

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST [1ST] STATUTORY MEETING (2006-2007 TERM) HELD ON
AUGUST 17, 2006 AT THE CORPORATION'S HALL #4 DOOKIE STREET, PENAL**

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT: -

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

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL ABSENT:-

Alderman	Roland A. Hall	
Councillor	Carl Dabideen	Debe West (Vice Chairman)

MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:-

Mr.	L. Espinoza	Chief Executive Officer
Ms.	T. Deodath	Administrative Officer II
Mr.	R. Badall	Public Health Inspector III
Mr.	H. Ramnarine	Accountant (Ag)
Ms.	H. Sankar	Accounting Assistant (Ag)
Mr.	M. Ramdeo	Police Constable – Municipal Police
Mr.	F. Ali	Road Officer II
Mr.	G. Alexander	Transport Foreman
Mr.	H. Mohammed	County Superintendent
Ms.	R. Ganga Persad	Clerk IV (Ag)
Ms.	K. Ramlogan	Clerk II (Ag)
Mr.	S. Naipaul	Checker

1. At 9:19 a.m. Municipal Police Constable M. Ramdeo, announced the arrival of the Chairman of Council, Alderman Dr. Allen Sammy.
2. Councillor Sonnylal Manwah led in prayer.

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

The Chairman of Statutory Meeting Alderman, Dr. Allen Sammy welcomed all to the First [1st] Statutory Meeting for the new term 2006-2007, and stated that he had indicated at the last Statutory meeting about some of the challenges faced by the corporation and trust that this year they would be able to deliver as well as or even better.

He also pointed out a newspaper article regarding the incidence of leptospirosis in this Region and asked the Public Health Inspector to talk to Personnel at the General Hospital in order to abate this serious situation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:-

4. Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh announced that Alderman Roland Hall asked to be excused. Also the garbage pile up at Palmiste Park was not picked up. The contractor will double check that there was no grass in the bags before picking it up.
5. Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan announced that baiting was very important in his District where rats were invading, especially in the Dignity area.
6. Councillor Premchand Sookoo announced that a school used the Francis Seupaul Recreation Ground and left the garbage. He asked that the Corporation have it picked up. Also, Councillor Carl Dabideen asked to be excused.
7. Councillor Sonnylal Manwah announced that he asked the Public Health Inspector to pick up trimmings at Bryans Gate but this was not done and he would like something to be done.
8. Councillor Roy Kissoon announced that the roads in the Las Woodland Development became extremely bad because of the trucks delivering dirt. Those trucks were now using alternative roads causing damages to other roads. School would be opening very soon and something needed to be done.
Also, he thanked the Chairman for attending three meetings held in his district and Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan for supporting him at those meetings.

9. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH [37TH] STATUTORY MEETING HELD ON JULY 12, 2006.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Minutes of the Thirty-Seventh [37th] Statutory Meeting held on August 17, 2006 be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings subject to the undermentioned amendments:-

Page 3: Line 8: to delete "Ana culture" and insert "Anaculture" and delete "in forming" and insert "informing".

Page 3: Line 17: to delete "dates" and include "data".

- Page 3: Line 20: to delete “regards” and insert “regard”.
- Page 3: Line 33: to delete “subsidiary” and insert “subsidiarity”.
- Page 3: Line 39: to delete “and told”.
- Page 3: Line 41: to delete “if” and insert “of”.
- Page 4: Line 6: to delete “rise” and insert “risk”.
- Page 13: Line 2: to read “...improvement in roads in the
- Page 14: Item 2194: Line 2: to delete 180 % and insert 180 meetings

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: -

10. [i] **PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

Adoption of the Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on July 03, 2006.

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on July 03, 2006 be adopted.

11. **Presentation of Reports & Recommendations of the First [1st] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on August 03, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-68 of the First [1st] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on August 03, 2006 be accepted.

12. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the First [1st] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on August 03, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-68 of the First [1st] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on August 03, 2006 be adopted.

[ii] **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

13. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Public Health Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal Manwah and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Public Health Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2006 be adopted.

14. **Presentation of Reports & Recommendations of the First [1st] Public Health Committee Meeting held on August 08, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal Manwah and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-25 of the First [1st] Public Health Committee Meeting held on August 08, 2006 be accepted.

15. **Adoption of the Reports and Recommendations of the First [1st] Public Health Committee Meeting held on August 08, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal Manwah and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-25 of the First [1st] Public Health Committee Meeting held on August 08, 2006 be adopted.

[iii] **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

16. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Personnel Committee Meeting held on July 05, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Personnel Committee Meeting held on July 05, 2006 be adopted.

17. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the First [1st] Personnel Committee Meeting held on August 15, 2006**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Reports and Recommendations 1-8 of the First [1st] Personnel Committee Meeting held on August 15, 2006 be accepted.

18. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the First [1st] Personnel Committee Meeting held on August 15, 2006**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Reports and Recommendations 1-8 of the First [1st] Personnel Committee Meeting held on August 15, 2006 be adopted.

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

19. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on July 06, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on July 06, 2006 be adopted.

20. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the First [1st] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations 1-13 of the First [1st] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2006 be accepted subject to the undermentioned inclusions:-

- i. List of Vouchers
- ii. Under 02/001/22 Short Term Employment, \$258,000.00 be utilized to hire contract labour at \$110.00 per day equally among the Electoral Districts.
- iii. Under 02/005/28 Other Contract Services, \$560,000.00 be utilized equally among the Electoral Districts for the hire of equipment.
- iv. Under 02/001/28 Other Contracted Services, \$187,000.00 be utilized towards publication subject to the quotations by printeries and for the purchase of road building materials.
- v. Under 02/001/27 Official Overseas Travel, \$75,000.00 be vired towards the purchase of road building materials.
- vi. A Committee comprising of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Chairman of Finance Committee and Councillor Diptee Ramnath be set up to liaise with respect to the above recommendations.

21. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the First [1st] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations 1-13 of the First [1st] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2006 be adopted subject to the above mentioned inclusions.

[v] **FESTIVALS COMMITTEE**

22. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on July 05, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on July 05, 2006 be adopted.

23. **Presentation of Reports & Recommendations of the First [1st] Festivals Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-9 of the First [1st] Festivals Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2006 be accepted.

24. **Adoption of Reports & Recommendations of the First [1st] Festivals Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-9 of the First [1st] Festivals Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2006 be adopted.

[vi] **HERITAGE AND TOURISM COMMITTEE**

25. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on July 05, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on July 05, 2006 be adopted.

26. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the First [1st] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on August 10, 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 First [1st] Heritage, and Tourism Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2006 be accepted.

27. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of First [1st] Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on August 10, 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 First [1st] Heritage, and Tourism Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2006 be adopted.

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

28. **Adoption of the Minutes the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Citizen Liaison and Advisory Committee Meeting held on July 03, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Citizen Liaison and Advisory Committee Meeting held on July 03, 2006 be adopted.

29. **Adoption of Minutes of the Sixth [36th] Youth Empowerment Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Youth Empowerment Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2006 be adopted.

30. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the First [1st] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on August 03, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports & Recommendations Nos. 1-9 of the First [1st] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on August 03, 2006 be accepted.

31. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of First [1st] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on August 03, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports & Recommendations Nos. 1-9 of the First [1st] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on August 03, 2006 be adopted.

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

32. **Adoption of Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on July 03, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on July 03, 2006 be adopted.

33. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the First [1st] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on August 03, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-6 of the First [1st] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on August 03, 2006 be accepted.

34. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on August 03, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-6 of the First [1st] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on August 03, 2006 be adopted.

[ix] **SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

35. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on July 06, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on July 06, 2006 be adopted.

36. **Presentation of Reports & Recommendations of the First [1st] Sports & Recreation Committee Meeting held on August 15, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Reports & Recommendations Nos. 1-8 of the First [1st] Sports & Recreation Committee Meeting held on August 15, 2006 be accepted.

37. **Adoption of Reports & Recommendations of the First [1st] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on August 15, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B.Manwah that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-8 of the First [1st] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on August 15, 2006 be adopted.

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

38. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth [36th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on July 06, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the First [1st] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on July 06, 2006 be adopted.

39. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the First [1st] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Community Meeting held on August 15, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-17 of the First [1st] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on August 15, 2006 be accepted.

40. **Adoption of Reports Recommendations of the First [1st] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on August 15, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-17 of the First [1st] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on August 15, 2006 be adopted.

[xi] **GENDER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

41. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Thirty-Fifth [35th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on July 06, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal B Manwah and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Thirty-Fifth [35th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on July 06, 2006 be adopted.

42. **Presentation of Reports & Recommendations of the First [1st] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal B Manwah and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-5 of the First [1st] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2006 be accepted.

43. **Adoption of Reports & Recommendations of the First [1st] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-5 of the First [1st] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on August 10, 2006 be adopted.

[xii] **BUILDING COMMITTEE**

44. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the First [1st] Building Committee Meeting held on August 08, 2006.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal Manwah that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1 of the First [1st] Building Committee Meeting held on August 08, 2006 be adopted subject to the undermentioned inclusions:-

- (i) All layout plans with five (5) or more plots be brought to the attention of the Council.
- (ii) All plans for full commercial structures be brought to the attention of the Council.
- (iii) Land developments in favor of Nizam Baksh, Billy Ramdeen, and Dhanraj Ramnath be investigated and demolition of the building owned by Edward Narine.

45. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the First [1st] Building Committee Meeting held on August 08, 2006.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1 of the First [1st] Building Committee Meeting held on August 08, 2006 be adopted subject to the abovementioned inclusions.

46. **CORRESPONDENCE: -**

- (i) Letter dated 16/08/06 from Archie Persad of 176 Laltoo Trace, Penal re: request for labour to complete a box drain in progress in front of his house. He would be providing the materials.

RECOMMENDED:- Approved.

47. **MATTERS REFERRED:-** NIL

48. **PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS:** NIL

49. **REPORTS AND REPLIES:**

With respect to the Sonny Ramadin Trophy.

The Chairman, Alderman, Dr. Allen Sammy indicated that a recommendation was made at the Citizen, Liaison and Advisory Committee Meeting on March 28, 2006, and confirmed at the subsequent Statutory Meeting, to construct a trophy in the name of Sonny Ramadin. Then at July's Statutory Meeting the funds were announced. He was subsequently advised that there was no funds and requested of Administration to locate the sum of \$1400.00 to pay for the trophy which was already presented to Sunil Narine.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that as far as he was concerned the Corporation did not order any trophy and he would prefer to write on the matter.

The Chairman, Alderman, Dr. Allen Sammy then stated that all procedures were followed and time after time, the Council was informed and updated. At the time only the person who constructed the trophy - Wayne Perot - was skilled in the field therefore the recommended three quotations could not be sourced. Also there was no feedback from Administration about non availability of funds and he was very surprised to know that the procedures were not followed.

Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh stated that at the time Mr. Perot was the only person who could do this and as Chairman of the Finance Committee he recommended that the person be paid in full under Short Term Employment.

Councillor Premchand Sookoo commented that the matter came up at meetings over a number of months and if the Council was violating any laws or procedures they should have been told. If Council was going in the wrong direction then they should have been told.

PETITIONS: NIL

QUESTIONS: NIL

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS: NIL

MOTION: NIL

OTHER PUBLIC BUSINESS

50. **Statement by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh:**

On Wednesday July 19, 2006 Mr. Eddie Narine and his family were awakened by the State Police banging on their door indicating that they were there on the instruction of the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation and the Chief Executive Officer to demolish his house. Mr. Narine has previously been issued a Show Cause Notice signed by Mr. Lauman Espinoza. It should be noted that the Building Inspector whose job and function was to sign these Notices was not consulted. It must also be noted that the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and Council gave no

such instructions to take action on Mr. Narine. However Mr. Narine contacted myself, the Councillor for the area and indicated to me that he was issued a Show Cause Notice and wanted to show it to me and the Members of Council. I then asked Mr. Narine to appear before a Building Committee which he did and give reasons why no such action should be taken against him. Mr. Narine gave copies of documents and there was one clause that he had which contained a Letter of Comfort, which was being processed and Mr. Nazir Mohammed, a Justice of the Peace, did sign the application by Mr. Narine. It was the view at the meeting that this Council would not be taking any action until proper legal advice was given to the Council.

I, as Councillor for the area, made a visit on said site with Councillor Ramlakhan, Inspector King and other members of the Building Committee and based on advice from Inspector King who said Council cannot take any action on the matter regarding Letter of Comfort until we get proper legal advice. In that area there are approximately twenty (20) houses on the said road reserve that was being addressed and Mr. Narine's house only was targeted and bulldozed. The Building Committee decided not to take action until Council has a clear policy regarding road reserves.

On July 18, 2006, Mr. L. Espinoza and Mr. Fortune were aware that Mr. Narine's house was going to be bulldozed on the following day.

As Councillor for Palmiste Electoral District I was not notified that any action would take place. The Chairman was shocked that such actions had taken place as Chairman of the Corporation.

As Councillor for the area any such action, moreso, where a house is being bulldozed valued at two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, (\$250,000.00) that is out of courtesy I should have been informed. In my opinion the Chief Executive Officer who signed the Notice without consultation with the Building Inspector, whose responsibility it was to sign, it seems to me that there is a conspiracy with the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Fortune and Mr. Nazir Mohammed to take illegal action against a family which was struggling to deal with a 10 year old daughter who was not at home and when she returned home the parents had to seek medical attention. The Parents of Mr. Narine collapsed a few times.

When we deal with people as Local Government Representatives we have a responsibility to the many families outside there. In the Palmiste Estate at this point in time there are over fifty (50) squatters occupying road reserve that does not belong to them. There has to be a clear cut policy on how to deal with these issues. The State itself does not have a clear policy.

Since that date I had requested a report and to date I have not received any information as to why Mr. Narine's house was bulldozed. I am requesting legal assistance through this Council for advice for Mr. Narine to be paid by this Council on this matter. I will continue to speak on this matter until justice is served.

51. **Other requests/comments made by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh**

- (i) A job was being undertaken in Bennet Drive where there were open trenches. The roadway was closed to traffic without any signs or notices to warn people causing their vehicles to crash into the trench. The Corporation should look at ways to improve on the safety of its residents.
- (ii) On every job that is completed there is materials left over on the site. As soon as jobs are closed all materials must be removed.

- (iii) In the Recreation Ground in Block 2 Palmiste no work was being done by the Construction gang. There was no supervision of the workers. Almost two months ago he requested painting of the speed humps but nothing was done and people continue to injure themselves and their vehicles. This issue had to be addressed.

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

- (i) With respect to the Woodland Development, if he does not get a response from the people he would have to resort to plan B.
- (ii) It was very sad that they could not get a trophy on behalf of one of the greatest person in Penal/Debe – Mr. Sonny Ramadin.
- (iii) The Government was embarking on hiring people who are square pegs. Water and Sewage Authority (W.A.S.A) is a Twenty Seven billion dollar headache for the Prime Minister who himself had selected the people to run the company.

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

- (i) The beauty of the job was in the finishing touches such as back filling. Although backfilling was included in the contract document, still it was not done properly. Payments should not be made unless the Councillor for the area approved that the job was satisfactorily done.
- (ii) With regards to water, it was fortunate that we are in the rainy season. Although a meeting was held with W.A.S.A. nothing was done and another meeting was being arranged and he hoped good things would result from the meeting.
- (iii) With regards to a seminar on Local Government reform, which took, place recently, the Prime Minister said he was going to change Rates & Taxes to alleviate some of the Local Government expenses.
- (iv) The ‘smart card’ was not being distributed equally since the neediest persons were not benefiting and the many programmes designed to reach the poor and needy were not doing so.
- (v) Wished Councillor Sonnylal B.Manwah well on his vacation.

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

- (i) Under the P.N.M Government nothing seemed to be working. You get no help from the hospitals and health centres. The country is deteriorating even with the oil boom that the country is facing. In his area no work was done because there was no materials.
- (ii) Contractors were hurriedly paid for their work and the job remained incomplete. The newly built box drain in Platanite Trace was already broken. We have to be more aware about awarding contracts.
The people are of the view that it is the Councillors who award contracts and they call the media complaining about the Councillors.

- (iii) A particular mosque was distributing hampers, meant for the needy, to their friends and family. He intended to write to the relevant Ministry for an audit.
- (iv) Shared the view of Councillor W. Ramlakhan with regards to the water problems. W.A.S.A visited two wells saying they would drill but nothing happened to date. There were several complaints, to W.A.S.A. about leaks in the roadways but they were doing nothing about this.

55. **Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah made the undermentioned comments/request: -**

- (i) The Governor of the Central Bank was saying no salary increase for the people but the Government could get increase three times per year.
- (ii) Contracts were given to friends and family of the PNM so they in turn would get funds for their people.
- (iii) Housing Development was all over the country but one must join the party to get a house or a ten days or a smart card.
- (iv) The Prime Minister's son said he wanted nothing to do with politics but he is the Chairman of the PNM's website.

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

- (i) Congratulated the Chairman on his return as Chairman and Councillor Premchand Sookoo on his appointment as Vice Chairman.
- (ii) The Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting alone had 68 recommendations but they were not getting done. With four Technical Officers to report to so many things and with the different funds they needed to put things in place to handle this.
- (iii) There is the need to fine tune the business of the Corporation to its needs. They needed to sit and discuss the direction of the Corporation and how they were going to move along.

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

- (i) If Members of Council get the detailed estimates and the contract documents on jobs taking place in their respective areas only then could they monitor the jobs.
- (ii) Requested from the P.I.R.O. Section a list of people employed during the months of July and August and would like the addresses to be included in the list.
- (iii) Only Council could make a lawful decision with respect to demolishing and there must be no such action without Council's approval.
- (iii) Having entered the new term he implored all to work together for the benefit of the people.

58. **CHAIRMAN’S CLOSING REMARKS: -**

- (i) Requested Administration invite quotations for a magazine highlighting the work of the Council over the past term of office - 2003/2006. This would be 500 copies of 120 pages each in full color. Also, Administration identify funds to meet this commitment of approximately \$87,000.00.
- (ii) Reminded all of the Heads of Departments/Sections Meeting to be held on the first and third Monday of the month. The purpose of the meeting was to look at recommendations made at Committee Meetings and to have a status report on how far they have reached, especially in the Infrastructural and Health Sections.

59. There being no further business the meeting ended at 12:45 p.m.

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Chairman
Statutory Meeting