

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH [5TH] STATUTORY MEETING (2006-2007 TERM) HELD ON
DECEMBER 14, 2006 AT THE CORPORATION'S HALL #4 DOOKIE STREET, PENAL**

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT: -

Alderman	Dr. Allen Sammy	Chairman of Council
Councillor	Premchand Sookoo	Debe East/Barrackpore West (Vice Chairman)
Councillor	Premnath Boodoosingh	Palmiste
Councillor	Diptee Ramnath	Quinam/Morne Diablo
Councillor	Roy Kissoon	La Fortune/Hermitage
Councillor	Rampersad Hardial	Rochard/Barrackpore East
Councillor	Willvan Ramlakhan	Penal
Councillor	Sonnylal B. Manwah	Union Hall/Bronte
Councillor	Carl Dabideen	Debe West
Alderman	Roland A. Hall	

MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:-

Ms.	T. Deodath	Administrative Officer II
Ms.	L. Lalgee	Financial Officer
Ms.	M. Kovar	Accountant Assistant
Mr.	C. Maharaj	Building Inspector
Mr.	J. Marfan	Works Supervisor I
Mr.	K. King	Inspector – Municipal Police
Ms.	L. Chandoo Singh	Personnel Industrial Relations Officer
Mr.	R. Loknath	Planning Officer
Mr.	S. Heru	County Superintendent
Ms.	R. Ganga Persad	Clerk IV
Ms.	K. Ramlogan	Clerk II
Mr.	S. Sinanan	Clerk I
Mr.	M. Ramdeo	Constable Municipal Police

233. At 9:10 a.m. Municipal Police Constable M. Ramdeo, announced the arrival of the Chairman of Council, Alderman Allen Sammy.

Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan led in prayer.

234. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:-**

- (i) Massive flooding on Sunday 10 December, 2006 resulting from overnight rains of Friday 8 December, 2006 and Saturday 9 December, 2006 - i.e. Rock Road, Barrackpore (Sumanie/Sukhan) and Golconda areas in particular and other areas in general.
- (ii) Estimated millions of dollars in losses of crops, livestock and household items.
- (iii) Penal/Debe Regional Corporation's roadside drains and minor water courses are cleaned regularly. Any other drainage is the responsibilities of the Ministry of Works and the Ministry of Agriculture. These however, are poorly maintained. The Trinidad River, for example has not been cleaned comprehensively for years. Neither has the Dodge River. The Curamata River has been cleaned in parts and not throughout its length, as well as other courses.
- (iv) A request to the ODPM for One Hundred and twenty three (123) hampers and drinking water made on Monday 11 December, 2006, none of which were delivered by ODPM to yesterday. They advised we that only 14 were needed in the Rock Road area based on their assessment (One Hundred were requested) and none in Barrackpore (thirteen were requested). I am aware that when there was flooding in January 2006 a similar request for 500 hampers resulted in the receipt of 100 only and we were asked to provide names and addresses of the other 400 in need. Meanwhile hundreds of hampers were distributed in Sangre Grande and Mayaro by Minister Boynes and Minister Khan, at that time and no names were requested. I have colleagues in both places who can attest to this.
- (v) On Tuesday 12 December, 2006 a list of works recommended in the sum of 42 Million Dollars prepared by the Road Officer II, Azim Bassarth, Public Health Inspector III, Ramdeo Badall was submitted to the Minister of Local Government. We await their response.
- (vi) Meanwhile we call again on Government to embark on a comprehensive drainage programme for the Region if the matter of flood abatement is to be properly addressed.

235. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:-**

Chairman, Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy made the undermentioned announcements:-

- (i) The Chief Executive Officer asked to be excused since he was in a Committee for Garbage Disposal Policy headed by the Minister.
- (ii) Compliment Christmas decorator on a job well done.
- (iii) Reminded everyone about the Christmas functions to be held on December 15 and December 19, 2006 respectively.

- (iv) Members of Council would be hosting individual Christmas functions and reminded them that they needed to be aware of the accounting procedures with regard to payments.
236. Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan announced that he received the cheque for purchase of toys. Also there was not much loss due to the heavy rainfall but some cesspits were unusable and needed urgent attention.
The Chairman replied that residents must make their request to Ms. Nela Khan. Spraying had commenced already but there was only one barrel of the oil. A request was made to the Minister for more chemicals to spray and rat bait and the work would continue upon receipt of the materials.
He added that only after the flood they were made aware that four sprayers were not working.
237. Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah announced that there was flooding in various parts of his electoral district such as Union Hall and Mileage Mack vicinity.
238. Councillor Premchand Sookoo announced that he held a Christmas treat for approximately one Hundred (100) children.
Although many residents were not marooned, they did suffer plenty losses due to the flooding.
239. Councillor Roy Kissoon announced that the drains in the La Romaine area were clogged causing flooding. He had requested the use of the backhoe to clear the drains but this did not happen causing the flooding to be more severe.

240. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE FOURTH [4TH] STATUTORY MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 28, 2006.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Statutory Meeting held on November 28, 2006 be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings pending the undermentioned amendments:-

Pg. 10: Item 228-4: line 4: to delete 'Cade' and insert 'cadex'

Pg. 10: Item 228-6: line 4: to delete 'Cardare' and insert 'Cadre'

Pg. 10: Item 228-2: To include 'and how contracts are to be awarded.'

Pg. 10: Item 228-3: To include 'bid' between '...contract had...'

Pg. 10: Item 228-7: To include "...“as no transport was available” but....”

Pg. 10: Item 228-9: To include 'in Palmiste'.

Pg. 11: Item 229-4: To read "Excavation....earth fill being carried out needed to be monitored.

Pg. 12: Item 230(5): To delete 'misconduct' and insert 'disrespect'

241. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL STATUTORY MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 05, 2006.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Special Statutory Meeting held on December 05, 2006 be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: -**[i] PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

242. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on November 07, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on November 07, 2006 be adopted.

243. **Presentation of Reports & Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on December 04, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-25 of the Fifth [5th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on December 04, 2006 be accepted with the undermentioned amendment:

Recommendation #18 should read "Letters be sent to Food Basket Supermarket, Penal and Sting night club La Romaine informing them that they are operating in contravention to the law and that they should correct the situation by immediately obtaining the necessary approvals. Failure to do so will result in further legal action by the Corporation and the Corporation will not be responsible for any public liability issues in the meanwhile."

- 244.. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on December 04, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-25 of the Fifth [5th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on December 04, 2006 be adopted subject to the abovementioned amendment .

[ii] PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

245. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Public Health Committee Meeting held on November 14, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal Manwah and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Public Health Committee Meeting held on November 14, 2006 be adopted.

246. **Presentation of Reports & Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Public Health Committee Meeting held on December 05, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal Manwah and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-20 of the Fifth [5th] Public Health Committee Meeting held on December 05, 2006 to be accepted pending the undermentioned amendment:-

Recommendation #7: To delete 'at' and insert 'adjacent to'

Recommendation #9: Line 2: to delete 'has refused' and insert 'cannot' and to include" because it does not fall under his jurisdiction and even if so directed, he does not have the manpower."

247. **Adoption of the Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Public Health Committee Meeting held on December 05, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal Manwah and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-20 of the Fifth [5th] Public Health Committee Meeting held on December 05, 2006 be adopted subject to the abovementioned amendment.

[iii] **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

248. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Personnel Committee Meeting held on November 21, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal Manwah that the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Personnel Committee Meeting held on November 21, 2006 be adopted.

249. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Personnel Committee Meeting held on December 07, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal Manwah that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-12 of the Fifth [5th] Personnel Committee Meeting held on December 07, 2006 be accepted.

250. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Personnel Committee Meeting held on December 07, 2006**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal Manwah that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-12 of the Fifth [5th] Personnel Committee Meeting held on December 07, 2006 be adopted.

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

251. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on November 09, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on November 09, 2006 be adopted.

252. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on December 06, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-20 of the Fifth [5th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on December 06, 2006 be accepted with the exception of #2 and #3.

253. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on December 06, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-20 of the Fifth [5th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on December 06, 2006 be adopted subject to the above mentioned exceptions.

254. **RESOLVED:-** On a motion moved by Councillor Premchand Sookoo and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that Recommendations Nos. 2 and 3 of the Fifth [5th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on December 06, 2006 be accepted.

For- Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy, Councillor Premchand Sookoo, Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan, Councillor Roy Kissoon, Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah, Alderman Roland A. Hall.

Against –Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and Councillor Carl Dabideen.

Abstain -Councillor Diptee Ramnath, not present at Finance Meeting.

Majority carried.

255. **RESOLVED:-** On a motion moved by Councillor Premchand Sookoo and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 2 and 3 of the Fifth [5th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on December 06, 2006 be adopted.

FESTIVALS COMMITTEE

256. **Adoption of Reports & Recommendations of the Fourth [4th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on November 21, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on November 21, 2006 be adopted.

257. **Adoption of Reports & Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on December 07, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-6 of the Fifth [5th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on December 07, 2006 be accepted.

258. **Adoption of Reports & Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on December 07, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-6 of the Fifth [5th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on December 07, 2006 be adopted.

[vii] **HERITAGE AND TOURISM COMMITTEE**

259. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on November 21, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on November 21, 2006 be adopted.

260. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on December 07, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendation Nos. 1-3 of the Fifth [5th] Heritage, and Tourism Committee Meeting held on December 07, 2006 be accepted.

261. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of Fifth [5th] Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on December 07, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-3 of the Fifth [5th] Heritage, and Tourism Committee Meeting held on December 07, 2006 be adopted.

[viii] **YOUTH, CITIZEN LIAISON & ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

262. **Adoption of the Minutes the Fourth [4th] Youth, Citizen Liaison and Advisory Committee Meeting held on November 14, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Alderman Roland Hall and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Citizen Liaison and Advisory Committee Meeting held on November 14, 2006 be adopted.

263. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on December 05, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Alderman Roland Hall and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports & Recommendations Nos. 1-4 of the Fifth [5th] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on December 05, 2006 be accepted.

264. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of Fifth [5th] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on December 05, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Alderman Roland Hall and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports & Recommendations Nos. 1-4 of the Fifth [5th] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on December 05, 2006 be adopted.

[ix] **COMMUNICATION, SECURITY & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

265. **Adoption of Minutes of the Fifth [4th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on November 09, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on November 09, 2006 be adopted.

266. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held December 04, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-12 of the Fifth [5th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on December 04, 2006 be accepted.

267. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on December 04, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-12 of the Fifth [5th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on December 04, 2006 be adopted.

[x] **SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

268. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on November 16, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Alderman Roland A. Hall that the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on November 16, 2006 be adopted.

269. **Presentation of Reports & Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Sports & Recreation Committee Meeting held on December 06, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Alderman Roland A. Hall that the Reports & Recommendations Nos. 1 of the Fifth [5th] Sports & Recreation Committee Meeting held on December 06, 2006 be accepted.

270. **Adoption of Reports & Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on December 06, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Alderman Roland A. Hall that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1 of the Fifth [5th] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on December 06, 2006 be adopted.

[xi] **PLANNING, THE ENVIRONMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

271. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on November 17, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on November 17, 2006 be adopted.

272. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Community Meeting held on December 06, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-3 of the Fifth [5th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on December 06, 2006 be accepted.

273. **Adoption of Reports Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on December 06, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-3 of the Fifth [5th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on December 06, 2006 be adopted.

[xii] **GENDER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

274. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on November 16, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on November 16, 2006 be adopted.

275. **Presentation of Reports & Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on December 07, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1 of the Fifth [5th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on December 07, 2006 be accepted.

276. **Adoption of Reports & Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on December 07, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1 of the Fifth [5th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on December 07, 2006 be adopted.

[xiii] **BUILDING COMMITTEE**

277. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Fourth [4th] Building Committee Meeting held on November 14, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Third [3rd] Festivals Committee Meeting held on October 10, 2006 be adopted.

278. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Building Committee Meeting held on December 05, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-10 of the Fifth [5th] Building Committee Meeting held on December 05, 2006 be accepted with the unmentioned inclusion.

- (i) Building Plan applications Nos. 1 to 4 dated December 12, 2006 in favor of Ramana Reingoo and others.
- (ii) Layout Plan applications Nos. 1 to 5 dated December 12, 2006 in favor of Robin Raju and others.
- (iii) Building plan and layout application Nos. 1 to 3 dated December 05, 2006 in favour of Selwyn Persad and others.
- (iv) Building Plan #143/06 i.f.o. Dunstar Lodge at Lot A6 Moolai Trace, Penal Quinam Road
- (v) Building Plan i.f.o. Penal Properties Ltd for provisional approval.

279. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Fifth [5th] Building Committee Meeting held on November 14, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-11 of the Fifth [5th] Building Committee Meeting held on December 05, 2006 be adopted with the above mentioned inclusions.

280. **CORRESPONDENCE: -**

- (i) From Chairman's Office dated 12/12/06 to Minister of Local Government. re: request for resources for flood relief.- be noted
- (ii) From Risk Management Ltd dated 30/11/06. Re: 2007 Premium indicators - be approved for payment.

281. **MATTERS REFERRED:-** **NIL**

282. **PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS:** **NIL**

REPORTS AND REPLIES

283. Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan reported that the jogging tract at the Apollo Recreation Ground was completed and would be officially opened on December 30, 2006 at 9:00 am and would incur a cost of \$500.00. He thanked all those who assisted, especially the Work Supervisor and the Transport Foreman and invited everyone to view the project.'

At 11:10 am on a resolution moved by Councillor Diptee Ramnath and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan the meeting be adjourned to discuss the flooding situation in Penal/Debe.

At 11:40 am meeting resumed.

RESOLVED:- Administration prepare a document to be sent to the Minister of Local Government quantifying the needs of all the Districts. Meanwhile, the Chairman will inform the Minister that the document would be forthcoming and that two million dollars was needed immediately. Also request should be made for additional manpower resources. Further P.A. systems be sent out to the affected areas informing residents to indicate their need for spraying, cesspit cleaning and baiting. Also advising residents how to proceed in respect of crops and livestock loss.

284. **PETITIONS:** **NIL**

285. **QUESTIONS:** **NIL**

286. **PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS:** **NIL**

287. **MOTION:** **NIL**

OTHER PUBLIC BUSINESS

288. Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh made the undermentioned comments /requests:-

1. After seeing the amount of damages done by the flooding he was sure that a Decentralized Disaster Preparedness Plan would have been able to deal with the situation. He was totally shocked that there was no report for the meeting. He enquired who from Administration was addressing the problem and what was done on the matter. He hadn't received any Decentralized Disaster Preparedness Plan and he doesn't know if any was existing nor if Penal/Debe was ready to deal with a flood or any other disaster.
2. He enquired if a needs evaluation was done prior to the purchase of fans for the Penal market or the cost to install those fifty industrial fans or if the electricity could supply the necessary voltage.
3. Approval for a \$5000.00 variation for the Penal market was brought to Council after the job was completed. Administration brought this to the Chairman of Council and not to the Chairman of the Finance Committee.
4. The former PIRO, who breached the entire system, went ahead and hired workers and not one Member of Council was given the opportunity to recommend anyone. An employee working for 25-30 years cannot get their child employed.
5. Administration was purchasing items outside of the bonded contracts without the notification of Council. The entire system was in total collapse. The Chief Executive Officer held a meeting without the Chairman of Finance and brought documents to the meeting for approval. What came out that meeting was a commitment for Administration to pay for fans and tiles.
6. As Chairman of Finance Committee he will not tolerate any corruption and drew reference to Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo Regional Corporation where an attorney took up a case of corruption against senior officers. This is dangerous, and as Chairman of Finance he was willing to resign the post rather than tarnish his name.
7. 2006 was the worst year in respect of achievement and wondered if it was a plan because Members of Council would have been gone. Thousands of dollars were spent to clear drains and no one could say where the money was spent.
8. For the new year he hoped there to be more planning and welcomed the Planning Officer, although he warned him again to be cautious. They have to reflect on what was being done. He complimented Councillor Diptee Ramnath for his work towards relief of the people during the heavy flooding.
9. He had no confidence in the Chief Executive Officer and those who are in the Committee for the Decentralized Disaster Preparedness Plan since they could not put things in place to handle the flooding.
10. Hoped all things were in place for the cricket season. One group of contractors have reaped all the benefits of the Corporation and he strongly believed that there is perception of corruption.
11. Wished all a Merry Christmas especially the workers assigned to the Palmiste District as that may be his last season in Penal/Debe.

289. **Councillor Rampersad Hardial made the undermentioned comments/requests: -**

1. Last year's Flood Relief Programme was a failure as the money was wasted. There should not be a repeat of this for this year where equipment was caught doing other work instead of clearing the drains.
2. The recent rain brought a sea of flood waters because some simple things were not done. A funeral ceremony was affected by the flood simply because some cylinders had to be replaced but was not done. Residents lost items and do not know if anything would come of it because they received \$47.00 compensation from their last claims.
3. If that was the way the Prime Minister was treating people then he should not visit because he came the previous year so he knew the situation. He wondered if it was because the Region is UNC that the people were allowed to suffer by this PNM Government.
4. Two (2) landslides occurred along Clarke Road and no personnel from the Corporation went to assure the residents nor was any relief in terms of equipment or supplies provided to the residents who were marooned.
5. Frustrated with the actions of the Chief Executive Officer who was not willing to pay overtime in a crucial time such as this especially since there is no Decentralized Disaster Preparedness Plan.
6. Wished everyone a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

290. 12:10 pm – Lunch
1:23 pm – Resumed.

291. **Councillor Sonnylal Manwah made the undermentioned comments/requests: -**

1. Disappointed with the County Superintendent, Work Supervisor, Road Officer and Public Health Inspector who did nothing in the Union Hall/Bronte District for the past year.
2. Letters came from residents of Bronte to cutlass and clean the cemetery but nothing was done.
3. Estimates for the concrete practice strip was submitted but nothing was done.
4. Estimates for the band stand and electrification of Retrench Recreation Ground were submitted but nothing was done.
5. Ninety (90) tonnes of hot mix were ordered for the District but only 24 tonnes were used.
6. Sealing of the box drain was not done.
7. Wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

292. **Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan made the undermentioned comments/requests: -**

1. Water was flooding the place but residents were suffering for pipe borne water. Hope in the new year something good happens.
2. Residents from Palmiste District were calling the radio stations saying the Councillor was not working. He knew that was not so because the Councillor was trying his best and although they may lapse some time the Corporation was still the best overall.

3. Requested the County Superintendent clear the compound of the old post office building to facilitate the Penal Taxi Drivers Association's Christmas Treat.
4. Crime was becoming unbearable and instead of adding to the Municipal Police and normal Police they are taking away thus leaving the place open to the criminal and element.
5. With respect to the flooding situation, some simple things that could have been done to assist residents in their plight. If the water outlets could be cleared so the water could flow freely then these would help a great deal.
6. Had requested repairs to the wooden bridge in Katwaroo Trace but nothing was done.
7. Wished every one Merry Christmas and a successful New Year.

293. **Councillor Diptee Ramnath made the undermentioned comments/requests: -**

1. Disappointed with the Corporation in dealing with the flooding situation. He had to make his own arrangements and expected the Corporation to have put things in place in terms of hiring additional manpower.
2. This was not the first time the farmers were affected by the floods and they are very disappointed with the compensation. The Corporation should make the extra effort to assist the farmers to get their adequate compensation.
3. Wished every one Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

294. **Councillor Roy Kissoon made the undermentioned comments/requests: -**

1. Had a meeting with the residents of Woodland concerning the relocation of the people in the development and everyone was told a different story by the EMBDC who was constantly lying to them.
2. Trinity pavers promised to restore the roadway but as yet they continue to make excuses, meanwhile the Temple, school and the pre-school were being threatened and the residents premises were flooded out.
3. There was a newspaper advertisement informing residents to report their concerns about the construction of a cell site. When the people wrote, they were informed that their concerns were being addressed, however the cell site continued to be built.
4. Concerned about the Work Supervisor section when you consider the amount of material bought and the amount of work actually done.
5. Concerned about the delay in construction of a box drain in La Fortune Recreation Ground.
6. Requested one truck and one backhoe for a self help water project at Hermitage.
7. The major causes for the flooding in his electoral district was the clogged drains and if this was cleared the water would have place to flow especially those Caroni drains.
8. Wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

295. **Councillor Carl Dabideen made the undermentioned comments/requests: -**

1. In the spirit of the Christmas season he was pleading with his colleagues to use the money allocated for the party towards assisting the people in the Corporation.
2. He came to the conclusion that after all is said it comes down to the incompetence and unwillingness of administration to bring relief to the residents. The Chief Executive Officer was playing Councillor and decides what jobs to do and Members of Council disregard everything and approve the payments. It is the Members of Council who have the authority to put an end to this by carefully scrutinizing and examining everything that goes on before giving approval. The Members of Council were to be blamed for allowing Administration, who has no interest in the people, to have control over the Council. Members make policies and request and nothing gets done. He asked what has the Council done to help the people who were affected by the flood.

296. **Councillor Premchand Sookoo made the undermentioned comments/requests: -**

1. WASA invited him to the launch of the water project in Barrackpore that same day however he only received the invitation at 11:00 am for an 11:00 am programme.
2. Expressed appreciation to a Members of Council and staff for assistance and concern towards for his wife's funeral.
3. Wondered if he should wish everyone a merry crisis since many did not know where their next meal would come from.
4. Recalled when Jarrette Narine spent a month in Penal Rock Road telling residents to vote for PNM so they would get their roads and drains done. He spent 40 Million Dollars in agricultural access roads and the people of Poodai Lagoon have lost thousands in damages. The Prime Minister visited Penal/Debe and he may visit again in Rock Road bringing the same promises.
5. Members of Council should work as a team and put whatever little resources to work to ensure that Penal/Debe becomes the best organization.
6. Wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

297. **CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS: -**

1. The Minister requested a tour of the flooded areas at 1:00pm and asked Members of Council to be present.
2. Urgent request of approximately 2.2 Million Dollars would be sent for the Minister's approval.
3. Thank Members of Council and staff for co-operation over the year and wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

298. There being no further business the meeting terminated at 2: 20 pm.

Allen Sammy
Chairman