

**MINUTES OF THE NINTH [9<sup>TH</sup>] STATUTORY MEETING OF THE PENAL /DEBE REGIONAL CORPORATION (2016-2019 TERM) HELD ON AUGUST 21, 2017 AT THE CORPORATION'S HALL #218A S.S. ERIN ROAD, PENAL.**

**MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy	(Chairman of Council)
Councillor Roland Hall	Palmiste/Hermitage
Councillor Sheldon Lal	La Fortune
Councillor Brian Julien	Bronte
Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan	Rochard Road/Barrackpore East
Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh	Barrackpore West
Councillor Shanty Boodram	Penal
Councillor Vijay Rampersad	Debe West
Councillor Marsha Jaimungal-Khan	Union Hall/Eserance/Debe East
Alderman Brian Mohan	
Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh	
Alderman Purushottam Singh	

**MEMBERS OF COUNCIL EXCUSED:**

Councillor Diptee Ramnath	Quinam/Morne Diablo ( <i>Vice Chairman of Council</i> )
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**MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:**

Mr. Motilal Ramsingh	Chief Executive Officer
Ms. Neralla Rampersad	Corporate Secretary
Ms. Danielle Gene Leben	Principal Medical & Health Officer
Mr. Nazim Ameerl	Engineering and Surveying Officer
Mr. Sunil Ramnarine	Road Officer I/ Building Inspector I (Ag)
Ms. Sandre – Jean Rambert	Financial Officer
Mr. Andrew Dipchand	Accountant I
Ms. Neela Ragbir	Personnel & Industrial Relations Officer (Ag)
Mr. Ballyram Lalla	Municipal Police Inspector
Mr. Chris Baboolal	Municipal Police Constable
Mr. Dinesh Sirju	Municipal Police Constable
Mrs. Tara Bridglal	Clerk IV
Mr. Vedesh Lall	Disaster Management Co-ordinator
Ms. Kumarie Ramroop	Clerk I
Ms. Melisa Siew	Clerk I

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:     NIL**

All July- August interns were invited at the 9<sup>th</sup> Statutory Meeting.

377. The meeting commenced at 9:20 am with a prayer led by Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh.

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

Welcomed all present to the 9<sup>th</sup> Statutory Meeting of the Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation. He also welcomed the interns and hoped that they gained knowledge of the public service during their period of training. He wished them all the best upon returning to their various tertiary institutions.

He explained to the interns that this meeting was very important because decisions made by Council during the course of this month were recorded and the recommendations would be sent to Central Government.

**379. ANNOUNCEMENTS:           NIL**

**380. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Brian Julien** and seconded by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** that the Minutes of the Eighth [8th] Statutory Meeting held on July 31, 2017 be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings thereof.

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** and seconded by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Minutes of the Special Statutory Meeting held on August 14, 2017 be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings thereof.

**REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**[i] PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:**

**381.       Adoption of Minutes of the Eighth (8th) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on July 10, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Brian Julien** and seconded by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** that the Minutes of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on July 10, 2017 be adopted.

**382.       Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on August 03, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Brian Julien** and seconded by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-4 of the Ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on August 03, 2017 be accepted.

**383.       Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on August 03, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Brian Julien** and seconded by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** that the Reports & Recommendations Nos. 1-4 of the Ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on August 03, 2017 be adopted.

**[ii] PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:**

**384.       Adoption of Minutes of the Eighth (8th) Public Health Committee Meeting held on July 13, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Minutes of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Public Health Committee Meeting held on July 13, 2017 be adopted.

**385.       Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) Public Health Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-4

of the Ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) Public Health Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2017 be accepted.

**386. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) Public Health Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Roland Hall** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-4 of the Ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) Public Health Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2017 be adopted.

**[iii] PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

**387. Adoption of Minutes of the Eighth (8th) Personnel Committee Meeting held on July 17, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal- Khan** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Minutes of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Personnel Committee Meeting held on July 17, 2017 be adopted.

**388. Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) Personnel Committee Meeting held on August 07 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal- Khan** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-2 of the Ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) Personnel Committee Meeting held on August 07, 2017 be adopted.

**389. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) Personnel Committee Meeting held on August 07, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal- Khan** and seconded by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-2 of the Ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) Personnel Committee Meeting held on August 07, 2017 be adopted.

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

**390. Adoption of Minutes of the Eighth (8th) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on July 24, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** and seconded by **Alderman Brian Mohan** that the Minutes of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Meeting held on July 24, 2017 be adopted.

**391. Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on August 14, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** and seconded by **Alderman Brian Mohan** that the Reports and Recommendations, Nos. 1-5 of the Ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on August 14, 2017 be accepted.

**392. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on August 14, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** and seconded by **Alderman Brian Mohan** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-5 of the Ninth [9<sup>th</sup>] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on August 14, 2017 be adopted.

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

**393. Adoption of Minutes of the Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on July 13, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Minutes of the Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on July 13, 2017 be adopted.

394. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-2 of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Festivals, Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2017 be accepted.

395. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Festivals, Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Purushottam Singh** and seconded by **Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh** that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-2 of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Festivals, Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2017 be adopted.

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

396. **Adoption of Minutes of the Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) 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 Sheldon Lal** that the Minutes of the Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on July 24, 2017 be adopted.

397. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on August 14, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:-**Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Brian Mohan** and seconded by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-4 of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on August 14, 2017 be accepted.

398. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on August 14, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Alderman Brian Mohan** and seconded by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-4 of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Sports, Youth and Gender Committee Meeting held on August 14, 2017 be adopted.

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

399. **Adoption of Minutes of the Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) 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 **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Minutes of the Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) Citizen Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on July 17, 2017 be adopted.

400. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Citizen, Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on August 07, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** and seconded by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-3 of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Citizen Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on August 07, 2017 be accepted.

**401. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Citizen, Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on August 07, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kumarie Kuarsingh** and seconded by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-3 of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Citizen Liaison, Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on August 07, 2017 be accepted.

**[vii] THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:**

**402. Adoption of Minutes of the Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) Environment Committee Meeting held on July 13, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** and seconded by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal- Khan** that the Minutes of the Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) Environment Committee Meeting held on July 13, 2017 be adopted.

**403. Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Environment Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** and seconded by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal- Khan** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-4 of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Environment Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2017 be accepted.

**404. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Environment Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Kheymwetti Chulan** and seconded by **Councillor Marsha Jaimungal- Khan** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-4 of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Environment Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2017 be adopted.

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

**405. Adoption of Minutes of the Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on July 17, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Minutes of the Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) Building and Planning Meeting held on July 17, 2017 be adopted

**406. Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on August 07, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-5 of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on August 07, 2017 be accepted.

**407. Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on August 07, 2017.**

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously, on a motion moved by **Councillor Sheldon Lal** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Julien** that the Reports and Recommendations No.1-5 of the Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Building and Planning Committee Meeting held on August 07, 2017 be adopted.

**408. CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Letter dated 27/07/17 from Kalari & Kung Fu School of Martial Arts of #7 Ruth Avenue, San Fernando. Re: Requested donation to assist Mr. Anil Sammy to represent Trinidad and Tobago for Martial Arts Tournament in St. Lucia on 11-12/8/17.

**Noted.**

2. Letter dated 11/08/17 from New Order Security Services. Re: Request permission to use the Corporation's front car park on either 12/08/17, 19/08/17 or 26/08/17 between the hours of 9:00am -2:00pm to facilitate a recruitment drive to the burgesses within the Penal/Debe Region.

**Noted. Chief Executive Officer addressing this matter.**

3. Letter dated 12/06/17 from St. Benedict's College of Southern Main Road, La Romaine. RE: Request the use of the Francis Seepaul Recreation Ground for training and also as the home ground for the SSFL season

**Approved at a prior meeting. Corporate Secretary addressing this matter.**

**409. PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS:**

- a. List of Vouchers dated 21/08/17 – Recurrent Expenditure **-\$457,309.13**  
**Approved.**
- b. List of Vouchers dated 21/08/17 – Development Programme **-\$670,674.01**  
**Approved.**
- c. List of Vouchers dated 21/08/17 – Unspent Balances **-\$3,952.85**  
**Approved.**
- d. Schedule of Council Meetings for September 2017  
**Approved.**

**410. MATTERS REFERRED: NIL**

**411. REPORTS AND REPLIES: NIL**

**412. PETITION: NIL**

**413. QUESTIONS: NIL**

**414. PERSONAL EXPLANATION: NIL**

**415. MOTION:**

**MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR SHELDON LAL-TO DELEGATE THE POWER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE PENAL/DEBE REGIONAL CORPORATION (PDRC) TO RATIFY (APPROVE) RECOMMENDATIONS OF ITS BUILDING COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF GRANTING PROVISIONAL BUILDING APPROVAL, FINAL BUILDING APPROVAL AND THE ISSUING OF COMPLETION CERTIFICATES TO THE SAID BUILDING COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 73 OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ACT, 1990 AS AMENDED.**

- WHEREAS; Section 68 (1) of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1990 as amended empowers the Council of the Penal Debe Regional Corporation, subject to section 69 (which establishes four Standing Committees), to appoint from among its members such committee of a general or specific nature comprising of such persons it deems fit for any purposes; and section 68 (4) stipulates that every committee of the council shall, unless expressly authorized by its terms of reference submit its proceedings to the Council for its approval;
- WHEREAS the Council of the Penal Debe Regional Corporation (PDRC) has appointed perennially a Building Committee for the purpose of considering and reviewing Building plans submitted to it by the Town and Country Planning Division and making recommendations for the granting of provisional building approval, final building approval, the issuing of Completion Certificates and sanctioning of any notices as required to regulate and enforce the provisions of the law and any building regulations;

- WHEREAS; the sequencing of this committee's meetings in relation to the Council's monthly Statutory meeting results in inordinate delays in the granting of provisional building approval, final building approval and the issuing of Completion Certificates; and in some cases more than thirty days may elapse between the committee making its recommendations and the Council ratifying the committee's recommendations and subsequent administrative action for implementing same;
- WHEREAS; such lengthy time frame between committee's recommendations, the Council's approval and the administrative action for implementing same may cause certain inconvenience to applicants (residents and institutions); namely cost overruns, postponement of mortgage agreement arrangements with financial institutions, costly re-financing, frustration and anxiety of not being able to meet domestic commitments and inability to occupy the building at the agreed designated time;
- WHEREAS; section 73 of the Municipal Corporations Act 1990 as amended provides a remedy or method of redress to this emerging issue or situation, in that it empowers the Council to delegate its power to any of its committees and when such delegation takes place the decisions and proceedings of such committees are binding on all parties as if such acts had been done and such proceedings taken by the Council; and therefore no need for any subsequent submission to the Council for its approval.
- BE IT RESOLVED; that the Council of the Penal Debe Regional Corporation in accordance with section 73 of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1990 as amended, delegate its power to ratify/approve the recommendations of its Building Committee in respect of granting provisional building approval, final building approval and the issuing of Completion Certificates by the Secretary of the Local Authority (the Chief Executive Officer) to the said Committee; except where, the Building Committee's recommends that a specific plan or class of plans be submitted to the Council for approval;
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT; the Building Committee may convene more than once a month for the express purpose of approving the granting of provisional building approval and or final approval and the issuing Completion Certificates by the Secretary of the Local Authority (the CEO), except in the circumstances described above.

Moved by Councillor Sheldon Lal and seconded by Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh.

**Councillor Brian Julien:**

Thanked Councillor Lal for bringing such an important and timely motion. He said that this motion will be helpful to the burgesses who are building their homes within the Penal/ Debe region.

**Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy:**

Commented that this motion is straightforward, but not controversial and it was meant to expedite the smooth operation of Council's business and the approval of applicants building plans.

Stated that people abuse the region by backfilling their lands indiscriminately and they create consequential damage to others. He added that some people who do not adhere to the law often affect others because they build and encroach on their neighbour's property. He stated that it is very important to adhere to the regulations.

**Unanimously approved.**

**OTHER PUBLIC BUSINESS:**

**416. Alderman Hyacinth Rampersadsingh:**

- a) Commented that she liked to see the public gallery filled and today (21/08/17) all these young, brilliant, future professionals were sitting there. She thanked the Chief Executive Officer for giving these interns the opportunity to train at Penal/Debe Regional Corporation (PDRC) for two (2) months to share their skills and talent with us. She suggested that when they go into the world of work, they should put into practice what they learnt from PDRC. She congratulated them on their success with exams and encouraged them to continue to aim high.
- b) Stated that Trinidad and Tobago will be celebrating fifty- five (55) years of Independence on 31/08/17. She said that we are not ready to find an equal place in this country because everyone

was scared to make a difference and they think that someone will take advantage of them. She urged all to not be afraid to make a difference, speak out and let everyone know that you have a right to be equal in this country.

- c) Informed that she was at a meeting on 20/08/17 with Police Officers who recently came out from the Barracks. She added that she asked them if they are ready to make a difference and what are their plans to fight crime. She said that they are going to implement a crime watch and advertise it via social media.
- d) Applauded the motion presented by Councillor Lal. She added that we will go forward with this practice and see how best we can change the procedures regarding illegal structures and land developments at Penal/ Debe.
- e) Stated may every creed and race find an equal place and may God bless Trinidad and Tobago.

**417. Alderman Brian Mohan:**

- a) Informed that he recently travelled to entertain people from different countries and the hospitality he received was overwhelming. He mentioned that he went to Suriname to perform for a wedding, but the reception was at Tobago. However, he added that the flight was delayed for seventeen (17) hours which affected a lot of people from all over the world. He said that he felt embarrassed because the Government of Trinidad and Tobago could do something about tourism, but they failed. He stated that the Minister of Tourism should step down.

**418. Councillor Sheldon Lal:**

- a) Informed that the motion was brought mainly to curb the amount of illegal structures and land developments in Penal/ Debe and by extension Trinidad and Tobago. He reiterated that Councillor Julien always say that you can give the burgesses of Penal/ Debe one million dollars (\$1 M) and they will give it back to you, but do not interfere with their land.
- b) Stated he learnt that Alderman Rampersadsingh is not a coward to speak out.
- c) Indicated that people visit the Councillor's office for everything they want because they think that Councillors work for a big salary.
- d) Mentioned the book grant that the former Prime Minister gave to this nation was eliminated. He added that he has two (2) book lists to assist and he gave eight (8) book vouchers worth five (5) hundred dollars each to school children. He pointed out that this was done to avoid the escalating crime and to prevent school children from being denied a proper education.
- e) Regarding the motion, he said that when people are paying mortgage to the bank (bridging) will be extended until the completion certificate is finalized.
- f) Hoped that the Government does something about the financial status of this country and by extension ease the frustration and strain from citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

**419. Councillor Brian Julien:**

- a) Informed that he visited a family within his Electoral District on 17/08/17 and donated a hamper. He said that the father is not working and has two (2) daughters, one of which is attending a prestige school. He stated that there was a grant to assist school children under the People's Partnership Government, but that no longer existed. He pointed out that things in Trinidad and Tobago is getting bad and even the education system is getting worse. He mentioned that a primary school requested assistance from the Corporation to build twelve (12) black boards. He added that people think PDRC is responsible to do everything for them and it is frustrating.
- b) Stated that everything is a secret and he encouraged the young people not to keep secrets. He reiterated that the Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar always says to do the right thing.

**420. Councillor Roland Hall:**

- a) Endorsed Alderman Rampersadsingh's words and commented that it was touching.
- b) Reiterated on Alderman Mohan's presentation and added that he also had some challenges of travelling from Tobago to Trinidad on 19/08/17.
- c) Mentioned that he saw on television two (2) Administrators from the University of the West Indies (UWI) and Roytec and they spoke about the Government not financing students who are pursuing courses from New Brunswick. He informed that Roytec is affiliated to UWI, but is attached to New



Brunswick University.

He added that certain ethnic groups' make more sacrifices than some, but those who do not make any sacrifice will feel the pain of what this Government is doing to them.

He mentioned that his younger daughter was successful in completing her Masters and he thanked God for the Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses (GATE) and the sacrifices made. He also mentioned that his older daughter who is on the verge of becoming a Vice Principal at Holy Name Convent in Port- of- Spain, decided to do her Masters with Roytec and has to fund her education by fifty percent (50 %). He said that she is a Roman Catholic, a nun and she lives and teaches in the compound, so the Catholic Board will have to assist her with funding. He pointed out that these are the facts of facing life, whilst the Government has money to pay phone bills for the Minister of Tourism and building a stadium as priority over a hospital. He stated that citizens are accepting this.

- d) Informed that the former Prime Minister always said to do projects that you can touch such as, Schools, Hospitals, Police Stations, Health Centres, the highways in all areas from Sangre Grande, Diego Martin and Point Fortin and a UWI that was being built in Debe. He said that some commented that the UWI in Debe was for East Indians, but he mentioned that people from Palo Seco, Fyzabad and La Brea would not have to pay the kind of charges for rental of lodging. He added that certain sectors as well as the law fraternity could have been opened already. He hoped that the Government provide jobs for the young people so that they can pay back with their services for the GATE grants.
- e) Indicated that the Government's focus in the upcoming Budget is to tax the citizens of this country and add pressure to parents and young people who now started to work.
- f) Encouraged the interns to praise God all the time. He informed them that they came in an environment with people of different work ethics. He suggested that they follow those who worked hard because hard work will give you success.
- g) Requested street signs for his Electoral District be corrected.
- h) Requested something be done urgently to clear the dump at Ghandi Village. He added there may be a protest and he as the Councillor will lead this protest because that is his form of representation to the people.
- i) Suggested to the interns that they should get to know the Councillor for their area and as young people they can exchange good ideas with them.
- j) Requested letters be sent to the Palmiste Historical Society informing Mr. De Caires and Reverend Honore that Councillor Hall was assigned as the Liaison Officer between PDRC and the Historical Society.
- k) Wished all Happy Independence Day. He indicated that Emancipation Day, Indian Arrival Day and Republic Day are all historical days.
- l) Hoped that the interns enjoyed and had a learning experience at PDRC. He also hoped that God continue to bless us all and bless Trinidad and Tobago. He wished everyone Happy Independence Day.

**421. Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy:**

- a) Reminded all that First Peoples Holiday will be commemorated on 13/10/17. He said that PDRC will be recognising this holiday by way of an exhibition and a public lecture. He informed that he will meet with Mr Lewis, an expert on indigenous people from the Moruga museum on 23/08/17.

**422.** Thanked everyone for a fruitful meeting and terminated same at 10:40 am.

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Chairman  
Statutory Meeting