

*Auditor General*

Our Ref: NAO 37/2019/8

Your Ref:

6 June 2019

Chair  
Public Accounts Committee

### **Proposed Briefing Sessions for PAC by the NAO**

In October 2018, the National Audit Office (NAO) formally launched its strategy 'Improving Governance and Performance across the Public Sector'. Essentially, this strategic plan, which spans to 2023, reflects the NAO's core constitutional audit function, that of 'reporting to Parliament in an independent, professionally objective and fair manner, thus allowing for government entities utilising public funds to be held accountable for the stewardship of those funds in providing public services'.

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is undoubtedly one of the NAO's key stakeholders, adding value to our work through the analysis and discussion of the Office's published reports in meetings held by the Committee. It is in this context that the NAO understands the role of the PAC in actively contributing towards the promotion of transparency and accountability in the oversight of all government functions - essential elements in ensuring good governance.

In line with the NAO's strategic commitment to enhance support provided to the PAC, we are proposing to hold preparatory briefing sessions for the Committee prior to the discussion of a particular audit report. In this regard, support could take the form of a presentation that would help assist the Committee in familiarising itself with the objectives and scope of the audit, the methodology adopted, as well as salient findings and recommendations. The NAO would be happy to consider any alternative format that the Committee may wish to propose.

The NAO is of the opinion that such meetings would assist the PAC in achieving the principal objectives of this key Parliamentary Select Committee, leading to improved governance and performance across the public sector.



C. Deguara

Copy to: Hon. Speaker, House of Representatives