENTS: NIL

331. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Minutes of the Seventh [7th] Statutory Meeting held on June 29, 2017 be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings thereof.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

[i] PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCUTRE COMMITTEE:

332. Adoption of Minutes 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 **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Minutes of the Seventh (7th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on June 05, 2017 be adopted.

333. Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Eight (8th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on July 10, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Brian Julien** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-13 of the Eight (8th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on July 10, 2017 be accepted.

334. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Eight (8th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on July10, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Brian Julien** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Reports & Recommendations Nos. 1-13 of the Eight (8th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on July 10, 2017 be adopted.

[ii] PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

335. Adoption of Minutes 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 **Alderman Brian Mohan** that the Minutes of the Seventh (7th) Public Health Committee Meeting held on June 08, 2017 be adopted.

336. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Eight (8th) Public Health Committee Meeting held on July 13, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded by **Alderman Brian Mohan** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-5 of the Eight (8th) Public Health Committee Meeting held on July 13, 2017 be accepted.

337. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Eight (8th) Public Health Committee Meeting held on July 13, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded by **Alderman Brian Mohan** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-5 of the Eight (8th) Public Health Committee Meeting held on July 13, 2017 be adopted.

[iii] PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

338. **Adoption of Minutes 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 **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Minutes of the Seventh (7th) Personnel Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2017 be adopted.

339. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Eight (8th) Personnel Committee Meeting held on July 17 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-4 of the Eight (8th) Personnel Committee Meeting held on July 17, 2017 be adopted.

340. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Eight (8th) Personnel Committee Meeting held on July 17, 2017.**

RESOLVED:Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-4 of the Eight (8th) Personnel Committee Meeting held on July 17, 2017 be adopted.

[iv] FINANCE, PLANNING & ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE

341. **Adoption of Minutes 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 Minutes of the Seventh (7th) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Meeting held on June 27, 2017 be adopted.

342. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Eight (8th) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on July 24, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Reports and Recommendations, Nos. 1-6 of the Eight (8th) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on July 24, 2017 be accepted.

343. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Eight (8th) Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on July 24, 2017.**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Diptee Ramnath** and

seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-6 of the Eight [8th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on July 24, 2017 be adopted.

[v] FESTIVALS, HERITAGE & TOURISM COMMITTEE

344. Adoption of Minutes 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 **Alderman Brian Mohan** that the Minutes of the Sixth (6th) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on June 08, 2017 be adopted.

345. Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Seventh (7th) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on July 13, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Shanty Boodram** and seconded by **Alderman Brian Mohan** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1- 3 of the Seventh (7th) Festivals, Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on July 13, 2017 be accepted.

346. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Seventh (7th) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on July 13, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Shanty Boodram** and seconded by **Alderman Brian Mohan** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-3 of the Seventh (7th) Festivals, Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on July 13, 2017 be adopted.

[vi] SPORTS, YOUTH & GENDER COMMITTEE:-

347. Adoption of Minutes 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 **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Minutes of the Sixth (6th) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on June 27, 2017 be adopted.

348. Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Seventh (7th) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on July 24, 2017.

RESOLVED:-Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Brian Mohan** and seconded by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-5 of the Seventh (7th) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on July 24, 2017 be accepted.

349. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Seventh (7th) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on July 24, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Brian Mohan** and seconded by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-5 of the Seventh (7th) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on July 24, 2017 be adopted.

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

350. Adoption of Minutes of the Sixth (6th) Citizen, Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Minutes of the Sixth (6th) Citizen Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2017 be adopted.

351. Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Seventh (7th) Citizen, Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on July 17, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1 of the Seventh (7th) Citizen Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on July 17, 2017 be accepted.

352. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Seventh (7th) Citizen, Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on July 17, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1 of the Seventh (7th) Citizen Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on July 17, 2017 be accepted.

[vii] THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

353. Adoption of Minutes 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 Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Minutes of the Sixth (6th) Environment Committee Meeting held on June 08, 2017 be adopted.

354. Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Seventh (7th) Environment Committee Meeting held on July 13, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-3 of the Seventh (7th) Environment Committee Meeting held on July13, 2017 be accepted.

355. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Seventh (7th) Environment Committee Meeting held on July 13, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-3 of the Seventh (7th) Environment Committee Meeting held on July 13, 2017 be adopted.

[viii] BUILDING AND PLANNING COMMITTEE:

356. Adoption of Minutes 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 **Councillor Vijay Rampersad** that the Minutes of the Sixth (6th) Building and Planning Meeting held on June 12, 2017 be adopted

357. Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Seventh (7th) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on July 17, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** and seconded by **Councillor Vijay Rampersad** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-6 of the Seventh (7th) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on July 17, 2017 be accepted.

358. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Seventh (7th) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on July 17, 2017.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** and seconded by **Councillor Vijay Rampersad** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-6 of the Seventh (7th) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on July 17, 2017 be adopted.

359. CORRESPONDENCE: NIL

360. PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS:

- a. List of Vouchers dated 31/07/17 – Recurrent, **\$175,748.92**
Approved.
- b. List of Vouchers dated 31/07/17- Development Programme, **\$120,285.00**
Approved.
- c. List of Vouchers dated 31/07/17-Unspent Balances, **\$15,975.00**
Approved.
- d. Building and Layout Plan dated 31/07/17- Item Nos. 1-13, Craig Beharry & Rebekah Beharry & ors.
Approved EXCEPT item nos. 11 and 12- Deferred to Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting pending a site visit.
- e. Completion certificate dated 31/07/17- Item Nos. 1-4, Oscar & Pauline Ocho & ors.
Approved.
- f. Schedule of Council Meetings for August 2017
Approved.
- g. Memorandum dated 27/07/17 from Road Officer II to CEO. Re: PSIP 2016/2017, 312- Development of Recreation Facilities.
Approved.
- h. Request for Virement of Funds, Recurrent Services Year Ended 2017 (First Virement) - Personnel Expenditure.
Approved.
- i. Request for Virement of Funds, Recurrent Services Year Ended 2017 (First Virement) - Goods and Services.
Approved.
- j. Request for Virement of Funds, Recurrent Services Year Ended 2017 (First Virement) - Minor Equipment.
Approved.
- k. Budget Estimates for Partially Constructed Building at Kennedy Stockpile Yard (09/005/319) - **\$2,164,412.53 – Phase II**
Approved.
- l. Budget Estimates for Partially Constructed Building at Kennedy Stockpile Yard (09/005/319) - **\$1,192,548.38 - Phase 1**
Approved.
- m. Estimate to purchase Independence Day Flags (02/001/62) -**\$14,207.63**
Approved.

361. MATTERS REFERRED: NIL

362. REPORTS AND REPLIES: NIL

363. PETITION: NIL

364. QUESTIONS: NIL

365. PERSONAL EXPLANATION: NIL

366. MOTION: NIL

OTHER PUBLIC BUSINESS:

367. Alderman Purushottam Singh:

- a) Suggested that disclaimer signs be placed at public areas within the Penal / Debe region such as the picnic sites and mud volcanos.

368. Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh:

- a) Wished all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago a Happy Emancipation Day.

369. Councillor Sheldon Lal:

- a) Questioned if any investigations were done regarding two (2) million dollars that disappeared from the Defence Force. He also questioned if any decisions were made pertaining to the children with high powered rifles from the base at the Defence Force. He mentioned that the present Government said that the resumption of the Sir Solomon Highway to Point Fortin will cost less than the previous Government estimated it to cost. He enquired if a scope of works from both the past and present Government can be viewed through Freedom of Information Act. He stated that the taxpayers of this country are being misled by the Minister of Works and Infrastructure. He questioned if the fast ferry was a true reflection of what the Minister claimed. He said that all these questions are burning issues which taxpayers of Trinidad and Tobago need to ask the present Government. He asked if it was feasible to repair the Prime Minister's house in Tobago during this economic crisis whilst people were being laid off from their jobs. He said that taxpayers should face the reality of what is taking place in this country and what they are paying for.

370. Councillor Shanty Boodram:

- a) Mentioned that the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government said that he will investigate all Corporations in Trinidad and Tobago. She said that if he visits and investigates Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation (PDRC), she knows that the Officers are doing a good job and Council has to be guided with what is brought forward to them by the Ministry. She enquired why the Minister targets Prado vehicles in the Corporation. She indicated that every high ranking official and Ministry drive those types of vehicles. She understood that the Corporation has to cut back, but they will feel the brunt of it when this Government cut them by ten (10) percent. She stated that Penal/ Debe was cut to the least amount in the last financial year. She pointed out that the roads and drains in the Electoral District of Penal was in a deplorable condition and calls to several Ministries and Agencies proved futile. She questioned where the Corporation would source funding to help burgesses in this region when the Government cuts the allocation? She suggested that people should shut down the country because this Government is not helping anyone. She informed that under the People's Partnership Government every drain and watercourse was cleaned. She stated that the Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar will rise again and take this country out of poverty.
- b) Enquired about the people who collected grants from the Member of Parliament (MP) office in Penal on 29/07/17. She informed that people are calling and pranking the Disaster Management Unit (DMU) for receiving the grants. She requested if the DMU or the Ministry of Social Development can provide a listing of the recipients of those grants because people think Councillors are the ones responsible for distributing them. She said that many are still awaiting help from the Government and she enquired about the status of the twenty- five (25) million dollars to assist those affected by flooding. She stated that now is the time for action and this Government has to step up or they would not last for another five (5) years.

371. Councillor Brian Julien:

- a) Stated that everything in Trinidad and Tobago is a secret and that only a few people must know. He said that as Members of Council they had a right to know how many persons collected grants because they represent the people.
- b) Stated that we must spend our funding wisely because the world is in recession.
- c) Informed that the main road at Papourie Road is in a bad state. He said that Members of Council can be held accountable if they do not improve the Penal/Debe region. However, the burgesses should be educated on what Councillors can do because some of them think that the Councillor has to assist in all areas. He mentioned the flooding issues and a lack of an excavator at Lower Barrackpore. He said that Penal/ Debe can be a better place but we have to work together for the benefit of our burgesses.
- d) Mentioned that the CEPEP gangs are doing a good job, but the garbage trucks within Penal/ Debe are not working and garbage are left on the roadside.
- e) Stated that this Government should not play politics with people's life and their livelihood because they only need basic amenities such as water, lights and good roads.

372. Councillor Roland Hall:

- a) Informed that he will be out of the country from 08/08/17 to 16/08/17 and he will discuss with a Member of Council to chair the Public Health Committee Meeting to be held on 10/08/17.
- b) Wished all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago a Happy Emancipation Day. He mentioned that during his school days European history was taught but now there is West Indian history. He spoke about the Columbus era, Arawak people and the era of different labour forces where East Indians came as indentured labourers and the Africans came as slaves. He explained that we as a people moved away from some of those eras which made us become more aware and identify ourselves as Trinbagonians. He also mentioned the era of the Black Power Movement in 1970. He explained that after this era in 1970 there was a difference in employment throughout the country, where one can walk into a bank and see East Indian and African faces. He pointed out some great African people in Trinidad and Tobago such as C.L.R James, Stokely Carmichael, Giselle Laronde -West and Penny Commissiong to name a few. He also added that an African man such as Barack Obama led a first world country, the United States of America.
- c) Stated that there are forms of oppression in certain places. He said that he likes to operate with high professional and ethical standards. However, if he is in an environment where workers are being oppressed he will not stand for that and he will make some sort of representation for those workers because he knew what his forefathers passed through. He indicated that sometimes Councillors may feel as if they are begging for their requests to be fulfilled, but they have to work together with Administration in order to deliver to the burgesses. He said that Officers misled Council in spending the funds that the Corporation should have to do more for the people. He added that workers were cut from ten (10) days to five (5) days. He further added that Penal/ Debe could have had more funding to provide more jobs and delivery of services to the burgesses. He stated that Officers should not oppress Members of Council. He indicated that some workers of PDRC were insulted, whilst salaries were cut for some and they were put in a form of oppression. He said that there is a way to deal with employees in an Organization.
- d) Encouraged young people to educate themselves, stand firm and do not be subjected to others. He stated that he will fight oppression, stand firm and stamp out corruption.
- e) Informed of projects taking place at his Electoral District. He said that Council and Administration should work together in unison to deliver to the burgesses. He asked God to continue to bless Trinidad and Tobago, bless the staff and Councillors of PDRC and let us all have a happy Emancipation.

373. Councillor Diptee Ramnath:

- a) Wished Trinidad and Tobago a Happy Emancipation 2017.
- b) Saluted our forefathers for the struggle they endured to build a beautiful nation, so that the people of Trinidad and Tobago could have the right to live and enjoy this society. He stated in today's society, persons in authority are not doing what they were supposed to do and citizens are fearful because of the crime situation in the country. He indicated that in comparison to the struggle and sacrifice our forefathers made to build this nation, he believed it is possible that we as a people can fix it, but we

have to work together as a team to control the problems in society such as the criminals. He added that the employment situation continues to remain a serious problem. He said that the burgesses believe that PDRC is responsible for assisting them with everything and he suggested that they be informed of the Corporation's responsibility.

- c) Pointed out the absence of the media at Statutory Meeting today (29/07/17) and said that they only visit when there is propaganda. He added that we should deal with facts and what can be done to make Penal/Debe a better place for the burgesses and set an example to Trinidad and Tobago.
- d) Informed that the Fire Services at Mon Repos is willing to assist the Corporation with washing the pavilion at Kennedy Park Recreation Ground.
- e) Thanked Udesh from UMR Furniture for employing Fazal Ali Mohammed as a Joiner. He added that Ali Mohammed is the father of a family of five (5) who made headlines with respect to unemployment and flooding. He said that he will be thankful if the Corporation can acknowledge him with a note. He informed that living room sets were reduced to a lower price at the furniture store.
- f) Informed that all watercourses within the Penal/ Debe region were identified and sent to the Ministry of Works, Drainage Division to be cleared, but proved futile. He added that he identified watercourses which fall under the jurisdiction of Penal/Debe and the Corporation also failed to clear them. With regards to flooding, he stated that the answer is not about mattress and hampers but by putting the corrective measures in place to eradicate flooding. He informed that flooding is a major issue within the Penal/ Debe region where many affected farmers were not compensated and these matters should be addressed as a matter of urgency.
- g) Mentioned that persons laid off from Caroni and other companies cannot get employment in the Corporation and even the Unemployment Relief Program (URP). He added that citizens have to pay taxes, electricity and water bills, but they are not receiving the services. He informed that more than fifty street lights are not working in the Quinam/Morne Diablo area and the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) failed to repair water leaks.
- h) Informed that a motion was raised by Councillor Kuarsingh regarding national security and no changes were seen within the Penal/ Debe region. He said that a Police Community Council should be established and the Chairman of the Corporation should be a member, so that he can be updated on a monthly basis of what is taking place with respect to security.
- i) Informed that he raised a motion regarding schools in the Penal/Debe region and schools still need repairs. He added that these issues will continue to exist when school reopens and the children will suffer. He stated that now is the time to take the necessary action. He suggested that the Corporation should get a listing from schools with these problems and write to the Minister of Education for an update.
- j) Stated that CEPEP is not cutting the minor roads. He emphasized on all the effort, time and money spent to clean the dumps and people still continue to litter. He said that we should have a better working relationship with various Ministries and Agencies to ensure that we can get some of the matters resolved. He added that PDRC should also be aware of any projects that is taking place within the region by these Ministries/ Agencies, so that the Corporation can render their support.

374. Member of the public:

1. Mr. Cecil Chankar:

- a) Informed that he as well as others of #3 Hermitage Settlement are planting their gardens for many years at Block 5, Shirley Lane Extension. He added that a man by the name of Ramchand Sookdeo bought a lot of land, built his house and blocked the land at Warden Trace with a big concrete wall. He also made it into a garage and placed a container there which is causing further obstruction and preventing them from entering their gardens. He appealed to the Corporation to assist him with this matter.

2. Mr. Premchand Sookoo:

- a) Stated that he do not intend to return as a Councillor/ Alderman at the Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation because there are rumours that his objective is to come back. However, he is willing to offer his assistance to this Corporation.
- b) Informed that the vision and mission of this Council was to conduct the Statutory Meeting at various communities so that people will be aware of what is taking place at PDRC. He added that a reduction of the allocation for this current fiscal year will further deplete Council's intention to make representation

with some of the projects to be done.

- c) Regarding no garbage collection, he explained that anytime someone is being paid for not working you are condoning corruption. He informed that there is a contractual obligation between Solid Waste Management Company (SWMCOL) and the Contractors. He commended the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Ramsingh for initiating such contractual obligation to ensure that the contract is paid for the job that is being done.
- d) Informed that there were two (2) meetings, one (1) at the Ramai Trace Hindu Temple and the other was initiated for the Deputy Commissioner of Police to attend to put certain things in place to ensure how best they can abate the crime situation at Ramai Trace and surroundings.

3. Mr. Edward Moodie:

- a) Informed that he did a drain wider than requested which passes through the Development at Patiram Trace and the water is still backing up. He requested assistance from the Corporation regarding this issue.
- b) Informed that some of the problems with respect to the Suchit Trace River are:
 - i) The Oropouche river bank was cut by The National Infrastructure Development Company Limited (NIDCO) without any approval from the Ministry of Works, Drainage Department.
 - ii) There is a tunnel behind the new bridge that is being built for the highway which sucks water out from the river and pumps it into Suchit Trace.
He mentioned that NIDCO bought the excavator but could not do anything. He added that he is helping a family who was flooded out and lost everything including a vehicle.
 - iii) NIDCO also placed seventy- five cubic metres of boulders into the river and this is causing a bottleneck allowing water to flow over the bank into Suchit Trace and as a result there is flooding. He asked if the Corporation can write letters to NIDCO and the Ministry of Works pertaining to this situation.
- c) Said that AMCO tunnels failed along the Mosquito Creek and they are fire hazard. He suggested that the Corporation should ensure that AMCO tunnels placed at Gopee Trace and Suchit Trace are dug out and removed. He added that proper tunnels should be placed in the community.
- d) Mentioned that there is a bureaucratic problem regarding who is responsible for the delivery of services such as garbage collection, clearing of drains, road humps and street signs at Picton Development. He pleaded that something should be done to address this matter.
- e) Informed that the pond at Palmiste is very dirty and the street signs in the Palmiste area are not visible.
- f) Informed that a tree next to Block 4, Palmiste is about to fall on the high tension wire and the playfield at Block 7, Palmiste is bushy.

375. Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy:

- a) Informed of a mixed scout camp from 04/08/17 to 06/08/17 at Naparima District and as a member of the scout committee, he requested three (3) portable toilets for a period of three (3) days. (Inclusive of cleaning the toilets by the provider)
Approved by Members of Council.
- b) Reminded all that the Father’s Day Function will be held at 2.00 pm at the Council Hall on 29/07/17. (Today)

376. Thanked everyone for a fruitful meeting and terminated same at 11:40 am.

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Chairman
Statutory Meeting