

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH [26TH] STATUTORY MEETING [2006-2008 TERM] HELD ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2008 AT THE CORPORATION'S HALL, 218 S.S. ERIN ROAD, DEBE.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT: -

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

MEMBERS OF ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:-

Ms.	P. Cain	Administrative Officer II
Ms.	S. Badall	O.D.P.M. Co-ordinator
Inspector	J. Thompson	Municipal Police
Cpl.	Mohammed	Municipal Police
Mr.	S. Heru	County Superintendent
Ms.	L. Lalgee	Financial Officer
Mr.	R. Mahadeo	Accountant
Mr.	J. Marfan	Works Supervisor I
Ms.	H. Sooknarine	P.I.R.O.
Mr.	C. Maharaj	Building Inspector
Ms.	R. Ganga Persad	Clerk IV
Ms.	T. Bridgelal	Stores Clerk
Mr.	Manbodh	F.O.S. Debe
Ms.	T. Maharaj	Clerk I
Ms.	C. Ramphal	Ag. Clerk II
Ms.	R. Khan	Checker

1468. The meeting commenced at 10:35 a.m.

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:-

1469. Alderman, Dr. Allen Sammy welcomed all to the meeting.

He informed that over the past months the standard of all minutes and recommendations had deteriorated and that steps should be taken to improve the quality of same. He pointed out that the Head of the Section should have a part in reviewing all minutes and recommendations because of her years of experience and that the new persons assigned to Secretariat should be trained to improve the quality of minutes. He added that he was not pleased with the minutes and recommendations before him.

He referred to the 2008/2009 budget which have little impact on the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation, since the allocation do not necessarily reflect our real needs. For example there is no real attempt in the allocation to tackle the problems of flooding and dengue, the delivery of water and the development of heritage sites. The \$200,000.00 allocation for Holistic Development was lost this year, in spite of the advance work done on selected sites.

He stated although requests were made by Members of Council with regards to money being spent, Administration was showing no compliance, which has resulted in Council holding five Special Finance Meetings for the month of September 2008.

1470 **ANNOUNCEMENTS:-**

- [i] Councillor Premchand Sookoo announced that he represented the Chairman of Council at a Chief Executive Officers and Chairmens Meeting at Kent House, Maraval and observed that on two occasion the Chief Executive Officer of Penal/Debe Regional Corporation was not present at the said meeting.

The Project Engineer at the meeting indicated that all Corporations must submit their IRIAD Projects early.

He also announced that the contractor transporting earthfill in Ragbir Trace, Debe was making the roadway impassable and suggested that the Municipal Police visit the site to investigate the matter.

- [ii] Councillor Ramlakhan announced that he had received a telephone call from a resident of Lachoos Road, Penal informing him that Mr. Billy Ramdeen was in the process of bringing an excavator to start work in the said area.
- [iii] Councillor Diptee Ramnath announced that the Turks and Caicos Island had a hurricane and 95% of the houses were damaged and he requested that the Corporation assist in shipping food items and bottled water to the island.
- [iv] The Administrative Officer II asked that the Chief Executive Officer be excused from the meeting.

- [v] Dr. Sammy informed that the Ministry of Local Government had failed to deliver on Penal/Debe Regional Corporation request for support to eradicate dengue. He added that Penal/Debe Regional Corporation had not received any of the \$4.7M requested and that Council had to vire \$300,000.00 of its own funds to deal with the dengue emergency.

He thanked Councillor Boodoosingh and Councillor Manwah for implementing operation “Bulldozer” targeting the aedes egypti mosquito.

He then referred to Memorandum dated August 27, 2008 from the Chief Executive Officer which was read at the Special Statutory Meeting on August 29, 2008 regarding his wife’s clinic appointments and said that the dates were misleading because they were linked to two different incidents over a period of time.

He informed that minutes of meetings were the business of the Council and did not belong to the Chief Executive Officer, therefore matters should not be left out.

- [vi] Councillor Boodoosingh expressed total contempt with the recommendations before him, and said that the recommendations made at the Special Finance Meeting should be separated according to dates.

He had concern with the movement of staff from the Secretariat Section and was unsure whether the Clerk IV was even consulted about same.

- [vii] Dr. Sammy informed that he agreed to have the recommendations given out at the Implementation Meeting on September 22, 2008, due to the late meeting on Thursday September 18, 2008. He added that the Clerk IV’s responsibilities were taken away and handed over to the Corporate Secretary.

- [vii] Councillor Premchand Sookoo and Councillor Carl Dabideen agreed with Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh that the recommendations were of a poor standard.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:-

- 1471 **RESOLVED:-** Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Twenty-Fifth [25th] Statutory Meeting held on August 26, 2008 be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings pending the following amendments:

[i] Page 14 item 1463 “money would be released to the Corporation for same” to read “money would be released to the Corporation for same if requested.”

[ii] Page 13 item 1461 change “La Fortune Recreation Ground” to “Wilson Road Recreation Ground.”

- 1472 **RESOLVED:-** Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Special Statutory Meeting held on August 29, 2008 be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings pending the following amendments:-

- [i] Page 2 item 2 delete “Alderman Dr. Sammy welcome all to the meeting.....had a funeral to attend.”

Insert “Dr. Sammy informed that he was contacted by Members of Council on the Statutory Meeting day on August 26, 2008 seeking to hold a Special Statutory Meeting on August 29, 2008 to deal with recommendations of the Finance Committee Meeting which were deferred at the said meeting.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

[i] PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

1473. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty-Fifth [25th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on August 05, 2008.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Twenty-Fifth [25th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on August 05, 2008 be adopted.

1474. **Presentation of Reports & Recommendations of the Twenty-Sixth [26th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on September 02, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-45 of the Twenty-Sixth [26th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on September 02, 2008 be accepted.

1475. **Adoption of the Reports & Recommendations of the Twenty-Sixth [26th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on September 02, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-45 of the Twenty-Sixth [26th] Physical Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on September 02, 2008 be adopted.

[ii] PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1476. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Public Health Committee Meeting held on August 12, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Minutes of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Public Health Committee Meeting held on August 12, 2008 be adopted.

1477. **Presentation of Reports & Recommendations of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Public Health Committee Meeting held on September 09, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-18 of the Twenty-Sixth [26th] Public Health Committee Meeting held on September 09, 2008 be accepted.

1478. **Adoption of the Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Public Health Committee Meeting held on August 12, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah and seconded by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-18 of Twenty- Sixth [26th] the Public Health Committee Meeting held on September 09, 2008 be adopted.

[iii] PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

1479. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Personnel Committee Meeting held on August 19, 2008.**

RESOLVED:-Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Personnel Committee Meeting held on August 19, 2008 be adopted.

1480. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Personnel Committee Meeting held on September 16, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-9 of the Twenty-Sixth [26th] Personnel Committee Meeting held on September 16, 2008 be accepted with the undermentioned inclusion:-

(i) Item 10 – New gang structure be established by the Corporation to cater for 404 workers.

1481. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Personnel Committee Meeting held on September 16, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-9 of the Twenty-Sixth [26th] Personnel Committee Meeting held on September 16, 2008 be adopted with the above inclusion.

[iv] FINANCE, PLANNING AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on August 14, 2008.

RESOLVED:-Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on August 14, 2008 be adopted pending the following amendment

[i] Page 3 Item #583 –delete ‘trail’ and insert trial.”

1482. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Finance, Planning, & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on September 11, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Reports and Recommendations No. 1-20 of the Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on September 11, 2008 be accepted with the under mentioned amendments/inclusions:

- [i] Item 9 “Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh to identify” change to “Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh to assist in identifying.”
- [ii] Item 14 delete “Approval be granted.”
- [iii] Item 15 “letter dated July 09, 2008 from Patrice John ... Approved” to read “Approval be granted in the sum of \$9,396.08 & VAT for Shelving System.” Letter dated July 09, 2008 from Patrice. John Tracmac Engineering Ltd.
- [iv] Item 19 “A list ... submitted” to read “A list of commitments and to whom committed to date be submitted to Council urgently for a Special Finance Meeting”.
- [v] Item #3 “Estimate..... Approved” to read “Approval be granted in the sum of \$87,205.00 for stationery.”
- [vi] Item 2 “Estimate Family Day be approved” to read “Approval be granted in the sum of \$83,500.00 for Family Day.
- [vii] Item 4 “Estimate...Uniforms be approved ” to read “Approval be granted in the sum of \$46,169.50
- [viii] Item 5, Insert “Approval be granted for list of Vouchers for period 5th-9th September, 2008.
- [ix] Item 6, Insert “Approval be granted” for list of Vouchers dated 10th September, 2008 except V&A Marketing & Trinmak.
- [x] Item 16 delete “Memorandum dated August 20, 2008 ... Approved” and insert “Approval be granted for the supply of electrical items for Clarke Rochard Recreation Ground Hard Court lighting.

Memorandum dated August 20, 2008 from Chief Executive Officer.
- [xi] Estimate be prepared to install Disclaimer Notice on all Recreation Grounds
- [xii] Financial Officer pursue request for approval to utilize unspent balances in the sum of \$1.7 Millon
- [xiii] Details of Expenditure as at September 10, 2008
- [xiv] Installation of Disclaimer Notice on all Recreation Grounds be referred to Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting.

- [xv] Tenders submit a listing of contractors to be registered with the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Local Government.

Letter dated January 11, 2008 from Chief Executive Officer to Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government re: Registration of Petty Contractors of Penal/Debe Regional Corporation.

- [a] Recommendations Nos. 1-8 made at Special Finance Committee Meeting held on September 04, 2008 with the undermentioned amendments:-

- [i] Item 1 delete “Estimate granted in the sum of” and insert “Approval be granted for.”
- [ii] Item 4 delete “Estimate” insert “Approval be granted.”

- [b] Recommendations Nos. 1-14 made at Special Finance Committee Meeting held on September 09, 2008 undermentioned amendments:-

- [i] Item 1 delete “Estimate” insert “Approval be granted.”
- [ii] Item 2 delete “Estimate” insert “Approval be granted.”
- [iii] Item 3 change “Councillor” to electoral district.”
- [iv] Delete item #14

- [c] Recommendations Nos. 1-20 made at Special Finance Committee Meeting held on September 16, 2008 with the undermentioned amendments:-

- [i] Item 4 Delete “Approved” insert “in conjunction with Penal/Debe Regional Corporation”.
- [ii] Item 10 “Approval be granted for Tabernacle of Prayer Church.... Approved” to read “Recommendation be given to the Tabernacle of Prayer Church stating that they do community service in the region of Penal/Debe eg. Medical Clinics, Operation Rainbow etc. for onwards transmission to the Ministry of Finance seeking funds for the purchase of two fourteen seater buses”.
- [iii] Item 13 change “\$12,000.00” to “\$1,200.00.”
- [iv] Item 15 “Industrial Hygenic Solutions Limited be ...approved” to read “Industrial Hygenic Solution Limited be sought for assistance in providing upgrade to washroom facilities since he indicated the present facilities is unacceptable for use by Councillors approved.”
- [v] Item 16 change “committed and ordered” to “to be provided.”
- [vi] Item 17 insert “Sunil Ramnarine – approved” to read “Sunil Ramnarine in the sum of \$200.00 [Two Hundred] be approved.”

- [d] Recommendations Nos. 1-3 made at Special Finance Committee Meeting held on September 18, 2008 with the undermentioned amendments:-

- [i] Item 1 “for Bulldozer Program on the 20th and 21st September 2008” to read “for Bulldozer Program in spraying of areas affected in conjunction with Insect Vector Control Unit to commence on 20th and 21st September, 2008”
- [ii] Item 2 “Approval be granted to provide lunch ...for Bulldozer Program” to read “Approval be granted to provide 120 lunches each day for workers on 20th and 21st September 2008 for the Bulldozer Program.”
- [iii] Item 3 “Blue Birds Sports and Cultural Organization ...to the 5th October 2008.” to read “Blue Birds Sports and Cultural Organization in conjunction with the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation for Ramleela Function from September 29, 2008 to October 05, 2008.

[e] Recommendations Nos.1-10 made at Special Finance Meeting held on September 23 2008.

1483. **Adoption of the Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on September 11, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B Manwah that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-20 of the Twenty-Sixth [26th] Finance, Planning & Allocation of Resources Committee Meeting held on September 11, 2008 be adopted with the above mentioned amendments/inclusions.

[v] **FESTIVALS COMMITTEE**

1484. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on August 19, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on August 19, 2008 be adopted.

1485. **Presentation of Reports & Recommendation of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on September 16, 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- Sixth [26th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on September 16, 2008 be accepted with the undermentioned inclusions:

- [a] Sports and Family Day
- [b] Ramleela

1486. **Adoption of Reports & Recommendations of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on September 16, 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- Sixth

[26th] Festivals Committee Meeting held on September 16, 2008 be adopted with the above-mentioned inclusion.

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

1487. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on August 19, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on August 19, 2008 be adopted.

1488. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on September 16, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-9 of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on September 16, 2008 be accepted.

1489. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of Twenty- Sixth [26th] Heritage & Tourism Committee Meeting held on September 16, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Rampersad Hardial and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-9 of the Twenty-Sixth [26th] Heritage and Tourism Committee Meeting held on September 16, 2008 be adopted.

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

1490. **Adoption of the Minutes the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Youth, Citizen Liaison and Advisory Committee Meeting held on August 14, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Alderman Roland Hall and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Youth, Citizen Liaison and Advisory Committee Meeting held on August 14, 2008 be adopted.

1491. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on September 11, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Alderman Roland Hall and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports & Recommendations Nos.1-2 of the Twenty-Sixth [26th] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on September 11, 2008 be accepted.

1492. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of Twenty- Sixth [26th] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on September 11, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Alderman Roland Hall and seconded by Councillor Roy Kissoon that the Reports & Recommendations Nos.1-2 of the Twenty- Sixth[26th] Youth, Citizen Liaison & Advisory Committee Meeting held on September 11, 2008 be adopted.

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

1493. **Adoption of Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on August 14, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on August 14, 2008 be adopted.

1495. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Committee Meeting held on September 02, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Reports Recommendations Nos. 1-12 of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on September 02, 2008 be accepted.

1496. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on September 02, 2008.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh and seconded by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-12 of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Communication, Security & Safety Committee Meeting held on September 02, 2008 be adopted.

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

1497. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on August 21, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on August 21, 2008 be adopted.

1498. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on September 18, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-14 of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Sports & Recreation Committee Meeting held on September 18, 2008 be accepted.

1499. **Adoption of Reports & Recommendations of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting held on September 18, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-14 of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Sports & Recreation Committee Meeting held on September 18, 2008 be adopted.

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

1500. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on August 14, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on August 14, 2008 be adopted

1501. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on September 18, 2008.**

RESOLVED: -Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos.1-16 of the Twenty-Sixth [26th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on September 18, 2008 be accepted with the undermentioned amendments:

- [i] Item 5 “Letter dated September 05, 2008... Approved” to read “Approval be granted for proper garaging facilities for Mr. K. Boodoo, Managing Director, Veekar General Services Ltd.

Letter dated September 05, 2008.

- [ii] Item 6 “to request” change to “has requested in writing from the Ministry of Local Government.”

1502. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-Sixth [26th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on September 18, 2008.**

RESOLVED: -Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Roy Kissoon and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-16 of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Planning, the Environment and Regional Development Committee Meeting held on September 18, 2008 be adopted with the above amendments.

[xi] GENDER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

1503. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on August 21, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on August 21, 2008 be adopted.

1504. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on September 18, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Report and Recommendation No.1-4 of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on September 18, 2008 be accepted.

1505. **Adoption of the Reports & Recommendations of the Twenty- Sixth[26th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on September 18, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah and seconded by Councillor Rampersad Hardial that the Report and Recommendation No. 1-4 of the Twenty- Sixth [26th] Gender Development Committee Meeting held on September 18, 2008 be adopted.

[xii] **BUILDING COMMITTEE:**

1506. **Adoption of the Minutes of the Twenty- Fifth [25th] Building Committee Meeting held on August 12, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Premchand Sookoo that the Minutes of the Twenty-Fifth [25th] Building Committee Meeting held on August 12, 2008 be adopted.

1507. **Presentation of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-Sixth [26th] Development Committee Meeting held on September 09, 2008.**

RESOLVED:- Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Premchand Sookoo that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-16 of the Twenty-Sixth [26th] Building Committee Meeting held on September 09, 2008 be accepted with the under mentioned amendment/inclusion:-

[i] Item 11 “Change “Beharial” to read “Beharrylal.”

[a] Building and Layout plan Applications Nos. 1-6 dated September 23, 2008 in favor of C. Jagdeo and others.

1508. **Adoption of Reports and Recommendations of the Twenty-Sixth [26th] Building Committee Meeting held on September 09, 2008.**

RESOLVED: - Unanimously on a motion moved by Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan and seconded by Councillor Premchand Sookoo that the Reports and Recommendations Nos. 1-16 of the Twenty-Sixth [26th] Building Committee Meeting held on September 09, 2008 be adopted with the above mentioned inclusion.

CORRESPONDENCE:-

Letter dated September 09, 2008 from Gemma Hall ,Holy Cross Anglican Church, Southern Main Road Marabella Re: Request for use of facilities for Jumble Sale at the Penal Market on Saturday October 04, 2008.

Recommended:- Approved.

1509. MATTERS REFERRED:- N I L

1510. PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS:- N I L

REPORTS AND REPLIES:-

1511. Councillor Boodoosingh reported the following:-

[i] He informed that a dengue eradication program was carried out over the weekend and Councillors Manwah, Kissoon, Mr. Bullock and himself were present to monitor the program. The exercise targeted the buffer zone, interchange to T.J's, M2 Ring Road to Picton etc. Home visits in the La Romaine area were done to identify the source of mosquitoes breeding grounds. Also, dynamite fogging in the entire area was done. He indicated that the program was a combined effort with C.M.O.H., Insect Vector and Penal/Debe Regional Corporation where all agencies responded positively to the exercise.

[ii] A report will be generated from the C.M.O.H. Department and forwarded to the P.H.I. Section on the cases identified with dengue. He added that on the said days of the exercise approximately five [5] cases of dengue were reported in the La Romaine area and three [3] in Palmiste.

[iii] He was disappointed that Council's decision to provide refreshments for the 120 workers was not carried out by the Chief Executive Officer with no reasons provided for this action. This resulted in both workers and Councillors having to purchase their own refreshments from their own finance. The motivation drive and enthusiasm by workers some of whom were of the expectation that refreshments will be provided were disappointed by the actions taken by the Chief Executive Officer failure to carry out a Council's decision based on his own agenda.

The Chief Executive Officer said that he would have 80 workers trained for this exercise, however on both days he was nowhere around and showed a total lack of concern for the exercise that was being carried out, more so when the Burgesses were crying out for help.

[iii] The exercise was advertised in all the Daily Newspapers and on Television, and it was clearly seen that Penal/Debe Regional Corporation was making an effort towards dengue eradication.

[iv] He informed that once trained employees were willing to work on evenings in the Dynamite Fogging Program, but without the resources it would be impossible to carry out the activities. He recommended that Council have a meeting to extend the program.

[v] He indicated that when he drove up Duncan Village and looked at Union Hall, mist was seen in the air from the spraying and he added that the longer the mist remained in the air the greater the effect on the mosquitoes and even other insects e.g. ants. He recommended that the Corporation continue with Dynamite Fogging and ULV spraying since it was a fact that people were dying from dengue and he gave an example of the gentleman from Rock Road.

[vi] He commented that the Chief Executive Officer was not receptive towards the program. However, due to the efforts of Dr. Chadee who had dialogue with Dr. Teeluckdharry the program was successful and in fact, executed. He thanked the entire team for their work and said that a report would be submitted.

He said that Councillor Manwah, the Chairman of the Public Health Committee will further develop the plan to be submitted at the Public Health Committee Meeting.

- [vii] He indicated that Insect Vector Control Division covers not only the Penal/Debe Region but also Mayaro/Moruga area. He recommended that eight [8] employees recommended by Insect Vector be contracted who are already trained to work on evenings and the Corporation will provide the Malathine.
- [vii] He suggested that the P.H.I. prepared pamphlets educating the residents on dengue and distribute them to each home in the buffer zone.
- [ix] The Chairman of Council stated that if additional workers were needed, then all funds available should be utilized to continue until the end of the month. He asked that a report be submitted from Accounts Section on the balance of funds.

1512. Councillor Premchand Sookoo reported on the following:-

- [i] Alderman Hall and himself attended a meeting at the Ministry of Local Government to discuss dengue and the main consensus was that all Corporations should continue with the removal of bulk waste until Carnival 2009.
- [ii] He reminded the Honourable Minister of the Corporation's request for funds and the Permanent Secretary indicated that she would follow up same. He added that Penal/Debe Regional Corporation received the lowest amount for the P.S.I.P Funds and that requests for funds for I.R.I.D Project should be submitted early. He also stated that Penal/Debe Regional Corporation only receive 69% of its allocation for the past year.
- [iii] He observed that hampers from the O.D.P.M. were distributed unfairly since residents on hills received the supplies. He asked that a list be submitted on the distribution of hampers.

1513. PETITIONS:- N I L

1514. QUESTIONS:- N I L

1516. PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS:- N I L

OTHER PUBLIC BUSINESS:-

Councillor Boodoosingh made the following comments:

- [i] He had a document from the Auditor General's Department of a report of the financial statements at September 30, 2003. He quoted" from this report the negative statements attributed to Penal/Debe Regional Corporation.

He said that in the report there were serious financial allegations of financial impropriety made against the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation and in the past they had reflected negatively where there were huge irregularities and corruption within the system. He emphasized that the public's perception was that the Chairman and Councillors were corrupt whereas the report stated clearly the facts that it was Administration who was responsible for the accounting. He was concerned that if the 2003 report indicates such findings what were they to expect in the report of the years to follow eg. 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

- [ii] He said that as Chairman of the Finance Committee several questions had been raised with regards to the system of operation within the Corporation. The fact remained that the procedures for Bonded Contractors were not being followed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation and identified an example where items were purchased in two [2] hardwares [V.A. Marketing & Trinmak] outside the region which caused a conflict of interest between the Director of the Companies and the Stores Clerk where it purported has an interest. He reminded that at the last Finance Meeting the Chief Executive Officer had a problem when these issues were raised. He added that there seems to be a problem when procedures were not being followed when there were commitments from 2002, 2003 still outstanding on the accounting books.
- [iii] He pointed out that Penal/Debe Regional Corporation belonged to the people of the region, yet it seems as though the Chief Executive Officer believed that it was a private organization that belonged to him alone. He observed that when Council makes decisions at meeting the Chief Executive Officer was always absent and the officers seem to be unable to respond to simple questions and matters that were long outstanding.
- [iv] He stated that when the Chief Executive Officer was re-assigned to Penal/Debe Regional Corporation Contractors from his previous workplace by coincidence were also transferred and most of the contract jobs by coincidence were also awarded to these new contractors. These Contractors living in the region were not given the opportunity to bid for contracts. Hence, it continued to be the perception that only one group of people could only work in Penal/Debe Regional Corporation with the blessing of I think you all know whom.
- [v] He could not recall that the Chief Executive Officer took Vacation Leave within the last six [6] years, except when he went to Germany, after which he returned immediately as if to run his private job and ensure that everything runs smoothly in the Corporation. He believed that the Chief Executive Officer was tired and needed a holiday and that the Members of Council had no problem if the Chief Executive Officer proceeds on Vacation Leave.
- [vi] He referred to a letter dated August 27, 2008 from the Chief Executive Officer which indicated that the Council was inconsiderate to have Special Statutory Meeting that clashed with his wife's appointment dates. He stated that as a Member of Council if someone in his family was sick he would proceed on Vacation Leave to spend time with them and again he recommended that the Chief Executive Officer should go on holidays soon and allow the Council to proceed with the business of serving the people of the region.
- [vii] He informed that the Chief Executive Officer was writing a lot these days and made reference to another letter dated August 27, 2008 with respect to open markets purchase which he said was totally false. He quoted as saying there is a file written Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh where by information could be sourced by the Chairman of Finance as required. This was in fact a secret

and he was not informed of any such file. He noted that the policy in regards of bonded was breached

by the Chief Executive Officer to accommodate certain hardwares more so knowing fully well that a conflict of interest could be made out.

- [viii] He stated that all monies allocated to the Corporation were intended for the business of all the people within the region of Penal/Debe and not for the profit of the people within the organization. He reminded that he had requested information regarding the Stores Clerk and question his travel allowance and said he did not recall at which meeting approval was given for same. He informed that where there is perception of corruption action needs to be taken.
- [ix] He requested a listing of all the daily rated employees their duties and functions and amount received for traveling and justification and there seems to be reasons basically to defend a certain official. The conflict of interest again arises whereby correspondence from the Chief Executive Officer could be viewed as some sort of conspiracy to cloud the main issue.
- [x] He enquired why was there staff movement in all sections of the Corporation except in the Public Health Inspector Department. There was no confirmed Public Health Inspector in the Health Section since the retirement of Mr. Badall and he reminded that the current P.H.I, Mr. Bullock was on contract. He reported that he spoke to several P.H.I's who said that the post for P.H.I. was not advertised through Service Commission and so they were unaware of a vacancy in Penal/Debe Regional Corporation. He added that it seems that previously Administration was comfortable that the Health Section was being run by a Checker. Is it that opportunities are being created for the perception of a system that will accommodate corrupt practices.
- [xi] He raised concern about the movement of staff in Accounts and Secretariat Section where trained staff were sent to work elsewhere and asked whether the Corporation was moving ten [10] steps backwards. He stated that staff in Secretariat was scared of speaking out because of fear of victimization.
- [xii] He said that the Chief Executive Officer was not present at this meeting but was somewhere in the office and Members of Council could clearly see that his commitment did not lie with people. He again recommended that the Chief Executive Officer proceed on Vacation Leave after which he believed that the Chief Executive Officer would return with a new energy to work with Council.
- [xiii] He mentioned that although policy decisions were taken, the problem lie with the implementation process and added that it was the system and not the people that was corrupt.
- [ivx] He expressed concern when one makes a statement like this you must be careful because of the crime situation in the country and he hoped and trusted that people do not take it the wrong way. He informed that he was not fearful of anything since he was elected to make representation for the people and his information was based on dialogue held with people of both the inside and outside of the Corporation.

Councillor Willvan Ramlakhan made the following comments:-

- [i] Congratulated Councillors Boodoosingh, Manwah and Kissoon on the "Bulldozer Program" to deal with dengue and added that the Minister of Health was focusing on cancer and still denying that there was a dengue outbreak in the nation. He reported that Penal/Debe Regional Corporation did a lot of work to eradicate dengue, however much still needed to be done in his area.

- [ii] Residents in his district were happy because progress was being made. They were also happy for the extension of the Councillors term of office and he promised to continue to work together to satisfy their needs.
- [iii] He informed that requests were made by Members of the Public on a daily basis and gave an example where the Clerk IV asked for pipe lines in her street, up to date nothing was done.
- [iv] He raised concern that Heads of Department were not attending meeting and questions were left unanswered. He said that same was happening with the Regional Co-ordinating Meeting where junior officer were representing the agencies and he requested that he Head of these Agencies attend the Meetings. The Corporation's vision was to work with the respective Departments/Agencies to assist the people in the region.
- [v] With the recent flooding the Corporation was given items through the O.D.P.M. office to give to the victims. He was concerned that people living in the hills were given hampers and the people living in low lying areas did not receive anything.
- [vi] He referred to the budget where not much was done for Crime and Agriculture and Premium gasoline was increased by \$1.00. He added that a lot of vehicles use the said gasoline and the Government's intention was for them to be converted to CNG. He stated that the poor would be unable to purchase new vehicles and place the CNG kit, therefore they should be wise in maintaining their current vehicle.
- [vii] He observed that work was being done in Bhupsingh Park. He hoped that it continued so that persons conducting sales would utilized the space for the Christmas Season.

Councillor Roy Kissoon made the following comments:-

- [i] He informed that the number of dengue cases was the highest, and he was sorry to hear the Minister of Health stating that there was no dengue outbreak in the island. He thanked the P.H.I. and Councillors Boodoosingh & Manwah for their hard work in addressing the matter. He said he would forward information of five [5] additional cases to the P.H.I.
- [ii] He reported that two [2] poles that were placed in the La Fortune Recreation Ground had to be replaced from inside the Recreation Ground to outside the drain.
- [iii] He raised concern about the crime situation and said that soon the murder rate would reach 500. He added that robbery was nothing new and persons committing murder was using La Romaine as the dumping ground for the bodies. He further added that even the gang leaders were increasing in numbers and no one could deal with them. He suggested that new officers be trained to deal with same.
- [iv] He enquired how did the developer receive approval to develop 1000 lots at Chandoo lands, and stated that not a single piece was used for open space. He added that the developer was renting and selling the land without proper roads and drainage and suggested that something be done to regularize the approval of plots.
- [v] He stated that there was a lot of overgrown bushes in the plots that were cut for the ex -Caroni workers and the people were suffering because of same.

- [vi] He asked that they necessary action be taken to deal with dengue outbreak.

Councillor Manwah made the following comments:-

- [i] He congratulated Councillor Boodoosingh and Insect Vector Control Division for formulating the program to deal with dengue.
- [ii] He informed that there was \$2.4M in unspent balances as at 13/07/08 when Council was to be dissolved. However, if Council was not given an extension, the previous vouchers would have been passed for payment. He added that \$1.6 M would have been returned to the Ministry.
- [iii] He reported that at the Health Meeting the Council took a decision to purchase two [2] Troopers for \$1Million which were presently not working.
- [iv] He reminded where Council took a decision not to employ the former P.H.I. Mr. Badall, yet he was asked to report for duties the next day.
- [v] He said that Mr. Ramdial was told not to take up the Manager's position in the Water Trucking Program and added that the vote was \$3 Million in the red and Council needed to understand what was really going on.
- [vi] He suggested that the Chief Executive Officer and other Officers submit report to the integrity and Public Health Authority.
- [vii] He said that dengue was the number one killer in the county.
- [viii] He agreed with Councillor Boodoosingh that the Chief Executive Officer should proceed on Vacation Leave.
- [ix] He asked that proper drains be installed at Union Hall.

Councillor Diptee Ramnath made the following comments:-

- [i] He indicated that the Chairman of each committee was responsible for the duties being carried out by Officers and that they have the right to do what was necessary to ensure that the committee performs, so that the Corporation could move forward.
- [ii] He made reference to the Health Section where major problems still exist with respect to Departmental Vouchers and Cartage Receipts etc.
- [iii] He sated that Penal/Debe Town Centre should be scavenged twice per day and that other area within Penal/Debe region should be scavenged once per day.
- [iv] He observed that the vacant lot next to Giant Panda Restaurant was infested with rats and that he had been calling for the clearing of that lot for the past five [5] years. He added that people operating fast food outlets are not meeting the requirements for a clean environment.

- [v] He hoped that Water Distribution would commence early in January 2009. All trucks should have pumps and that contractors should be told of this since the Corporation was the one to set the standards and have vehicles inspected before 2009. Residents should no longer have to carry water on their heads
- [vi] He said that the Corporation should have all latrine pits cleaned free of charge as a Christmas Gift.
- [vii] He was calling for our Electronic Display Board to be installed immediately.
- [viii] He indicated that Members of Council were asking for the Mobile Patching Service to commence, one in Debe area and one in Penal and he made reference to Gopie Trace that needs patching immediately.
- [ix] He suggested that road repairs should be done in the dry season and that bridges had become a disaster and he give an example where a truck went down. He recommended that a comprehensive report be done to identify the faulty bridges.
- [x] He suggested that the Work Supervisor Section put a programme in place to have recreation grounds cut twice in the rainy season and once in the dry season each month. He added that Members of Council should not have to make requests for the cutting of grounds and cemeteries at Committee Meetings. Also, the lighting system should be checked regularly and electricity connections at the recreation grounds should not take one [1] year. He said that was not happening and recommended that a Consultant be hired to address same.
- [xi] A system should be put in place where vehicles could be repaired immediately rather than having to utilize petty cash.
- [xiii] He observed that O.J.T's were the main source of work force in the Penal./Debe Regional Corporation and this was not fair. There were a lot of things that needed to be done in order to achieve a higher standard at the Corporation. Also, today's meeting was in total chaos.

Councillor Premchand Sookoo made the following comments:-

- [i] He congratulated Members of Council and staff who were present at the meeting and enquired where were the Works Supervisor I, Road Officer II, Planning Officer, County Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer.
- [ii] He was willing to postpone the meeting since Administration was treating the Council with contempt and Mr. Marfan feel as though he was the Chief Executive Officer's boss and the Chief Executive Officer was too big to talk to.
- [iii] Although he sympathized with the Chief Executive Officer and his problems, he believed that Council was being victimized. He asked that Council called on the Minister and the Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Local Government for the Chief Executive Officer to proceed on Vacation Leave to take care of his family.

Whereas Mr. Espinoza is having great difficulty in attending meetings because of personal family reasons.

Where by this Council would want to assure that he takes care of his personal responsibility.

RECOMMENDED:-

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:- The Corporation call upon the Minister and Permanent Secretary from Local Government to request that the Chief Executive Officer proceed on Vacation Leave to take care of his family.

Moved by Councillor - Premchand Sookoo

Seconded by Councillor - Premnath Boodoosingh

<u>For</u>	<u>Abstained</u>	<u>Against</u>
Premchand Sookoo	Councillor Diptee	
Premnath Boodoosingh	Alderman Hall	
Willvan Ramlakhan		
Roy Kissoon		
Rampersad Hardial		
Sonnylal B. Manwah		

The majority carried

- 15 Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh referred to the Chief Executive Officer's letter dated August 27, 2008 and said that the Chief Executive Officer was tired and needed to go on Vacation Leave. He felt that as much as the Chief Executive Officer cared for the Corporation, the Corporation belongs to the people of Penal/Debe. Also, as Chairman of the Finance Committee it was very difficult to deliver services to the people on financial issues.
1517. Councillor Sonnylal B. Manwah said he believed that the Chief Executive Officer should be close to his family in this time of illness.
- [iv] Councillor Sookoo asked that Administration place a full page Advertisement in the daily newspaper informing land developers that they need to have all approvals before any work was done. He added that a fine would be charged for all the developers who failed to have vacant lots cleaned.
- [v] He indicated that the Ministry of Finance did not say a worked on allocation for Penal/Debe Regional Corporation or Local Government in the budget.
- [vi] He requested the Log Book for vehicle PBT-9004 for July, August, and September 2008.
- [vii] He referred to the Auditor General's Report Public Accounts Committee 2003 where millions of dollars were not accounted for and gave an example when Penal/Debe Regional Corporation paid for two [2] turf wickets but only one could be seen.
- [viii] He referred to the meeting at the Ministry of Local Government where Councillor Boodoosingh and himself went to defend the Development Programme Draft Estimates 2008-2009 where not one bridge was included. He wondered whether the victimization would continue next year.

- [ix] He asked that an officer from the Road Authority, PURE, RDC, PSAEL be invited to a meeting next Tuesday to enquire about road paving in the district.
 - [x] He stated that it was announced in the budget that 42 Recreation Grounds were upgraded but no one could identify any of these. Also, highways and 350 pre-schools were to be constructed, however, these were only promises.
 - [xi] He indicated that Council was to ensure that the 419 workers employed at the Corporation were paid. Also, that each electoral district receive a fair share of funds.
 - [xii] He enquired whether Administration was serious about working together with Council for a better Penal/Debe and give an example that whenever the Chief Executive officer is not present at the meetings no assistance is given. He added that whatever Council requests, Administration was reluctant to corporate.
 - [xiii] He hoped and trusted that the Minister and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government would accept Council's resolution and said that if anyone was found undermining the Corporation, they will pay severely. He thanked Chairman of Council for his patience.
1518. Councillor Premnath Boodoosingh announced that there would be a Special Safety and Security Meeting on Friday September 26, 2009 at 1.00 p.m. with officer from the Debe Police Post, Penal Police Post, and Barrackpore Police Station.
1519. There being no further business the meeting was terminated at 3.17 p.m.

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Chairman
Statutory Meeting

