

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH [24TH] STATUTORY MEETING [2006-2008 TERM]  
HELD ON JULY 11, 2008 AT THE CORPORATION'S HALL, 218 S.S. ERIN ROAD, DEBE.**

**MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT: -**

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

**MEMBER OF COUNCIL ABSENT:-**

Councillor	Carl Dabideen	Debe West
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**MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:-**

Mr.	L. Espinoza	Chief Executive Officer
Ms.	T. Deodath	Administrative Officer II
Mrs.	A. Adimoolah-Ramjohn	Corporate Secretary
Ms.	L. Lalgee	Financial Officer
Mr.	A. Dipchand	Asst. Accountant
Mr.	C. Bullock	Public Health Inspector III
Mr.	H. Jagmohan	F.O.S. - Penal
Mr.	M. Gajadhar	F.O.S. - Debe
Mr.	L. Walker	Transport Foreman
Ms.	J. Thompson	Inspector – Municipal Police
Mrs.	R. Ganga Persad	Clerk IV
Ms.	N. Ragbir	Clerk I
Ms.	T. Maharaj	Clerk I

Ms.	F. Mahabir	O.J.T.
Ms.	R. Durity	U.W.I. Student
Ms.	P. Mohan	-do-

### **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Indira Ramgarib-Katwaroo

Ramdeo Rambalack

Jinsey Sampath

Media Personnel

1342. The meeting commenced at 9:12 am and Ms Katwaroo led in opening prayer.

### **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS: -**

1343. Alderman, Dr. Allen Sammy welcomed all to the meeting especially the members of public who were present. He informed that this was Council's final meeting in their fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) year and although the extension of another year was granted, Members of Council were still awaiting this in writing.

He stated that a letter was sent to Deodath Ojah-Maharaj, Communications Specialist, Ministry of Local Government regarding the proposed Public Consultation on the Green Paper on July 16, 2008 at Paria Suites. He read both the specimen agenda and the one prepared by the Corporation and said he was informed by Mr. Maharaj that they would not be using the Corporation's agenda.

He pointed out the burgesses had limited time to speak and that it was Council's view that the twenty [20] interest groups attending should be heard. Council would meet at a later time to discuss same.

He referred to the MORI Poll which indicated that Local Government was not performing and informed that the burgesses had much worse to say about the other agencies eg. Ministry of Health, Water & Sewerage Authority, Environmental Management Authority etc. These agencies were already in a state of cardiac arrest and collapse and he enquired why no Green Papers were prepared for reform in these Ministries.

He reminded that construction materials had increased in price and gave an example where one (1) metre of a new box drain [3ftx2ft] would cost One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to construct.

He informed that sixty (60%) of Penal/Debe lied within the Oropouche basin and there were Five Hundred and Twenty (520) roads in the Region and drains could only be built near One Hundred and Sixty Four (164) houses each year.

He went on to state that with an annual Recurrent and Development release of \$4.4 Million, Central Government could not expect the efficient delivery of goods and services given the costs of box drains and the demand for same.

He said that the Consultations on the Green Paper were a farce given that the Prime Minister has already determined that the number of Municipalities would be reduced from fourteen [14] to twelve [12] and all the views of the people have not yet been heard. He questioned the basis on which the Government is taking decisions on the Reform process and the purpose and value of these Consultations?

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:-**

1344[i] Councillor Premchand Sookoo reported that there was flooding in Wellington Road, Carrat Hill, Boodoo Trace, Lower Barrackpore, Ragbir Trace, Cottage Road, Laltoo Trace etc. He said that this was due to poor drainage in the areas.

He indicated that the entire M2 Ring Road was covered with water and slush where E.M.B.D.C. was constructing houses. He enquired whether any study was conducted prior to construction at this site. He hoped and trusted that a study was conducted to ensure proper drainage in the area.

[ii] Councillor Ramlakhan informed that after the rain he toured Penal and there was evidence of flooding at Clarke Road and Oliverie Drive, Penal. He added that this was due to improper drainage and although he previously suggested a way to alleviate the problem, no one listened.

He hoped that Mr. Ivan Toolsie would visit with him and take pictures of Lachos Road where earthwork was being done. He said that the backhoe cleaned the drain two [2] weeks ago but it was again filled with silt which would become impassible if there was more rain.

[iii]Councillor Kisson informed that a similar problem existed on the Ring Road to La Fortune where water was on the road due to improper drainage. He indicated that he had a successful meeting with W.A.S.A. regarding the continuation of water projects at Hermitage.

[iv]Councillor Ramnath asked that the Corporation, together with the Ministry of Works, Drainage Division and Ministry of Agriculture prepare a report on flooding so that farmers could be re-imbursed for loss of crops.

Dr. Sammy informed that the Corporation requested \$1.3 Million for drainage works and was still awaiting approval for same.

1345. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD [23rd] STATUTORY MEETING HELD ON JUNE 24, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kisson that the Minutes of the Twenty-Second [23rd] Statutory Meeting held on June 24, 2008 be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings thereof.

### **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **[i] PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

1346. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty-Third [23<sup>rd</sup>] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on June 03, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:-** Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Minutes of the Twenty-Third [23rd] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on June 03, 2008 be adopted.

1347. **Presentation of Reports & Recommendations of the Twenty-Fourth [24th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on July 01, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-37 of the Twenty-Fourth [24th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on July 01, 2008 be accepted.

1348. **Adoption of the Reports & Recommendations of the Twenty-Fourth [24th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on July 01, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-37 of the Twenty-Fourth [24th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on July 01, 2008 be adopted.

[ii] **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

1349. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23rd] Public Health Committee Meeting held on June 10, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23rd] Public Health Committee Meeting held on June 10, 2008 be adopted.

1350. **Presentation of Reports & Recommendations of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Public Health Committee Meeting held on July 03, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-16 of the Twenty-Fourth[24th] Public Health Committee Meeting held on July 03, 2008 be accepted.

1351. **Adoption of the Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Public Health Committee Meeting held on July 03, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-16 of Twenty- Fourth [24th] the Public Health Committee Meeting held on July 03, 2008 be adopted.

[iii] **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

1352. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty- Second [23rd] Personnel Committee Meeting held on June 17, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:-**Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23<sup>rd</sup>] Personnel Committee Meeting held on June 17, 2008 be adopted.

1353. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Fourth [24<sup>th</sup>] Personnel Committee Meeting held on July 08, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-17 of the Twenty-Fourth [24th] Personnel Committee Meeting held on July 08, 2008 be accepted.

1354. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Personnel Committee Meeting held on July 08, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-17 of the Twenty-Fourth [24th]\_Personnel Committee Meeting held on July 08, 2008 be adopted.

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

1355. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23rd] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:-**Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23rd] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2008 be adopted.

1356. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Finance, Planning, & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-19 of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2008 be accepted with the under-mentioned inclusions: -

*[i] Recommendations made at Special Finance Committee Meeting held on July 01, 03, & 08, 2008.*

*[ii] List of Vouchers dated 08-10/07/08.*

1357. **Adoption of the Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Fourth[24th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-19 of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2008 be adopted with the above mentioned inclusions.

[v] **FESTIVALS COMMITTEE**

1358. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23rd] Festivals Committee Meeting held on June 17, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23rd] Festivals Committee Meeting held on June 17, 2008 be adopted.

1359. **Presentation of Reports & Recommendation of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on July 08, 2008.**

**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 Twenty- Fourth [24th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on July 08, 2008 be accepted.

1360. **Adoption of Reports & Recommendations of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on July 08, 2008.**

**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 Twenty- Fourth [24th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on July 08, 2008 be adopted.

[vi] **HERITAGE AND TOURISM COMMITTEE.**

1361. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23rd] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23rd] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2008 be adopted.

1362. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on July 08, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-10 of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on July 08, 2008 be accepted.

1363. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of Twenty- Fourth [24th] Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on July 08, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-10 of the Twenty-Fourth [24th] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on July 08, 2008 be adopted.

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

1364. **Adoption of the Minutes the Twenty- Third [23rd] Youth, Citizen Liaison and Advisory Committee Meeting held on June 10, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Alderman Roland Hall and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23rd] Youth, Citizen Liaison and Advisory Committee Meeting held on June 10, 2008 be adopted.

1365. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on July 03, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Alderman Roland Hall and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Reports & Recommendations Nos.1-5 of the Twenty-Fourth [24th] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on July 03, 2008 be accepted.

1366. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of Twenty- Fourth [24th] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on July 03, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Alderman Roland Hall and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Reports & Recommendations Nos.1-5 of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on July 03, 2008 be adopted.

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

1367. **Adoption of Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23rd] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on June 03, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23rd] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on June 03, 2008 be adopted.

1368. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Committee Meeting held on July 01, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports Recommendations Nos. 1-6 of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on July 01, 2008 be accepted.

1369. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on July 01, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:-** Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-6 of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on July 01, 2008 be adopted.

[ix] **SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:-**

1370. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23rd] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on June 18, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23rd] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on June 18, 2008 be adopted.

1371. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-7 of the Twenty- Fourth [24<sup>th</sup>] Sports & Recreation Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2008 be accepted.

1372. **Adoption of Reports & Recommendations of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-7 of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Sports & Recreation Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2008 be adopted.

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

1373. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23rd] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlackhan that the Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23rd] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2008 be adopted

1374. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** -Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlackhan that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-11 of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2008 be accepted.

1375. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** -Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlackhan that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-11 of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2008 be adopted.

**[xi] GENDER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.**

1376. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23rd] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on June 17, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23rd] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on June 17, 2008 be adopted.

1377. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Report and Recommendation No.1 of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2008 be accepted.

1378. **Adoption of the Reports & Recommendations of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Report and Recommendation No. 1 of the Twenty- Fourth [24th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on July 07, 2008 be adopted.

[xii] **BUILDING COMMITTEE:**

1379. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty- Third [23rd] Building Committee Meeting held on June 10, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Twenty-Third [23rd] Building Committee Meeting held on June 10, 2008 be adopted.

1380. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-Fourth [24th] Development Committee Meeting held on July 03, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:-** Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-9 of the Twenty-Fourth [24th] Building Committee Meeting held on July 03, 2008 be accepted with the under mentioned inclusions:-

*[i] Building and Layout plan Applications Nos. 1-9 in favor of David Battoo and others.*

1381. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-Fourth [24th] Building Committee Meeting held on July 03, 2008.**

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-9 of the Twenty-Fourth [24th] Building Committee Meeting held on July 03, 2008 be adopted with the above mentioned inclusions.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

[i] Letter dated July 08, 2008 from Steve Dipnarine, Trinidad Broadcasting requesting change of date for the Stations Anniversary from August 30, 2008 to August 31, 2008 – Approved.

[ii] Memorandum dated March 10, 2008 from Corporate Secretary to Chairman of Council re: Trespass to property Mr. Zainool and Ms. Molly Ramalie – to be discussed at another meeting.

1382. **MATTERS REFERRED:** NIL

**RESOLVED:** - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Ramnath and seconded by Councillor Hardial that the meeting be adjourned to Committee stage to discuss the Financial Statement and other documents.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Councillor Boodoosingh sought approval for the payment to Ivan Toolsie for the video taping and still pictures of the Heritage Festival Week.

Meeting resumed at 10:05 a.m.

1383 **PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS** NIL

1384. **REPORTS AND REPLIES: -** NIL

1385. **PETITIONS: -** NIL

1386. **QUESTIONS: -** NIL

1387. **PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS: -** NIL

1388. **MOTION: -** NIL

**OTHER PUBLIC BUSINESS:-**

1389. Councillor Hardial made the under mentioned comments/requests:

Thanked the Chief Executive Officer, Chairman, Technical Officers, Members of Council and Staff for a good year 2007/2008. Since Members of Council were given an extension of another year, it was now time for seriousness. There was concern over the Green Paper on Local Government Reform and how much power would be given to Members of Council.

Reported that there was severe flooding at Clarke Road, Lower Barrackpore #3 Scale North. He referred to residents without pipe borne water and quoted "Water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink." He even gave an example where rain had dug out the cylinder from the ground near his house.

Much work needed to be done in his Electoral District e.g. road repairs, paving, cutlassing etc. He observed that although there was a shortage in the labour force, the workers were doing their best.

The future of Local Government and all Councillors lied in the hands of the P.N.M. Councillors were unable to contribute on the Green Paper and now they would have to listen to the Government.

Wished all his colleagues another successful year in office and said he knew they would do their best.

1390. Councillor Boodoosingh made the under mentioned comments/requests:

Informed that he was very disturbed by the memo done by the Corporate Secretary dated March 10, 2008 re: Trespass to property Mr. Zainool and Ms. Molly Ramalie, and was only aware of such response today.

He makes requests on behalf of the people which he represents. He believed that the matter should have been discussed at a prior meeting and indicated that legal advice would be sought regarding this issue.

Stated that it was a good thing that God created man and not vice versa. He said that the country is entering into the dark age and into a failed state. Although Councillors had the responsibility to deliver goods and services to the burgesses, they are unable to give instructions to the employees since this is the function of Administration. Decisions could only be made at meetings and Members of Council must hope that someone provides the resources needed to implement them. The power of the people has been compromised since Local Elections have not been called for yet another year.

The residents were crying out for water and the \$1Million released by the Government cannot go very far. He gave the example that the Brian Lara Stadium was costing \$1.3 Billion to construct and if Penal/Debe Regional Corporation was given this funding during the past nine (9) years, then there would be no problem with flooding, poor roads and drainage in the Region.

Pointed out that Mr. Rambalack had the skills to deliver to the people of Trinidad & Tobago. He (Mr Rambalack) had done a presentation on how to feed the people with rice by bringing the rice mill to the community. There were competent people in the Region who were not given the opportunity to prove themselves.

Called on the Police to prepare a proposal to have Community Police assigned to specific areas. With crime on the rise, the future of our children should be preserved and this should be addressed at a community level. He believed that residents should be aware that Councillors and staff try their best to deliver with limited resources. He commended the Roads Section, Mr. Jagmohan from Health Section, Accounts Section, I.T. Section and Security Officer for an excellent job.

Complained that when entering the compound of the Corporation, one is greeted with a pile of garbage and two [2] old drums at the side of the road. He asked that this be addressed since the Corporation is represented by what the people see outside.

Informed that although he did not request to be here another year, Members of Council were given an extension and promised to do his best for the people.

1391 Councillor Ramlakhan made the under mentioned comments/requests:

Indicated that not much was done in his Electoral District prior to 2003 when he was elected but still thanked the Technical Officers for their support.

Informed that two [2] weeks ago an officer from this office asked about Local Government Elections and when he responded that he did not know anything the officer responded “we could do without all

yuh for one (1) year.” He expressed disappointment that Councillors were here to serve the people and they [the people] were glad to not have them around. He gave an example of the work load Councillors had and said that with the heavy rain yesterday he received fifteen (15) calls between the hours of 5:00 am – 7:00 a.m. Nevertheless, he hoped to work with the burgesses and produce good results.

Agreed to use his allocated funds to construct a box drain across Clarke Road to Oliviere Drive to curb the flooding problem. He said whenever it floods the school children walk through flood waters and the matter must be addressed.

There were large potholes at Lachoos Road, Penal and the walls of the box drains were breaking due to the heavy trucks conducting earthworks. He was seeking to have the developer taken to Court on the matter and hoped that this does not re-occur next year.

Water remains a serious problem in the Electoral District of Penal. He referred to Councillor Hardial who receive water once in five [5] months.

Administration should assign someone to supervise box drain and referred to an IRIAD Project where the driveway was constructed 16" higher than the road level. Also, another project done near Mr. Manny's residence had to be repaired by the Corporation's workers four [4] times.

Food prices were on the rise and the country may soon capsize. The poor would suffer with the increase in flour etc. He said that whatever the people objected to, this is exactly what the Government implements eg. the smelter plants and high rise buildings. He believed that reverse psychology must be used on the Government to get what the people wanted.

With the Local Government Reform, Members of Council had no power and the strategy used by the Government to eliminate Councillors was to put off Local Elections. Nevertheless, he thanked everyone for their support for the past five (5) years and said he received good support from the Building Inspector.

1392 Councillor Kissoon made the under mentioned comments/requests:-

Thanked the Roads and Health Section for their support especially Ms. Guinness who did her best in the absence of a Public Health Inspector. Also, the Building Inspector who always assisted when called upon.

He received none of the poles donated to the Corporation by Petrotrin. There was reason to increase security since many items went missing from the stockpile eg. cable, poles rat bait etc.

There was severe flooding in the Ring Road due to improper drainage. The flood gates had dropped and residents were losing their crops and livestock. Also, sewer water was being used to water plants.

Crime was creeping into La Romaine and the business places were being robbed. The bar next to his bar got robbed and the Police was unable to assist. He feared that his bar would be attacked next.

A site visit was done with Dr. Burris who was disturbed about the drainage in the developments and enquired as to the engineer working in these areas.

1393 Councillor Ramnath made the undermentioned comments:-

Recalled the Prime Minister's statement that the Municipalities would be reduced from fourteen [14] to twelve [12] and agreed with Chairman of Council that if there was no Penal/Debe Regional Corporation then this Council has failed.

Informed that Councillor Sookoo and himself had served in this Council since 1992 and he has seen that the Penal/Debe Region has developed beyond his imagination. In 1992 there were many old buildings and the Penal Police Station was housed in a bus. The Region had developed rapidly over the years in comparison to Siparia, Fyzabad and Point Fortin and should now be given its rightful status as the next Borough.

He continued to elaborate on how the region excelled and listed the following:-

- [i] Power Plant which sometimes could affect the entire country.
- [ii] Oil production
- [iii] Agriculture
- [iv] Fisheries from Quinam/Morne Diablo
- [v] Forestry and water shed, teak, lumber
- [vi] Sugar area which is the largest in the country
- [vii] Housing Development
- [viii] Town Centre –one of the best in Trinidad
- [ix] Namdevco Market and Penal Market where you would find food that is difficult to find in other parts of the country eg. Karmi Bhagi, Bun Caraili
- [x] Furniture Industry - each store is supplied by factories in Penal.

He hoped that a poll would be carried out to acquire information on what part Penal/Debe played in the development of Trinidad and Tobago.

Flooding remains a major problem in the Region and reminded that he requested that a Consultant be hired to address this matter.

He made representation for additional funds for water distribution and the Ministry provided the funds. A policy should now be set where each household would receive no less than one (1) tank per week. He hoped that next year Four Million Dollars (\$4, 000 000.00) would be released for water which would be pumped into homes.

He called on the Chief Executive Officer to personally address the Poodai Lagoon Bridge which was not constructed and the Rajkumar Trace Bridge which was down for some time.

He expressed concern that the poor may be unable to meet the criteria for Building Plan approvals and suggested that Council find ways to assist.

He thanked the Health Section, Building Inspector's Section, Police and the other Officers present for their support. Also, Mr. Rambalack who was always associated with the staff of Penal/Debe. He said that his purpose here was to ensure that decisions taken at meetings were in the interest of the burgesses. He was thankful that the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Schools, etc all rendered their support to the Corporation.

Expressed pleasure in working with Members of Council for the past term. With the reduction of the Municipalities, one cannot be sure whether there would be a Penal/Debe, Couva Tabaquite, Talparo or Mayaro/Rio Claro Regional Corporation in future.

The Ministry of Health has failed and patients were now taking their own pillow and sheets to the wards. The Newspapers yesterday (10/07/08) informed that seventeen (17) patients waited for eight (8) hours for a bed in just one ward.

Houses were being constructed without approvals and those living in them were concerned why the walls were separating. The Ministry of Housing was putting off the people's complaints.

The Ministry of National Security had also failed and the murder rate may reach over five hundred (500) for 2008. He enquired whether the government would bring a Green Paper to reduce the said Ministry.

The delay of another year for Local Elections was the Government's way to have house padding. There were three hundred and fifty (350) houses built without approvals at Ridgewood Garden and the PNM was flooding these houses with supporters. He was sure that not one (1) person from the area of Retrench and Golconda would be given a house.

The P.N.M speaks about five (5) Desal Plants but is unable to run 4" main.

Thanked Members of Council, Technical Staff, Members of Public especially the Chairman of Council for their vision.

1395 Alderman Hall made the undermentioned comments/requests:-

The Government was an embarrassment to the nation. The people of Trinidad and Tobago were not happy and with the increase in food prices and rise in crime we [the county] had become the "laughing stock" in the Caribbean.

The Green Paper was a waste of time and money and he wondered whether the Permanent Secretary even reads the minutes of these meetings.

He referred to the Memorandum dated March 10, 2008 re: Trespass to property Mr. Zainool and Ms. Molly Ramalie and said that all Councillors were agents to the people. He hoped that Administration and Members of Council work together for the betterment of the Region.

**RECOMMENDED:-** Special Statutory Meeting scheduled on Thursday July 17, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss letter re: Trespass to property Mr. Zainool and Ms. Molly Ramalie.

1396 Councillor Sookoo made the undermentioned comments/requests:-

Indicated his disappointment that the Ministry of Local Government was the one dictating the agenda for the Consultation of Local Government Reform and wondered whether the recommendations made by the people would be accepted.

Referred to the Prime Minister's announcement on Television to reduce the Corporations from fourteen(14) to twelve (12) and said that the power of the Council was being overtaken by other agencies eg. URP, CEPEP, PURE, RDC etc. He added that when these agencies are mandated by

Local Government to do projects then the result would be massive retrenchment or employees since the jobs would be done by contractors.

Enquired as to what the P.N.M. Government did for the community and informed that there were still no agricultural access roads for farmers, only one [1] out of fifty eight [58] bridges were constructed, flooding was still a major problem, unemployment still imminent, high food prices and the closure of the rice and sugar industry amongst other things.

Under the U.N.C. Government, the NAMDEVCO Market was built, the Debe High School, Parvati Girls Hindu College, Debe Police Post, Penal Market, Penal Health Centre, Rock Road Health Centre and the proposal for Debe Health Centre was done. Their [UNC] plan was “water for all” and the here P.N.M. placed communal tanks.

With the heavy rainfall he hoped that Administration had officers assigned to conduct surveys on overflowing “latrines” drains etc. He added that a serious health hazard could be created if this was not addressed. He reminded everyone that the former Minister of Local Government had visited the Penal/Debe Region five [5] days after flooding. He hoped that some assistance would be given by the Government to abate the flooding problem.

He pointed out that Tobago received \$68 Million to construct box drains and the Government told the people to ask for what they needed and they would receive, meanwhile Penal/Debe Regional Corporation was begging for the funds to do same.

He enquired why the Government did not call Local Government Elections. Was the Prime Minister afraid of what would be the outcome? With Local Government Reform he, the [PM] can do whatever he wanted to do, since Councillors have no power.

Congratulated the Chairman of Council for his fifth [5<sup>th</sup>] year in office and said that if the P.N.M. was serious, they could give Council the power to liaise with the respective agencies eg. PURE & URP to do projects.

1397 Dr. Sammy informed Members of Public that a proposal was being done for the beautification of the region. Also, work was ongoing with the Rodent Control Gang.

**MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC**

1398 Mrs. Sampath requested a visit from Councillor Ramlakhan to her property which is flooded. She informed that drain was constructed and later diverted on the northern side by the former Councillor’s daughter. She added that her property was low and the water was not flowing and requested an investigation.

Dr. Sammy thanked everyone for attending the meeting and invited them to view the photos from the Heritage Festival 2008. He added that next year the Heritage Festival Week was carded for May 01 – May 09, 2009.

1399 The meeting closed at 12:10 p.m.

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**Chairman**  
**Statutory Meeting**