

EIGHTY-NINTH REPORT OF SALARIES REVIEW COMMISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

216. The system of Local Government of Trinidad and Tobago is regulated by the Municipal Corporations Act, No. 21 of 1990 which provides for political administration at the local level. In the present system, there are fourteen Municipal Corporations which have jurisdiction over two cities, three boroughs and nine regions. Each Corporation comprises the following offices: -

Mayor or Chairman
Deputy Mayor or Vice Chairman
Alderman
Councillor.

217. In its submissions to us, the Association of Local Government Authorities raised the following issues, as we understand them:-

- (i) holders of similar offices should be remunerated at the same level;
- (ii) the provision of a Housing Allowance;
- (iii) the provision of Vacation Leave and medical benefits for the offices of Deputy Mayor and Vice Chairman; and
- (iv) the placing of the offices of Mayor and Chairman in the 'Executive' schedule for overseas travel with the relevant per diem allowances/facilities and that allowances be provided for rental and for equipment.

218. Our responses are as follows:-

- (i) We reiterate our view that while the duties and responsibilities of the offices in the various Corporations are identical, the scope of those functions varies significantly based on factors such as the land area covered and the size of population to be serviced by the individual Corporations. Consequently, we maintain that the policy of remunerating the various offices at different levels is justified. We took account of the fact that the borough of Chaguanas is now the most populous of the cities and boroughs, with a resident population of approximately one hundred thousand persons.
- (ii) We are satisfied that the benefits provided to office holders are appropriate. Therefore, we recommend neither the inclusion of a Housing

Allowance for office holders nor Vacation Leave nor medical benefits for the offices of Deputy Mayor and Vice Chairman - the latter two benefits being provided to persons who serve or are deemed to serve on a full-time basis.

- (iii) We consider that the issue of placing the office of Mayor/ Chairman in the 'Executive' schedule for purposes of overseas travel is not a term and condition of service but rather a policy decision to be taken by the State.
- (iv) Issues such as the rental of office space and the provision of equipment should be dealt with administratively.

219. Accordingly, we have adjusted the relationship which currently exists between the offices of Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Chaguanas and other Local Government Officials.

220. Our recommendations for Local Government officials are as follows: -

Recommendations

MAYOR

CHAIRMAN OF A REGIONAL CORPORATION

Honorarium

\$ per month

City and Borough Corporations

Mayor

Port of Spain	16,800
San Fernando	14,700
Chaguanas	13,700
Arima	12,600
Point Fortin	12,600

Regional Corporations

Chairman	12,600
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Chairman-Convenor of a committee

Where an office holder serves as a Chairman-Convenor of a committee of the Council of a Corporation, to be eligible for an allowance of \$700 per month, in addition to the honorarium for which he/she is eligible.

Transport Facilities

- (i) A maximum loan of \$175,000 at a rate of interest of 6% per annum repayable over a period of six (6) years to facilitate the purchase of either:-
 - (a) a new motor vehicle with full exemption from Customs Duty;
or
 - (b) a used motor vehicle with full exemption from Special Motor Vehicles Tax and Value Added Tax.
- (ii) A loan to cover the cost of Motor Vehicle Insurance premium at a rate of interest of 6% per annum.
- (iii) A maximum loan of \$20,000 at a rate of interest of 6% per annum to effect repairs to a motor vehicle.
- (iv) A Transportation Allowance of \$2,750 per month.

Subsistence Allowance

- (i) \$650 per month.
- (ii) For travel abroad on official business, US\$70 per day, once not in receipt of other allowances for overseas travel, such as those payable under Minister of Finance Circular No. 3 dated March 15, 1999.

Entertainment

Actual expenses incurred for official entertainment to be met from an official Entertainment Vote under the control of the respective Corporations.

Vacation Leave

Thirty (30) calendar days per annum.

Telephone Facilities

An allowance of \$400 per month.

Corporation/Constituency Allowance

Provision of official stationery and free postage within Trinidad and Tobago for correspondence related to official business (including correspondence related to the business of his/her constituency, where applicable).

Medical Benefits

Entitlement to medical attention/treatment and prescribed drugs at any health care facility under the Regional Health Authorities, including the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, in accordance with the provisions of Minister of Finance Circular No. 7 of 2001 dated August 28, 2001. Where such medical attention/treatment is not available at such health care facility, the office holder is required to seek approval from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry with responsibility for Local Government to have the costs met at any other hospital, institution or nursing home in Trinidad and Tobago.

('Medical attention/treatment' excludes optical and dental treatment/services. 'Prescribed drugs' exclude drugs which are obtainable without a prescription.)

Pension/Gratuity

A gratuity equivalent to 20% of gross honorarium earned during the term of office.

OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Honorarium

\$ per month

City and Borough Corporations

Deputy Mayor

Port-of-Spain	8,400
San Fernando	7,300
Chaguanas	6,900
Arima	6,300
Point Fortin	6,300

Alderman and Councillor	3,500
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Regional Corporations

Vice Chairman	6,300
Alderman and Councillor	3,500

Chairman-Convenor of a committee

Where an office holder serves as a Chairman-Convenor of a committee of the Council of a Corporation, to be eligible for an allowance of \$700 per month, in addition to the honorarium for which he/she is eligible.

Transport Facilities

A Transportation Allowance of \$1,300 per month.

Subsistence Allowance

(i) \$400 per month.

Deputy Mayor and Vice Chairman

(ii) For travel abroad on official business, US\$70 per day, once not in receipt of other allowances for overseas travel, such as those payable under Minister of Finance Circular No. 3 dated March 15, 1999.

Entertainment

Actual expenses incurred for official entertainment to be met from an official Entertainment Vote under the control of the respective Corporations.

Telephone Facilities

Deputy Mayor and Vice Chairman

An allowance of \$400 per month.

Alderman and Councillor

An allowance of \$300 per month.

Corporation/Constituency Allowance

Provision of official stationery and free postage within Trinidad and Tobago for correspondence related to official business (including correspondence related to the business of his/her constituency, where applicable).