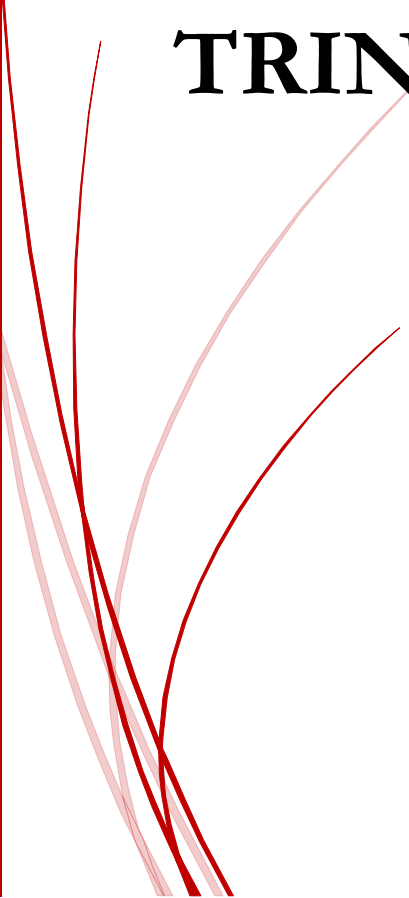




2010-2015

**THE  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF  
THE GOVERNMENT  
OF  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. The Ministry of Arts and Multiculturalism.....	
2. The Ministry of the Attorney General.....	
3. The Ministry of Community Development.....	
4. The Ministry of Education.....	
5. The Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs.....	
6. The Ministry of Environment and Water Resources.....	
7. The Ministry of Finance and the Economy.....	
8. The Ministry of Food Production.....	
9. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs.....	
10. The Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development.....	
11. The Ministry of Health.....	
12. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.....	
13. The Ministry of Justice.....	
14. The Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro-Enterprises Development.....	
15. The Ministry of Land and Marine Affairs.....	
16. The Ministry of Legal Affairs.....	
17. The Ministry of Local Government.....	
18. The Ministry of National Diversity and Social Integration.....	
19. The Ministry of National Security.....	
20. The Ministry of the People and Social Development.....	
21. The Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development.....	
22. The Ministry of Public Administration.....	
23. The Ministry of Public Utilities.....	
24. The Ministry of Science and Technology.....	
25. The Ministry of Sport.....	
26. The Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training.....	
27. The Ministry of Tourism.....	
28. The Ministry of Trade, Industry, investment and Communications.....	
29. The Ministry of Transport.....	
30. The Ministry of Works and Infrastructure.....	
31. The Ministry of Tobago Development.....	
32. The Office of the Prime Minister.....	
33. Miscellaneous.....	

**The Ministry  
of  
Arts and  
Multiculturalism**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE ARTS AND MULTICULTURALISM

The Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism was created in May 2010 and comprised the following Divisions and Agencies:

- Culture Division
- National Archives \*
- National Museum and Art Gallery \*
- National Trust \*
- Archaeological Committee\*
- Carnival Institute
- Naparima Bowl
- National Academy for the Performing Arts (NAPA)
- National Carnival Commission
- National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS) \*
- National Theatre Arts Company
- Queen's Hall
- Trinidad and Tobago National Steel Symphony Orchestra
- Amerindian Committee \*

\*In June, 2012 the mandates for the management of these Agencies were transferred to the Ministry of National Diversity and Social Integration and the Ministry of Education.

In September 2012 the Southern Academy for the Performing Arts (SAPA) was officially opened as an entity under the purview of the Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism.

### MAM ACHIEVEMENTS

June 1st, 2010 – May 31, 2015

#### Research into the Creative and Cultural Sector

The Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism completed ground-breaking research in the creative and cultural sector in Trinidad and Tobago. The studies published comprised:

- The Blueprint, Carnival: Trinidad and Tobago Style
- Culturing Development: The Dynamic Significance of the Arts and Cultural Industries in Trinidad and Tobago
- Towards Excellence: A Report on Carnival Observations 2012 -2014

The Cultural Mapping Exercise was created to develop a baseline of data to commence monitoring of the Cultural Sector and to determine the effects of policy instrument on the sector with the most passage of time. The findings of this exercise was delivered in five (5) reports (inclusive of the GIS Mapping of the sector) – baseline information for the sector

Copies of these can be found on the Culture Divisions website: [www.culture.gov.tt/#home](http://www.culture.gov.tt/#home).

These studies will be used to support policy making initiatives inclusive of future versions of the Policies in Culture, Multiculturalism, Grants and Subventions and their accompanying strategic plans.

## **National Registry of Artists and Cultural Workers**

The Finance Act 91 of 2000 mandated that a registry of artists be set up in order to facilitate philanthropy from the corporate sector. The total number of applications approved by the Assessment Committee up to March, 2015 is **421**.

The Registry is involved in a collaborative international project being managed by Visiting Arts of UK that will provide international accessibility to its registrants and technical expertise on gaining access to international markets.

In May 2014, Trinidad and Tobago hosted consultants contracted by the CARIFORUM Secretariat to develop a strategy for the establishment and operation of a regional registry of artists and cultural workers. A regional registry would facilitate full access to benefits from the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

Work was also conducted on **Culture Works Connect** which is a project linking the creative business in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. This project operates from 2014 – 2017 and is funded under the EU ACP and Culture programmes.

## **Policy Development**

- a.** The National Cultural Policy is designed as an overarching philosophical statement to guide strategic planning for the cultural sector at the national level, referencing core legislation and international agreements to which the Trinidad and Tobago subscribes.
- b.** The Policy Framework for Multiculturalism will facilitate and sustain the development of the diverse forms of culture practiced by Trinidadians and Tobagonians in an equitable manner. The latest versions can be accessed at <http://culture.gov.tt/online-consultation.html>

## **Support of Cultural and Artistic Activities**

The provision of multiple forms of financial assistance to cultural and artistic organisations as well as individuals is an integral aspect of the Government's Developmental Strategy and a key focus of the Ministry that is aimed at promoting culture, education, health and wellness as well as encouraging skills training and development.

- In fiscal 2014, twenty-nine million, six hundred and seventy-five thousand, eight hundred and forty-six dollars and seventy-seven cents (\$29,675,846.77) in financial support was distributed to over four hundred and eighty-one (481) individuals and/or organisations for arts and cultural activities;
- In fiscal 2013, twenty-three million, three hundred and eighty-three thousand, two hundred and seventy-two dollars and ninety-three cents (\$23,383,272.93) in financial support was provided to six hundred and thirty-nine (639) individuals and/or organisations;
- In fiscal 2012, twenty-seven million, three hundred and eighty thousand, four hundred and sixty-six dollars and fifty-eight cents (\$27,380,466.58) in financial support was provided to nine hundred and sixty-nine (969) individuals and/or organisations.
- In the fiscal year 2011, twenty-three million, three hundred and one thousand, four hundred and sixty-one dollars and nine cents (\$23,301,461.09) were distributed to nine hundred and seventeen (917) individuals and organizations for arts and cultural events.

## **Maintaining Cultural Heritage**

### **a. Establishment of the Remember When Institute**

The Ministry launched the Remember When Institute Exhibition and Webpage during the period September – October 2011. The institute aims to safeguard the country's traditional knowledge, folklore, intangible cultural heritage and cultural arts via the employment of sophisticated techniques of cultural anthropology and research.

*This included the digitising of over three thousand, three hundred and twenty-one (3321) recordings and over two thousand (2000) photographs. i.e. recorded media from old medium (reel-to-reel to CD). To date, there have been over 9000 hits to the current webpage, with numbers increasing periodically.*

A physical space was also located for the set-up of the actual institute in Port-of-Spain. While final approval for the acquisition of this space is being awaited, in the interim, a semi-permanent display is currently located on the Second Floor at the Ministry's Culture Division current headquarters – JOBCO Building, Frederick Street.

*The Call for Submissions for the National Inventories of Intangible Cultural Heritage and World Cultural and Natural Heritage - yielded approximately eight hundred (800) submissions ranging from the culinary arts, natural sites, and public art, to practices and rituals.*

### **b. Evolution of the Steel Pan Exhibition**

The Evolution of the Steel Pan and Pan in Art Exhibition uses the story of the pan's development to brand Trinidad and Tobago as a creative and innovative country.

- I. Local Exhibition locations: the Old Fire Station, Port-of Spain, Point Fortin Public Library, the Port of Spain Public Library, the Centre of Excellence Macoya, the Piarco International Airport and the National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST) Symposium.
- II. International Exhibition Locations: *18th Cubadisco International Fair, Havana, Cuba, May 17 – 25, 2014* as well as at the *Nottingham, England carnival* held in August 2014. Additionally, part of this exhibition was used in the *Carnival exhibition* mounted at the North Atrium, Piarco International Airport in February 2014.

#### c. Music and Heritage Walk

The Ministry launched the Music and Heritage Walk on March 26th, 2015 in Belmont, Port of Spain. This is a pilot project of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network which aims at developing international cooperation among cities and encouraging them to drive joint development partnerships in line with UNESCO's global priorities of "culture and development" and "sustainable development". The first thematic focus for Trinidad and Tobago's pilot project is music. The community of Belmont and specifically the pan yards (music centres) within the community were the focal point of the Ministry's pilot exercise.

#### d. Other Exhibitions

- I. *The 50th Anniversary Commemorative Exhibit at the North Atrium, Piarco International Airport.* Additionally performances by local artistes were held at the Local Food Court, Piarco International Airport.
- II. *Documenting the Soparee Mai and the Feast of La Divina Pastora Celebrations.*
- III. *Heritage Exhibition Series - Calypso History Month, Divali, Carnival, Indian Arrival Day, Independence Day, Republic Day, Eid ul Fitr, Emancipation, Spiritual Baptist Liberation Day all held at Piarco Airport.* Additionally exhibits were done at *Rio Claro 100 year anniversary, for Nelson Mandela Day* including displays in honor of the Mighty Sparrow
- IV. *The Rainorama Exhibition -* The Ministry facilitated the redesign of the Rainorama Exhibition and launched it on February 11th, 2011 at the Aldwyn Roberts Auditorium of the National Academy for the Performing Arts (NAPA). This private collection honours the life and work of the late Aldwyn Roberts, "Lord Kitchener".

- V. “Treasures From The Hideaway” Exhibition – The Ministry as a means to showcasing and highlighting the works and achievement of a pioneer Calypso artist launched “Treasures From The Hideaway” on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Culture Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Jobco Building 51-55, Frederick Street, Port of Spain. This exhibition seeks to highlight and share with the general public the iconic status of The Mighty Sparrow, thus using artefacts from his personal collection of memorabilia documenting the various accomplishments, titles, landmarks and distinctions he has garnered in his career as a Calypsonian.

## Education and Outreach to the Nation

These projects focus on building and strengthening cultural competence and diversity management through the use of Education and Communication Campaigns and support for violence prevention.

### a. Music Schools in the Community

The Music School in the Panyard 2012 programme was expanded to encompass twenty (20) venues instead of the initial six. The expansion of the programme sought to increase music literacy among panyardists as well as increase the volume of persons, especially youths in the process of learning music. Since its inception over 1000 persons have benefitted from this programme.

The Music Schools were established in panyards across the country. The programme incorporated a mentorship programme titled the **Artiste-in-Residence Initiative**. Master artistes and icons served as mentors.

In June, 2013, the name **was rebranded to Music Schools in the Community**, and six schools participated in this cycle which ran for three months.

In fiscal 2014, the Music School's expanded to include students from Children's Homes and Correctional Facilities and the East Indian Music School:- Amaryjoth Sabha Mandir. In addition to the steelpan, students were exposed to the saxophone, trumpet, trombone, clarinet, voice training, and life training

In fiscal 2015, approval has been conveyed for four (4) schools to be conducted in the July/August period.

### b. Pan Camps

The goal of this project was to provide a meaningful, developmental activity for young people centered on the National Instrument that inculcates in youngsters a professional



approach to the instrument and build a positive relationship between them and their respective panyard.

Pan Camps were conducted in Courts Sound Specialist, Arima Angel Harps, Kalamo Kings, Curepe Scherzando, Humming Bird Pan Grove, FCL Tornadoes, Starlift, PCS Nitrogen Silver Stars, La Brea Nightingales, and CLICO Sforzata. Additionally, financial assistance was given to two (2) other panyards, Southern Marines and Valley Harps to assist them with their own camps.

Altogether, over four hundred (400) students participated in the camps.

In fiscal 2015, eight (8) Pan Camps were conducted as part of the Easter programme which is part of an expansion of the programme.

#### c. Cultural Camps

Cultural Camps, held yearly during the July/August vacation period, are geared towards providing meaningful, developmental activity for young persons utilizing the Arts. The programme represents the expansions of two significant interventions conducted by the Ministry – the Tassa Camps and Pan Camps.

In 2014, 57 Camps were conducted as follows:

- 16 Technical Camps (catering to skills development for young adults; enabling them to earn some sort of income from the skills learnt);
- 41 vacation camps (enlightening students about the arts, heritage and culture of Trinidad and Tobago during their time away from school);
- Approximately 2180 Beneficiaries;
- Areas covered in the camps include jewellery making, carnival arts, technical theatre, fashion management, graphic arts/design, photography, script and screen writing, musician craftsmanship and literary arts.

#### d. Mentoring by the Masters Programme

The initiative facilitates the transfer of knowledge from accomplished senior artists to up-and-coming individuals in their respective fields. Additionally another component of the initiative is the honouring of mentors in the process.

Thus far at least 200 persons have benefited from this programme.

#### e. Training for Arts Managers and Cultural Practitioners

In 2014 the Ministry commenced 1 year National Arts management Intensive with the DeVos Institute of the University of Maryland, invited to submit a proposal for further

training of arts bodies. The first Workshop and Site Visits were held from September 8-11, 2014 at Movie Towne.

Salient points re: implementation are as follows:-

- No. of participants: 60
- No. of organizations: 21
- No. of Site Visits: 7 Live Sound Workshop

In the fiscal year 2012/2013 the Ministry partnered with the DeVos Institute to conduct a 3-day training session focused on Effective Fund Raising, Programme and Business Planning and Audience development for cultural practitioners.

Seventy (70) Individuals from twenty-two (22) National Organisations participated.

#### **f. Live Sound Improvement Programme**

During a one week workshop, local sound engineers worked directly with international live sound engineer Horace Ward and learned hands-on techniques to improve their sound production skills. His client list includes the names that top the pop and R&B billboard charts, ranging from Lady Gaga and Prince to Beyoncé and LL Kool J.

As a continuation of this programme, experienced international live sound engineers were brought into Trinidad during the Carnival 2014 season to work directly alongside local sound engineers at carnival events.

### **Festival Development**

#### **a. Decades of Dance Festival 2011 (October 2011)**

Dance Festival 2011 took the form of a week of dance activities held at various venues in the country.

#### **b. TASSA Workshops (October - November 2011)**

A series of tassa workshops were organized after discussion with the National Tassa Association. Approximately 20 students were trained at each of three centres, resulting in a total of sixty (60) persons exposed to this East Indian traditional musical art form.

#### **c. Hosay Documentary (October-November 2011)**

The Tassa workshops inspired the commissioning of a documentary on Cedros Hosay. This documentary is entitled 'Ten Days of Muharram' and chronicles the unique mix of peoples and cultures that drive the annual Hosay celebrations in Cedros. This documentary premiered on May 8th, 2013.

d. Calypso Tent Enhancement Project (January 20th – February 17th, 2012)

The Calypso Tent Enhancement Project was an audience development initiative whereby the 'Klassic Ruso Calypso Tent' was provided with funding, artistic consultation and event management support for a stipulated period to steer the entity towards self-sufficiency.

e. Calypso Adjudication Development Workshop (August 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014)

A training program established for prospective judges under the training and guidance of the Trinidad Unified Calypsonians' Organisation (TUCO) in collaboration with the Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism to increase the pool of Adjudicators with the requisite competencies and to improve the current judging criteria to best serve the needs of the industry.

## Cultural Exchanges

- I. Upon the request of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, performances of the Nanjing Acrobatic Troupe from November were facilitated on November 17-18, 2010.
- II. The internationally renowned Chongqing Arts Troupe from the Municipality of Chongqing China spent seven days in Trinidad and Tobago, gave free public performances and conducted workshops at the Keylemanjahro School of Arts & Culture and the University of the West Indies.
- III. The Ministry also facilitated the "*Goenchim Noketram*", a Goa Folk and Musical Troupe during the period Wednesday 10th to Tuesday 16th August 2011. This was a collaboration between the governments of Trinidad and Tobago and India. Their performances took place at the Lord Kitchener Auditorium at the NAPA, the Naparima Bowl and the Divali Nagar.
- IV. *31st Festival of Fire, Santiago de Cuba*. This celebration is dedicated to a country or group of countries of the region every year. In July 3-9 2011, the festival was dedicated to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Consequently, Trinidad and Tobago sent its first ever official cultural contingent to the festival in Cuba. It comprised of seventy-six (76) individuals and included representation from Pan, Mas, Calypso, Chutney, Dance and Tassa.
- V. 40 individuals from Sierra Leone, Ghana and Nigeria were hosted for Carnival 2014. As a result the Nigerian Government officials committed to sourcing space for the placement of the Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Cultural Cooperation in Nigeria.

Progress was also made towards a formal agreement on culture between Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago by the presentation of the latest recommendations to the Nigerian

- VI. *Visit of Cuban Cultural Practitioners.* In March 2012, a delegation of Cuban Cultural Practitioners from El Cobre in Santiago de Cuba – Cuba, visited Trinidad and Tobago. There was a two-week steelpan workshop at the Valley Harps Pan Theatre and meetings and visits to cultural and artistic individuals, groups and organizations.
- VII. The Federal Ministry of Tourism, Culture & National Orientation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria made an official visit to Trinidad and Tobago for the Carnival Season 2013. The thirty two (32) member delegation was headed by the Honourable Chief Edem Duke, Minister of Culture, Tourism and National Orientation and comprised of other Ministerial Officials as well as twenty (20) artists of various disciplines. There were also official representatives from Kenya.
- VIII. 18<sup>th</sup> Cubadisco International Fair – Havana, Cuba. The contingent comprised twenty six (26) artistes (pannists, tassa players, rhythm section performers) and researchers. Trinidad and Tobago was the country of honour at this event.
- IX. The Ministry facilitated the Indira Naik and her Ensemble from India during the period October 20 - 21, 2014 and also the Shakespeare's Globe from London, England with their rendition of Hamlet during the period October 26, 2014. Negotiations were entered into with the Indian High Commission and the British Council respectively. The performances of the Indian Ensemble took place at the Central Bank Auditorium Port of Spain and the Naparima Bowl, San Fernando whilst the Shakespeare's Globe performed at the Southern Academy of the Performing Arts (S.A.P.A).

## **New Vision Competitive Award for Innovators in the**

### **Creative and Cultural Sector**

This initiative offers financial and technical support for thought leaders in the main areas of the cultural sector – Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Art, Design, Literature and Media, whose projects may contribute significantly to the GDP and /or employment in the future if supported in the present.

Past recipients of this award are:

- Mr. Roger Boothman for the recording of a compilation of his unique contribution to music.
- Mr. Leroy Wilson, Pan 2000, for steelpan accessory development.
- Caribbean Music Group for a Film production: 'Pan We Are the World'
- Trinitunes.com for website development
- KMP Music Lab for a TV show 'Building the Beats'.

DAC's Indigisounds is also being considered for support.

### **Community Film Project**

The Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism partnered with the Trinidad and Tobago Film Company to execute the program 'The Trinidad and Tobago Community Film Project 2012'. Five community groups were selected to participate in this project and group members were trained in script writing, videography, acting and film editing.

### **Opening of the Southern Academy for the performing Arts (SAPA)**

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 the Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism formally opened the doors of the Southern Academy for the performing Arts (SAPA) to the people of South Trinidad.

SAPA is a premier theatre and concert auditorium and is outfitted with an on-site campus for the performing arts that serves the needs of the artistic community in South Trinidad, in particular. The facility is equipped with modern conveniences for stage, sound and lighting and hosts two main theatres. The largest has seating capacity for seven hundred and seventy (770) persons, and the smaller theatre can accommodate one hundred and fifty (150) persons.

### **Establishment of the National Theatre Arts Company**

The National Theatre Arts Company (NTAC) was established to foster the development of the arts and heritage of Trinidad and Tobago in a cultural environment that frees our nationals to engage in diverse cultural activities and provides a suitable platform for creative expression. NTAC is a full-time theatrical company comprising 20 multidisciplinary players.

Its objectives are to develop Trinidad and Tobago's theatrical ethos; and, preserve and explore the folk idioms through the:

- Exploration of styles and theories
- Presentation of select works
- Exposition works of masters and avant-garde dramatists
- Incubation of new works
- Preservation of physical items from productions
- Generation of new, high quality works

Thirteen (13) Players have been hired. An operation space has been set up at NAPA and a training programme with Mr. Zeno Constance has commenced.

## **Establishment of the National Philharmonic Orchestra**

The National Philharmonic Orchestra was created to promote quality Symphonic music in Trinidad and Tobago, giving exposure to diverse orchestral styles while providing an avenue for trained, qualified and dedicated musicians to practice their craft at the highest level possible.

Its objectives are:

- Music development (quantity, quality and diversity)
- Musicianship development (world class standards)
- Audience development (traditional and new; local, regional and international)

The debut 'Informance of the Orchestra' was held in December 2013 to a packed audience at the Little Carib Theatre. Space for it has been identified at NAPA. A second round of auditions was held to continue to build its personnel. The presentation of the repertoire for 2014/15 Performances was launched on July 25, 2014 at NAPA. A National Concert Series was held on August 26, 2014 and Classics at the Bowl in October 28, 2014. The repertoire has also conducted Workshops at the St James Police Youth Club and Amarjyoth Sabha Mandir respectively.

## **Establishment of the National Steel Symphony Orchestra**

This is an ensemble composed of auditioned players, many of whom are trained at the University level who represent the best combination of technique and literacy among steel pan players in Trinidad and Tobago. The vision for the NSSO is for it to be at the helm of our cultural ambassadorship.

- NSSO participated in the 20th Credomatic Music Festival in Costa Rica 2011. To present the NSSO 2014 season as the benchmark for excellence in Steelpan performance.
- The National Steel Symphony Orchestra (NSSO) appeared at the Ninth China International Folk Art Festival that began on September 14 in Yichang, Hubei Province, China 2013
- Professional Development: Four-day Workshop which centred on 'Cultural Ambassadorship'- July 2014
- Conducted "Pan on A Higher Note" – August 2nd and 3rd, 2014.

## **Trinbago Interactive Music Expo (TIME)**

TIME is a new initiative that was designed to bring musicians and other practitioners of our creative industry in contact with professionals from around the world.

The objectives are:

- To provide musicians and artistes with the opportunity to present to and network with creative industry professionals from around the world.
- To expose artistes to potential signing deals for entry into Global markets.
- To provide musicians and artistes with solid advice related to advancement in the creative industry.
- To create a platform between local and foreign creative markets.
- To develop audiences for 'new music' and creative products

From this initiative which was held in February 2014, and included artists showcase, speed dating sessions and developmental workshops 20 contracts are being negotiated.

## **Museums and Heritage Activities**

The National Museums formed a part of the Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism from the inception of the Ministry until June 2012. The achievements noted in this section occurred during this period.

### **a. Administration of the Permanent Collections**

The permanent collections of the National Museum and Art Gallery include geological, historical, cultural and archaeological objects which are displayed and rotated in the various galleries at all times.

### **b. Research, Documentation and Publication**

The National Museum's Research, Documentation and Publication programs for the year 2010/2011 included:

- Development of a database of all local artists (biographical information, contact information and photographs).
- Digitization of the Museums' Fine Art Collection.

### **c. Temporary Exhibitions**

In 2010/2011 (7) exhibitions were mounted in Temporary Exhibitions Gallery space (Annex of the Museum) as follows:

- Emancipation
- A Spirited Butterfly - A history of Fashion in Trinidad and Tobago
- Traditional Carnival Characters

- Evolution of Steelpan
- 'We the Artists' - Contemporary Arts Exhibition - local and foreign artists
- 'Women Artists in Trinidad and Tobago' - Exhibition highlighting contribution of women to the history of art in Trinidad and Tobago.
- 'The Enemy Within' - an exhibition on the 1970 Revolution.
- In addition, Amerindian Heritage Day Celebrations 2010 were hosted at the museum on October 14th, 2010.

## **Administration of the National Library and Information System Authority**

The National Library and Information System Authority formed a part of the Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism from the inception of the Ministry until June 2012. The achievements noted in this section occurred during this period.

### **a. Heritage Library**

- I. In celebration of International School Libraries Month, the staff of the Heritage Library conducted 12 Caribbean Research Workshop sessions. Two hundred and eighty (280) first formers of Hillview College and St. Joseph's Convent, Port of Spain were trained. Eighteen (18) other workshops were conducted during National Library Week.
- II. Two special collections of significant cultural value were added to the National Collection: Justice Reece Collection and the Caribbean Contemporary Arts (CCA) Archive and Library.
- III. Fifty-one (51) educational and cultural outreach activities were conducted; these included book launches, exhibitions, displays, workshops, lectures, travelling exhibitions and loaned exhibitions

### **b. Public Libraries**

In 2010/2011 the Public Libraries implemented several noteworthy initiatives such as:

- I. The Youth Literacy program- Eighty-five (85) students graduated from the Youth Literacy project in 2011. The instruction for the programme was provided by the Adult Literacy Tutors Association (ALTA). The project was administered in the following areas: Moruga, Point Fortin, Port of Spain, Sangre Grande, Chaguanas, Maloney, Mayaro, St. James, St. Helena and Princes Town.
- II. The Storytelling program- Twelve thousand and seventy eight (12,078) children attended five hundred and thirty-six (536) storytelling sessions at libraries and at school visits.
- III. National Storytelling Competition - Fifty four (54) students representing forty-five (45) schools participated in the National Primary Schools Storytelling Competition.



- IV. US Embassy Corner - The US Embassy Science Corner was opened in the Port of Spain Young Adult Library on May 18th 2011.
- V. Development of New Public Libraries - The sod turning ceremonies to mark the construction of the Rio Claro, Chaguanas and Mayaro Public Libraries were held during this period. The Maloney Public Library was extended to accommodate the mobile library services to the North East Region. Preparations are on the way to upgrade the Tunapuna, Point Fortin and Sangre Grande Libraries.

**c. Educational Library Services - Initiatives**

- I. In support of government's e-Connect and Learn (eCAL) laptop programme, a nationwide remote online access to information databases, specifically targeted to secondary school students, was introduced.
- II. The School Library of the Year Award was introduced to encourage schools to meet and surpass established standards of operations; a School Library of the Year Award programme was launched.
- III. Thirty-seven (37) officers comprising Librarians and Library Assistants graduated from the Certificate in Education for School Librarians programme, implemented under the Ministry's Secondary Education Modernization Programme (SEMP).

**d. Collection Management**

Over two thousand, eight hundred (2,800) book titles and more than twenty-nine thousand three hundred (29,300) new volumes were purchased for the financial year 2010-2011 by NALIS at a value of four million and fifty-seven thousand, nine hundred and ten dollars and fifty cents (\$4,057,910.50)

Approximately one million, four hundred and forty-nine thousand and nine dollars and ninety-four cents (\$1,449,009.94) was spent on the renewal of the subscriptions to our electronic databases.

**THE MINISTRY  
OF  
THE ATTORNEY  
GENERAL**

**MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE LIFE OF  
THE 10<sup>TH</sup> REPUBLICAN PARLIAMENT  
(18 JUNE, 2010 – 18 JUNE, 2015)**

During the life of the 10<sup>th</sup> Republican Parliament, the following 83 Acts were enacted:

1. The Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly) (Validation of the Ninth Report of the Elections and Boundaries Commission) Act, 2010;
2. The Petrotrin Pensions Act, 2010;
3. The Land Tenants (Security of Tenure) (Amendment) Act, 2010;
4. The Interception of Communications Act, 2010;
5. The Children's Life Fund Act, 2010;
6. The Finance Act, 2010;
7. The Interception of Communications (Amendment) Act, 2010;
8. The Finance (Supplementation and Variation of Appropriation) (Financial Year 2010) Act, 2011;
9. The Firearms (Amendment) Act, 2011;
10. The Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (Amendment) Act, 2011;
11. The Miscellaneous Provisions (Remand) Act, 2011;
12. The Statutory Authorities (Amendment) Act, 2011;
13. The Electronic Transactions Act, 2011;
14. The Census (2011) (Extension and Validation) Act, 2011;
15. The Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 2011;
16. The Miscellaneous Provisions (Kidnapping and Bail) Act, 2011;
17. The Anti-Gang Act, 2011;
18. The Bail (Amendment) Act, 2011;
19. The Miscellaneous Provisions (Ministry of Justice) Act, 2011;
20. The Data Protection Act, 2011;
21. The Trafficking in Persons Act, 2011;
22. The Finance (Supplementary Appropriation) Act, 2011;
23. The Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Act, 2011;
24. The Purchase of Certain Rights and Validation Act, 2011;
25. The Central Bank (Amendment) Act, 2011;
26. The Appropriation (Financial Year 2012) Act, 2011;
27. The Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) Act, 2011;
28. The Finance (Supplementation and Variation of Appropriation) (Financial Year 2011) Act, 2012;
29. The Finance Act, 2012;
30. The Legal Aid and Advice (Amendment) Act, 2012;
31. The Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons Act, 2012;
32. The Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act, 2012;

33. The Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2012;
34. The Miscellaneous Provisions (Maternity Protection and the Masters and Servants Ordinance) Act, 2012;
35. The Regional Health Authorities (Amendment) Act, 2012;
36. The Finance (Supplementary Appropriation)(Financial Year 2012) Act, 2012;
37. The Association of Real Estate Agents (Incorporation) Act, 2012;
38. The Administration of Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Act, 2012;
39. The Children Act, 2012;
40. The National Ramleela Council (Incorporation) Act, 2012;
41. The Miscellaneous Provisions (Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago and Anti-Terrorism) Act, 2012;
42. The Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) (Amendment) Act, 2012;
43. The Securities Act, 2012;
44. The Appropriation (Financial Year 2013) Act, 2012;
45. The Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Act, 2013;
46. The Sugar Industry Control Board (Repeal)(Validation) Act, 2013;
47. The Dog Control Act, 2013;
48. The Anti-Doping in Sport Act, 2013;
49. The CARIFORUM (Caribbean Community and Dominican Republic) European Community Economic Partnership Agreement Act, 2013;
50. The University of the Southern Caribbean (Incorporation) Act, 2013;
51. The Finance (Supplementary Appropriation) (Financial Year 2013) Act, 2013;
52. The Appropriation (Financial Year 2014) Act, 2013;
53. The Customs (Amendment) Act, 2013;
54. The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 2013;
55. The Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2013;
56. The Births and Deaths Registration (Amendment) Act, 2013;
57. The Finance Act, 2013;
58. The Finance (Supplementation and Variation of Appropriation)(Financial Year 2012) Act, 2013;
59. The Bail (Amendment) Act, 2014;
60. The Libel and Defamation (Amendment) Act, 2014;
61. The Dog Control (Amendment) Act, 2014;
62. The Finance Act, 2014;
63. The Finance (Supplementation and Variation of Appropriation) (Financial Year 2014) Act, 2014;
64. The Miscellaneous Provisions (Licensing Committee) Act, 2014;
65. The Purchase of Certain Rights (HCU) Act, 2014;
66. The Nurses and Midwives Registration (Amendment) Act, 2014;
67. The Securities (Amendment) Act, 2014;
68. The Planning and Facilitation of Development Act, 2014;
69. The Miscellaneous Provisions (Administration of Justice) Act, 2014;
70. The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 2014;
71. The Miscellaneous Provisions (Prisons) Act, 2014;

72. The Indictable Offences (Committal Proceedings) Act, 2014;
73. The Miscellaneous Provisions (Proceeds of Crime Anti-Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago) Act, 2014;
74. The Appropriation (Financial Year 2015) Act, 2014;
75. The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act, 2015;
76. The Finance Act, 2015;
77. The Finance (Supplementation and Variation of Appropriation) (Financial Year 2014) Act, 2015;
78. The Adoption of Children (Amendment) Act, 2015;
79. The Trinidad and Tobago Panama Partial Scope Trade Agreement Act, 2015;
80. The National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago (Amendment) Act, 2015;
81. The Bail (Amendment) Act, 2015;
82. The Trade Marks Act, 2015; and
83. The Finance (Variation of Appropriation) (Financial Year 2015) Act, 2015.

The following Bills were also introduced in Parliament during the life of the 10<sup>th</sup> Republican Parliament:

1. The Constitution (Amendment)(Capital Offences) Bill, 2011;
2. The Equal Opportunity (Amendment) Bill, 2011;
3. The Land Adjudication (Amendment) Bill, 2011;
4. The Registration of Titles to Land (Amendment) Bill, 2011;
5. The State Suits Limitation Bill, 2011;
6. The Lands and Building Taxes Bill, 2011;
7. The Taxes Exemption Bill, 2011;
8. The Valuation of Land (Amendment) Bill, 2011;
9. The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2011;
10. The Insurance Bill, 2011;
11. The Beverage Containers Bill, 2012;
12. The Constitution (Amendment)(Tobago) Bill, 2013;
13. The Insurance Bill, 2013;
14. The Miscellaneous Provisions (Defence and Police Complaints) Bill, 2013;
15. The Urban and Regional Planning Profession Bill, 2013;
16. The Holy Name Convent Past Pupils' Association (Incorporation) Bill, 2013;
17. The National Health Services Accreditation Authority Bill, 2013;
18. The Motor Vehicles Insurance (Third Party Risks)(Amendment) Bill, 2013;
19. The Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2013;
20. The Judges Salaries and Pensions (Amendment) Bill, 2013;
21. The Precursor Chemicals Bill, 2014;
22. The Heritage and Stabilization Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2014;
23. The Cybercrime Bill, 2014;
24. The Trinidad and Tobago Cyber Security Agency Bill, 2014;

25. The Land Tenants (Security of Tenure) (Amendment) Bill, 2014;
26. The Miscellaneous Amendments (Registration of Deeds and Real Property) Bill, 2014;
27. The Beauty Services Association of Trinidad and Tobago Bill, 2014;
28. The Retiring Allowances (Legislative Service) (Amendment), Bill, 2014;
29. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014;
30. The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Bill, 2014;
31. The Credit Unions Bill, 2015;
32. The Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2015;
33. The Insurance Bill, 2015;
34. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015;
35. The Industrial Relations (Amendment) Bill, 2015;
36. The Waste Recycling Bill, 2015;
37. The Gambling (Gaming and Betting) Control Bill, 2015;
38. The Family and Children Division Bill, 2015; and
39. The State Land (Regularisation of Tenure) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill, 2015.

Approximately 1,400 Legal Notices were prepared and gazetted.

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

### **General Policy Initiatives 2014-2015**

#### **CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM**

##### *Tobago Constitutional Reform*

In February 2012, the Law Reform Commission prepared a Green Paper titled “Towards Internal Self Government for Tobago” together with an attached draft Bill titled the “Constitution (Amendment) (Tobago) Bill, 2011” which was made available for public comment.

Ten thousand (10,000) copies of the Green Paper were printed by the Government Printery and the Ministry of the Attorney General distributed it throughout Trinidad and Tobago. The Paper was also made available on the Ministry’s website. The deadline date for the submission of comments, written or electronic, was 29 June 2012.

Another avenue for public feedback on the Green Paper was made available via the appointment of a Team comprising of political scientist Dr. Hamid Ghany and attorneys Martin George and Christlyn Moore whose mandate was to hold public meetings throughout Tobago in order to get feedback on the Green Paper. The Team was required to conduct at least four public meetings geographically spread across Trinidad and similarly in Tobago. The Team actually held 5 meetings in Trinidad and 6 in Tobago toward the end of June and early-July.

Based on the feedback received, the Constitution (Amendment) (Tobago) Bill, 2013 was drafted and introduced to Parliament on January 7, 2013 by the Honourable Prime Minister. It is currently before the House of Representatives.

## **LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

The Ministry continues to support the Government’s Legislative Agenda which is heavily focused on the priority area of crime. Already the Legislative Drafting Department and the Law Reform Commission has contributed significantly to the production of legislation to provide for the elimination of Preliminary Enquiries in criminal matters, the usage of GPS tracking of offenders and a revamping of the Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Act. All of these pieces of legislation have already been passed in Parliament and for 2013 the Ministry will place its focus on supporting the work of Ministries and agencies as they seek to implement the Government’s Legislative Agenda. Reviews will be conducted on the laws relating to Dangerous Dogs, Medical Negligence and Insurance among others.

## **KEY LEGISLATION**

Since June 2010, the Ministry of the Attorney General has been involved in the drafting of several pieces of legislation with the primary aim of strengthening the fight against crime. To this end, major pieces of crime legislation were passed and include the following:

1. The Interception of Communications Act
2. The Anti-Gang Act
3. The Financial Intelligence Unit (Amendment) Act
4. The Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Act
5. The Trafficking in Persons Act
6. The Bacteriological (Biological) Toxin and Weapon Act
7. The Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) (Amendment) Act
8. The Administration of Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Act – awaiting proclamation

Apart from these, the State also attempted to curtail certain impediments to the lawful execution of the death penalty via the Constitution (Amendment) (Capital Offences) Bill. The Bill sought to categorise the crime of Murder and to limit the amount of time that a condemned prisoner had to appeal their sentence to human rights bodies. This Bill did not receive the required 75% support and was therefore defeated.

Another significant piece of legislation due to come on stream later in 2013 is the Administration of Justice (Indictable Offences) Act which is to be proclaimed in August. The Act seeks to replace the current system of pre-trial proceedings in criminal matters by eliminating Preliminary Enquiries with a streamlined process known as a Sufficiency Hearing. At present, the Ministry of the Attorney General is working with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place for the proclamation of the Act.

## **OTHER LEGISLATION**

Customs (Amendment) Act, 2013



Amendments were made to the Customs Act to provide for enhanced border control by providing for advance passenger and cargo information to be submitted to the Comptroller of Customs. Several penalties associated with the Act were increased to deter possible offenders and in addition, the amendments allowed for the use of a comprehensive Border Control System to be used by Customs. The Bill that became this Act was passed by both Houses of Parliament.

## **LITIGATION PORTFOLIO**

1. Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) Arbitration – this matter arose as a result of the termination of the contract for the purchase of OPV's from BAE Systems. BAE's claim was counter-claimed by the Government and the matter was settled with BAE paying \$1.4Bn to the Government.
2. World GTL Arbitration – this project cost PETROTRIN \$2.7Bn and was a failure. The International Court of Arbitration ruled that World GTL had breached its obligations under the guarantee contribution agreement and ordered the transfer of 9 Million common shares to PETROTRIN as well as legal costs.

### *Forensic Audits*

As a result of several forensic audits undertaken by the Ministry of the Attorney General since 2010, a number of cases were filed primarily against former directors of state enterprises. These include:

1. UDeCOTT Claim – the Urban Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago is claiming approximately \$500Mn from four (4) former executives. This claim is based on the tender award for the construction of the Brian Lara Stadium and Cricket Academy in Tarouba.
2. PETROTRIN Claim – PETROTRIN is seeking more than \$1Bn from its former executive chairman in relation to the failed gas-to-liquids plant.

3. E-Teck Claim – E-Teck is seeking more than \$30Mn from its former Chairman and other members of the Board in relation to a lack of proper due diligence in respect of an investment made by the Company.
4. UTT Claim – UTT has filed a claim against its former President and other Board members in relation to negligence and breach of fiduciary duty in relation to the renovation of an Aripo guest house.

## **OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

### *Universal Periodic Review*

The International Law and Human Rights Unit (ILHRU) is responsible for the preparation of reports relative to International Law and the various conventions to which the country is a party. In this regard, the ILHRU prepared the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in conjunction with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The UPR is the latest form of country reporting adopted by the UN for monitoring the human rights records of 192 member states. Its ultimate goal is the improvement of the human rights situation by enhancing the capacity to deal with human rights challenges and to share best practices among States. As a result of the Unit's efforts, the country received high commendations for achievements in respect of education, women's rights, Millennium Development Goals and advancement in the reduction of extreme poverty. The UPR National Report was adopted by the Human Rights Council in March 2012.

### *Establishment of the International Office of Child Rights*

In March 2012 Cabinet agreed to the establishment of an International Office of Child Rights and to the establishment of the Civil Child Abduction Authority within that Office. Some of the functions of this Office include:

- To take appropriate measures to discover the whereabouts of a child who has been wrongfully removed or detained

- To provide information of a general character as to the law of State in connection with the application of Hague Convention on Child Abduction
- To initiate or facilitate the institution of judicial or administrative proceedings with a view to obtaining the return of a child and, in a proper case, to make arrangements for organizing or securing the effective exercise of rights of access
- To monitor and ensure compliance with the Hague Convention

The IOCR is currently in discussion with the US Government and has already partners with 48 countries to protect the rights of children.

#### **PUBLIC SECTOR INVESTMENT PROGRAMME (PSIP)**

#### **CONSTRUCTION OF A SOUTH OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

In keeping with the Government's thrust to make public services available to all residents wherever they reside, the Ministry has commenced a project in collaboration with the National Insurance Property Development Company Limited (NIPDEC) to construct an office for the Ministry in San Fernando. The office will comprise branch offices for the Solicitor General, Chief State Solicitor and administrative Units. When the project is completed, residents of San Fernando and nearby communities would be able to access the services of the Ministry without having to travel long distances through heavy traffic to enter Port of Spain. The office accommodation will be purpose-built to ensure better working conditions for staff members.

Designs for the building have been completed and Tenders for the construction and outfitting have been received and evaluated. It is anticipated that an award would be made shortly pending the approval of Cabinet for Phase II of the project. The construction phase is anticipated at eighteen (18) months and should commence by August 2013.

#### **CONSTRUCTION OF AN OFFICE COMPLEX FOR COMMISSIONS AND TRIBUNALS**

In 2011 Cabinet approved a project for the establishment of an Office Complex that will house several entities either as satellite offices or as their new Head Office. These entities are:

1. The Equal Opportunity Commission
2. The Equal Opportunity Tribunal
3. The Industrial Court
4. The Tax Appeal Board
5. The Environmental Commission
6. The Legal Aid and Advisory Authority

Similarly to the rationale behind the South Office of the Ministry and in keeping with the strategy spelt out in the Framework for Sustainable Development, this project is designed to make the services of these entities more accessible to all residents. Furthermore, this project would relieve the cost for the rental of buildings for some of these agencies by providing purpose built accommodation.

A site for the Complex located at Camden Road, Couva, formerly owned by Caroni (1975) Limited and earmarked for use for Government offices has been approved and a site survey is currently awaiting approval by the Lands and Surveys Division.

NIPDEC has awarded contracts to a Design Team and the Ministry is currently engaged in developing the Schematic Designs with the Architect. It is anticipated that designs for the Complex would be completed in August/September 2013 and construction should start around February 2014.

#### **POLICY INITIATIVES FOR 2013-2014**

1. Construction of the South Office of the Ministry of the Attorney General
2. Pursuit of an aggressive Legislative Agenda focusing on crime and economic reengineering

3. Relocation of the Equal Opportunity Commission and the Equal Opportunity Tribunal
4. Pursuit of the active Litigation portfolio
5. Staffing and relocation of the Criminal Law Department's three (3) areas of operation, namely, North, South and Tobago
6. Provision of adequate infrastructure for the facilitation of the Administration of Justice (Indictable Offences) Act
7. Preparation of Human Rights Country Reports
8. Commencement of the Office Complex for Commissions and Tribunals in Couva

### **General Policy Initiatives 2014-2015**

#### **LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

The Ministry continues to support the Government's Legislative Agenda which is mainly focused on the priority area of crime. In fiscal 2013 the Ministry focused on several areas meant to improve the criminal justice system. These areas included: DNA, fingerprinting, the judicial system and cybercrime among others. Some of the key pieces of legislation are detailed hereunder:

1. **The Bail (Amendment) Bill, 2013** was introduced in November and assented to in February 2014. It seeks to amend the Bail Act to impose tighter restrictions for accessing bail by individuals who are charged with specified offences or who have been convicted of specified offences in the last 10 years. The legislation gives the accused the opportunity to apply for bail if no evidence is brought within a particular time.
2. **The Cybercrime Bill, 2014** was introduced in March 2014 and is currently being debated in conjunction with **The Trinidad and Tobago Cyber Security Agency Bill, 2014**. The former Bill seeks to provide a legal structure for treating with computer related crime. It seeks to create several offences including illegally acquiring or interfering with computer data, child pornography, violating a person's right to privacy, distributing computer

viruses, computer related fraud and forgery, and online harassment among others. Stiff penalties for offences are proposed which include fines and imprisonment. The Cyber Security Agency is proposed to act as a national point of contact for all cyber security related concerns. The Bill proposes the establishment of the Agency as a corporate body with a Board appointed by the Minister of National Security and responsible for inter alia, preparing a national cyber security strategy, providing advice on cyber security related matters to the Police Service, conduct research and development in the area of cyber security, and coordinating cyber security exercises.

3. **The Miscellaneous Provisions (Administration of Justice) Bill, 2014** was introduced in March 2014 and recently passed in June 2014. It seeks to amend several pieces of legislation including the Jury Act, Police Service Act, Criminal Offences Act and the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act among others. The legislation gives a police officer the power to take and record for the purpose of identification the fingerprint of a person without consent, where a fingerprint is derived from a crime scene and there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the person was involved in the commission of an offence related to the crime scene. This fingerprint would be kept in a National Fingerprint Database. It would also be mandatory for the fingerprinting of all deportees who are citizens of Trinidad and Tobago as they re-enter the country as well as for all persons entering the country who are not citizens. The Jury Act has been amended by this legislation to raise the qualifying age of a juror and to allow for special jurors in the areas of finance, banking, economics, and securities which are necessary in complex fraud cases.
  
4. **The Indictable Offences (Committal Proceedings) Bill, 2014** was introduced in May 2014 and passed in June 2014. It seeks to replace the current pre-trial system in criminal matters before the Court i.e the removal of Preliminary Enquiries. The legislation will come into operation once proclaimed by His Excellency the President. The Ministry is currently seeking to ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place prior to this proclamation. This primarily includes additional courts, office space and staff for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Judiciary. The major change in this legislation is the restructuring of committal proceedings to allow for written statements and exhibits from the prosecution to be tendered before a Magistrate against an accused. The defence attorney for the accused will have the opportunity to tender his statements, exhibits etc. in response to the allegations. The Magistrate will, on the strength of the evidence tendered, determine whether the matter should proceed to trial before the High Court.

### ***Section 34 Matter***

The Attorney General succeeded in defending a major matter relating to the Constitutionality of the repeal of the Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) (Amendment) Act, 2012 and particularly Section 34 of that Act. The matter was first successfully defended in the High Court and was then referred to the Court of Appeal. In June 2014, the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal.

On April 5th, 2013 the businessmen (whom the AG had extradited to face trial in the US) were prevented from walking free by the immediate repeal of Section 34. Their constitutional case on section 34 was dismissed by High Court Judge, Justice Mira Deam-Armorer, with legal costs to be paid to the State.

The State also succeeded against businessman Steve Ferguson, in the US courts. The United States Supreme Court denied the Petition for Writ of Certiorari filed by Steve Ferguson with the United States' highest tribunal on 4 December 2012. Petitions for Writ of Certiorari are requests to the United States Supreme Court asking the Supreme Court to review the decision of a lower court. The Ferguson Petition for Writ of Certiorari, which sought review of a decision by the intermediate appellate court of Florida, was denied.

Following the decision of the High Court to dismiss the businessmen's claims they appealed in the Court of Appeal. However, their appeal was struck down by Justices of Appeal Medonca, Smith and Jamadar on June 4, 2014. The Court accepted the evidence of the AG that section 34 was a collective parliamentary oversight. It highlighted the fact that the Opposition supported and voted for the measure and did not give any evidence to contradict the AG. The Court rejected the idea that there was any sinister motive on the part of the Government in proclaiming or repealing section 34 and upheld the evidence of the AG. The State was also awarded its legal costs.

The Court of Appeal panel agreed that:

- There was no breach of the separation of powers principle
- There was no infringement of the rule of law.
- There was no breach of the due process protections of the Constitution
- If there was a breach of any due process protections contained in the Constitution they were not shown not to be reasonably justifiable.
- There was no breach of any legitimate expectation
- There was no abuse of process

### ***The OPV Arbitration***

The State emerged victorious in this hard fought billion dollar arbitration legal battle against the international weapons manufacturer British Aerospace Engineering with respect to the delivery of Offshore Patrol Vessels to Trinidad and Tobago. The State had decided against the acceptance of the OPVs because of the deficiencies in the weapons combat capability that was in clear breach of contract. To accept these vessels with a downgraded combat facility that did not allow it to accurately reach its target on the high seas would have been disastrous. The vessels were compromised and quite rightly, rejected.

The Ministry of Attorney General defended BAE's claim and aggressively pursued the Billion dollar counter claim against BAE. A personal testimony was given by the Attorney General on behalf of the State and he withstood gruelling cross examination by BAE's British lawyers in this arbitration matter.

Despite the predictions of a loss resulting in the pay out of hundreds of millions of dollars to BAE, the State was successful and BAE paid \$1.4 Billion dollars to the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

### ***World GTL Arbitrations***

The arbitration matter involving the failed Gas-to-Liquids plant which cost Petrotrin \$2.7Bn was completed in April 2014 in the London Court of International Arbitration with the tribunal declaring that World GTL was in breach of its obligations and were ordered to transfer millions of shares in World GTL Trinidad to Petrotrin as well as the payment of legal costs in the amount of \$14.5Mn. The exposure to the Treasury, had the State lost, was in the order of \$1.8Bn.

The GTL transaction entered into under the former administration spawned not one, but TWO multi-million dollar international arbitrations. This project cost Petrotrin \$2.7 billion dollars and the failed plant must now be sold as scrap metal.

On December 4, 2012 the Attorney General reported on the first leg of this arbitration whereby the State won the first arbitration in Toronto, Canada. The tribunal declared that WGTL was in breach of its obligations and ordered it to transfer 9,398,211 common shares of WGTL Trinidad to Petrotrin. It was also ordered to pay our legal costs in the sum of TT\$14,588, 875.

On April 25th, the Attorney General announced that the State won the second arbitration against WGTL in the London Court of International Arbitration. The risk exposure on this claim was \$1.8 billion dollars. Happily, WGTL's claim was dismissed with costs to be paid by WGTL. An indication of the complexity of this arbitration is to be found in the legal costs awarded in favour of Petrotrin in the sum of US\$2.576 million, GBP 763,200 and TTD 40,000.



This magnitude of this fiasco was so great that during the financial years ended 2009 to 2010 a total of almost TT\$2.7 billion has been reported as impairment losses by Petrotrin. This write off effectively converted profits in those years to losses.

### ***The HYATT Arbitration***

In respect of the Hyatt arbitration matter, the dispute arose as a result of the hotel management agreement between UDeCOTT and the Hyatt which would have had the Hyatt pay a fee to UDeCOTT for the operation of the hotel which was constructed by UDeCOTT. The dispute touched on the question of ownership of the hotel since UDeCOTT had transferred its leasehold interest in the property to a company that was a wholly owned subsidiary. In the end the matter was settled and the Hyatt agreed to pay UDeCOTT more than \$334Mn which includes interest and legal costs.

On Feb 4th 2011, Hyatt issued a request for arbitration against the Urban Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago (UDECOTT). The dispute arose out of a Hotel Management Agreement dated 27 July 2005 between UDeCOTT and Hyatt for construction and subsequent management and operation of the Hyatt hotel in Port of Spain.

Under this agreement, UDeCOTT agreed to finance and construct a First Class Hotel entirely at its own cost. The Hotel was then to be managed and operated by Hyatt in return for a fee.

The failure of the Calder Hart led board to secure a non-disturbance agreement from the Port-of-Spain waterfront development resulted in Hyatt refusing to pay Udecott any money in accordance with the terms and conditions of the hotel management agreement. This severely compromised Udecott's cash flow and financial position for many years as hundreds of millions of dollars in anticipated income from the Hyatt never materialized. Hyatt had no paid Udecott since 2008.

To make matters worse, despite the fact that Hyatt had not paid Udecott any money since 2008, Hyatt triggered the arbitration clause in the agreement by issuing a Request for Arbitration on 4 February 2011. This resulted in arbitration proceedings in London at the International Chamber of Commerce.

After difficult and complex negotiations, they achieved a settlement pursuant to which a Multi-Party Agreement was signed on 2 June 2004. Hyatt has agreed to pay UDeCOTT the sum of TTD 334, 185,703.19, (inclusive of all accrued interest and legal costs) which has been outstanding since 2008.

### ***Bid to Stop Highway Fails***

The State was successful in a Constitutional motion to stop the application by the Highway Reroute Movement for an interim conservatory order stopping construction of the Debe to Mon Desir section of the Solomon Hochoy Highway Extension to Point Fortin to continue based on the unreasonable delay by the Applicants pursuing their injunction. The State had contended that the claimants do not possess any public law rights and, even if they did, an interim conservatory order should not be granted because they delayed in making the application,... and that the rights of their parties, including those of motorists who need a modern transportation network in this part of Trinidad, would be adversely affected.

The Court stated that it was plain to see that as early as July 2012 the State intended to complete the Point Fortin Highway Extension Project, and by that time, after earlier promises for a review had been broken and temporary work stoppages had expired, the opportunity to apply for an interim conservatory order should have been seized.

The Court held that *“The scale of the loss to the State and third parties is an exceptional feature of this case... In considering the balance of justice, the granting of an order to stop the highway to secure a right of review must be balanced against the tremendous cost that the taxpayer has already borne and the stupendous cost that he or she will bear as a result of its grant. To this must be added the continued burden of oppressive traffic faced by thousands of motorists... In the absence of any allegations of an unlawful acquisition process, or the illegal exercise of executive powers save in relation to the frustration of a right to a review, the orders sought will cause more trauma to taxpayers and third parties if it is granted, than to the claimants if it is not granted. It would be a disproportionate loss.”*

Taking the above into account, the Court thereby declined the interim conservatory order.

### ***CLF Financial Group (CLICO) and the United Policyholders***

This claim arose out of the collapse in January 2009 of the CL Financial Group of Companies of which CLICO was a member. A major challenge was mounted by the United Policyholders Group (400 plus holders) of Executive Flexible Premium Annuities of a value in excess of \$75,000. On 30th January 2009 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was reached, setting out the terms and conditions under which the government would provide financial assistance to the group. Following a change in Government in May 2010, the Government proposed an entirely voluntary settlement

scheme, whereby EFPA holders would receive 92 cents on the dollar for their investments. It was open to EFPA holders to accept the offer, or to hold on to their investments.

The Policyholders Group challenged the legality of the settlement scheme and contended that the MOU gave rise to certain legitimate expectations, that the government would guarantee payment of all monies due to them on their investments.

The Court held that contrary to challenges raised by the Policyholders Group, ***“the plan was neither unlawful nor irrational; the approach by the Government was methodical, reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances”***. The Court of Appeal stated that *“where decisions involve matters of macro-economic or macro-political considerations, the court would be slow to exercise its supervisory jurisdiction of administrative action and to interfere with the Government’s decision. This is consistent with the basic constitutional principle of separation of powers which underlies our government. Judges are not policymakers and cannot aggregate unto themselves powers that the populace has accorded to the executive.”*

The Government has striven to assist all policyholders affected by the collapse of the CL Financial Group of Companies but such financial assistance to policyholders must be balanced against all the other claims upon Government resources such as health and education.

### **The Central Authority Unit**

The Central Authority Unit headed by the Attorney General is the designated authority responsible for issuing, receiving and executing mutual legal assistance requests both to and from Commonwealth territories and designated foreign territories. The CAU is also responsible for the execution of extradition requests.

### ***US Extradition Matter***

In this case, Edmund Quincy Muntslag, a co-conspirator of the son of Suriname’s President, who along with Dino Bouterse (son of Suriname’s President Desi Bouterse) was named in an indictment in a federal court in the Southern District of New York, was wanted in the US on drug trafficking charges, was arrested in Trinidad and was sent to New York to face prosecution. According to the indictment, Muntslag travelled to Suriname to arrange the transport of ten kilos of cocaine to the US.

Muntslag’s arrest was part of an international “sting” operation led by the US government in collaboration with the Attorney General’s office and Acting Commissioner of Police Stephen Williams. The arrest represented a significant breakthrough in an international investigation that focused on a major cartel responsible for drug trafficking between South America and the United States.

## U.S. & Trinidad and Tobago Cooperation

In a press release dated 3rd April 2013, issued by the US Embassy, ***“the US Embassy paid tribute and recognised the valuable assistance of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, especially the Attorney General Anand Ramlogan, in effecting the Doreen Alexander extradition to the United States”***. The Embassy also recognised the important contributions of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Anti-Kidnapping Squad and Homicide Bureau for their role in these investigations. This extradition underscores the continuing diplomatic and law enforcement cooperation between the two countries.

The Attorney General, through the CAU, provided legal assistance and practical cooperation in relation to David Migliore under the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act and Treaty. Migliore was charged in the US with tax evasion and failing to file tax returns on approximately US\$4m.

According to a release from the U.S. Attorney’s office dated 13th December 2013, Migliore, 50, pleaded guilty before the U.S. District Court to one count on the indictment charging him with evading taxes on his 2011 tax return, stemming from the Island Club Casino based in Trinidad.

According to court documents, from 2009 to 2011, Migliore earned millions of dollars from Island Club Casino, resulting in taxes due of \$1,286,657. During that time, Migliore took steps to conceal his income and assets from the IRS. At his guilty plea proceeding, Migliore admitted to using unreported bank accounts in Trinidad to deposit personal income; using U.S. bank accounts in the names of his New Jersey business entities to receive income from Island Club Casino; and using those business entities to pay for personal expenses.

### ***Hasidic Jewish Group***

A Habeas Corpus application filed by a group of primarily Israeli nationals, comprising three adults and six children, against the AG and the Chief Immigration Officer was dismissed in the High Court. The application was heard on an emergency basis in light of the allegations made by the group concerning their detention and the involvement of the children. The group arrived in Trinidad on Carnival Monday 5th March from Canada in transit to Guatemala. Upon arrival in Trinidad they were refused entry by Immigration officials and were transferred into the custody of West Jet airline to be returned to their port of origin. The group refused to return to Canada and instead insisted on being allowed to continue their travel onward to Guatemala. The children are the subject of a Child Protection Order in the province of Quebec, Canada. It appeared that the adults fled to Trinidad whilst an appeal was pending for the custody order for the children.

The Attorney General supported the decision of the Chief Immigration Officer to refuse entry to this group into Trinidad & Tobago. The Attorney General was liaising with the Canadian counterpart to facilitate the swift return of the group so

that the children could be placed in the custody of the Department of Child Protection in Quebec. This matter was reported by the media internationally.

### **Forensic Audits**

As a result of several forensic audits undertaken by the Ministry of the Attorney General since 2010, a number of civil matters are currently before the court against former Board members and officials of state enterprises. These claims are detailed hereunder:

1. **eTeck Claim** – eTeck is seeking more than \$30Mn from its former Chairman and other members of the Board in relation to a lack of proper due diligence in respect of a failed investment in Bamboo Networks Limited, a shell IT company. What went wrong in this investment was only discovered after extensive investigations into the dealings of the past Board. What was discovered was that the Board invested USD 5 million in this company against the advice of the Ministry of Finance. Because the investment was made without any proper due diligence being carried out the company fled with the investment of the USD 5 million USD and Eteck was left with nothing.

A preliminary issue was filed by the Defendants which was heard by the High Court on the 29th May 2013 and 16th July 2013. The Judge ruled in Claimant's favour on 28th October 2013 on preliminary issue, not striking out the Claim and said it would be “**highly unlikely and most improbable**” for the breaches to have been found otherwise, adding “**public scrutiny of public posts must exist to secure public funds**”. The Defendant's appealed the decision of the High Court and the appeal was heard on December 2013. We are presently awaiting the decision of the Court of Appeal.

2. **UTT Claim** - This Claim (in the amount of \$12Mn) was brought by UTT to recover monies expended by the University, the spiritual adviser of the former Prime Minister as well as monies that were expended on the acquisition of lands by the University from an entity that had no title in the lands that were being acquired. This purchase of land by the University was against independent legal advice given to the Board at the time. The claim was filed against the directors for breach of their fiduciary duty and failure to exercise care, diligence and skill in the management of UTT's business affairs under section 99 of the Companies Act Chap. 81:01.

On the 11th April 2014 the High Court dismissed the applications of the Defendants seeking to have the case against them struck out. The Court ruled that there was sufficient evidence to justify the bringing of the claim as serious issues were raised that should be ventilated at a trial in the public interest.

The Judge ruled that the case hinged upon the corporate legal adviser's (Mohammed) advice and whether in law the directors should have complied with it. The Judge stated that the issue of loss was ***"inexorably linked with the knowledge and effect of the Mohammed report. The loss being the continued investment in a lease where if they acted prudently it would have ceased. The continued cost of the occupation therefore is a wasted cost if the directors were charged with the duty of avoiding unnecessary expenditure, or which is not in the best interest of the company."***

The Court also pointed out that UTT's case was not a simple case of negligence. ***"It is an alleged breach of trust, and breach of fiduciary duty of the defendants, as directors of the UTT, and to strike out UTT's claim at this stage would be too draconian a remedy and disproportionate to the issues that required investigation"***.

On Monday 9th June, 2014 the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of former board members Dr Renee Monteil, Giselle Marfleet, Scott Hilton Clarke and Errol Pilgrim instead saying in their view ***"there were triable issues to be decided"***. In their ruling, the case before the judge was ***"at an early stage"*** and the court did not agree with the former directors' contention that there was 'un-controverted' evidence that they did not know of in the "Mohammed report." ***"Certainly it (the Mohammed report) is central to the case and on perusal of the minutes it is clear that something in relation to title was discussed,"*** the Chief Justice said. The court found no merit in the contention that the case was devoid of merit and they had no case to answer and ruled that it would be premature to strike out the lawsuit against the directors at this stage.

The subject transaction was the entering into (and maintaining) of a sub-lease with Consolidated Services Limited (CSL) for a five year renewable lease for a residential/resort complex in Aripo ("the Aripo facility") at a monthly rental of TT\$50,000.00. UTT contends that this sub lease was defective and that the Defendants failed to carry out any due diligence searches before entering into this transaction. Further during the term of the sub lease they were advised by its legal department to terminate the sub lease as a result of the discovery of alleged defects in its title. The Defendants failed to terminate the lease. UTT as a result of the Defendants' alleged failure to act prudently seeks the return of the sums of money paid in rental and for the cost of operating the Aripo facility for the duration of the term. This sum totals \$10,899,999.10 (TEN MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY-NINE THOUSAND).

3. ***UDeCOTT Claim*** – The Urban Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago is claiming approximately \$600 million from four (4) former executives, former executive chairman Calder Hart, and his deputy Krishna Bahardoosingh, former Chief Financial Officer, Ricardo O'Brian and former CEO Neelanda Rampaul.

This case is based on the tender award for the construction of the Brian Lara Stadium and Cricket Academy in Tarouba and has to do with mismanagement of the construction of the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba and the award of contracts to a favoured contractor. It is at the disclosure stage and a case management hearing is scheduled for September 2014.

## **PUBLIC SECTOR INVESTMENT PROGRAMME (PSIP)**

### **Construction of an Office Complex for Commissions and Tribunals**

In 2011 Cabinet approved a project for the establishment of an Office Complex that will house several entities either as satellite offices or as their new Head Office. These entities are:

7. The Equal Opportunity Commission
8. The Equal Opportunity Tribunal
9. The Industrial Court
10. The Tax Appeal Board
11. The Environmental Commission
12. The Legal Aid and Advisory Authority

This project is designed to make the services of these entities more accessible to all residents. Furthermore, this project would relieve the cost for the rental of buildings for some of these agencies by providing purpose built accommodation.

A site for the Complex located at Camden Road, Couva, formerly owned by Caroni (1975) Limited and earmarked for use for Government offices has been approved and a site survey is currently awaiting approval by the Lands and Surveys Division.

NIPDEC has awarded contracts to a Design Team and preliminary designs have been completed. Funding will be required to complete designs and commence construction in early fiscal 2015.

## **Relocation of the Equal Opportunity Commission and Equal Opportunity Tribunal**

Cabinet agreed in 2013 to the outfitting of a building at Manic Street, Chaguanas to facilitate the relocation of the Equal Opportunity Commission and Equal Opportunity Tribunal. This project has commenced and is being undertaken by UDeCOTT with a target for completion of August 2014.

### **POLICY INITIATIVES FOR 2014-2015**

1. Pursuit of an aggressive Legislative Agenda focusing on the criminal justice system and economic reengineering
2. Outfitting of Accommodation for Director of Public Prosecutions in North, South and Tobago
3. Pursuit of the active Litigation portfolio
4. Establishment of an office of the Equal Opportunity Commission in Tobago
5. Relocation of the Anti-Corruption Investigations Bureau
6. Provision of adequate infrastructure for the facilitation of the reengineering of the criminal justice system
7. Preparation of Human Rights Country Reports



# **THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**MAJOR PROGRAMMES**

In order to achieve its mandate of People Centre Development and to create strong communities, promote social justice and improve the quality of community life the Ministry has under its purview the following major programmes and projects:

- (i) The Construction/Refurbishment of Community Centres;
- (ii) Community Education Programme;
- (iii) Adult Education;
- (iv) Handicraft;
- (v) Community Acton for Revival and Empowerment (CARE);
- (vi) The Prime Minister's Best Village Trophy Competition;
- (vii) The Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme(GAPP);
- (viii) Retirees Adolescent Partnership Programme (RAPP);
- (ix) Community Development Fund Programme (CDF);
- (x) The Export Centres Programme [Export Centres Company Limited (ECCL)]; and
- (xi) Mediation Programme

#### **CONSTRUCTION AND REFURBISHMENT OF COMMUNITY CENTRES PROGRAMME**

The Construction and Refurbishment Programme is a catalyst for social and the focal point of activities in the community where citizens meet, plan and execute programmes to generate growth and community development. The Programme is geared towards meeting the changing needs and aspirations of an increasing population.

#### **JUNE 2010 to MAY 2015**

The Ministry has commissioned the following community centres throughout Trinidad:

Twenty-four (24) community centres were constructed in the areas of

- Guayaguayare
- Preysal
- La Sieva
- Waterloo
- Gulf View
- La Gloria
- Hindustan
- Marac
- North East (Duranta)
- Sisters Road
- Malabar Phase IV
- Mango Rose
- Upper Malabar
- Roystonia
- Couva
- Jerningham Junction
- Talparo
- Quarry Drive
- Calvary Hill
- St Augustine South
- Cocorite
- Ortoire
- Chatham
- Carapo
- Vessigny

Currently, nineteen (19) community centres are in progress with percentages completion status as follows:

- |                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| • Palo Seco Settlement      | 94% |
| • Upper Eldorado            | 93% |
| • Palo Seco/Los Charros     | 93% |
| • Samaroo Village           | 90% |
| • North Manzanilla          | 92% |
| • St.Johns Village (South)  | 93% |
| • San Fernando North        | 38% |
| • Mt Hope/ Mt Lambert       | 85% |
| • Barataria                 | 95% |
| • St Helena                 | 58% |
| • Gasparillo, Santa Cruz    | 64% |
| • L'Anse Noir               | 91% |
| • Point Fortin Civic Centre | 19% |
| • Ackbar Trace              | 19% |
| • Bagatelle                 | 31% |
| • Morvant Central           | 40% |
| • Beetham Gardens           | 42% |
| • La Savanne                | 10% |
| • Mohess Road               | 10% |

#### **REFURBISHMENT OF COMMUNITY CENTRES**

For the period under review thirteen (13) community centres were refurbished and completed:

- Union
- St Madeleine
- Bon Air West
- Second Caledonia
- Tunapuna
- Golconda
- Carapichima
- Patna
- Cumana
- Cocorite

- Boos
- Guaico/Tamana

- Liberville

In addition, works are in progress on seven (7) community centres with percentages completion status as follows:

- |                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| • Blanchisseuse        | 80% |
| • Hermitage            | 68% |
| • Plum Mitan           | 20% |
| • Bamboo Settlement #3 | 90% |
| • D'Abadie             | 30% |
| • South Oropouche      | 70% |
| • Williamsville        | 85% |

Note: Indian Trail, Todds Road and Chickland community centres contract documents are currently being prepared to commence refurbishment of these facilities.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND (CDF)

### OBJECTIVES

- 1) To assist in the delivery of social services and infrastructure to low income and most disadvantaged sections of the population using non-governmental (NGOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs)
- 2) To strengthen and build the capacity of NGOs and CBOs; and
- 3) To increase beneficiary participation in poverty alleviation initiatives.

These are reflected in the implementation of the following:

(i) **The Basket of Funding Programme (BOFP)**

*Aim:* To support civil society initiatives that address poverty alleviation and contribute to the holistic development of communities, using a collaborative approach which leverages and promotes human development.

The Basket is made up of the following components:

- (a) The Small Grants Programme;
- (b) Project Funding for Poverty Alleviation;
- (c) Partnership Funding;
- (d) Infrastructural Projects for Poverty Alleviation;
- (e) Cooperative Household Interventions; and
- (f) Special Initiatives

(ii) **Community Enhancement and Regeneration Programme**

This programme provides flexible responses to community enhancement and human development, targeting the poor and needy.

(iii) **Organizational Development Programme (ODP)**

The objective of this programme is geared to improve the capacity and capability of civil society.

#### **(iv) Community Volunteer and Apprenticeship Programme (CVAP)**

This programme is designed to enable the CDF to work with community-based organizations in its fight against poverty.

**Approximately 32,282 persons benefitted from CDF programmes.**

#### **COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

A major component of the Ministry's community development thrust, the Community Education (Skills Development) Programme provides opportunities for people in the communities where they live. The programme depends on the harnessing of latent talent and skills, which can be nurtured to the point that they become sources of empowerment and even employment and income generation for the participants.

**For the period under review 37,800 persons benefitted.**

#### **PRIME MINISTER'S BEST VILLAGE TROPHY COMPETITION**

**PURPOSE** - The overall purpose of this annual developmental programme is to discover and develop latent talent and traditions of all Village/Community Councils, Youth Groups, Women's Groups, Sporting and Cultural Organizations and other groups within communities in Trinidad and Tobago. This Programme was conceptualised to build cultural, environmental and sporting skills of people within the context of indigenous traditions.

The PMBVTC is recognised as the Signature Programme of the Ministry.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- To empower communities
- To be more conscious about their environment
- To enhance their surroundings and develop a sense of self-worth

- To encourage a sense of national pride, community spirit and community upliftment through healthy competition and social interactions
- To encourage the creativity of our peoples in culinary and artistic talents
- To encourage retention of the Folk Arts and the upliftment of the arts in general; and
- To Identify, preserve and record our historical and environmental sites throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

**The major activities during the period include:**

- ✓ 797 groups participated and 284 Classes conducted in Non-Traditional Areas, 8000 persons participated in Eight (8) Categories of the Programme
- ✓ 487 groups participated in the Re-branding of the Environmental Sanitation Category of the Programme to Clean and Beautify and Train the Trainers Workshop conducted for Tutors of the Programme, 179 persons completed training
- ✓ Community Festivals conducted in the Ten (10) Administrative Districts - 6000 persons participated in 8 categories of the programme
- ✓ Junior Best Village Programme - 662 groups, 609 children participated and 7000 persons participating in 9 categories.
- ✓ 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Prime Minister's Best Village Trophy Competition (Festivals held to highlight the achievements of the Programme included Bele Festival, Phagwa Festival, Drum Fest and Indigenous Music Showcase.

Awards were presented to individuals and communities for their contribution to the Programme –

- ✓ 472 groups participated
- ✓ 20 National Awards
- ✓ 72 Community Awards
- ✓ 9,000 persons participating in Nine (9) Categories

**2014 Annual Programme**

- ✓ 8000 persons participated in nine categories
- ✓ 7000 persons participated in nine categories

## **GERIATRIC ADOLESCENT**

### **PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME (GAPP)**

The Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme (GAPP) is designed to train unemployed young men and women between the ages of seventeen (17) and twenty-five (25) years to respect to the demand for geriatric care services in our communities. The programme utilizes all day classes and is conducted over a period of twelve (12) weeks.

#### **For the period July to December 2010**

**During this period a total of 718 persons benefitted from the programme:**

- **123** Caregivers given post-training in Nutrition and Home Management, Nursing Aide Skills, Health Promotion, Life Skills and Electives: Alzheimer's Dementia Aide; Medication Aide; and Occupational Therapy;
- **20** trainees gained entrance into COSTATT, 10 into the Nursing Academy of Trinidad and Tobago and five were offered employment in Nursing Homes where they completed their field practicum;
- Level II examinations were conducted in July. There were one hundred and eighteen (**118**) trainees writing the examination, with eighty five (**85**) successfully completing and receiving achievement certificates;
- Level I examinations were conducted in August. There were three hundred and forty five (**345**) participants writing examinations: Two hundred and fifty (**250**) received Achievement Certificates and ninety-five (**95**), Participation Certificates;
- Level II trainees were placed at twenty-one (**21**) senior citizens institutions to gain work experience throughout Trinidad;

**For the period January to September 2011 a total of 436 persons benefitted as follows:**

- Level of GAPP commenced on May 02, 2011 for a period of fourteen (14) weeks. During this time a total of **436** persons were trained



- Twenty **(20)** trainees gained entrance into COSTATT, ten **(10)** into the Nursing Academy of Trinidad and Tobago and five **(5)** were offered employment in Nursing Homes where they completed their field practicum;
- Cabinet approval was sought and obtained to increase the number of Caregivers by **200** (bringing the new total to **600** Caregivers); increase Caregivers' stipend from \$1,800.00 to \$2,500.00 and increase the GAPP Staffing level by sixteen **(16)** persons;

#### **For the period October 2011 – September 2012**

##### **1937 persons benefitted as follows:**

- Placement of **587** caregivers in the north, south, east and central regions
- 168 trainees from the St. Joseph, Chaguanas, Ste. Madeleine, Mayaro and Valleyline Centres
- Workshop conducted in Preysal for 600 caregivers; and
- **s 582** care givers placed throughout Trinidad.

#### **For the period October 2012 – September 2013**

##### **775 persons benefitted**

- 208 persons completed training
- 567 caregivers were placed

#### **For the period October 2013-September, 2014**

## **3579 Persons Benefitted**

- **92** trainees graduated from the Level I cycle
- **3487** Placements

## **For the period October 2014 to March 2015**

90 trainees graduated from the Level II cycle

## **RETIRESS ADOLESCENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME (RAPP)**

RAPP is a community-oriented programme which seeks to utilize the skills and experience of retired persons to provide assistance and supervision to low school performers and out –of-school adolescents between the ages of 12 and 16. Facilitators provide remedial academic support, supervision and guidance on character formation, training in sports, culture, and life skills for holistic development, and promote and support mentoring for the youth at risk.

### **Aims of RAPP are:**

- To provide assistance and supervision at the community level to youth deemed to be “at risk” in order to minimize the extent of delinquency and dropouts in the school population.
- To provide a common platform for young people and retired persons to interact at the community level for the purpose of enhancing community life and encouraging productive lifestyles.

- To provide retired experts with an opportunity to work in partnership with young adults who would benefit by way of improving their learning skills, developing and enhancing social skills, building self-esteem and appreciating the concept of community living.
- To bridge the generation gap through positive interaction between the two (2) groups who consider themselves polarized in terms of the manner in which each group chooses to think, feel and live, and who through the sharing of experiences could bring about mutual understanding and appreciation and community fellowship.

#### **For the period June 2010 to present**

- **2,127** persons benefitted from training conducted at the five (5) RAPP centres (Belmont, La Horquetta, Valencia, Couva and Shekinah).

#### **EXPORT CENTRES COMPANY LIMITED (ECCL)**

The Export Centres Company Limited (ECCL) was established to facilitate an increase in the employment level in Trinidad and Tobago through its Skills Training Programme aimed at the revitalization of the handicraft industry and artisan development. The Company manages craft training and production centres throughout Trinidad. The Export Centres craft training programme provides participants with approximately twenty-two **(22)** training programmes in skills such as airbrushing, curtain making, events, fabric design, fashion wear, flower craft, glass engraving, hats and bags, jewellery, leather craft, linen and drapery, natural jewellery, net making, patchwork and quilting, soap and candle making, soft furnishing, sugar craft, textile decoration, upholstery, vine craft and wood craft.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Increase employment and enhance employable skills of citizens
- Increase the marketability of the country as a producer of high quality craft
- Provide an avenue for foreign revenue earnings

- Protect the local handicraft market from foreign competitors
- Revive a dying craft industry and other indigenous art forms
- Support tourism through the supply of high quality indigenous craft and souvenirs
- Provide developmental support to rural areas
- Produce innovative value added products at competitive prices and promote local flora, fauna, culture and heritage.

The programme targets:

- Unemployed Females 17+;
- Unemployed Males 17+;
- Youths 17 years and under outside the school system;
- Persons in Institutions (including penal institutions)
- Vacation Craft Camp students
- Student Teachers
- Persons in the Craft Industry; and
- Post SEA Primary School Student.

There are seventeen (17) centres located throughout Trinidad. Four of these centres are located in Terminal Malls along the Priority Bus Route at San Juan, Curepe, Tunapuna and Arima. Centres are also located in the areas of Bourg Mulatresse, Bon Air, Diego martin, Fyzabad, La Brea, Laventille, Mausica, Morvant, Maraval, Palo Seco, Piarco, Point Fortin and San Fernando. The centres at the Terminal malls create uniquely affordable marketing opportunities for graduates of the Programme.

Activities undertaken during the period under review include: Construction of guard booths, fence repairs, construction of car parking facilities, upgrade of plumbing facilities, roof repairs and upgrading of walls, etc.

These facilities are being utilized to conduct training in the twenty-two (22) disciplines referred to above. The number of persons benefited from these programmes is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>ECCL Centres</b>	<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Vacation Programme</b>	
2010	438	107	198 (SEA - 410)	
2011	427	93	No Classes	
2012	601	155	325	
2013	272	0	373	
2014	36	0	619	
2015	402	Starting in July	Starting in July	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,176</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>1,925</b>	<b>4,456</b>

**For the years 2010 to 2015**

**Two hundred and fifteen (215) persons benefitted as follows:**

- Trainees certified through City & Guilds: **147** females and 1 male obtained City & Guilds

Certification in seven (7) craft training in the following areas:

- a) Linen & Drapery
- b) Curtain Making
- c) Curtain Making Level 2
- d) Patchwork & Quilting
- e) Soft Furnishing
- f) Fashion

g) Bead Needle Weaving

- **67** trainees were awarded City & Guilds Certificates in Employability and Personal Development Skills.

**For the period 2014-2015**

One hundred and seventy-seven (177) trainees registered and awaiting City & Guilds Certification for this period

**Number of Trainees Getting Into Business**

For the period 2010-2013

**30** persons started micro businesses, **18** of these persons received certification.

**Design Workshops:** **65** persons participated in craft construction and design implementation.

**Carnival Craft:** **25** persons are involved in the area of costume design and construction.

**MEDIATION SERVICES**

Under the current Act, Community Mediation is available as a mechanism for handling/negotiating the settlement of disputes in a wide variety of areas including, but not limited to the following matters:

- Landlord/Tenants;
- Merchants/Consumers;
- Small Claims (Quantum to be determined);
- Threat and harassment problems;
- Neighbourhood problems;
- Family and Relationship disputes, for example, Visitation Rights, Access, Custody and Maintenance;
- Small Contractors and Home Owners;
- Community Disputes;
- Juvenile conflicts including truancy and delinquent children

The benefits of successfully mediating a dispute to settlement, may vary, depending on the needs and interests of the parties. The most common advantages include:

- Parties are directly involved in coming up with the solution to the dispute;
- As the neutral party, the Mediator can assist the parties in exploring alternatives that are free of bias;
- The mediation process is faster than the court process;
- It is free of charge as there is no cost to the disputing parties;
- The process is simple and lacks complex proceedings;
- Parties are flexible and use creative solutions;
- It eliminates any pressure and tension which usually exists during the court process;

#### **During the period 2010 to Present**

The Ministry of Community Development's Community Mediation Programmes has been able to achieve the following:

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Achievements/Beneficiaries</b>
Community Mediation Service	<b>31,669</b> persons received services.
Counselling Sessions	<b>1,579</b> sessions
Cases Mediated	<b>1,183</b> cases
Parental Support Groups	<b>850</b> persons benefitted Two (2) national seminars held
Peer Mediation	<b>273</b> benefitted.
Community Outreach	<b>11,911</b> persons benefitted
Public Education and Sensitization	<b>831</b> persons benefitted
Parenting Workshops	<b>595</b> persons benefitted

**THE MINISTRY  
OF**



# EDUCATION

## THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WE ARE LEADERS IN EDUCATION

Education is free from age 3 to undergraduate university level

### EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

#### 1. Laptop Initiative – T&T is a world leader with ICT in Education

- Approximately 95,000 laptops provided to students now in Forms I-V, ensuring ICT infusion with the curriculum in secondary schools
- Over 4,000 laptops to teachers, principals and schools supervisors
- Computer labs provided in each of our 125 secondary schools and over 337 primary schools in Trinidad
- 150 computer labs for primary schools will be completed shortly
- Partnered with Samsung for 20 schools with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Smart classrooms
- Publication of an information and communications technology teachers manual to integrate ICT into classroom instruction
- T&T is now the Regional Centre for Virtual Educa in Latin America & Caribbean in partnership with the OAS
- 150 ICT Technicians servicing Computer Labs in our schools
- Thousands of teachers trained at varying levels for use of ICT instruction in the curriculum

#### 2. Ministry of Education has achieved Universal ECCE

- Every one of our 36,000 children aged 3 and 4 can now be assured of a place in an ECCE Centres Public, & Private across the country

- 210 Government and Government assisted ECCE providing early childhood care and education
- 200 Private ECCEs have Partnered with MOE
- 300 ECCEs Providing Private tuition
- 57 new ECCE Centres constructed already, another 52 under construction
- Over 400 new qualified ECCE teachers hired
- We are arguably the first country in the world to achieve Universal ECCE

Our achievements in Universal ECCE and Inclusive Education were highlighted by former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the second edition of the Inter-American Development Bank and ALAS Foundation Awards celebrated in Washington in May last year. She praised this administration for taking an important role in leading this effort while investing in childhood development.

### **3. Literacy and Numeracy – Significant improvements in literacy and numeracy nationally with the highest academic performance in history in 2014 in all three exams – SEA, CSEC and CAPE**

- Support for literacy and numeracy proficiency with universal after school homework and study centres, ‘Dial-a-Teacher’ programme, providing toll-free help in Math and English Language for SEA students and Math, English and Integrated Science for CSEC students at no cost to them or their parents – courtesy the Ministry of Education and TSTT
- We have employed **over 280 remedial teachers and close to 300 substitute teachers** in in primary and secondary schools in different subject areas
- A coaching programme was introduced for primary school students (Infant I, II and Standard 1) and secondary Form 1. 69 coaches were hired, trained and deployed in schools
- To improve students’ academic performance several projects were introduced to increase the numbers of students attaining the national and international benchmarks
- Approximately 3 out of 4 students now getting more than 50%; 2 out of 3 students receiving more than 60% SEA passes; 94% of the students taking the CAPE exam passed in 2014
- Approximately 2000 new teachers hired between 2010 and 2015 (900 secondary and 700 primary, 400 ECCE)
- Approximately 2,000 scholarships (Open and Additional) awarded to CAPE students during the last 5 years

### **4. Expansion of Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) at the secondary level from 42 to 102**

- This initiative aims to increase the number of secondary schools offering CVQ regional occupational standards so that each student may graduate with at least one occupational skill
- Such holistic development of students prepares them as they are the potential workforce. 5200 students have participated in the CVQ offerings at the secondary school level
- CVQ level 2 programs have also started

## STUDENTS/CHILDREN UNDERSTANDING

### 5. Pilot Testing and Neuro-diagnostics of Children

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Student Support Services Division (SSSD) expanded to over 700 professionals to include guidance counsellors, school social workers, clinical/behavioural psychologists
- 25 special needs schools, 14 private, 11 government providing education for our special needs students with Dyslexia, Autism, ADHD, Cerebral Palsy, as well as visual hearing, emotional, behavioural and psychological abnormalities providing care and education to approximately 2500 special needs students
- Partnering with many CBO's, NGO's caring for the education of students with special needs
- Annual screening of approximately 18,000 children to identify and assist visually and hearing impaired students

## EXAM, TESTING AND ASSESSMENT

### 6 - Change of date of SEA

This accomplishment was indeed a historic milestone for the Ministry and was done in collaboration with and support from key stakeholders. The main goal was to ease the stress of the SEA Examination on students and their parents by giving more time for preparation. **The examination was previously held in March and is now administered in May.**

### 7 - Continuous Assessment Component (CAC)

- It is no longer do or die SEA. 30% of marks awarded through continuous Assessment in Standards 4 & 5
- Other CAC courses are Physical Education, Agri-science, Music, Drama, Visual and Performing Arts, Values, Ethics, Morals, Character and Citizenry Development, Health and Family Life Education are also incorporated in the Reformed Primary School Curriculum

## VALUE OUTCOMES - PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### 8 - Improving Academic Performance

- There is approximately **one teacher to every 14 students in primary schools and one to every twelve students in secondary schools**, which is superior than the Gold Standard around the world.
- All **teacher vacancies** have been filled
- **Co-curricular and extracurricular activities including sports in schools**

We had a best Academic Achievement in the history of Education ever in 2014.

- 2 out of 3 students received over 60% in SEA
- 3 out of 4 obtained more than 50% in SEA
- From 14% getting less than 30% marks before we came in 2010, now down to less than 5%. We are working to bring that to less than 1%.
- More students obtaining more than 5 subjects at CSEC including CVQ subjects (Tech Voc)
- Maths pass rate moved from 39% to 57% (Waiting for additional information from previous years)
- Language Arts moved from 38% to 55% (Waiting for additional information from previous years)
- 94% Pass rate at CAPE units I & II from our students 1:9 obtaining scholarships
- So far over 2,000 students received Open and Additional scholarships in the last 5 years
- In 2008, 48 scholarships were given. Last year in 2014 we gave over 470 Scholarships

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### 9 - Improving Infrastructure in Schools

- Over the last 5 years, we have constructed 28 new primary schools, 57 ECCE centres and 8 secondary schools, including Marabella, Aranguez, Couva West and Princess Town East. **TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTED 93**
- Presently under construction: 31 primary schools, 52 ECCE centres (26 under IADB Phase II) and 9 secondary schools. Additionally, there are 11 secondary schools administrative and science blocks under construction. **TOTAL SCHOOLS UNDER CONSTRUCTION 91**
- **Over 4500 repair and maintenance projects were completed in over 800 Schools throughout T&T over the past 5 years, using more than 500 small, medium and large contractors, creating thousands of jobs.**

## TEACHER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

### 10 - Teacher Training

- Thousands of our teachers have been trained and retrained in ICT, Pedagogical Skills, ADR, Mediation, Maths, Science and Language Arts **TEACHER TRAINING TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**
- Management and Leadership training for all Schools Supervisors
- 99% of the teachers in primary schools are now fully certified
- School Based Management has been conducted in secondary schools

## CURRICULUM

### 11 - Curriculum Reform

- ECCE and Primary School Curriculum Reform have been completed. We are now completing Secondary School Curriculum Reform. Introduced Morals, Values Ethics, Character Development, PE, VAPA, Agricultural Science in Primary Schools

- Reform in our Primary School Curriculum, subsequent to a number of National and District consultations where thousands and thousands of participants, indicated to us that we should introduce Physical Education and Visual and Performing Arts in our primary schools. Ethics, Morals, Values, Citizenry Development, Character Development, Agri-Science, Health and Family Life Education, Physical Education and Visual and Performing Arts are now included in the primary school curriculum
- Physical Education is one of the compulsory subjects now, in primary school and also in our Secondary School Curriculum up to Form 3
- 20 secondary schools have been provided with state of the art gymnasiums
- Empowering our Physical Education Teachers to become coaches with the assistance of the Ministry of Sports
- 17 sports are being played actively in our schools.
- Provision of table tennis and badminton to all schools, courtesy the Peoples Republic of China
- Over 2 million text books provided for students over the last 5 years at ALL levels of Education
- Free transport provided for school students in rural areas and other parts of the country
- Nearly a quarter million students being educated by the state in T&T:126,000 in Primary, 96,000 in Secondary and 36,000 in ECCE

## INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### 12 - Human Resource Management full computerisation

- A Human Resource Management Information System is close to final implementation for our approximately 16,000 teachers in our 23,000 personnel from the Ministry of Education
- 85 local school boards provide School Based Leadership and Management in secondary schools – School Supervisors have been trained, train the trainer programme introduced and Principals being trained in financial management and administration.
- T&T now seen as a world leader in ICT in education, ECCE, Special Needs Education and Technical and Vocational Training.

### 13 - Organisational Restructuring

- We have aggressively implemented and organisational restructuring and institutional strengthening at the Ministry's Departments and Units to ensure accountability and efficiency
- We have **strong school based management team in every school** in the country. This management team comprises the Principal, Vice Principal, Representatives of the PTA and Student Council, Deans of Discipline, and Heads of Department who help in the school management on a day to day basis

### 14 - Communications Strategy

- Comprehensive corporate communication strategy to improve the way the Ministry shares information, and obtains feedback from its numerous stakeholders and how such feedback can be channelled to improve the overall performance of the Ministry
- Re-launch of MOE website, Facebook page and Twitter

- Radio and television broadcasts and “Educare” quarterly magazine are aimed at providing in-depth analysis and comprehensive reviews of MOE’s 16 Priority Areas and accomplishments.
- Student engagement – the students of our nation, under this administration have for the first time been exposed to training in radio and television broadcasting with student scripted and produced radio and tv shows – “Education Matters” and “Youth Voices” as well as repeated town hall-type meetings between forms V and VI students and the minister of education and his strategic executive team
- National Consultations have been held by MOE with major stakeholders – TTUTA, Teaching Service Commission, 18 Denominational Boards, Special Needs educators and administrators, primary and secondary school principals, curriculum workshops, national and regional parenting in education workshops and changes in the Education Act, where the compulsory age of children attending school is now 5-16

### 15 - Career Guidance

- We have implemented a system where **motivational speakers** conduct sessions throughout many of our schools
- We are also working with the Ministries of National Security and Gender, Youth and Child Development in implementing other programmes
- Career Guidance two days workshops and Career Fairs have been conducted in all Education Districts to over 80,000 students in the past three years for students in Forms 3, 4 and 5

### 16 - Parenting

- More than 12,000 Parents have participated in **over 300 workshops** in parenting in education throughout the country in the last year.
- A **Parenting Academy** is now being established with support from the Student Support Services of the Ministry of Education

### SECURITY / INDISCIPLINE

- All schools have the full complement of required **Deans of discipline**. We have ensured that Security Officers and Schools Safety Officers have **two hand held scanners in every secondary school**
- Several schools have been installed with **CCTV cameras** and all schools will shortly have the full complement of these
- We have implemented a system where students are subjected **to walk in body scans**, present like those in the airports, on mornings at schools randomly chosen
- We have employed over **170 School Safety Officers** in secondary schools with at least two of these officers per Government Secondary School and 5 District Coordinators
- We have the full complement of **security officers (3-7) in all secondary schools**. There is a minimum of three security officers during the day, with some secondary schools benefitting from up to seven security officers during the day.
- Zero tolerance for indiscipline, bullying and gangs.

## STUDENTS SUPPORT SERVICES

- Launch of the first National Student Hotline (free talk) 800-4321 to provide professional counselling to students with confidentiality
- Re-launched a reformatted our National School Code of Conduct
- We have established a **Circle of Hope** where students have a special session on a weekly basis where they speak with teachers on issues they may have
- We have the full complement of student support services which constitutes **guidance counsellors, guidance officers and school social workers, with educational, behavioural and clinical psychologists** looking after our students in need as well. This comprises over 700 personnel in all our schools—all 455 primary schools and 125 secondary schools
- Partnering with the Ministry of National Security, Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development and Social Development to be able to intervene on behalf of students deemed to be 'at-risk'. **Some of these programmes are**

## SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

- Daily, over a hundred and fifty five thousand (**155,000**) **meals are served**, close to a hundred thousand (100,000) lunches, fifty five thousand (55,000) breakfast, for students in the Early Childhood Education Centres, primary schools and secondary schools. And that is being served in our one hundred twenty five (125) secondary schools, four hundred and seventy six (476) primary schools and nearly three hundred (300) Early Childhood Education Centres
- We serve approximately **three million (3,000,000) meals per year, for two hundred (200) days** at an approximately cost of \$250 million annually
- A Draft National School Nutrition Policy by teams from the Ministry of Education and the NSFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Health has been produced
- Over the last four years, we have served close to twelve million (12,000,000) meals to our students

**THE MINISTRY  
OF  
ENERGY AND  
ENERGY AFFAIRS**



## **FIVE PROJECTS OF THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND ENERGY AFFAIRS**

### **1) Mitsubishi / Massy Methanol and dimethyl ether project (Q1 2015)**

The Project Agreement is due to be executed by year end 2014 and thereafter Final Investment Decision for the project is expected in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter calendar 2015. The Capex is approximately US\$900 million. The CEC for this project is outstanding.

### **2) Couva/Preysal Interchange Beautification Project (in progress)**

Couva/Preysal Interchange Beautification Project commenced in October 2014 with duration of eight (8) months. All safety procedures were submitted to the NGC, and approved. A CEC was granted from the EMA together with approvals from the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure for this project. Date of completion April 2014.

### **3) TGU - loan and payment of \$US 600 million to Ministry of Finance (Q1 2015)**

The TGU Project for the provision of 720 MW was budgeted at US\$777 million. The TGU Project was to be financed by debt and equity. However due to the prevailing global financing situation the project was financed largely by GORTT funds. It is proposed that TGU enter the market to raise financing up to US\$600 million to reimburse GORTT for part of its contribution.

### **4) National Energy Brighton Port Upgrade**

Upgrade of the Brighton Port (berth 2). Upgrade works on Brighton Berth 2 is necessary to prepare for Mitsubishi start and the BP Juniper project completion. Monies have been allocated in the 2015 PSIP for this project.

## **5) NGC -CNG project**

NGC has completed Phase 1 of the Plan in which it has identified 32 sites and developed the scope for each station, including mobile stations and is finalizing the schedule for roll-out over the next year. A station at City Gate is being completed and will be operational shortly. This will supply CNG to the 35 new CNG buses.

## **6) NGC / Petrotrin - Completion of Multi-fuel pipeline project**

The operation of the facility is scheduled to commence in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter calendar 2015. This project will bring a number of benefits to the country. These include: improved efficiency of the national fuel distribution network and improved energy security for the nation as this facility has storage for between 10 to 14 days' storage of the key transportation fuels.

## **7) NGC – Beetham Wastewater Project (project started)**

The project will benefit 200,000 citizens who will get a better water supply. The project commenced on 14th April, 2014. Construction works began on 7th July 2014 at the Point Lisas site and 10th July, 2014 at the Beetham site. The project has an overall duration of eighteen (18) months.

## **8) NP – capital projects (project started)**

NPMC is currently constructing new service stations in Trincity (CRH) and St Christopher's, Wrightson Road. Four (4) service stations (NPMC Starlite Diego Martin, NPMC O'Meara, NPMC Valsayn, NPMC Pointe-a-Pierre Roundabout) are company owned or company secured sites which will undergo knock down and rebuild of the entire site with three (3) of them to include CNG.

**THE MINISTRY  
OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT  
AND  
WATER RESOURCES**

# THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER RESOURCES

(2010/2011-2015)

## Water and Sewerage Authority

<b><u>Project Name</u></b>	<b><u>Project Description</u></b>
Local Water Sources Replacement of High-Leakage Mains along Old Hollis Main , Navet Trunk Main and Naparima Mayaro Road	Ongoing Project - Project funded in Financial Year 2015; \$15 Mn The collective replacement of 53.3 km of pipeline along the old Hollis Main; Navet Trunk Main; and Naparima Mayaro Road Main The work on the replacement of old Hollis Mains is scheduled to be completed by May 2014, thereafter works will be started on other mains. Navet Trunk Main Completed - 11th May 2011 Hollis Main Completed - 29 August 2014 Naparima Mayaro at Development Stage. Project Scope being revised.
Other Water Projects Design and Installation of Main along Caroni South Trunk	Ongoing Project – Project funded in Financial Year 2015; \$60 Mn To reduce the leakage increase transmission capacity and provide network redundancy. Works include the Design and Installation of 45 kilometres of 900 and 1100 millimetre main from Caroni Water Treatment Plant to San Fernando Booster Pump Station Construction Phase – 60% of pipe laying completed; works ongoing on Phases 1-5. ITT for the procurement, installation and commissioning of a Surge Tank published on 5-Feb-15. Tender closed 10-Mar-15.
Other Water Projects Multi-Phase Wastewater Rehabilitation Program-Phase 1(IDB Loan No 2890/OC-TT)	Ongoing Project – Project funded in Financial Year 2015; \$ 200 Mn. The project will include construction and supervision of new wastewater treatment plants and primary sewers in the Malabar and San Fernando Catchments. In addition, the initiation of policy, institutional reforms and capacity building. This project is supported by IDB funding.  Construction Phase: Access Road and Bridge to the new San Fernando Wastewater Treatment Plant completed 3rd June 2014. Contract executed for Malabar on 3rd Sept 14 and San Fernando on 24th Oct. 14. Malabar - Mobilization ongoing. San Fernando – Contract

<b><u>Project Name</u></b>	<b><u>Project Description</u></b>
	<p>awarded. Mobilisation scheduled began March 2015</p> <p>Corporate Governance – Consulting Firm engaged January 2015 to implement eight critical Corporate Governance Practices. Consultancy activities began in March 2015.</p> <p>Customer Information System - Evaluation of Bids in progress.</p> <p>Major Issue – Availability of foreign currency and timely transfer of funds to WASA.</p>
<p>Other Water Projects</p> <p>Refurbishment of Courland WTP</p>	<p>Ongoing Project - Project funded in Financial Year 2015; \$ 1 Mn.</p> <p>To improve the efficiency of the plant operations and the final water quality and safety for staff. The works constitute all activities required to upgrade and repair the facilities at the Courland Water Treatment Plant; Refurbishment of four existing gravity filters; Construct two (2) new gravity filters.</p> <p>Construction Phase- Contract agreement signed by Contractor on November 18, 2014. Kick off meeting held on 13-Jan-15 to discuss Scope, HSE and project schedule. Approval given for products and equipment. Commenced in March 2015.</p>
<p>Other Water Projects</p> <p>Scarborough, Tobago Wastewater Projects (IDB/CREW)</p>	<p>Ongoing Project - No funding received in Fiscal Year 2015</p> <p>Works involve the rehabilitation of the Scarborough Wastewater Treatment Plant and property connections. The project aims to connect an estimated 215 properties in the areas of Scarborough, Bacolet, Mt. Marie and Lambeau. This project will improved wastewater services in Tobago and the wastewater discharged into the environment.</p> <p>The project is supported by counterpart funding from IDB/Crew, \$2 Million USD was deposited in the National Wastewater Revolving Fund Program Account in December 2014. Total estimated cost is \$31.8 Mn. Awaiting additional funding.</p> <p>Rehabilitation of the Scarborough Wastewater Treatment Plant – contract awarded</p> <p>Property Connections – Property connections were divided into four (4) zones. Design works for connections completed.</p> <p>Invitation of Tenders for Scarborough Property Connections – Zone 3 issued to shortlist of Contractors. Pre-Bid meeting was held on February 25, 2015.</p> <p>Works on Zones 1, 2 and 4 were deferred pending the receipt of additional funding.</p>
<p>Other Water Projects</p> <p>Strategic Priority - Penal, St Clements/Barrackpore, Siparia, Princes Town, Moruga, Couva, Arima, La Brea, Talparo,</p>	<p>Ongoing Project - No funding received in Fiscal Year 2015</p> <p>Replacement of high leakage pipelines. Installation of 3500m of 300mm DI transmission pipeline from St Mary's Junction to</p>

<b><u>Project Name</u></b>	<b><u>Project Description</u></b>
Santa Cruz pipeline	<p>Madoo Road. Installation of 150mm PVC from St Mary's Junction to Madoo Road. Installation 10km of 400 DI pipeline from Carapo Well to Cumuto WTP.</p> <p>Madoo Road Pipeline completed 10 July 2013.</p> <p>Carapo Pipeline completed 28 February 2013.</p> <p>Santa Cruz Pipeline Project currently funded under Consolidated Fund FY14/15</p> <p>Funds required to payoff for construction works for both projects.</p>
Other Water Projects Upgrade of Charlotteville Intake	<p>Ongoing Project – Not listed on the Draft Estimates 2015. No funding received in Fiscal Year 2015</p> <p>To improve operations and final water quality. Construction of a new raw water intake inclusive of trash screens and racks, stop logs, facilities for dewatering and cleaning of sump; Construction of weir inclusive of valves and appurtenances. Supply and installation of instrumentation, to measure flow. Project is ready to be awarded. Awaiting funding.</p>
Other Water Projects Upgrade of Transmission System South East	<p>Ongoing Project - No funding received in Fiscal Year 2015</p> <p>Replacement of area network to provide the localised transmission capacity. The collective replacement/installation of 15.58km of distribution pipeline in the area of South East Trinidad:</p> <p>Naparima Mayaro Road from Torrib Tabaquite to San Pedro Junction - Deferred pending additional funding.</p> <p>Petrotrin Guayaguayare Plant to Isthmus Road - Awaiting approvals from Petrotrin</p>
Other Water Projects Wastewater Network Expansion (Modernisation and Wastewater Infrastructure Improvement Programme) - IDB Loan No 2600/OC-TT, (Component 1)	<p>Ongoing Project - Project funded in Financial Year 2015; \$ 25 Mn.</p> <p>Project to support the expansion of centralized wastewater systems. Phase 1 Maloney Catchment - Works include the Rehabilitation/ Expansion of Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs); Integration and expansion of wastewater collection system; Construction of lift stations; Decommissioning of existing Wastewater Treatment Plants</p> <p>Project supported by IDB Funding.</p> <p>Consultant engaged to provide pre construction and post construction supervision and water quality monitoring.</p> <p>Approval was given to re-tendered Maloney works on 18-Jun-14. Approval granted by Cabinet on 3-Dec-14 to fund shortfall of US \$19 Million in the budget for the additional works at Maloney.</p>
Water and Sewerage Refurbishment Works - Petrotrin Guayaguayare WTP	<p>Ongoing Project - Project funded in Financial Year 2015; \$4 Mn.</p> <p>Increase the capacity from 200m<sup>3</sup>/day to 1200m<sup>3</sup>/d to serve the communities of Calmappas and Guayaguayare . Works include major refurbishment of the plant, replacement of Raw</p>

<b><u>Project Name</u></b>	<b><u>Project Description</u></b>
	<p>water intake shed, installation of two (2) vertical line shaft raw water pumps.</p> <p>Works suspended March 2014 due to contractual issues and contract was cancelled.</p> <p>Bidding Stage – ITT was published on 4-Mar-15. Tender scheduled to close Apr-15.</p>
<p>Water and Sewerage South West Sewerage Upgrade Phase 1</p>	<p>Ongoing Project - Project funded in Financial Year 2015; \$20 Mn</p> <p>To expand and integrate existing wastewater systems in South West Tobago. To refurbish and expand existing wastewater ponds, construct sewerage system which includes sewers, lift stations, sewer connections and other appurtenances in South West Tobago.</p> <p>Procurement processes completed for construction works, project is ready to be awarded.</p> <p>Bidding Stage - Approval granted from the shortlist of contractors for construction works.</p> <p>Finalization and signoff of agreements (MOU/MOA) and permits with Mount Pleasant Credit Union and CLICO.</p> <p>Land acquisition from THA on-going Cadastral survey completed for LS# 6, and drawings submitted for approval.</p>
<p>Water and Sewerage Upgrade of Transmission Network -Tobago</p>	<p>Ongoing Project - Project funded in Financial Year 2015; \$10 Mn</p> <p>Collective Replacement/ upgrade of approximately 19.6km of 28km of transmission in: Buccoo, Montgomery, Hillsborough, Sangsters Hill and Fairy Queen. Additional funding required</p> <p>Completed - Northside Road; Connector Road, Mt Pelier; Sandy River; Darrel Spring; Road Reserve, Bethel #3; Bloody Bay Phase 2</p> <p>Development Stage - Scope of work being finalised for: Buccoo to Four Roads; Buccoo to Montgomery; Hillsborough to Belmont; Hope Village, Windward Road (A.k.a Fairy Queen Bay to Caledonia, Phase Two A) Mt St George Village, Windward Road (a.k.a Fairy Queen Bay to Caledonia, Phase Two B)</p>
<p>Water and Sewerage Upgrade of Transmission System Central (Southern Main Road from Factory Rd to St Marys Junction)</p>	<p>Ongoing Project - Not listed on the Draft Estimates 2015. No funding received in Fiscal Year 2015</p> <p>To provide leakage reduction, localized transmission and distribution. The collective replacement of 18km of distribution pipeline in areas of Central Trinidad.</p> <p>Factory Road to St Mary Junction completed March 2013.</p> <p>Todds Road Junction to Mamoral Road completed October 2014</p>

Project Name	Project Description
Administrative Services Development of Disaster Preparedness Capabilities in WASA	Ongoing Project - Project funded in Financial Year 2015; \$1 Mn. Development and Training of a disaster preparedness/ business continuity operational plan for before, during and after any disaster. Identification of critical areas within WASA for readiness.  Consultancy in Progress - 61% complete.
Administrative Services Governance Risk Compliance Software Application Acquisition (Enterprise Wide Risk Management Framework)  Administrative Services Governance Risk Compliance Software Application Acquisition (Enterprise Wide Risk Management Framework)	Ongoing Project - Project funded in Financial Year 2015; \$2 Mn. The establishment of an Enterprise Wide Risk Management System (EWRMS) to identify monitor and control the following: strategic, operational, financial, safety, reputational, environmental, governance and compliance risks in all projects, contracts, products and services in the Water and Sewerage Authority. Consultancy in Progress-  <b>Phase I</b> - Development and Enterprise-Wide Risk Management Framework (EWRM) Policy completed May 2014 <b>Phase 2</b> - Enterprise Risk Assessment completed June 2014 <b>Phase 3</b> - Risk Management Performance Assessment completed July 2014 <b>Phase 4</b> - Risk Transformation. Divisional Risk Register Development completed July 2014 <b>Phase 5</b> - Corporate Risk Register completed November 2014 <b>Phase 6</b> - Operationalized EWRM in WASA ongoing
Administrative Services Institutional Strengthening of WASA on Wastewater Management (Wastewater Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project - IDB Loan No 2600/OC-TT, Component 3)	Ongoing Project - - Project funded in Financial Year 2015; \$1 Mn.  The preparation of operation and maintenance (O&M) manuals for the new system and assets. It also involves training activities on O&M and the newly created SOPs for the improved wastewater systems, environmental safeguards and provide support to WASA's water quality monitoring program. <b>Project supported by IDB funding , IDB funding \$1.697M</b>  Development Stage – Project to be implemented at the end of Construction Stage.
Administrative Services Procurement of Standby Power for Navet Water Treatment Plant	Ongoing Project - Not listed on the Draft Estimates 2015. No funding received in Fiscal Year 2015 To supply four generators and a 48 hr. diesel tank system to replace existing tanks. Procurement process restarted.



<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Description</u>
Administrative Services Procurement of Standby Power for North Oropouche Water Treatment Plant	Ongoing Project - Not listed on the Draft Estimates 2015. No funding received in Fiscal Year 2015 To supply four generators and a 48 hr. diesel tank system to replace existing tanks. Procurement process restarted.
Administrative Services Provision of Land Management Services in Maloney, Malabar and San Fernando	Ongoing Project - No funding received in Fiscal Year 2015 Works include a consultancy for legal services and the acquisition of the lands for existing and proposed infrastructure for Wastewater projects supported by IDB funding (Loan 2600 and Loan 2890 Phase 1)  <b>San Fernando – Land Acquisition completed.</b> <b>Maloney - Title searches ongoing</b> <b>Surveys completed on all parcels of land.</b> <b>All licencing agreements were obtained.</b>
Major Water Sources Avocat Wells	New Project – Project funded in Financial Year 2015; \$4 Mn To drill and equip two (2) wells at Avocat to provide additional raw water to the communities of Fyzabad and Avocat. Project re scoped to include exploratory works and requirements to bring well online. Bids were cancelled and reinvited to include new scope.
Major Water Sources Construction Works- La Fillette Storage Tank	Ongoing Project - Project funded in Financial Year 2015; \$2.3 Mn. Works include the erection of a metal storage tank; supply and installation of suction and discharge piping; supply and installation of all valves, meters, and other appurtenances, to improve Plant operations and final water quality.  Construction Phase- Geo-technical reports and final designs are completed and being reviewed. Site design to be finalized because of access route.
Major Water Sources Refurbishment of El Socorro Water Works	Ongoing Project - Project funded in Financial Year 2015; \$0.57 Mn. To improve Plant Operations and final Water Quality and staff safety. The refurbishment of chlorine storage room and chlorinator room on the El Socorro Water Works <b>Works retendered. Evaluation in progress.</b>
Major Water Sources Refurbishment of Valsayn Water Works	Ongoing Project - Project funded in Financial Year 2015; \$0.57 Mn The refurbishment of chlorine storage room and chlorinator room on the Valsayn Water Works. The chlorine room at the Valsayn Water Works is in a state of disrepair. Extractor fans, doors, louvers and other ventilation features have to be repaired/ replace.

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Description</u>
	<b>Works retendered. Evaluation in progress.</b>
Major Water Sources Refurbishment of Filters at Granville Water Works	Ongoing Project - Project funded in Financial Year 2015; \$1.2 Mn To improve Plant Operations and final Water Quality. The concrete base of Filter #3 has been fragmenting and about 95% the filter media has been lost. A total refurbishment of the filter is required. <b>Construction in progress.</b>
Other Water Projects Four Roads Service Reservoirs	New Project – No funding received in Fiscal Year 2015; To increase service storage at Four Roads to maximise output. Works include the replacement of the Four Roads Service Reservoir, Arima. <b>Project awarded as part of Contract for Four (4) Glass Fused to Steel Tanks. Awaiting Funding.</b>
Other Water Projects Guanapo Service Reservoir	New Project - No funding received in Fiscal Year 2015 To provide service storage within system supplied by the Guanapo WTP. Works include the Design and installation of a 300,000 IGD tank at the Guanapo WTP. Procurement processes completed. <b>Project is ready to be awarded. Awaiting Funding.</b>

#### Drainage Division

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>% Complete</b>
<b><u>National Upgrade of Drainage Channels</u></b>		
-		
Mausica River Improvement Works	<b>Payment of Retention</b>	100
Construction of Retaining wall – Mohess Road	<b>Payment of Retention</b>	100
Construction of Retaining Wall – Mohess Road ( Phase 1)	<b>Payment of Retention</b>	100
Comprehensive upgrade and Rehabilitation projects (40 projects)	<b>Walling and Paving Works</b>	30

Arima River Improvement Works	<b>Construction works and slope stabilization</b>	3
Miss Gutter Improvement Works Works	<b>Walling and paving works to protect properties</b>	20
La Quesa River Improvement Works	<b>Walling and paving works to protect properties</b>	12
Construction Works / Ravine Sable Improvement Works	<b>Construction of Ravine Sable lake base on revised design concept- water management and water conservation</b>	5
<b><u>Comprehensive National Drainage Studies</u></b>	<b>To conduct studies on major catchment areas in order solution to mitigate</b>	
-		
-		
<b>South Oropouche River Basin</b>	<b>Note to Cabinet is being revised.</b>	
<b>El Dorado Main Drain Flood Reduction Works</b>	<b>Construction of three storm water management ponds (detention ponds) in series</b>	15
<b>Blackman Ravine Flood Rehabilitation Works</b>	<b>Construction works to prevent erosion and flooding in the east-west corridor</b>	35
<b>Short Term flood mitigation Projects (34 projects)</b>	<b>Construction and rehabilitation works to prevent flooding base on complaints</b>	35
Honda River Improvement Works-	Payment of retention	100
Marabella River Improvement Works (Phase II)	Payment of retention	100
Dunder Hill Main Drain Flood Reduction Works	Construction of detention ponds and rehabilitation works in the Bon Air/ Lopinot area	30
Port of Spain Flood Alleviation and Drainage Programme (IDB)	Study and construction works to mitigate/ alleviate flooding	5

	in POS and Environs	
Irrigation of Drainage Structures in the Caroni Irrigation Area	Rehabilitation works to Felicity gates	3
Desilting of Marabella River Mouth and construction of siltation Basin	Dredging/Desilting and construction of a siltation basin at the mouth of Marabella River	Awaiting Cabinet Approval
Desilting of Vistabella River Mouth and construction of siltation Basin	Dredging/Desilting and construction of a siltation basin at the mouth of Vistabella River	
New Cut Channel Improvement Works ( South Oropouche)	Construction of Berm and embankment, dredging and desilting works for approx. 13Km -bothside, improvement works to tributaries and installation of gates	Awaiting Cabinet Approval

## **FORESTRY DIVISION**

Forestry Division has been undertaking activities to rehabilitate our watersheds and restore our forest cover through the establishment of new plantations consisting mainly of pine and mixed species, increasing fire patrols and creating additional external fire traces. **Under this administration, during the period 2010-2014, approximately 686,000 trees were planted by the Forestry Division and this fiscal year approximately 280,000 trees are being planted.**

Government has also continued to take steps to develop the enabling legislation necessary for the implementation of the **Forests Policy and Protected Areas Policy** including the **establishment of the Forest and Protected Areas Management Authority**. A transitional plan for the **transformation of the Forestry Division into the new Forest and Protected Areas Management Authority has also begun.**

The Current State Analysis of the all the job functions in the Forestry Division has been completed and was presented to the staff of the Forestry Division on Nov, 26 and 28, 2014. The Future State Analysis which will include the organizational structures and job descriptions for the new Forest and Protected Areas Management Authority is currently being undertaken. The revised draft of enabling legislation for the

implementation of the National Forest Policy and the National Protected Areas Policy is currently being reviewed by technical staff of the Ministry.

## 1. Forest Regeneration

- E001 – Forest Regeneration NEC
- E003 – Forest Regeneration NCC
- E005 – Forest Regeneration SEC
- E007 – Forest Regeneration SCC
- E009 – Forest Regeneration SWC
- E011- Production of Pine Seedlings and Teak Nursery
- E013 – Reafforestation of Denuded Northern Range Hillside

The objectives of forestry regeneration programme are to reforest denuded lands for protection purposes and to establish commercial timber plantations, which provide raw material for the sawmilling and wood-working sector.

The Division tended 450 hectares of plantations consisting mainly of pine and mixed species (cedar, mahogany & apamate). At its three nurseries, 660,000 seedlings were produced to facilitate the Forestry Regeneration Programme, the National Reforestation and Watershed Rehabilitation Programme and the private sector. Maintenance operations were conducted on 4,500 hectares of pine, teak and mixed species plots.

## 2. Forest Management

- E017 – Improved Management to the Natural Forest

The objectives of forest management are to improve species composition and output of forest products from natural forests, while protecting biodiversity and enhancing wildlife habitat.

Thirty-five Forest Reserves and eleven wildlife sanctuaries was managed for optimum benefits. Silvicultural markings and improvements were conducted in 350 hectares of mixed natural forests. Teak thinnings were marked for felling and growth measurements will be taken for teak and pine in 45 coupes (750 hectares).

## 3. Forest Protection

- E015 – Improvement of Forest Fire Protection Capability

The objectives of this programme are to protect the state's forests and wildlife resources and to reduce losses due to forest fires.

Through patrols of officers and daily rated staff within the Conservancies, the Forestry Division continues to protect 35 Forest Reserves and 11 Wildlife Sanctuaries. Individual and group patrols were conducted throughout the forest reserves and other protected areas to prevent and deter wildlife offences and theft of forest produce. In addition, 900 km of external fire traces were cleared for protection against destruction by fire. During various fire seasons 27,000 man-days of patrols will be conducted to protect the forest estate.

## 4. Utilisation and Forest Industry Development

- E036 – Sustainable Forestry

The objective is to promote and facilitate the optimal use of forest produce and products by sawmilling and wood working industries.

The Division monitored 91 sawmills and 250 furniture shops through monthly and quarterly inspections, reports and the annual issue of licenses. Officers will continue to issue and monitor private removal permits for the removal of logs from private lands.

## 5. National Parks and Other Protected Areas

- E025 – National Parks and Watershed Management Project
- E031 – Restoration and Rehabilitation of the Count De Lopinot's Estate House
- E040 – Upgrade of Recreational facilities at Caura Recreation Site

The objectives are to identify and manage the country's natural heritage sites and to provide educational and eco-tourism opportunities. Over the three year period, attention was placed on overall upgrade of park facilities designed to improve visitor experience for both local and international visitors. Repair works were also done to the Caroni Visitor Center and there was an upgrade of the landscape at the San Fernando hill. Repairs to the roof at the Caroni Swamp were completed in 2012.

## 6. Wildlife Management

- E021 – Wetlands Management Project
- E038 – Sustainable Management of the Wildlife Resources in Trinidad and Tobago
- E039 – Caroni Swamp Management Project

The objectives of wildlife management are to encourage and promote the wise use of wildlife resources.

Five communities were engaged in co-management of nesting marine turtles which facilitated 15,000 visitors. This activity has now stemmed to include the assistance of the WASA Security Services also.

Wetland Inventory Studies were done to determine the status of wetland systems and waterfowl at 8 sites. Monitoring studies at Nariva Swamp will also be done

## 7. Watershed Management

- E035 – Northern Range Watershed Protection Research and Planning Project

The objectives are to manage selected watersheds and undertake studies in hydrology and soil conservation. As a measure to control erosion on the Northern Range, 15,000 new check dams were constructed and a further 4,000 will be maintained. Watershed assessment and preparation of management plans for the Northern Range was done Hydrological research of the watersheds was completed in September 2013.

## 8. Forest Engineering

- E023 – Forestry Access Roads

- E027 – Rehabilitation / Construction of North and South offices

The objectives are to provide a proper and improved working environment and support facilities and infrastructure.

To facilitate the harvesting of teak and pine coupes the Division upgraded 40 km of forest access roads. In addition 100 km of forest roads was maintained and two bridges constructed to provide access to forest resources for harvesting and protection measures. Facilities will be upgraded at San Fernando Hill, St. Michael Hillside Station, and St. Joseph compound, Head Office, Morne Diablo and San Fernando Office.

#### 9. Forest Research

- E037 – National Forestry Inventory of Trinidad and Tobago
- E029 – Computerization of Records

The objectives are to conduct research to improve species composition and output from natural forests. New research trials will be established for Mora, Toporite and Cajuca. Maintenance was done on 20 hectares of trial plots and these are to be assessed for growth parameters.

#### 10. Private Forestry, Agro Forestry & Forestry Assistance

- E019 – Community Based Forestry / Agro Forestry (NFAP)

The objectives are to provide support to farmers and civil society groups in forest related projects.

Assistance will be provided to private forest farmers through 400 field inspections on farmer's holdings. Five seminars were conducted for farmers on forest pests, disease, fire protection, agro forestry practices, plot establishment and soil and water conservation. Two demonstration plots were maintained at Rio Claro and Talparo together with 3 Agro forestry stations at Maracas, Caura and St Michael.

#### 11. Forestry Training

- E033 – Outreach and Community Empowerment and Mobilization

The overall objective is to provide training for the Forestry Division's staff at all levels so that the Division could effectively and efficiently execute its functions. Fifty employees were trained in the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Employees were also trained in IT aspects and computer skills.

A total of fifty (50) employees were trained in GPS use and twenty-five(25) middle managers were trained in industrial relations.

#### 12. Outreach and Awareness

- E033 – Outreach and Community Empowerment and Mobilization

The objective of outreach and awareness is to sensitize the public on values and benefits of forest resources. The Division has participated in several outreach programmes across various constituencies.

## **NATIONAL REFORESTATION & WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAMME (NRWRP)**

Reafforestation efforts are also supported through the National Reforestation and Watershed Rehabilitation Programme, the main objective being to establish 2,000 hectares of forest plantation on state lands at an increment of 400 hectares a year over a five year period and to maintain the acreages for a further five years. **Since 2010, approximately 960,000 trees have been planted. In this fiscal 2015, approximately 300,000 trees are being planted.**

This objective is being achieved primarily through the dedicated efforts of various community groups throughout Trinidad and Tobago. Currently the Programme has engaged 61 community groups with a total of 2,135 community based personnel. In fiscal 2015, these efforts are currently being strengthened through the engagement of additional community groups in Tobago, namely Mt. Pleasant, Bacolet, Patience Hill, Arnos Vale and Bon Air. Further to this, there is the intention of adding approximately eight (8) to ten (10) more community groups in Trinidad. Approximately 3000 acres of land are to be reforested this year and 30,000 mixed forest seedlings are to be produced for replanting.

The programme also intends to introduce a further 500 square feet of mangrove along the coastal wetlands of Waterloo. This will occur alongside ongoing activities such as engaging the private companies and other Ministries to conduct tree planting exercises, watershed rehabilitation and continued protection of forests during the fire season.

### **INITIATIVES FOR 2014 -2015**

- 3000 acres of land to be reforested.
- To establish 10 new sites employing 350 employees.
- To train 2415 workers in First Aid training by the Fire Services
- An Introduction to Dendrology to 2415 workers.
- An Introduction to Supervisor Training for 183 supervisors.
- To have an NRWRP activity book for children to be used at our outreach programme.
- To have each contractor adopt a school in their area to have a Reforestation School Yard Project.
- To continue to engaged the private companies and other Ministries to conduct Tree planting exercises.
- To introduced a further 500 square feet of mangrove along the coastal wetlands of Waterloo.
- To produce 30,000 mixed forest seedlings for replanting.



## **Other Achievements to date for the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources**

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### **Pollution**

- Environmental Management Authority (EMA) continued to issue registration certificates and water pollution permits under the Water Pollution Rules
- The Air Pollution Rules became law in April 2015.
- Progress on the establishment of an Ambient Air Quality Management Programme for the Improvement of Ambient Air Quality under the EMA.
- The EMA has also begun an Inventory of Air and Water Pollutant Sources.

### **Climate Change Vulnerability Adaptation and Mitigation**

Analysis being undertaken to assess the retrofitting requirements for solar power accessories and photovoltaic capability of three rural health centres and community centres in order to provide minimum back-up power in the case of a natural disaster.

Discussions have been held with representatives of the Ministry of Health, ODPM, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Community Development, Ministry of energy and energy Affairs, NIHERST and CARIRI with a view to making a final determination by mid-April 2015

### **Montreal Protocol – Ozone Depleting Substances Phase out**

Ban on all assembled equipment using HCFCs (hydrochlorofluorocarbon) since Jan 1, 2015

Introduction of quota system and phase out on HCFC on Jan 1 2013

Ban on import of methyl bromide for fumigation for any purpose other than quarantine and pre shipment as of Jan 1 2015

### **Biodiversity**

- Two year moratorium on hunting implemented in an effort to protect our wildlife population.
- Government adopted a new Wildlife Policy
- A transitional plan for the transformation of the Forestry Division into the new Forest and Protected Areas Management Authority has also begun.
  
- Forestry Division has facilitated programmes such as:
  - Reforestation of denuded State lands and forest reserves,
  - Management of wildlife resources,
  - Improvement of forest fire protection capability,
  - Improved management of natural forest, management and development of national parks,
  - Management and development of watershed management projects
  - The preparation of a national forest inventory and a forest cover map.
  
- Development of a policy for the distribution of State owned teak and pine
  
- Implementation of National Reforestation and Watershed Rehabilitation Programme. The Programme has engaged 61 community groups. Some of the key achievements under this programme include:
  - *Reforested or forest cover increased through enrichment planting of 6,158 acres, utilizing over 1.25 million trees*
  - *Protection of 14,413 acres of forests from fire damage through day-time fire watch during the dry season.*
  - *Preparation and maintenance of fire access traces*
  - *Improvements to forest recreation sites through the maintenance of hiking trails, park amenities*
  - *Flood alleviation through the construction of check dams.*
  
- EMA has been implementing the Nariva Swamp Restoration, Carbon Sequestration and Livelihoods Project which operates in the Project communities of Biche, Cascadeau Kernahan and Plum Mitan.
  
- the Institute of Marine Affairs monitoring programmes include:
  - The Caribbean Coastal Monitoring Productivity Programme, assessment of fish communities,
  - Monitoring of the Coastal Wetlands and Sea-grass Beds of Trinidad and Tobago,
  - Mangrove monitoring,
  - Sea level monitoring,
  - Valuation of ecosystem services,
  - Investigation into bacteriological water quality at popular recreational water-use areas in Trinidad and Tobago,
  - Development of coastal vulnerability indices, and
  - Development of satellite-based indicators for marine ecosystem management in trinidad and tobago.
  - A coral reef early warning system (crews) on speyside reef was also installed to ensure coral reef monitoring.

- Research and public awareness on marine invasive alien species

### **Climate and Weather**

- Continued implementation of the National Climate Change Policy.
- The Meteorological Services Division installed:
  - An automated weather observing system
  - A new digital barometer at the forecast office,
  - A weather pod at the forecast office
  - An ultra violet (uv) sensing system.

### **Coastal Zone Management**

- Under the “Piloting the Integration of Climate Change Adaptation and Coastal Zone Management in Southwest Tobago” project, a review of the legal and institution arrangement for climate change adaptation and coastal zone management was completed,
- Coral Reef Early Warning System (CREWS) was installed on Buccoo Reef

### **Solid Waste Management**

In February 2015, Cabinet approved the **National Waste Recycling Policy** which was developed by the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources with the aim of providing guidance to enable Trinidad and Tobago to establish an appropriate legislative, administrative and institutional framework for waste reduction and recycling.

The National Waste Recycling Policy takes into consideration existing overarching policies such as the National Integrated Waste Management Policy and the National Environmental Policy.

Based on this Policy the Ministry has also developed a draft **Waste Recycling Bill** which is the framework legislation for the establishment of the **Waste Recycling Management Authority**. This Administration has been actively pursuing the Waste Recycling Bill (entitled an Act to provide for the establishment of a Waste Recycling Management Authority and a Resource Recovery Fund) to facilitate the efficient coordination for the implementation of a waste recycling system that would protect human health and the environment and related matters. This Bill will set the framework to stimulate the development of this type of lucrative industry nationally, encouraging entrepreneurs, creating jobs and protecting human health and the environment.

**THE MINISTRY  
OF  
FINANCE AND  
THE ECONOMY**

**THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY**

**Status Report on the Implementation of Government Policy Initiatives**

**August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

<b>Pillar</b>	<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Status (%)</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Pillar 6 – Good Governance	The development of investment initiatives to promote a thriving economy and sustainable development by balancing consumption and savings	Implementation of the Commonwealth Secretariat Debt Recording and Management System	(1) Build Government Database in CS-DRMS;  (2) Entrenching use of CS-DRMS; and  (3) Implementing of Institutional Reforms	CS-DRMS Database		On-going	CS-DRMs built and installed. Officials from the Ministry of Finance, Treasury and the CBTT were trained with various functions of the CS-DRMS. Draft Procedures Manual for the CS-DRMS completed. Commenced the development of Customized Reports to be produced

Pillar	Initiative	Project Description	Objectives	Deliverables	Beneficiaries	Status (%)	Remarks
							from the CS-DRMS.
Pillar 6 – Good Governance		Reform of Life Insurance Companies to reflect the new capital adequacy provisions as contained in the New Insurance Bill, 2013.	<p>(1) Address any risks to the calculation and collection of taxes from Life Insurance Companies.</p> <p>(2) Develop a modernised system of taxation with the consideration of international standards for LICs</p>	Deliver modernised legislation to facilitate the approved taxation reform for LICs.	<p>Shareholders of Life Insurance Companies.</p> <p>Board of Inland Revenue</p> <p>Policyholders</p> <p>Savers and Investors</p>	On-going	<p>A Note to Cabinet to undertake the taxation reform of Life Insurance Companies has been completed.</p> <p>A Note to Cabinet to procure the services of an independent Consultant has been prepared.</p>
Pillar 6 – Good Governance	The development of investment initiatives to promote	The amendment of the current legislation in the Income	Improve the portability of pensions/deferred annuity plans of employees within Life Insurance Companies registered in Trinidad	Pension Portability of deferred annuity plans taking into account the cost	Annuitants of pension policies.	On-going	A Note to Cabinet for the amendment of the legislation

Pillar	Initiative	Project Description	Objectives	Deliverables	Beneficiaries	Status (%)	Remarks
	a thriving economy and sustainable development by balancing consumption and savings	Tax Act Section 28, Subsection 14 to improve the portability of pensions /deferred annuity plans of employees within life insurance companies registered in Trinidad and Tobago.	and Tobago taking into account the costs incurred by the company in providing the product.	incurred.	BIR.  Life Insurance Companies		s to allow for pension portability , taking into account the cost incurred has been prepared.
	The rescindment of the property tax					Completed	The Municipal Corporations Act was amended by the repealing of Part V, The Land and Building Taxes act and The Tax Exemption Act were repealed by the passing and promulgation of Act No. 18 of 2009, which was assented

Pillar	Initiative	Project Description	Objectives	Deliverables	Beneficiaries	Status (%)	Remarks
							<p>to on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2009.</p> <p>However, Act No. 18 of 2009 was also repealed.</p> <p>The Lands and Building Taxes Bill, 2011 (which included amendments to the Municipal Corporation Act, The Valuation of Land (Amendment) Bill, 2011 and the Taxes Exemption Bill, 2011) were introduced in Parliament on February 18, 2011 pursuant to the Government's policy to repeal the Property</p>



Pillar	Initiative	Project Description	Objectives	Deliverables	Beneficiaries	Status (%)	Remarks
							Taxes Act, 2009 and to reinstate the old rates and old values that existed in respect of lands and building taxes prior to 1 <sup>st</sup> January, 2010. This package of Legislation, however, was allowed to lapse.
Pillar 2 – Poverty Eradication and Social justice	The reinstatement of a state-funded Old Age Pension that removes restricts and qualifications to reflect increased portability of benefits entitlements to \$3000.00	Public Sector Pension Working Group with the objectives of modernising the pension system for Government Monthly-Paid Employees and introducing a pension for Daily-Rated Government Employees.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduced vesting period.</li> <li>2. Improved Survivors' Benefits.</li> <li>3. Reduction of the cap on accruals.</li> <li>4. Provision of increased portability within the public service.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deliver improved modernised legislation to facilitate the approved changes for Monthly-Paid Public Officers</li> <li>2. Introduce a pension plan for Daily-Rated</li> </ol>	<p>27,000 retirees (current).</p> <p>32,000 monthly paid officers .</p> <p>19,000 daily-rated officers .</p>	Legislative works are on-going; however the unified draft pension's bill is now being reviewed by the Public Sector Pensions Working	The initiative listed does not reflect any single pension policy currently in place, yet appears to be an amalgam of the principles contained in the Senior Citizens Pensions

Pillar	Initiative	Project Description	Objectives	Deliverables	Beneficiaries	Status (%)	Remarks
				<p>Government Workers.</p> <p>3. Improve the administration and delivery of Pensions for Government Employees through an upgrade of the pension administration system.</p>		<p>g Group with a view to delivery of completed legislation by March 2015.</p>	<p>(formerly Old Age/Senior Citizens Grant), the Public Sector Pensions and Minimum Public Sector Pension.</p> <p>There has also never been any linkage between Old Age Pension and portability . It is unclear exactly what is being queried hence the reference to the ongoing work of the Ministry on all pension works.</p>

Pillar	Initiative	Project Description	Objectives	Deliverables	Beneficiaries	Status (%)	Remarks
	Work with the Central Bank, CSO and the public service to determine the true condition of the country's economy and the condition of projects to share that information with citizens.					On-going	This is an on-going activity. Periodically, various reports are prepared and made available to the public.
	The development of an environment suited for investment via the facilitation of competitive interest rates, acquisition of property rights and the expansion of domestic value-added production using best practice						

Pillar	Initiative	Project Description	Objectives	Deliverables	Beneficiaries	Status (%)	Remarks
	through avenues such as a dynamic stock exchange, competitive business environment, an increased diversification sector, formulation credit union legislation. Encouraging local and international firms to list on the stock exchange by:						
Pillar 6 – Good Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating and nurturing a competitive business environment</li> </ul>	“Rationalize various State Enterprises” taken from the Budget Statement	Expand public offerings in an effort to improve the State Enterprise Sector and enhance the domestic capital market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Citizens IPO</li> <li>Trinidad and Tobago NGL Ltd</li> <li>Trinidad and Tobago Mortgage Bank IPO</li> </ul>	The public of Trinidad and Tobago	<p>Completed</p> <p>Preparatory work on going</p> <p>Preparatory work on going</p>	<p>First Citizens IPO was marketed from July 15 2013 – August 9th 2013 and entered the Stock Exchange on 2014/09/22.</p> <p>Cabinet Note prepared on May 14, 2014</p>

Pillar	Initiative	Project Description	Objectives	Deliverables	Beneficiaries	Status (%)	Remarks
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLIPDECO IPO</li> </ul>		Preparatory work on going	<p>and submitted to Cabinet.</p> <p>A new holding company will be created to be the parent company of the Trinidad and Tobago Mortgage Finance Company and The Home Mortgage Bank. The new company will be called The Trinidad and Tobago Mortgage Bank. The process is expected to be completed by 2014/12/31. Subsequent to the merger, an IPO will be</p>

Pillar	Initiative	Project Description	Objectives	Deliverables	Beneficiaries	Status (%)	Remarks
							launched.
Pillar 4 – Information and Communication Technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating and nurturing a competitive business environment</li> </ul>	The integration of ASYCUDA World and the Single Electronic Window	The integration of the ASYCUDA World System, managed by the Customs and Excise Division of the Ministry of Finance and the Economy and the SEW, Ministry of Industry and Investment in order to provide a seamless, efficient service to the private sector.	An integrated information technology trade facilitation platform	Traders Government Agencies	On-going	Requirements phase completed. Design phase completed on 19/08/13. Interface built by Customs and completed on 31st October 2013. Testing phase to commence, awaiting transmission of sample licenses and permits

Pillar	Initiative	Project Description	Objectives	Deliverables	Beneficiaries	Status (%)	Remarks
							from the Ministry of Trade.
Pillar 4 – Information and Communication Technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating and nurturing a competitive business environment</li> </ul>	Central Tenders Board Contractor Registration System	<p>This project seeks to provide an information system for the Central Tenders Board that serves as a single repository of Contractors\Suppliers\Consultants such that various procurement agencies can query the system for listings of registered companies. This would facilitate transparency in the vendor selection process by the use of a consistent set of guidelines to pre-qualify registrants. This project would be in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and leverages on the TTBizLink initiative.</p>	A Contractor Registration System	Contractors Suppliers Consultants Procuring agencies Central Tenders Board	On-going	<p>All technical aspects of this project were completed. It was launched, and is currently available to the public for use. Two outstanding administrative items remain which would complete this project. 1) A memorandum of understanding regarding responsibilities and</p>

Pillar	Initiative	Project Description	Objectives	Deliverables	Beneficiaries	Status (%)	Remarks
							ownership between Ministry of Finance and the Economy and the Ministry of Trade. 2) User access rights to be finalised for back-end administration.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing long-term investment instruments like tradable deposit certificates</li> </ul>						



Pillar	Initiative	Project Description	Objectives	Deliverables	Beneficiaries	Status (%)	Remarks
Pillar 5 – A More Diversified, Knowledge Intensive Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying strategic sectors and incentives to elicit private sector investment to enhance and accelerate the diversification process</li> </ul>	Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) for National Diagnostic Centres (PPPNDC)	To engage the private sector through PPPs to provide diagnostic services (imaging and laboratory/pathology), to complement the public hospitals' diagnostic capacity, and provide direct service to the primary care population at the level of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention diagnostic support.	Additional Diagnostic Services – it is envisaged that the additional diagnostic capacity and services will be made available and delivered by suitably qualified parties using purpose built facilities separate and apart from the public hospitals and which are to be located to yield optimal benefits to the populace of the Trinidad and Tobago.	Populace of Trinidad and Tobago	On-going	<p>The project is at the Initial Business Case stage of the project development process and it is being advanced with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank pursuant to a Non-reimbursable Technical Cooperation No. ATN/ME-12262-TT.</p> <p>The IBC is expected to be completed in October 2014.</p>
Pillar 5 – A More Diversified, Knowledge Intensive Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying strategic sectors and incentives to</li> </ul>	PPP for Ten (10) Primary Schools and ten (10) Early Childhood Care and Education	To procure ten (10) Primary Schools and ten (10) Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Centres using the Design-Build-Finance-Maintain	At minimum, the successful private party or parties would be responsible for	Citizens of Trinidad and Tobago	On-going	The project is at the Initial Business Case stage of the project

Pillar	Initiative	Project Description	Objectives	Deliverables	Beneficiaries	Status (%)	Remarks
	elicit private sector investment to enhance and accelerate the diversification process	(ECCE) Centres	(DBFM) project delivery method.	designing, constructing, financing and maintaining ten (10) Primary Schools and ten (10) Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Centres during an anticipated 20 to 30 year contract duration.			development process and it is being advanced with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank pursuant to a Non-reimbursable Technical Cooperation No. ATN/ME-12262-TT  The IBC is expected to be completed in October 2014.
Pillar 5 – A More Diversified, Knowledge Intensive Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying strategic sectors and incentives to elicit private sector investment to enhance and accelerate</li> </ul>	PPP for National Broadband Plan for Development	Facilitate implementation of universal telecommunication service for Trinidad and Tobago	<p>Tender documents for <b>Alternative Submarine Cable Landing Station</b></p> <p>Tender documents for <b>PPP for Broadband</b></p>	Citizens of Trinidad and Tobago	On-going	Cabinet has agreed to the establishment of an Execution Team to oversee the implementation of the project.

Pillar	Initiative	Project Description	Objectives	Deliverables	Beneficiaries	Status (%)	Remarks
	ate the diversification process						<p>The Execution Team has advanced components of the project and is seeking to finalize the engagement of World Bank Group (WBG) to provide specialist consultancy services to the projects as was agreed to by Cabinet.</p> <p>The project is expected to be completed within nine (9) months following the engagement of WBG.</p>

Pillar	Initiative	Project Description	Objectives	Deliverables	Beneficiaries	Status (%)	Remarks
Pillar 5 – A More Diversified, Knowledge Intensive Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying strategic sectors and incentives to elicit private sector investment to enhance and accelerate the diversification process</li> </ul>	FINeSS - Financial Institutions Operations Support Services	Co-ordination role in terms of tax legislative changes among the TTIFC, the Financial Institutions Clients, the Board of Inland Revenue, the Free Zone Company and other regulatory agencies or stakeholders, in respect of new clients that are relocating and centralising back-office operations in TT.	(1) Financial services sub-sector  (2) Facilitation of middle- and back-office operations of financial institutions	Regional and International Financial Institutions	Completed	Back office processing officially opened on 28 August, 2013. VAT Order published.
Pillar 6 – Good Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consulting with the credit union movement to strengthen credit unions through legislation and effective supervisory mechanism</li> </ul>						In July 2005, Cabinet agreed that the supervision of the financial activities of all credit unions should be integrated under the aegis of the <b>Central Bank of</b>

Pillar	Initiative	Project Description	Objectives	Deliverables	Beneficiaries	Status (%)	Remarks
	isms						<p><b>Trinidad and Tobago.</b></p> <p>Accordingly, Cabinet also agreed that the Co-operative Societies Act, Chap 81:03 should be amended to remove the supervision of the financial activities of credit unions from the mandate of the Commissioner for Co-operative Development. The Central Bank will assume its responsibilities with the passage of a Credit Union Act.</p> <p>The Bill is currently at the Law</p>

Pillar	Initiative	Project Description	Objectives	Deliverables	Beneficiaries	Status (%)	Remarks
							Reform Commission.
Pillar 6 – Good Governance	The Public Financial Management (PFM) Reform strategy focuses on the current and prospective efforts to put in place modern institutional and technological systems and procedures, for effective, efficient and transparent public financial management and reporting.	Development of an Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS)	The acquisition of an IT solution to strengthen the financial management capacity for the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, in order to improve the efficiency of public expenditure, the alignment between resource allocation and the pursuit of Government’s main policy goals and the quality of service delivery to the population and greater accountability and efficiency of public expenditure.	An Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS)	Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies	On-going	Draft Cabinet Note prepared. Project is now part of Public Financial Management Reform. Final Strategic reports for the reform in the Treasury Division were submitted by Consultants. Consultants now engaged in process mapping.

**THE MINISTRY  
OF  
FOOD  
PRODUCTION**

**THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PRODUCTION**  
**MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2012-13**  
**AND PLANNED POLICY INITIATIVES FOR 2014-1015**

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**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Ministry of Food Production (MFP) through its National Food Action Plan 2012-2015, seeks to make Trinidad and Tobago a food secure nation. In so doing the Action Plan seeks to:

1. Reduce the food import bill;
2. Further reduce inflation, primarily driven food prices;
3. Create sustainable, long term productive employment
4. Contribute to the diversification of the economy; and
5. Increase the country's food security.

The activities of the MFP during the fiscal year 2013-2014 focused on making Trinidad and Tobago a food secure nation and are detailed here under.

This report presents the major achievements of the MFP for the fiscal period 2013-2014 as well as the planned policies for 2014-2015.



## **2.0 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **2.1 *Infrastructure Development***

The MFP continued its work in infrastructure development such as **access roads, water management and flood control.**

#### *Access Roads*

During the 2013-2014 fiscal period, a total of 38.07 km of agriculture access roads were rehabilitated and 30.8 km were maintained and 30.78km rehabilitated.

#### *Water Management and Flood Control*

With respect to **Water Management and Flood Control**, 213 ponds were constructed and 226.45km were desilted.

Twenty (20) drip irrigation systems were purchased for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. However only ten (10) were installed due to inclement weather. It is proposed that the other 10 would be installed in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

### **2.2 *Agricultural Incentives***

Recognising the need to refocus on increased food production, particularly at the primary level and on the conservation of the environment, a **revised Agricultural Incentive Program was approved by Cabinet in April 2011.** Through the AIP, the Ministry is attempting to ensure that all available lands are kept under agricultural production by providing incentives to encourage farmers to continue and expand their current production levels. However, this AIP, focused on small farmers.

In fiscal year **2013-2014**, a total of three thousand three hundred and ninety (3390) applications for agricultural incentives were processed at a value of eighteen million, eight hundred and seventy-seven thousand, four hundred and eighty dollars (\$18,877,480.00).

In June 2014, Cabinet approved a Revised Agricultural Incentive Programme to cater for large farms.

### **2.3 Access to Credit**

The 2013/2014 National Budget did not declare or make provisions for funding to the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) for fiscal 2013-2014. This significantly affected the ability of the Bank to aggressively pursue its loan approval and disbursement targets. This slowdown of activity has impacted the revenue generation capacity of the Bank; only \$15.4M of the budgeted \$19.6M of loan interest income being achieved at the end of April 2014. The ADB is in urgent need of a cash injection from the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) to be able to service loans approved and awaiting disbursement to the value of \$113M.

As at the end of April 2014, 391 loans with a value of \$100,728,608 were approved by the bank for agricultural service, agro processing, marine fishery, ornamental fishery, food Crops, forestry, livestock (dairy and pigs).

The ADB offer a suite of financial products at an interest rate of 3-5 percent. These include; **New Reality Loan** for agri-business in any sub-sector. Through **ADB Secure**, loans are granted to guard against praedial larceny, a major constraint to food production. Financing is provided, for personal and agri-business security thereby boosting investor confidence, encouraging increased production and fulfilling the mandate of increasing local production. The **Dairy Gro' Loan** seeks to assist the dairy sub-sector Increase production from cattle.

**Activities for 2014-2015 include:**

- Facilitating the implementation of new products to customers such as Caroni Green, Dairy Loan,
- Developing a strategy to stabilise and diversify the Bank's Funding Base
- Introducing new Financial Products
- Reviewing of Governance Structures

#### **2.4 Risk Management**

Praedial larceny has been recognised as one of the constraints to sustainable agricultural development, as well as a practice that is negatively impacting the development of the agricultural sector, as farmers suffer heavy losses and are hesitant to invest and expand their enterprise.

The nature of praedial larceny is changing with increased frequency of incidences and volumes of agricultural products. Praedial larceny has moved from the theft of small amounts such as petty thieving to satisfy household food insecurities to large amounts such as truckloads of agricultural produce or entire fields of crops.

The national Praedial Larceny Squad (PLS) through the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Food Production and the Ministry of National Security was effectively established on **November 25, 2013**. At present, the unit consists of one Superintendent, one Assistant Superintendent, two Inspectors, five Sergeants, twelve Corporals and seventy- nine Constables

The goal of the PLS is to reduce the incidence of praedial larceny in Trinidad and through the implementation of various interdiction and suppression strategies including patrols, surveillance, arrests and prosecutions.

The four (4) Divisional Offices which are open 24 hours are located as follows:

- Central Division- Carlsen Field, Chaguanas

- Southern Division- Craguish Village, Princes Town
- Eastern Division- Farm Road, St. Joseph
- Northern Division- VMCOTT Compound, Beetham Highway, Port of Spain

### **Achievements**

Since its inception to **May 26, 2014** the activities of the Praedial Larceny Squad included

- (i) 1,562 patrols
- (ii) 2,001 visits to farmers
- (iii) 223 visits to Markets
- (iv) recorded 128 reports of praedial larceny
- (v) 51 arrests of which 5 persons were imprisoned
- (vi) Detected a total of seventy-five (75) offences of which twenty-eight (28) were praedial larceny offences, twenty-two (22) were ticket offences and twenty-five (25) were other offences. These offences have resulted in fines of \$47,300.00.

### **2.5 Caroni Green Initiative**

Cabinet approved the Caroni GREEN in February 2013. Caroni 1975 Ltd. (Caroni) was appointed Project Manager to Caroni GREEN. Caroni GREEN's mandate is to bring into cultivation the 2 acre plots given to the former Caroni employees as part of their VSEP and who have not engaged in cultivation of those plots.

Cultivation was scheduled as follows:

- Phase 1 – cultivation of 560 acres – planting to start in May 2013
- Phase 2 – cultivation of 1,240 acres – planting to start in May 2014
- Phase 3 – cultivation of 4,000 acres – planting to start in September 2014

It is envisaged that the Project will assist in the implementation plan for the **Government's National Food Production Action Plan 2012 – 2015.**

Phase 1 of the initiative commenced in June 2013 resulting in 23 crops cultivated on 360 acres of land as at the end of March 2014. This has created 80 jobs and by the end of March 2014, a total of 292 metric tonnes of produce were harvested from Caroni GREEN fields.

In October 2013 Cabinet approved the setting up of a state company for Caroni GREEN.

- Over the past 10 months 360 acres of land were cultivated ( 90 acres in Union East, 180 acres in Union West, 60 acres in Exchange Reserve and 46 acres of 2 acre plots ) – on a rotational basis
- 24 Farmers were contracted
- 60 Contract were awarded
- 23 Crops were cultivated
- This generated 80 additional jobs
- 292 metric tonnes of produce were harvested to date

Caroni GREEN has developed linkages with all the major supermarket chains and to date have sold approximately 30 metric tonnes of produce to these supermarkets. In addition, two of the largest importers of fresh vegetables have agreed to partner with Caroni GREEN in the future and will be targeting specific acreages to be cultivated in crops to satisfy their markets. In the process, they have agreed to reduce their imports as Caroni GREEN gears up to supply them with the necessary quantity and quality agreed.

## **2.6 Legislation**

The Ministry recognises the urgent need to provide an enabling environment to stimulate further growth in the agricultural sector. In this regard, the Ministry is presently engaged in the revision of a package of legislation which will provide appropriate support for the sector. These include:

- Land Adjudication Act 1994;
- Plant Protection Act 1975;

- Fisheries Management Bill;
- Cocoa and Coffee Industry Board (CCIB) Act ;and
- Trawling Act.

In October 2013, Cabinet repealed the Cocoa and Coffee Industry Board (CCIB) Act. The CCIB has been replaced by the Cocoa Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago.

## **2.7 Commercial Large Farms**

The Commercial Large Farms Programme (CLFP) is an initiative of the Ministry of Food Production wherein the State partners with private agri-investors in a public-private arrangement to establish Large Commercial Farms in Trinidad. These farms normally average between 100 acres – 300 acres in size and are situated mainly on former sugarcane lands. One of the major goals of the programme is to attract and engage a cadre of agri-entrepreneurs, who possess agri-business acumen and private capital, into the agri-food sector.

The Commercial Large Farms Programme (CLFP) was developed to fulfil the following objectives within the supply side of the agricultural sector:-

1. To increase efficiency and productivity in the sector through economies of scale and rapid increase in the acquisition and utilization of new technologies;
2. To provide an adequate, reliable and high quality supply of raw material to service the agro-processing and food manufacturing sectors;
3. To facilitate the transfer of new technologies to the small farms sub-sector;
4. To increase the quantity, quality and reliability of domestic food supply thereby stabilizing domestic food prices and ensuring adequate supplies of nutritious food is available to the population at affordable prices;
5. To enhance the competitiveness of the export sub-sector; and
6. To support the need to increase national food production and improve our food and nutrition security status.

Currently the Ministry of Food Production is facilitating the establishment of 12 Commercial Large Farms in Trinidad. These are:

- Technology Farms Ltd. - Orange Grove Estate, Orange Grove.
- Edingburgh Farms Ltd. - Perseverence Road, Edingburgh.
- Two Brothers Corporation - Warren, Caroni
- Evergreen Ranch Ltd - Picton IV, Picton Estate
- Kent Farms - Orange Grove 2
- Two Brothers Corporation - Bejuca
- Rice Growers Limited - Orange Grove 3
- AGA Agriculture Company - La Gloria
- Garden Choice Orchards Ltd . - La Gloria
- Danny's Enterprise Company Ltd - Picton I
- Caribbean Chemicals and Agency Ltd - Tucker Valley
- Trinidad and Tobago Small Ruminant - Picton V
- Development Company Ltd.

## **2.8 Development of The Rice Industry**

The Ministry of Food Production, in an attempt to increase local rice production, has instituted an action plan aimed at revitalising the local rice industry with the following objectives:

- To facilitate and provide an enabling environment so that locally produced rice can increase to a target of **50% of total consumption by 2018;**
- To increase **overall efficiency and productivity** in the local rice industry through knowledge transfer and training, use of modern **mechanized** production technologies, high yielding quality varieties and **efficient milling systems;**

- To produce a higher quality locally produced rice that is of comparative quality to imported rice;
- To facilitate **increased private sector participation** in the major roles along the rice commodity value chain whilst simultaneously **reducing the role and reliance of the State**; and
- To develop a sustainable, profitable and **private sector led** local rice industry.

### **Achievements 2013-2014**

The major achievements emanating from the implementation of the Action Plan for Rice included the:

- Establishment of a Rice Development and Coordinating Committee comprising the major stakeholders in the Rice Industry;
- Resuscitation of 300 acres of fully mechanised rice farming in the Plum Mitan District;
- Distribution of 580 acres of land for rice cultivation under the Government's Commercial Large Farm Programme (CLFP);
- Facilitation of the importation of commercial certified seeds from Guyana; and
- Establishment of pumping stations in the Caroni areas to assist farmers in assessing water during the low rainfall period in February 2013.
- Local production in 2013 was recorded as 2,859.44 metric tonnes



## **2.9 Livestock Improvement Programme**

### **Livestock Production**

One of the main objectives in the National Food Crop Action Plan 2012-2015 is to reduce the food import bill by focusing on the development of six (6) commodities, livestock being identified as one of those commodities, with the aim of increasing local production of sheep and goat for meat, dairy goats, dairy cattle, rabbits for meat and buffalypso for meat and milk. The goal of the Animal Production Sub-Division is to provide quality services and livestock to the livestock farming community in order to support rural development and assist in poverty reduction.

In an effort at increasing local self-sufficiency in sheep and goat meat and developing the small ruminant subsector, the Ministry of Food Production (MFP) embarked on a number of initiatives to support the development of the livestock subsector. Through collaboration with the **Common Fund for Commodities, T&T embarked** on a Small Ruminant Project to be implemented over a four (4) year period; and acquired and disseminated **genetic material** to the farming community for sheep and goat. Government has already achieved 70 metric tonnes of dairy goat production and are working towards the realisation of its target of 80 metric tonnes by 2015.

During the previous fiscal year sixty-eight (68) breeding type animals were sold. For this period one hundred and fifty-six were sold more than one hundred farmers. Most of the animals (71%) sold were males as the Unit retained the females to expand the breeding flock. The requests from farmers were mainly for rams because sheep have a short gestation period and new males are often required for daughters of standing males.

The Artificial Breeding Centre, a Unit of the Animal Production Sub-Division also provided an artificial insemination service for sheep throughout the country. Ram stud services were also available at breeding units mainly in South Trinidad. The goal of the Goat Multiplication Unit is to generate breeding stock of superior quality for dissemination to the farming community and

to upgrade the genetic potential of the local goat herd by increasing the efficiency of goat meat and milk production.

#### Achievements for 2013-2014

- Establishment of a Small Ruminant Multiplication Unit at the Aripo Livestock Station;
- Improvement of infrastructure and the purchase of equipment under the Livestock Improvement Programme;
- Installation of Fencing and Pasture Rehabilitation;
- Development of an enhanced forage base feeding system;
- Construction of infrastructure to provide a safe working environment in accordance with OSHA requirements;
- Purchase and installation of equipment to facilitate the implementation of research activities.

Forty-five hectares of pastures were re-established and rehabilitated at the Mon Jaloux Forage Development Centre, producing 224 metric tonnes of harvested grass, which was sold as fresh green forage to farmers. Hay making equipment was purchased and this will increase the quantity of forages available to farmers during the dry season when there is a shortage of grass. At the Forage Development Centre, new buildings were constructed to accommodate, main stores, chemical fertilizer stores, garage and workshop, forages (fresh grass and hay), security personnel, administrative staff and workers. The Mon Jaloux Forage Development Centre successfully harvested hay from 6.8 acres of pasture of tanner grass and approximately 820 bales of hay were obtained.

#### ***INITIATIVES FOR 2015 INCLUDE:***

- Commercialisation of the sale of hay;
- Removal of illegal farmers on arable pasture lands; and
- Construction of research and laboratory facilities.

### ***2.10 Development of the Fisheries Sub-Sector***

The MFP continued its mandate of the provision of infrastructure and facilities that meet both local and/or international standards, in accordance with the practice of responsible fisheries. Work continued on the upgrade of twelve fishing centres namely, Blanchisseuse, Cocorite, Orange Valley/Brickfield, Carenage, Las Cuevas Phase I, La Ruffin, Grande Riviere, Grande Riviere, Blue River, La Brea, Cacandee, Grand Chemin and Marabella.

The Aquaculture Unit provided general extension services, technical advice and guidance in the planning, design, construction and operation of hatcheries and production systems. Training in commercial aquaculture also continued. In addition, the Aquaculture unit has been involved in designing and development of aquaponics systems. Currently small scale model systems suitable for subsistence use or personal 'backyard' systems have been conceptualized, designed and built. These small scale systems aim to afford owners a system that can provide vegetable and fish produce for household consumption.

Work continued on the **Aquaculture Demonstration Centre at Bamboo Grove** with the beautification of the highway and refurbishment of ponds, raceways buildings and aquarium building. Sale of Tilapia continues at the SFC.

## **2.11 MARKETING AND AGRO-PROCESSING**

### ***Local Marketing***

The local market is the largest market for fresh agricultural produce through its many channels and not restricted to wholesale markets, retail markets, farmers markets, supermarkets, institutional buyers, hotels, processors and the catering industry.

During 2013-2014 NAMDEVCO continued to link farmers direct to market this realised direct linkage with farmers to supermarkets (Hilo, Tru Value and JTA), caterers of the National Schools Dietary Services limited (NSDSL) (bodi, pumpkin, sweet pepper, fruits) processors (hot peppers, sweet peppers, herbs and seasoning, papaya, citrus, cassava and sweet potato). Work has

commenced with the NSDSL to replace potato with papaya and breadfruit in all of its curry meals. Trials have started with favourable results being obtained.

Through the Piarco Packinghouse, agri-entrepreneurs are facilitated to realise direct marketing. Currently frozen root crops are processed at the packinghouse which is destined for supermarkets.

The 2013-2014 citrus crop was good this year with an abundance of fruits. NAMDEVCO played a key role in linking farmers to buyers with particular focus on processors and caterers of the School Nutrition Programme

### ***Regional Market Expansion –***

#### **Barbados**

Work continued with exporters to supply the Barbados market with fresh produce. Emphasis is placed on exportation of watermelons and citrus, Work has commenced with an exporter to supply a supermarket chain which was recently established in Barbados. This would further facilitate the marketing of produce from farmers.

#### **St. Lucia**

Work has commenced on the development of a protocol for trade in fresh agricultural produce between Trinidad and St. Lucia.

#### ***International Market***

Work continued with exporters to facilitate export to Toronto and New York. Bad weather in North America during the current winter period restricted growth.

## **Buyers and Sellers Forum**

A buyers and sellers forum was hosted which provided a networking opportunity for both stakeholders so that farmers can get the price for their produce and buyers get the best quality on a consistent basis.

## **Industry Development**

### ***Cassava***

With respect to cassava, a breakfast cereal was developed through collaboration with a private company. This product is expected to be launched in October 2014. A meeting session was held with members of the Bakery Association to promote the increased utilisation of cassava.

### ***Sea Food***

Major infrastructural upgrades were completed for the Orange Valley Wholesale Fish Market and Electrical Upgrade to the Port Of Spain Wholesale Fish Market. Consultation with fisher folk, institutional stakeholders and other stakeholders for the expansion of the Orange Valley Wholesale Fish Market was held.

## **Grades and Standards and Post-Harvest Management**

Draft Fresh Produce Standards were prepared for Cassava and Sweet Potatoes. Sensitization and training of farmers in grades and standards and post-harvest management for fresh produce, with particular focus on vegetables were conducted in Mayaro, Tableland, Valencia, Couva, Cunupia, Plum Mitan, and Gasparillo.

## **Farm Certification and Monitoring Programme**

Farm Certification of farmers continued during the fiscal year. Exports of fresh agricultural produce recommenced to Barbados and linkage to markets in Barbados, USA and Canada were established between farmers on the Farm Certification and Monitoring Programme and exporters of fresh agricultural produce to USA, Canada and Barbados. The main commodities included: hot peppers, pumpkins, watermelons and dasheen leaves.

### **School Nutrition Programme**

Caterers on the School Nutrition Programme were linked to farmers on the Farm Certification and Monitoring Programme. The major commodities being citrus, dasheen leaves and pumpkins.

### **Central Farmers Wholesale Market**

Cabinet approved the conversion of the Former Rice Bond at Woodford Lodge to a central Farmers Wholesale Market. Rehabilitation work has commenced.

### **Small Scale Packinghouse**

Construction works have commenced on the packing houses to located at Brechin Castle, Brickfield and Wallerfield.

## ***2.12 Youth in Agriculture***

The MFP, through the Agriculture Now Training Unit continued its mandate of training three thousand (3,000) persons (2012 – 2015) to assist in the transformation of the sector. The training programmes focus on:

- Promoting home gardening for individual and community food and nutrition security,
- Generating a semi-skill workforce for the sector and
- Creation of micro and small entrepreneurs

### ***ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2013-2014***

### 1. Agriculture Training for Placement:

- 371 persons registered for training; 286 persons trained and graduated
- A total of 54 persons being monitored after being placed on farmers' holdings at a minimum of \$150 / day.

### 2. Community Supported Agriculture:

- Bayshore (Marabella) Youth Group (21 persons)
- Cashew Gardens (19 persons)

## **2.13 Research and Development**

### ***Crop Protection***

The MFP, continued its work aimed at improving the quality of production yields. In this regard some of the achievement achieved during 2013-2014 include:

- **Pest and disease control** through the development of a database encompassing pests reported in Trinidad and Tobago. To date a comprehensive pest list has been developed for vegetables, legumes, root crops, forest trees, herbs and spices and ornamentals.
- **Eradication of pests and diseases.** The *Giant African Snail* continues to be a threat to agriculture and has spread to several areas throughout Trinidad. In an effort to eradicate, 29,645 snails have been found with 11, 186 dead and 18, 459 alive. These areas have been bated regularly to eradicate this snail A public awareness campaign was initiated involving:

- ❖ Television ads aired on all three main local television stations;
  - ❖ Pest alerts and fact sheets have been distributed; and use of digital sign boards at NAMDEVCO sites and Horticultural Office.
- 
- **Integrated Pest Management** strategies are being developed to address the problems of Red Palm Mite and Coconut Palm weevle /beetle and Red Ring disease which affect the coconut industry.
  
  - **Mandatory Citrus Certification Programme**, Work continues at the facility at Curepe with expected completion in 2014.

***PROPOSED INITIATIVES FOR 2014/2015:***

1. Continue surveys for frosty pod, citrus greening, citrus canker, citrus scab, lethal yellowing in coconut, *fusarium* wilt Tropical race 4.
2. Awareness workshops for Citrus greening, citrus canker, citrus scab, *fusarium* wilt (Tropical race 4) for the farming community.
3. Development of an action plan for citrus greening, citrus canker, *fusarium* wilt (Tropical race 4).
4. Continued eradication efforts for Giant African Snail, control of Red palm mite and red ring disease.
5. Continued research in use of entomopathogens in controlling red palm mite, use of predatory mite in control of same and bio control of coconut beetle, the vector for red ring disease.



### **2.14 Labour for Agriculture**

Labour continues to be a key challenge for the agricultural sector and the MFP has therefore implemented a number of programmes aimed at training a cadre of agricultural labourers.

These include the:

- ❖ **Unemployment Relief Program (URP)** The Research Division of the MFP, continues to utilise labour from the URP to assist in the management of the Giant African Snail Project. The Fisheries Division also utilises workers for management of the Bamboo Aquaculture Demonstration Project, particularly the planting of its Green Fence.

# THE MINISTRY

# OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ACHIEVEMENTS 2010 - 2015

### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2010

- During the period of 2010, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs **continued to undertake measures to improve its institutional effectiveness**. To that end, it recruited new officers and engaged in continuous staff training and development. A complement of thirty (30) International Relations Officers (IROs) was employed on contract, with eleven of them serving at the Overseas Missions. In-house training workshops and programmes were conducted to enhance the knowledge, skills and abilities of members of staff. These included pre-posting Seminars, Orientation and Induction training in collaboration with the Institute of International Relations at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine; workshops and seminars such as Immigration procedures, Excellence in

Customer Service, Cross Cultural Negotiations, Defensive Driving, Microsoft Office Computer Skills at YTEPP and Supervisory Development. Foreign Service Officers and International Relations Officers also participated in courses offered by the DiploFoundation, UNITAR and the WTO to enhance their learning abilities and competencies in specialised areas.

- To **improve its reach to its various publics**, the Ministry launched its website in 2010. In addition, it also launched the Foreign Affairs Journalism Awards, the International Year for People of African Descent (IYPAD) and the 9th Annual Calypso History Month.
- The **organisation and implementation of the 1st Future Diplomats' Secondary School Essay Competition** with the objectives to foster competencies in various aspects of diplomacy and foreign policy among secondary school students and to increase awareness of the Ministry's work and mandate.
- The High Commission London was awarded the Diplomatic Award from Ben TV for its work in **Diaspora growth and development, providing good customer service and promoting the country's interest abroad.**
- The **enhancement of the physical infrastructure** of Headquarters and acquisition and renovation of properties for the Overseas Missions and residences of staff based abroad. These enhancements included the outfitting and construction of offices on Levels 10-14 at the Waterfront Complex at Tower C, renovation of Flagstaff apartments, the refurbishment and renovation of the residences of the Ambassador Permanent Representation to the United Nations (PRUN), New York and Embassy, Caracas and Embassy, Brussels, Staff Residences for the Consul General, Miami and outfitting of the newly acquired Chancery of Embassy, Washington D.C. and the acquisition of Residences for the Consul General, Miami and staff of PRUN, New York and Consulate General, New York and residences for staff in particular at PRUN, New York, Embassy,

Washington D.C. Embassy, Brussels and the outfitting and re-modelling works were completed at the Chancery, Costa Rica.

- In accordance with Pillar 4 (*Information and Communication Technologies*) of the Seven Interconnected Pillars for Sustainable Development which seeks to connect Trinidad and Tobago whilst building a new economy, the Ministry developed a document management system to assist in file movement and computerization of records in the Ministry.
- **In the area of crisis management and assistance**, the Ministry played a pivotal role in the aftermath of the disastrous 7.0 earthquake in the island of Haiti in **January, 2010**. It assisted and facilitated the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) to coordinate the collection of relief items from the local population for onward shipment to Haiti. **In April 2010**, the Ministry made a contribution of US\$25,000.00 on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to the Acting Minister of External Relations and Worship of Costa Rica. This contribution represented Government's donation towards the ongoing restoration projects of the Government of Costa Rica following the January 2009 earthquake. This encouraged the strengthening of bilateral relationships
- In February, 2010, the **Ministry signed the Agreement on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago** which established The Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA). Ten (10) Countries signed the agreement..
- On 21 April 2010, the Treaty between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Government of Grenada on the Delimitation of Marine and Submarine Areas was signed. Trinidad and Tobago agreed to provide two (2) vehicles to be used in the security detail of the Prime Minister of Grenada.

- In the field of **education diplomacy**, the Ministry through its Embassy in San José, Costa Rica operated a booth at the First National Language Fair from the 30<sup>th</sup> April to the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010. This event promoted Trinidad and Tobago as a destination for English language training. Furthermore in December 2010, the Embassy made a contribution of approximately US\$315.00 to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago School in Sarapiquí to assist with an end of year appreciation function for the pupils.
- In the area of **cultural diplomacy**, the Ministry, through the High Commission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in London, attended the BT Melodians Steel Orchestra's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Award Presentation Concert and presented the Top Award to the recipient in recognition of his talent.
- With respect to **consular diplomacy and providing consular services to its nationals abroad**, the Ministry, through its diplomatic network in Europe, received a total of thirty-four (34) applications from Germany for submission to Port of Spain, and was able to enhance its capacity to process applications for the new Machine Readable Passports. This was done through the acquisition of an additional Passport Reception Booth and through the acquisition of an additional machine to capture Reception Information for use in the issuance of Machine Readable passports. On the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010, a total of two thousand and ninety-four (2494) applications were accepted and transmitted to Port-of-Spain for processing. For his also enabled the Ministry to derive revenue to add to the national purse. For instance, the total revenue received by the High Commission of the United Kingdom for the period 2010 amounted to ninety one thousand one hundred and sixty nine pounds sterling (£91,169.00).
- To **further promote Trinidad and Tobago as a good destination for trade and investment**, the Ministry played a pivotal role in the negotiations and eventual signing of an Agreement for the reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments between the government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Swiss Confederation.

This Agreement would facilitate trade and business between the two countries and also it encourages the potential for increased investment and economic cooperation.

- To **deepen its relations with its Commonwealth partners**, the Ministry, through its High Commission in London, acted on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and contribute the sum of £10,000 to the work of the Eminent Persons Group which had been established upon the decision taken at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM) held in Port-of-Spain in 2001. **Trinidad and Tobago was among the first to pledge toward the work of the EPG demonstrating its commitment in political as well as financial terms to fulfilling the mandates arising from the Port-of-Spain CHOGM.**
- In the **area of technical cooperation and deepening bilateral relations**, the Ministry, through the Embassy of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at Brasília, dialogued with the Government of the republic of *Brazil which then agreed to assist Trinidad and Tobago in connection with the proposed Diplomatic Academy. The Brazilian Institute for Agricultural Research also agreed to collaborate with the Ministry of Food Production in Trinidad and Tobago in various projects. In addition to this, the Ministry signed a Technical Agreement on Agriculture, Health, Tourism and Transport Memoranda of Understanding on five priority areas including assistance in HIV Aids Programmes, Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism Development, Transportation Linkages and Cultural Advancement* with Brazil. *Brazil also committed to airing the views of CARICOM at the Meetings of the Group of Twenty and other international fora*, on issues such as the impacts of Climate Change and Global Financial Crisis.

## **MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2011**

### **January 2011**

Trinidad and Tobago re-established its diplomatic relations with the republic of South Africa with the arrival there of His Excellency Harry who assumed duties as High

Commissioner Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the Republic of South Africa.

### March 2011

The Trinidad and Tobago Embassy in Havana produced its first issue of the quarterly, bilingual news booklet "T&T El Caribeño/ The Caribbean"

### May 2011

- The Ministry, through Her Excellency Jones-Kernhan, **signed a non-binding agreement with the representative of the Immunology and Molecular Centre (CIMAB) as a supplier of high quality, price competitive, pharmaceutical products to the public health system of Trinidad and Tobago.**
  - The new office of the Consulate General was officially opened.
  - The High Commissioner, Pretoria was able to intervene and **assist nationals in distress** who had been arrested by the South African authorities for working whilst on a visitor's visa.
  - **Trade and Investment Promotion:** The Ministry, through its High Commission in Ottawa, published the Trinidad and Tobago in Canada magazine. The magazine featured general information regarding Trinidad and Tobago, investment opportunities in the energy sector and the activities of the High Commission. The magazine was distributed to Canadian Government and other officials throughout Canada.

### September 2011

- With respect to **deepening our engagement on the multilateral plane**, the Ministry, through its PRUN, New York, **organize, facilitated and hosted the Side Event on Women's Political Participation, on the margins of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.** The outcomes of this significant Side Meeting were a Joint Statement on Advancing Political Participation of women which was signed by all women leaders including the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar;
  - The Ministry, through PRUN, New York, also facilitated the publication of an article prepared under the hand of the Prime Minister the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, in the September 2011 issue of "Spectrum", the biannual magazine of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

### October 2011

- With respect to **deepening South-South Cooperation**, the Honourable Minister of the then Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Communications held a meeting with the Deputy-Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Special Unit for South-South Cooperation. During this time, *the Ministry participated in the 2011 National Conference for Environmental Management* which was hosted by the University of the West Indies, the University of Trinidad and Tobago and a coalition of Non-Governmental Organisations. The *outcome was a document the “Action Plan Arising out of the First Annual Conference for Environmental Management in Trinidad and Tobago”*. This working document for policymakers highlighted the environmental issues affecting Trinidad and Tobago and recommends a way forward.
  
- **Education diplomacy** - In Canada, Trinidad and Tobago’s diplomatic network met with representatives from DFAIT and the Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE)...International scholarships and tertiary education opportunities were the main items discussed at this meeting and at its conclusions members agree that these would be three main actions moving forward:
  1. Ensuring that there is participation from Trinidad and Tobago in the upcoming Collaboration Mission in Quebec, details to be forwarded to the High Commission
  2. To provide the High Commission with the regional office contacts as well as the different sectors that could be of interest during His Excellency’s visit to Alberta.
  3. The provision of the main contacts for the Association of Canadian Community College (ACCC) and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) that will assist in establishing partnerships in technical and vocational training.
  
- **Consular diplomacy** - The Agreement between the government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Government of Switzerland on Mutual Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic, Service and Official Passports.
  - This will facilitate travel between the two countries for holders of diplomatic, official and service passports and to strengthen mutual cooperation, the Governments concluded the aforementioned Agreement.
  
- **Trade and Investment** - Partial Scope Trade Agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and Panama.
  - This will facilitate the progressive reduction and elimination of barriers to trade thus contributing to the expansion of trade and furthering economic development for Trinidad and Tobago.
  
- **Framework Agreement on the Provision of a Concessional Loan between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Government of the People’s Republic of China.**



- This loan is to be applied to additional works to be carried out on the National Academy for the Performing Arts, north and south.
- **Cultural Cooperation** - Steps were taken to assist in the registration of the registration of the Nigeria-Trinidad and Tobago Steelpan Development Company Limited through an approach to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and National Orientation of Nigeria. The entity was later re-named and successfully registered as the Africa-Trinidad and Tobago steelpan Development Company Limited.
- **Privileges and Immunities of the International Seabed Authority Bill**  
As a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS), Trinidad and Tobago is a member of the International Seabed Authority which was established under Article 156 of the Convention. The Authority was established to regulate activities and administer the resources in the maritime area beyond national jurisdiction. The bill seeks to provide for the implementation of the Privileges and Immunities of the International Seabed Authority and UNCLOS.
- **Privileges and Immunities IMPACS Order 2011**  
This Order seeks to provide for the Privileges and Immunities of the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security in order for the latter to operate in Trinidad and Tobago in accordance with the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (the Headquarters Agreement).
- **Biological Weapons Bill**  
Trinidad and Tobago acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their destruction on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Having acceded to this Convention Trinidad and Tobago, pursuant to Article IV of the Convention, the Bill seeks to prohibit and prevent the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, or retention of biological agents, toxins, weapons, equipment or means of their delivery for purposes contrary to that permitted under the Convention.
- **Technical Assistance** - Nomination of a capital-based official by the Permanent Mission (based on recommendations from Ministry of Trade and Industry) to participate in the WTO advanced Trade Policy Course in Geneva was successful. The participation would have enhanced our country's ability to develop policies that would aid in our development and reduce dependency on oil economies- Trinidad and Tobago fulfilled its obligation to WTO to maintain a transparent international trade agenda.

### **December 2011**

- **Multilateral Cooperation on Human Rights** - The Ministry was an integral part of the Trinidad and Tobago Delegation to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) garnered praise

from the UPR Section of the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR) for the efficient and timely manner in which the delegation worked in tandem with the OHCHR to prepare the final report for adoption by the Working Group of the UPR.

- **Engagement with domestic stakeholders** - The Ministry worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry to prepare for the WTO General Council's Annual Review of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA) Waiver between Caribbean and the United States of America. Through the Permanent Mission in Geneva, the Ministry provided positive engagement.
- **Meeting its International Obligations under Treaties to which the country is a Party** – the Ministry *completed and submitted the relevant questionnaire* from the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU) on the participation of women in politics.

## **MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2012**

- **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs initiated the first round of negotiations for a Partial Scope Agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and Guatemala.** This began at the then Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Communications on **April 11th, 2012**. During the three consecutive days of talks, parties will seek to find mutually beneficial common ground on issues such as market access, trade facilitation and customs procedures, services and investment and legal issues;
- **The Ministry was able to secure the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Federal Ministry for Transportation, Innovation and Technology of the Republic of Austria on Cooperation in the Health Sector on Friday 29 June 2012.** The Ministry in consultation with its stakeholders is able to engage Austria in the areas of regional, technical and organizational planning; equipping, rehabilitation, expansion and conversion of existing facilities in the health sector; rehabilitation and modernization of existing infrastructure; management and management assistance in institutional strengthening; and technical assistance by provision of experts, specialists and highly qualified technicians.
- **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinated the state visit to Trinidad and Tobago for their Excellencies Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Dame (Dr.) Patience Faka Jonathan** during the period 31st July, 2012 to 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2012.
- **The Ministry coordinated the State Visit by His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada. April 30 to May 02, 2012.** The bilateral

discussions centred on cooperation in the areas of healthcare, energy, education, security and trade, and concluded with the signing of two agreements between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. These include a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on health care and an MOU on Cooperation on Corrections.

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the last quarter of 2012 assisted the Republic of Indonesia with the repatriation of 156 stranded seamen and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with the repatriation of 15 of its own nationals.** In this particular instance over 200 stranded seamen were involved, including approximately forty (40) Chinese and Taiwanese nationals. This Ministry serves as the coordinator but worked, alongside the Ministry of National Security, Immigration Division and Coast Guard, and the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Food Production facilitated and assisted the Indonesian authorities with the repatriation of their nationals over a period of four (4) months beginning in October 2012.
- **The Ministry played a pivotal role in the planning and execution of the events held in celebration of Trinidad and Tobago Fiftieth (50<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary of Independence.** Some of the events included a re-enactment of Independence Day, the Military Parade, Toast to the Nation, the National Awards Ceremony and the Prime Minister's Celebration at the Queen's Park Oval.
- **Trinidad and Tobago sponsored resolution A/RES/67/48 on "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control," which was adopted by consensus by the United Nations General Assembly on 03 December 2012.** It would be recalled that this resolution was first adopted by following the call from the Honourable Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago during her maiden speech to UN General Assembly in 2010.
- **Based on the work of the technical Officers to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago was visited by a Colombian Security Cooperation Strategy Team on May 09, 2012 led by Mrs. Patti Londoño Jaramillo, Vice Minister of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia.** The visit facilitated sharing of Colombia's expertise in the area of security in accordance with the Police Cooperation Agreement. Focal points were established between the two countries in both the foreign relations and defence ministries, to develop strategies and plan for future projects. Both Colombia and Trinidad and Tobago

agreed to identify the Political Focal Points in both ministries and committed to submit the names and contact information of the Technical Focal Points.

- **The Ministry played a key role in the dialogue which led to the signing of the Agreement between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and Statistics Sweden to collaborate in the modernisation of the Central Statistical Office.** Project funded by the Inter-American Development Bank at the cost of US\$ 600,000.
- **Cultural Promotion and Cooperation - Through the initiative of the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago, Brussels the country was able to donate a 7-piece steelpan ensemble to the Museum of Music in Paris and a chrome tenor pan to the Musical Instruments Museum in Brussels, Belgium.** In addition there was a performance by a local all-Boys Steel Orchestra at the handing-over ceremonies and conducting of steelpan workshops. These activities allowed for the promotion of the cultural, tourism and creative industries sectors of Trinidad and Tobago.
- **Historical Collaboration - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs collaborated with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain to bring to fruition the donation by the Government of the Kingdom of Spain of a collection of archival documents,** in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
- **Deepening Bilateral Relations in Latin America - His Excellency Dr. Hamza Rafeeq, Ambassador of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the Federative Republic of Brazil, presented his letters of Credence to His Excellency Miguel Juan Sebastián Piñera Echenique, President of the Republic of Chile on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2012.** President Piñera in discussion with the newly appointed Trinidad and Tobago Ambassador raised the issue of the supply of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Trinidad and Tobago to Chile. Having such an enquiry by the President about Trinidad and Tobago's gas reserves and indicated Chile's interest in a long term arrangement with Trinidad and Tobago for the supply of LNG Trinidad and Tobago may be able to tap into the Chilean market.

### **MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2013**

- United States Vice President Joe Biden visited Trinidad and Tobago from May 26-28, 2013 and met with the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago and other CARICOM leaders.
  - The Americas Division collaborated with the Office of the Prime Minister, the Protocol Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Embassy of the United States of America and Officials from the U.S. Department of State and White House for a successful visit.
  - The visit allowed for discussions on collective efforts to promote economic growth and development, access to energy and ongoing collaboration on citizen security.
  
- His Excellency Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, then Minister of External Relations of Brazil, visited Trinidad and Tobago to participate in the CARICOM/Brazil Foreign Ministers' meeting as well as hold a bilateral meeting with the Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs.
  
- The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, paid an official visit to Washington D.C. from April 15-19, 2013 to participate in the Africa-Americas Business Forum, which was co-hosted by the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago, Washington D.C. and the Organization of America States on April 18, 2013.
  - The visit served to strengthen the relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America.
  
- The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar led a delegation from Trinidad and Tobago to attend the VII Americas Competitiveness Forum in Panama City, Panama.
  - During that visit, the Honourable Prime Minister took the opportunity to witness the Signing Ceremony of the Partial Scope Trade Agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and Panama. The Agreement was signed on October 3, 2013 by the Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago
  
- Dr. the Honourable Surujrattan Rambacham, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, was formally appointed Chair of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG)
  - This served to greatly raise Trinidad and Tobago's profile, as the CMAG was immediately thrust into dealing with a difficult situation in the Maldives which received international attention.

- Participation by Parliamentarian-led delegation at various Sessions of the ACP Parliamentary Assembly (PA) and Inter-Sessional Meeting of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) in Brussels, Denmark and Suriname.
  - Sensitisation of European Parliamentarians to EU policy incoherence in respect of differentiation which could see a reduction in existing levels of EU development assistance; and to EPA implementation inconsistencies.
  
- The strengthening of bilateral relations between Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica through the visit of our Foreign Minister to Jamaica.
  - The “Agreed Minutes” are being used as the benchmark to assess progress made on specific issues
  
- The strengthening of bilateral relations between Trinidad and Tobago and Dominica through T&T’s representation at the 35<sup>th</sup> independence anniversary celebrations.
  - Enhanced visibility for Trinidad and Tobago at the historic celebrations;
  - Encounters with Dominican officials provided opportunities for further bilateral engagement
  
- The Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs received His Excellency Francisco Alvarez de Soto, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama, during a courtesy call on 9th January, 2013 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
  - The Ministers spoke on issues of interest to both countries such as trade, financial and political commitments and collaborating on future Agreements.
  
- Development of a MOU between Canadian Universities and Tertiary Institutions in T&T. This MOU was signed between the University of Brock and the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT).
  - This allows for exchange of students and academics between both institutions.
  
- The development of a MOU between the Trinidad and Tobago and Canada in National Security. This MOU was signed between the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) and the Ministry of National Security of Trinidad and Tobago in April 2013.
  - The MoU facilitates closer ties between the two countries through the provision by Canadian companies of technology and services to enhance the capacity of defence and security institutions in Trinidad and Tobago
  
- Remodelling of the Exhibition Area at the Chancery of the High Commission, Ottawa
  - Members of the diplomatic corps, officials and guests of the High Commission will be able to view the exhibition room year round. It is also utilised by visiting students and members of the public.

- Official Visit by the Honourable Prime Minister of T&T to Canada to participate in meetings and receptions with the Governor General of Canada, Prime Minister of Canada, Members of Parliament and the Senate of Canada, Business officials and members of Diaspora.
  - Signing of two(2) Memoranda of Understanding in education and security; successful Trade and Business Forum and Reception in Toronto
- Alignment of T&T's domestic development agenda with its Foreign Policy objectives
  - Discussion of the strategic interests of Trinidad and Tobago with an understanding of the High Commission's role in Canada.
- Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the Promotion of Trade and Investment in the Healthcare sector of Trinidad and Tobago on 28th October 2013.
- González Arica, Ambassador and Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, visited Trinidad and Tobago and met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- Minister Ana Marina Alvarado, Director, Process and International Negotiations, Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, visited Trinidad and Tobago and met with the Director of the Americas Division.
- Preparation for and representation at the Seventh United Kingdom - Caribbean Forum in St. George's, Grenada over the period January 20 to 22, 2012.
  - Issues of importance to Trinidad and Tobago, such as collaboration in the area of crime and security and the adverse impact of the discriminatory imposition of the Air Passenger Duty (APD) by the UK, were addressed. The outcome document pledged collaboration in the areas of economic resilience, climate change, security and collaboration in international fora.
- Representation at the 2<sup>nd</sup> CARIFORUM-EU Trade and Development Committee (TDC) meeting.
  - Discussions on EPA implementation in the main areas covered by the agreement, such as: trade in goods; trade in services; trade-related rules; agriculture; and development co-operation.
- Collaboration with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain to bring to fruition the donation by the Government of the Kingdom of Spain of a collection of archival documents, in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

- Contribution to the archival and academic resources for the benefit of Trinidad and Tobago citizens.
- Comment by the Honourable Prime Minister: “The value of the donation to the People of Trinidad and Tobago is unquantifiable.”

#### **MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2014**

- Participation by Trinidad and Tobago in the 44th Regular Session of the Organisation of American States (OAS) General Assembly in Asunción, Paraguay **(June 03-05, 2014)**.
- Agreement to open an Embassy in Panama City, Panama. Submission of Note to Cabinet seeking an amendment to its decision of July 2012 to establish a Consulate General in Panama City, Panama City in favour of the establishment of an Embassy in Panama City, Panama and development of draft procedures for the establishment of Embassy, Panama City.
- Collaboration with the Embassy of the United States of America on the text of the Third Amendment to the Letter of Agreement on Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement.
- Visit to Trinidad and Tobago by Ambassador William Brownfield, Assistant Secretary, United States Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs on **April 29, 2014**.
- Joint Meeting with General John F. Kelly, Commander, United States Southern Command on **May 06, 2014**.
- Meeting with Secretary Ray Mabus, United States Navy on **August 22, 2014**.
- Commemoration of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations with Chile
- Lectures by the High Commissioner to the Biennial Heads of Missions Conference, 6th – 10th January, 2014, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Uganda
- Blue Economy Summit, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, **19th to 20th January, 2014**.
- Green Energy Summit, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, **5th to 6th April, 2014**
- The 24th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union and the 22nd Ordinary Session of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the African Union Summit
- Strategraphic Licensing and Tendering Study Visit by Officials of the Department of Petroleum Exploration and Production Department, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Uganda, **27th November to 1st December, 2014**
- Study Tour by the Tereza Mbire School of Tourism, Uganda to the Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality and Training Institute (THTI), **March 2014**
- Study Tour by the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) to the Board of Inland Revenue (BIR) **26th April to 2nd May, 2014**



- The High Commissioner visited Kenya from **16th to 20th June, 2014** as part the Mission's on-going efforts to deepen and broaden bilateral relations. Meetings were held with officials concerning cooperation in the Energy Sector, the deepening of Diplomatic Representation, Consular matters, the Diplomacy of Sport, Cultural Diplomacy, the establishment of Air Links, the recruitment of doctors and medical professionals to work in Trinidad and Tobago and the promotion of Trade.
- In **12th December, 2014**, the High Commissioner attended the "Jamhuri Day Celebrations" on the invitation of the Government of Kenya. Jamhuri Day is the National Day of Kenya. The High Commissioner was well received by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who presented him to Their Excellencies, President Uhuru Kenyatta and spouse.
- The High Commissioner made an official visit to Tanzania during the period **30th May to 7th June, 2014**.
- The High Commissioner made an Official Visit to the African Union (AU) from **22nd to 23rd December, 2014**. He met with the Chief of Staff to the Chairperson of the African Union.
- The High Commission successfully hosted the 4th Trinidad and Tobago Food Festival at the Kampala Serena Hotel in Uganda from **26th to 29th August, 2014**. The Festival was well attended by guests who enjoyed the culinary delights of Trinidad and Tobago. Chef Sandra White of the Hyatt Regency Hotel Trinidad represented the country well with a variety of palatable dishes to the delight of guests. Guests at the Festival included Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Government Ministers, representatives of the Academic Community, titans of industry and distinguished personalities nationally.
- The High Commissioner, in his capacity as the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps of Uganda conceptualised and hosted the First Annual Black Tie Dinner and Ball of the Diplomatic Corps on **22nd November, 2014** at the Victoria Hall of Kampala Serena Hotel. It was attended by five hundred (500) guests across the social, political and economic spectrum of Uganda. Dr. The Honourable Ruhakana Rugunda, Prime Minister of Uganda represented His Excellency the President.
- Establishment of Air Links between Trinidad and Tobago and Brazil
- Senator Dr. the Honourable Bhoendradatt Tewarie, Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development and delegation visited the Salvador/ Costa Sauipe region of Brazil to participate in the Annual Meeting and related bilateral meetings of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Visit to the Argentine Republic by His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona, ORTT, SC, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces to attend Friendly Match between the National Football Team of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the National Football Team of the Argentine Republic, and related meetings with Argentine Officials.

- FIFA World Cup – Visit of the Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
- Visit by Team from National Security in Port of Spain, led by Mr. Keith De Freitas to meet with officials of the Brazilian Federal Police, the Brazilian Military Police and the Brazilian Armed Forces – **November 2014**
- On Monday **February 24th 2014** the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago arrived in the People’s Republic of China on her first Official Visit to that country. Also accompanying the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar were the Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Vasant Bharath, Minister of Trade and Industry, the Honourable Kevin Ramnarine, Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs.
- On Monday **24 February 2014**, the Honourable Minister of Trade, Industry and Investment and a delegation from the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment met with Mr. Xing Yan, Managing Director of the Beijing Construction Engineering Group (BCEG) at his company’s headquarters in Beijing. BCEG was previously selected by eTeCK as the Contractor for the development of six (6) new Special Economic Zones in Trinidad at an estimated cost of US\$150Million. In this regard, a Commercial Contract Agreement was executed by the two Parties on **15 February, 2014**.
- On Tuesday **25 February 2014**, the Honourable Minister of Trade, Industry and Investment and a delegation from the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment (MTII) met with Mr. Yingtao Shi, Vice-President of China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) at his company’s headquarters in Beijing. CHEC was previously selected by MTII as the Contractor for the development of a new Trans-shipment Port and Dry-Docking Project in Southwest Trinidad at an estimated cost of US\$499 Million. In this regard, a commercial Contract Agreement was executed by the two Parties on **11 February 2014**.
- On **5th March 2014**, the High Commission of Ottawa hosted a Caribbean Forum for members of the Caribbean Diaspora as presented by the CARICOM Heads of Mission in Ottawa and the Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CTPL) (Carleton University/University of Ottawa)
- The High Commission assisted the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Government of Canada Trade Mission to Trinidad and Tobago with the scheduling of meetings in Trinidad with InvesTT, the Trinidad and Tobago Free Zones Company as well as the Tunapuna Chamber of Commerce.
- Official visit by the Honourable Raziah Ahmed, Minister of State in the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development and Ms. Monica Williams, Director, Gender Affairs in the same Ministry for attendance at the 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (**March 10-21, 2014**)
- Official visit by the Honourable Bhoendradatt Terawie, Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development and the Honourable Tim Gopeesingh, Minister of Health to

attend the 47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development at United Nations Headquarters (**April 07-11, 2014**)

- Official visit by the Honourable Devant Maharaj, Minister of Food Production (**April 9-10, 2014**) for attendance at the Joint UNGA and ECOSOC Thematic Debate Forum on Partnerships -“The role of partnerships in the implementation of the post-2015 Development Agenda”
- Official visit by the Honourable Errol McLeod, Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development for attendance at the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on “Achieving poverty eradication through full employment and decent work for all in the post-2015 development agenda” (**May 23, 2014**)
- Participation by the Honourable Prime Minister in High Level Meetings in the margins of the 69th UNGA
- The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs engaged in bilateral discussions with the following High Level Officials:
  - Prime Minister of Aruba, His Excellency Mike Eman;
  - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Suriname, His Excellency Winston G. Lackin;
  - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal, His Excellency Mankeur Ndiaye;
  - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia; Her Excellency Maia Panjikidze;
  - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala; His Excellency Carlos Raúl Morales Moscoso;
  - Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel; His Excellency Tzachi Hanegbi
  - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia; His Excellency Lundeg Purevsuren;
  - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey; His Excellency Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu;
  - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro; His Excellency Igor Lukšić;
  - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cote d'Ivoire; His Excellency Charles Koffi Diby;
  - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay; His Excellency Dr. Gustavo Alvarez Goyoaga;
  - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru; His Excellency Gonzalo Gutierrez;
  - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Angola; His Excellency Georges Rebelo Chicoti;
  - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein; Her Excellency Dr. Auriela Frick;
  - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia; His Excellency David Choquehuanca Céspedes;
  - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama; Her Excellency Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado;
  - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, United Kingdom; His Excellency James Duddridge, MP;
  - Former President of the General Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Vuk Jeremic of Serbia.
- The Permanent Mission facilitated the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between Trinidad and Tobago and Andorra on **September 26, 2014**. The signing

ceremony took place at United Nations Headquarters. Both countries discussed opportunities to deepen relations at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

- The Tourism Development Company (TDC) participated in the Ottawa Travel and Vacation Show from **April 5th -6th 2014**.
- The High Commission in partnership with Angostura in Canada and the Tourism Development Company participated in the Ottawa Wine and Food Festival 2014.
- On **5th March 2014**, the High Commission of Ottawa hosted a Caribbean Forum for members of the Caribbean Diaspora as presented by the CARICOM Heads of Mission in Ottawa and the Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CTPL) (Carleton University/University of Ottawa).
- The Trade & Business Facilitator attended the 22nd Annual Canadian Council for Public Private Partnerships National Annual Conference and 17th Annual Awards for Innovation and Excellence in P3's – Sheraton Hotel Toronto
- The High Commission was invited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFATD) in Canada to participate on the **Economic Mission to Saskatchewan** during the period **October 19-23, 2014**.
- The High Commission assisted the **Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Government of Canada Trade Mission** to Trinidad and Tobago with the scheduling of meetings in Trinidad with InvesTT, the Trinidad and Tobago Free Zones Company as well as the Tunapuna Chamber of Commerce.
- Participation by Trinidad and Tobago in the 44<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Organisation of American States (OAS) General Assembly in Asunción, Paraguay (**June 03-05, 2014**).
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs successfully hosted the meeting of the Pathways to Prosperity Initiative on **October 9th 2014**.
- Following negotiations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of the United States of America on the text of the Third Amendment to the Letter of Agreement on Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement, Amendment Three was signed on **June 27, 2014**.
- Conclusion of the negotiations on the Negotiations for the Partial Scope Trade Agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and Guatemala.
- Admission of Trinidad and Tobago as an observer member of the Pacific Alliance (**June 21, 2015**).
- Upon the recommendation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Cabinet approval by Minute No. 2914 dated **October 22, 2014**, granted approval for the establishment of an Embassy, Panama City, Panama.
- Trinidad and Tobago was represented at the Inaugurations of the Heads of State of Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama.

## **MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS for 2015**

- *Signing of the Trinidad and Tobago – Guatemala Partial Scope Agreement (February 2015)*
- *First Preparatory Meeting towards the First Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) (February 23-24, 2015)*
- *The repatriation of the eleven (11) Trinidad and Tobago and two (2) Jamaican nationals from Venezuela to Trinidad and Tobago (March 2015)*
- *Signing of the Trinidad and Tobago – Cuba Tourism Cooperation Agreement (March, 2015)*
- Following Cabinet approval by Minute No. 2914 of October 22, 2014, the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago in Panama was officially opened on **April 12, 2015**.
- Forum on the Future of the Caribbean (**May 5-7, 2015**)
- Signing of the Bilateral Visa Waiver Agreement between the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the European Union (**May 28, 2015**)
- Official Launch of the National Reparations Committee (**June 13, 2015**)
- H.E. Mervyn Assam, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary with Responsibility for Trade and Industry recently led a TTMA trade mission to the EXPOCOMER Exhibition hosted in Panama from **March 10-15, 2015**.
- Participation of a delegation from Trinidad and Tobago in the 45th OASGA from **June 14-16, 2015**.
- A Delegation from Trinidad and Tobago comprising officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of National Security participated in the Caribbean-United States High-Level Citizen Security Dialogue which was held in the Bahamas on **June 4, 2015**.
- A delegation led by the Honourable Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago participated in the III Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in San José, Costa Rica at the end of **January 2015**.
- A delegation led by the Honourable Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago and comprising officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the Seventh Summit of the Americas which was held in Panama City from **April 10-11, 2015**.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago partnered with the United Nations Development Programme office in Trinidad and Tobago and the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus to successfully host the inaugural Forum on the Future of the Caribbean over the period **May 5th to 7th, 2015**.

- The Americas Division prepared updated briefs on Canada and Chile for the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, Geneva to assist with the Mission's preparation of national statements to be delivered to the Trade Policy Review Body of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Trade Reviews of Canada and Chile are scheduled to take place on **June 15 to 17, 2015** and **June 23 and June 25, 2015**, respectively.
- During the period **January 12-16, 2015**, a Canadian Trade and Economic Mission visited Trinidad and Tobago to explore and assess market opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago and vice-versa.
- Her Excellency Delcy Rodríguez, Minister of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs led a delegation from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to participate in bilateral discussions on outstanding issues in energy, security, tourism, trade, air connectivity, and consular services on **February 20, 2015**.
- Following an invitation extended by the Honourable Prime Minister at the III CELAC Summit to visit Trinidad and Tobago, the President of Venezuela paid a visit on **February 24, 2015**
- H.E. Dr. Patti Londoño Jaramillo, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia led a Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago on **February 23, 2015**.
- Endorsement by Trinidad and Tobago of the Proliferation Security Initiative by Cabinet Minute No. 326 of **February 5, 2015**.

# THE MINISTRY OF

# **GENDER, YOUTH AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

## **THE MINISTRY OF GENDER, YOUTH AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

The role of the Ministry goes beyond simple outputs, and envisions the bigger picture – the outcomes towards which it works – the recognition and upholding of human rights providing the core on which gender, youth and child development are based.

In its two (2) years of existence, the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development has achieved a great deal, but plans to achieve much more in the upcoming years. In fiscal 2014, the Ministry will continue to implement most of its on-going projects as well as initiate new projects in the areas of child development and institutional strengthening. Institutional strengthening accounts for just over one quarter of the MGYCD's request for fiscal 2013/2014. The Ministry understands that in order to enhance performance in the coming year sufficient staff with the necessary training and skills and the required infrastructure are necessary. Therefore, significant investment will be made in these areas. Additionally, the MGYCD will continue its work in child and youth development and advancing gender affairs.

A key component to enhancing the Ministry's performance is the integration of a robust Monitoring and Evaluation System throughout its operations to ensure effective and efficient evidence-based interventions. Thus, in addition to the outlined policies, programmes and projects, the M&E System is also a key priority in the upcoming fiscal year as it will ensure that the Ministry's performance towards achieving its outcomes in each of the Key Result Areas is tracked. The integration of M&E thus speaks to institutional strengthening as it will enhance Ministry performance and ensure accountability and good governance.

In light of this, the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development has launched the following initiatives 2015 :

- The Government is committed to the full implementation of the Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago and is ensuring that the infrastructural and human resource needs are being met in order for the Children's Authority to commence its operations.

- 1. The package of children's legislation 1. Proclamation of the Children's Authority Act, Chap. 46:10**
- 2. Proclamation of the Children's Community Residences, Foster Care and Nurseries Act, 2000;**
- 3. Proclamation the Children Act, 2012; and**
- 4. Proclamation of the Adoption of Children Act, 2000 were proclaimed on 18<sup>th</sup> May,2015**

**A number of workshops have been conducted to sensitise key stakeholders to the fundamental changes to be introduced by the Children Act 2012, raise awareness, emphasize the roles of key stakeholders in the implementation of the Children Act, 2012 and identify challenges to the implementation of the Children Act 2012, with a view to developing policies and actions that are evidence-based.**

- The new child protection system requires a number of infrastructural measures before the system can become operational. As such the Ministry is establishing number of essential facilities including three (3) assessment centres, Remand Homes for boys and girls and transition homes for children leaving care. Sites for the Remand Homes have been identified in East Trinidad. The Ministry has engaged the services of UDECOTT for refurbishment works on the Josephine Shaw Women's Hostel which will serve as a transition home for young girls leaving community residences. This refurbishment work is expected to be completed in 9 months.



- The Ministry has developed draft Foster Care standards and regulations for a foster care system in Trinidad and Tobago in accordance with the Children's Community Residences, Foster Care and Nurseries Act, 2000 to facilitate proclamation of that Act as well as the Children Act 2012 and the remaining provisions of the Children's Authority Act 2000.
- We have also engaged a consultant who is currently conducting the Mapping and Assessment of the child protection system, utilising a Toolkit that was developed with support by UNICEF and the University of the West Indies. This approach has been tested and used in many countries in order to obtain a common understanding of the current system, its strengths and weaknesses, agreement on a division of responsibilities among Ministries, and agencies and their roles in redefining and strengthening the system.
- The National Child Policy which will include a National Strategic Framework for Child Protection is currently being developed to provide a structure of principles, standards and guidelines on safeguarding children against abuse, exploitation and neglect. This policy will be the foundation underpinning an integrated approach to delivering children's services and crystallising a set of guiding principles for child protection practice that puts children's best interests first.
- Work has started and great strides have been made in the establishment of a National Children's Registry that will assist in identifying and monitoring all children to ensure their well-being. It will foster a proactive and collaborative approach to addressing child abuse and neglect, and allow for more efficient and effective methods of early identification of 'at-risk' children and quick intervention and improve information sharing among practitioners.
- Additionally, the Ministry in collaboration with key stakeholders has started developing a Nursery Policy to set the standards and guidelines for providing quality care to children aged 0-3 years, which will be completed in three months times. This will also provide the foundation for the regulatory framework for nurseries in Trinidad and Tobago and will lend to the proclamation of the Children's Community Residences, Foster Care and Nurseries Act, 2000.
- The Ministry in upgrading the adoption process and has lobbied for the computerizing of all adoption records. I am happy to report that Cabinet has approved \$2.2 million for this project which will start shortly.
- A consultant has been engaged to develop Disaster and Emergency Management Plans which will provide guidance for responding to children in emergencies and disasters. .

The Ministry is looking to set up a Critical Incidence Response Team to address gaps that currently exist in service delivery beyond working hours and during weekends and holidays. It is expected that this team will comprise of social and community workers from various agencies will provide counselling and assistance to children in a timely and effective manner.

- We are looking at proposals to have 24 Hour Day Care Centres to lend support to working parents, especially those who are required to work odd hours, and provide safe spaces for children who may otherwise be at risk of neglect or lack of supervision.
  
- The Break the Silence Campaign which was launched in January of this year, seeks to raise awareness of child sexual abuse and to promote strategies through the partnership of key stakeholders in addressing child sexual abuse. As such the Ministry has conducted three (3) capacity building workshops with Civil –Based Society and members of the media.
  
- The Respect Me, Respect You initiative is a programme aimed at addressing various types of bullying within the school, home, workplace and communities through a rights-based approach. Thus far, over forty key stakeholders have been trained as trainers for this initiative, and will be key in programme implementation and public sensitization carded for fiscal 2014. The Ministry has spent approximately \$800,000 in the Respect Me, Respect You campaign.
  
- The Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development will be hosting the 1st National Children’s Forum in October. The 1st National Children's Forum will serve as a mechanism for children's involvement and a platform where children can express their views on matters which concern them and recommend how these can be resolved by government. It is also a channel where children’s rights can be advocated and promoted and where policy-makers and programme developers would have an opportunity to hear from our children, who will be the leaders of tomorrow. It is hoped that children’s recommendations derived from the 1st National Children’s Forum will be given appropriate consideration and incorporated in the development of policies and programmes that target them.
  
- The modernization of Homes has already started with the four (4) Homes, under the Ministry’s purview – St Michael’s, St Mary’s, St. Jude’s and St Dominic’s. However, this

programme will be extended in the near future to encompass other community residences. In the period 2011-2013, our Government has funded this initiative, to the sum of \$12.2 million dollars. Some of the initiatives undertaken include:

- Facility upgrades at the St Mary's Children Home
  - Refurbishment of the St Jude Homes for Girl's
  - Completion of repairs outstanding, following a fire at St Michael's School for Boys
  - Refurbishment of the dormitories of St Dominic's Children's Home
- Dialogue has already begun Homes under the Ministry's purview to aid in the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry and the Homes. This Memorandum of Understanding will fortify the Government's relationship with the Homes as it relates to their roles and responsibility.
- Further to this, Cabinet has approved increased subventions for St Michael's School for Boys, St Jude's School for Girls, St Mary's Home for Girls and St Dominic's Children's Home to strengthen the professional and management staff to deliver appropriate care for the children. Additionally, Cabinet has approved a one-off grant to other Community Residences in Trinidad and Tobago up to \$250,000 to assist with physical infrastructural upgrades to their facilitate the ensure compliance with the standards set by the Children's Authority. To ensure that transparency and accountability is achieved in undertaking this initiative, the Ministry in collaboration with the Children's Authority has developed criteria to manage the process to disbursing these one-off grants. Our Government understands, for the homes to be fully operational, financial resources must be made available and as such subventions for these Community residences are also being considered.
- The Ministry is also strengthening the organisational structure of each institution as a priority which is a critical success factor to improving the standard of care of our children. A consultant has been engaged, to work with St Jude's to address some of the issues being faced by that institution. Additionally, the Ministry has undertaken a recruitment exercise to fully staff these institutions with qualified and suitable persons with specialised skills who would be better able to relate to children in challenging circumstances. A few weeks ago a number of residents at St. Jude's expressed dissatisfaction with the type of care provided at the Home. The Ministry held meetings with the Board of Management, the staff and girls during the week of Monday 9 June, 2014. It was revealed that the school was facing a number of challenges due to

understaffing and the lack of skills by current staff members to effectively relate to children with behavioural problems. Recognising the need for urgent intervention, the Ministry is taking a number of steps to try and alleviate some of the challenges being faced by the School.

- The Ministry has developed a standardised Reporting Framework which will assist in Monitoring and Evaluating our programmes and Projects. In our attempts to improve accountability in the implementation of our programmes and projects, the Ministry has conducted several Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Building Workshops for Members of Staff and Civil Society Organisations supported by the Ministry. Over fifty seven (57) persons, across seventeen (17), Civil Society Organisation were trained. The Ministry is committed to delivering quality, evidence based programmes and engaging in monitoring and evaluation activities to ensure that the delivery of these quality services meet intended goals. It is hoped that through these workshops there will be improved quality of data collection, better timeliness of reporting and enhanced capacity for monitoring and evaluation activities.
  
- The Ministry has undertaken public awareness campaigns at a cost of approximately three million dollars, utilising multi-media approaches, to focus on increasing the public's awareness and educating on minimising risk for children and their families through engendering a shared responsibility approach to providing protective environments. These campaigns are targeted at the family and community levels, thus empowering families, communities and local partners to take ownership and act collectively in the protection of children. Taking a multi-media approach, not only strengthens the protective environment for children, but will reach children as well, and therefore assist in building their resilience in claiming their rights to protection.

The Ministry's Communication's Unit has therefore engaged in a robust media campaigns addressing the following topics:

- Safety Tips For Children
- Child Rights and Responsibilities
- Tips for Creating and Maintaining Safe Child Friendly Public and Private Spaces
- Parenting Skills And Coping Strategies
- Recognising and Reporting Abuse
- Collective Responsibilities To Protecting All Children

# **THE MINISTRY**

# OF HEALTH

## THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT WORKS

- Renovation of Arima District Health Facility
  - 85% plus completed
  - Phase I completed by June 2015, Phase II by February 2016
- Arima Hospital
  - Start date within last ¼ of 2014
- Couva Children's Hospital
  - 27% plus completed
  - Completion date 2015
- Couva District Health Facility
  - 7% plus designs and tendering completed

- Completion date September 2015
- Carenage Health Centre
  - Commenced on July 25<sup>th</sup> 2014
  - Completion date September 2015
- EWMSC Womens' Hospital Upgrade Works Outpatient Building and Colposcopy Suite
  - 8% plus completed
  - Tenders by November for New First and Post Natal Building
  - Completion date July 2015-03-23
- National Oncology Centre
  - 20% plus completed
  - Completion date October 2015
- Penal Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre
  - Cost proposals received by UDeCOTT
  - Start by February 2015
- Palo Seco Health Centre
  - 12% plus completed
  - Completed by July 2015
- Point Fortin Hospital
  - Budget approved
  - Construction to begin within last ¼ 2014.
- Sangre Grande Hospital
  - Tender completed
  - MOH seeking cabinet's approval for overall Budget
  - Commence in 2014 for a period of 2years
- Sangre Grande EHC
  - 5% plus completed
  - Completion by September 2015
- Mayaro District Health Facility- Renovation
  - Evaluation process expected to finished by September 2014

- Worked expected to start in 2015
- MRI and Cardiac Cath Lab Project - new Scarborough Hospital
  - Started with handover in January 2015
  - Completion by 2015
- Toco Health Centre
  - Evaluation process expected to finished by 2014
  - Works projected to commence on December 2014 for a 9 month construction period.

## **REGULATORY AND LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS**

- The Children's Life Fund Act (2010)
  - 135 children assisted
  - TT\$36.7 million
- The Regional Health Authorities (Amendment) Bill (2011)
  - To allow one Regional Health Authority to procure goods and services on behalf of all 5 RHA's was passed in 2012.
  - Achieve economies of scale and timely and cost effective procurement of goods and services.
- The Emergency Ambulance Services and Emergency Medical Personnel Regulations (2012)



- Regulations passed in 2012 and as such Ministry is now in a position to implement the Emergency Ambulance Services and Emergency Medical Personnel Act.
- The Tobacco Control (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations (2013)
  - Ministry established Tobacco Unit.
  - Regulation to fully implement certain provisions of the Tobacco Control Act 2009.
- The Nurses and Midwives Act (2014)
  - Creation of 2 new categories of nursing personnel
    - Advanced Nurse Practitioner
    - Nurse Intern
  - Change in structure and composition of the Nursing Council
  - Change in fines and penalties
- The Medical Board (Amendment to Schedule) Order 2014
  - Amended by varying Schedule
  - List of Medical Schools amended to include “The World Directory of Medical Schools’
  - Greater transparency and greater number of medical professionals registered to practice in this country.
- The Opticians (Registration) Act, Chap. 29:51 Order 2014
  - Opticians able to administer drugs previously done by ophthalmologists only
  - New Drugs :
    - Cycloplegics
    - Tropicamide
    - Mydriatics

## **HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**

### **STRATEGY**

Addressing human resources shortages:

- Development of the first draft of the 10 Year Human Resource (formerly Manpower) plan
- The Training Plan 2010-2013 has been implemented.
- Careers Promotion in Health
- Student Volunteer Programme 2014

#### **Recruitment of Foreign Health care professionals**

1. Cabinet Approval was obtained in September 2013 to widen the scope of overseas recruitment.

- Since 2011, 446 health professionals has been recruited.
  - 228 Cuban Nurses
  - 109 Cuban Doctors
  - 17 Cuban Pharmacist
  - 1 Biomedical Engineer
  - 35 Grenadian Nurses
  - 74 St Vincent and Grenadines nurses
  - 19 St Lucian Nurses

## 2. Entry into Bilateral and Multilateral Agreements

- United Nations Volunteer Programme
  - Agreement between UNDP and MOH signed on 6th June 2014
  - 14 doctors interviewed and selected
- MOU with Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
  - Signed October 2013- to promote trade and investment in technical and infrastructural services
- International Atomic Energy Agency approved membership for MOH
  - November 2012
  - Training and quality assurance for provision of cancer services
- MOU with People's Republic of CHINA
  - Signed July 23rd 2014
  - 10 Health care professionals assigned to Trinidad and Tobago
    - 1 anesthesiologist
    - 1 operating room nurse
    - 1 vascular surgeon
    - 1 vascular ultrasound technician
    - 1 interventional cardiologist
    - 1 general surgeon
    - 1 pneumonologist
    - 1 neurologist

- 2 neurosurgeons
  - Pilot Project for development of a deceased donor transplantation programme in Trinidad and Tobago
    - Donation and Transplantation Institute (Barcelona, Spain)
    - Agreed in December 2011
    - Programme consisted of:
      - establishment of 2 Procurement Managers at POSGH
      - training of 2 local surgeons in Multi organ retrieval both locally and in Barcelona
  - MOU with Shriners' Hospital for Children:
    - Access to medical care for T&T nationals under 18 years with severe burns (free if unable to pay for it),
    - Access to practical training for T&T nationals who participated in the BG T&T-sponsored Advanced Burns Life Support (ABSL) and Per-Hospital Burns Life Support (PHBSL) programmes.

**Agreements currently under negotiations:**

- Uganda - Recruitment of Healthcare Workers
- Nigeria - Framework Agreement for Cooperation in Public Health
- Cuba - Recruitment and Training of Healthcare Workers
- Colombia - Framework Agreement for Cooperation in Public Health and Training of healthcare workers and provision of services
- Philippines - Framework agreement for cooperation in Public Health.

**Concept Paper for Trinidad and Tobago Diaspora Programme in Health**

- draft completed in March 2014

- effectively and efficiently attract foreign-based nationals and retirees of T&T into the public healthcare system to fill existing shortages
- greater attention placed on recruitment of underrepresented categories of health professionals that are also critical.
  - speech-language therapists
  - occupational therapist
  - physiotherapist
  - medical and psychiatric social workers
  - laboratory technicians

### **Health Education and Training**

- 2013 Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training and the Schools of Nursing and Midwifery to training 2 additional batches of :
  - Basic General Nurses (RNs)
  - Direct entry Midwives
  - Post Basic (RN/Midwife and Specialist ) Nurses
  - Enrolled Nursing Assistants (ENA)
  
- Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training and COSTAATT to have students in health programmes intern at health facilities and RHA's.
- MOU signing discussions with University of Trinidad and Tobago concerning Biomedical Engineering Bachelor's degree programme.
- UTT acceded to suggestion to introduce a diploma level course in biomedical engineering. (Currently preceding approval at the University)
- Discussions with Faculty of Medical Sciences of the University of the West Indies (UWI) to expand the range of postgraduate medical specializations.

## **INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING UNDER THE RHA SYSTEM**

### **➤ Accreditations of Health Institutions**

- Improved Health quality standards and policies to ensure provision of high quality patient care
  - Engaged a consultant
    - To review and update existing Accreditation Standards Manual of 2002 according to International Society of Quality in Health Care (ISQUA)
    - Conduct pilot test of approved standards at selected health facilities
    - Identify and train accreditation survey team
- Accreditation by independent body with verify authenticity and quality of services provide by health institutions.

- Accreditation model being implemented by appropriate legal framework
- Accreditation is one of the most effective ways to regulate and improve quality of care throughout all health institutions countrywide.
- **National Eye Survey of Trinidad and Tobago**
  - Provides necessary data and analysis on visual impairment and eye care services
  - Data to inform the development of strategies to address preventable eye diseases.
  - Both islands
  - 9,752 randomly selected
  - 85% of sample participated
  - 53% of sample screen and referred for further treatment
- **National Diabetic Retinopathy Screening, Assessment and Treatment Services.**
  - Diabetes prevalence rate estimated at 13% or 169,000 persons
  - Study October 2013 to January 2014 for diabetic retinopathy
    - 11% or 18,590 will have urgent sight-threatening lesions
    - Increased to 22,000 by 2030
  - MOH during fiscal year 2015 will implement a Diabetes Retinopathy Service, inclusive of:
    - screening
    - assessment
    - treatment
  - Screening component supported by the establishment of a National Grading Centre (NGC)
  - Need to be supported by a robust treatment pathway as current system within public sector is inadequate to support work generated by the diabetic retinopathy screening service.
  - Phase I will commence at SWRHA with establishment of the screening, grading and treatment services.
- **Human Papilloma Virus ( HPV)**
  - HPV can cause cancer such as cancer of vulva, vagina, penis or anus.
  - HPV campaign inoculated during this fiscal year:
    - ages 5-14 years
      - 1st dose for 694 students
      - 2nd dose for 358 students
      - 3rd dose for 346 students (final)
    - ages 20 years and over
      - 1st dose 2,315 persons
      - 2nd dose 478 persons

- 3rd dose 55 persons (final dose)
  - Tobago
    - 1st dose 853 persons
    - 2nd dose 287 persons
- **Public Volunteer Programme**
  - Launched 18th March 2014
  - To increase public involvement in the health sector of T&T
  - Volunteers would have privilege to work in any one of the public health facilities to assist in various forms and functions
  - Assist in bridging the gap between those receiving and delivering medical treatment.
  - May to June, 150 persons selected from 600 person for the 1st batch
  - Orientation and training done by MOH and assigned RHAs
  - Commenced duties on August 2014

## **THE EXPANSION OF SERVICES AT THE RHAs FROM 2010 TO PRESENT**

- **NWRHA**
  - Child Assessment Units
  - Smoking Cessation Programme
  - Exercise by prescription Programme
  - Extended opening hours at Health Centres and Pharmacies
  - Pioneer Vaccination Programme for cancer patients
- **POSGH**
  - In House Cardiac Surgery
  - Echocardiogram Service
  - 1st Liver Resection Surgery performed in Trinidad
  - 5th Cadaver Organ DOnor Transplant performed at POSGH
- **St James Medical Science Complex**
  - The Women's Health Clinic : gynaecology and palliative care



- Landmark Surgery for Breast reconstruction
- **NCRHA**
  - **Eric Williams Medical Science Complex**
    - Bariatric Surgery Clinic
    - Oncology Clinic
    - Electromyography testing and electrophysiology testing in the neurophysiology laboratory at the EWMSC Department of Medicine
    - Lung Cancer Programme
    - Creation of Chronic Care Wards (Wards 6 & 10)
    - Creation of Palliative Ward (Ward 4)
    - Creation of Psychiatry Ward (ward 5)
- **ERHA**
  - **Sangre Grande Hospital**
    - Expansion of the Dialysis Unit
    - Expansion of the laboratory
    - Expansion of the clinic services to Saturdays
    - Biopsy Services
- **SWRHA**
  - Opening of Outpatients clinics (Levels 3,4,5 and 6) at the San Fernando Teaching Hospital
  - Introduction of an electronic tracking system for the “Request for Medical Reports” at Princes Town District Health Facility

## **SPECIAL HEALTH DELIVERY SERVICES in MOH**

- **External-Patient Programme**
  - Launched June 2014
  - To provide immediate relief for patients awaiting service for more than 3 months:
    - Cataract Surgeries
    - Joint Replacement Surgeries
    - CT/MRI Services
    - Histology Services
  - New Services being incorporated :
    - Haemodialysis
    - Dental
    - Maxillofacial Surgical Management
    - Vascular Access Surgery

- Cardiac Management
    - Hernia Repair
    - Prostate Surgery
  - Services provide by the private health sector and funded by MOH.
- **Dialysis Programme**
  - Prepaid Dialysis Programme
    - MOH purchases dialysis treatment from private providers for its patients
  - Treatment provided through public healthcare institutions
  - October 2013 to August 2014, 2,378 Patients received 26,108 sessions.
  - Cost for 26,108 sessions = TT\$24,133,950.00
- **The MOH Adult Cardiac Programme**
  - MOH purchases cardiac services from private providers for its patients
  - Services:
    - Angiograms
    - Angioplasty
    - Transesophageal Echocardiograms
    - Open Heart Surgeries
  - October 2013 to June 30, 2014, 636 persons received these procedures
  - Cost for period = TT\$6,128,009.00,
  - 493 angiograms, 93 angioplasties and 50 cardiac surgeries

## HEALTH EDUCATION & HEALTH PROMOTION AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Outreach Programmes:

- **Fight the fat/healthy Communities Caravan**
  - Appr 5,000 persons participated
  - Target in 2014/2015 is 10,000
- **Healthy me, Childhood Obesity Prevention Camp**
  - Appr 160 children benefited in 2014
  - Areas : St Joseph, Barataria, Sangre Grande, Preysal and Point Fortin
- **Like Yuhself Campaign**
  - Appr 2,400 adolescents benefited

## STATISTICS

- Children's Life Fund
  - May 2010-August 2014 contributions totalled TT\$40,057,316.62
  - 135 Children assisted
  - Total cost = TT\$36.7 million
- MOH Services
  - Prepaid Dialysis
    - 2010 to 2013
    - 1,792 persons, 1,917 persons, 2,443 persons, 2,378 persons
    - Increased by 32.7%
  - Adult Cardiac Programme
    - 2010 to 2013
    - 950 persons, 1,022 persons, 1,141 persons, 1,189 persons
    - Increased by 25.1%
  - Medical Aid
    - 2010 to 2013
    - 2,140 persons, 3,825 persons, 2,126 persons, 3,133 persons
    - Increased by 46.4%

**THE MINISTRY  
OF  
HOUSING AND  
URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT**

## **THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT 2013 TO 2014 AND PROPOSALS FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS**

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development came into existence in fiscal 2014, and its core responsibilities relate to the delivery of services in respect of housing, urban development, and community enhancement. These services are provided under the strategic priorities of *Economic growth, job creation, competitiveness and innovation, and poverty reduction and human capital development.*

### **Housing**

The home construction programme of the Housing Development Corporation involves the continuation of construction work on existing housing projects, completion of infrastructural works on existing projects, and commencement of new housing projects on new sites. For fiscal 2014, the HDC has achieved the following:

- 390 housing units have been completed in Phases I and II of Egypt Village, Chaguanas.
- 192 units have been completed at Fairfield, Princes Town.
- 165 units have been completed at Cypress Gardens, Union Hall.
- 264 units have been completed at Victoria Keys.
- External works and car park are in progress at View Fort, St James.
- Design and construction of infrastructure are in progress for 1,240 units at Cypress Gardens.
- Pre-construction activities are in progress at Pier Road, L Brea.
- Construction of 135 units at Exchange Couva is in progress.

For the next two years the HDC's focus will be to complete for middle and low income families:

- 2,106 new homes on ten (10) greenfield sites, namely, Trestrail housing development, Eden gardens, Bon Air North, Cypress gardens, River Runs thru, Arima, Victoria Keys, Diego Martin, Indian Trail, Wellington Heights, Buen Intento, Princes Town, Exchange 1, Couva
- 727 new homes in five (5) infill developments, namely, Exchange 1, Couva, Exchange 2, Pier Road, La Brea, Point Cumana, Toco, Glenroy, Princes Town.
- 318 incomplete and suspended projects in six (6) locations, namely, Edinburgh, Chaguanas, Almond Court, Morvant, Malabar Phase III, 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Malick, Vieux Fort, St. James, Chaconia Crescent, Diego Martin.

- Retrofitting of 192 units in tenanted buildings in five (5) locations, namely, Pleasantville, Trou Macaque, Laventille, Dorata Street, Laventille, Canada, Laventille, Harmony Hall, Gasparillo.

With respect to maintenance of the State-owned housing stock, the HDC is continuing its drive to make their high-rise apartment buildings health and safety compliant. In addition, the HDC is continuing a plan of work for the maintenance of these buildings to prolong their life span. Maintenance works include repairs to plumbing, walls, doors, electrical, lighting in HDC apartments at Charford Court, Lisas Gardens, Paradise Heights, Beverly Hills, Dorata Street, Pleasantville, Clifton Street, Irvin Street, Ramsarran Street, Lady Hailes Avenue, and Maloney.

### **Urban Development**

The Urban Development Corporation Limited of Trinidad and Tobago has responsibility for managing urban development projects on behalf of Government of Trinidad and Tobago. The major UDeCOTT projects being managed on behalf of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development are indicated below:

#### **San Fernando Teaching Hospital**

In January 2014, Government handed over the San Fernando Teaching Hospital to the South West Regional Health Authority. This is one of the first major healthcare facilities that has been constructed in the country in the last decade, and with its 216-bed capacity, is expected to alleviate the chronic bed shortage at the San Fernando General Hospital.

#### **Government Campus Plaza**

Government has secured financing for the outfitting of the Government Campus Plaza, which is to accommodate the Ministry of Legal Affairs, Customs and Excise Division, Board of Inland Revenue, Ministry of National Security and the Ministry of Education. Outfitting works are expected to begin in this fiscal.

#### **Couva Children's Hospital and Multi-Training Facility**

This \$1.5Bn. project will deliver a:

- 230-bed hospital that will include 80 paediatric beds and 150 adult beds, including a burns unit, and
- 300-student training facility that will be affiliated with the University of the West Indies. This component will accommodate medical, nursing and pharmacology students.

The Hospital is to be equipped with all major medical equipment, a central energy plant, and a helipad for emergency access. Work on this project started in 2012, and site development works, earthworks, foundation and electrical works are in progress. This project is expected to be completed in 2015.

### **Community Enhancement and Land Development**

#### **The CEPEP Company Limited**

The CEPEP Company Limited is the Ministry's agency that is involved in community enhancement works. In fiscal 2014, the Company continued its work programme in respect of beautifying and landscaping the environment, through expansion in six (6) under-served communities, and the implementation of its CEPEP Marine component.

CEPEP Marine engages in the cleaning and maintenance of marine spaces, wetlands and inland waterways. CEPEP Marine is responsible for the continuous cleaning of the country's western and southern coastlines through the removal of plastics, styrofoam, tyres, furniture and old mattresses from our waterways.

Further, in May 2014, The CEPEP Company Limited was engaged by the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure to undertake ground maintenance services along the Churchill Roosevelt, Uriah Butler, Beetham, Audry Jeffers and Diego Martin Highways. Under this new contractual arrangement, the Company will do grass cutting along the verges of the Highways, tree pruning and waste and debris removal.

#### **The Estate Management and Business Development Company Limited (EMBD)**

The Company has responsibility for infrastructural development on lands formerly owned by Caroni (1975) Limited, for the delivery of residential lots, and 2-acre agricultural plots of lands to V-SEP beneficiaries of the former Caroni (1975) Limited. In fiscal 2013, the EMBD had executed infrastructural works and facilitated the provision of utility services for over 3,000 residential lots on twenty-six sites.

In fiscal 2014, the EMBD's focus is on the completion of remedial infrastructural works, road rehabilitation, and the construction of drainage facilities at Felicity I, where works were previously suspended due to cost.

The Company is also, in this fiscal, doing remedial drainage and road works in fenceline communities which experienced deterioration in their infrastructure as a result of the developmental works undertaken by the EMBD for the delivery of lots to V-SEP beneficiaries.

**THE  
MINISTRY  
OF  
JUSTICE**



# THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

## Policy/ Legislation

### Legislation

The Ministry, in carrying out its mandate, has prepared and received Cabinet approval for the following Policies which have been transformed into legislation:

- The Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act, No. 5 of 2012, as amended by the Miscellaneous Provisions (Administration of Justice) Act, 2014
  - The Act establishes a legal framework within which forensic deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) evidence can be used in the investigation and prosecution of criminal matters.
  - The Act also provides for the establishment of a DNA Custodian Unit, which will inter alia, house the DNA Data Bank.
  
- The Administration of Justice (Electronic Monitoring) No. 11 of 2012
  - The Act introduces a new sentencing option through the use of Electronic Monitoring (“EM”) devices.
  - The Act was assented to on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 and is currently awaiting Proclamation.
  - By August 2015, the Service a pilot project will implemented
  
- The Miscellaneous Provisions (Prisons) Act No. 13 of 2014
  - These include new penalties for offences under the Prisons Act Chapter 13:01 with increases in fines and penalties for stated offences; the removal of an Inspector of Prisons; the creation of an Inspectorate of Prisons and the establishment of an Appeals Tribunal in respect of disciplinary actions against prisoners.
  
- Miscellaneous Provisions (Administration of Justice) Act 2014 No. 11 of 2014

This is a comprehensive Act that sought to amend key pieces of legislation to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system. The Act contains provisions with regard to the following:

- Part I: Amendments to the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act 2012: to improve the system of DNA sampling under that Act.
  - Part II: Amendments to the Jury Act Chapter 6:53 : to reform and restructure the Jury System in Trinidad and Tobago.
  - Part III: Amendments to the Criminal Offence Act, Chapter 11:01: The amendment introduced into Trinidad and Tobago’s criminal law regime, an offence which is targeted at preventing the interference with and intimidation of witnesses, judicial officers, jurors and other categories of persons that are directly involved in the justice network.
  - Part VI: Amendment to the Young Offenders Detention Act: Owing to this amendment the Minister of Justice is no longer required to give his approval of any sentence of detention under penal discipline in the Youth Training Centre.
  - Part VII: Amendment to the Police Service Act Chap. 15:01 : The amendment to the Police Service Act Chap. 15:01 now provides for the fingerprinting of suspects, deportees and detainees.
- **Amendment to Legal Aid and Advice Act**
- The Ministry of Justice successfully pursued the amendment of the *Legal Aid and Advice Act* for the purpose of widening access to legal aid by the citizenry

## **Policies and Bills Being Developed**

### ➤ Youth Justice Policy

- This Policy proposes a system to restructure and upgrade the criminal justice system as it relates to child offenders. The Policy focusses on areas such as arrest and police custody, youth diversion, youth court and special court procedures, remand, sentencing, probation, detention, rehabilitation, release and reintegration, and the treatment of records and information as it relates to child offenders.

### ➤ Restorative Justice Policy

- In keeping with the Ministry’s mandate to transform the criminal justice system from a retributive model to one that is more restorative, a Restorative Justice Policy is being developed through consultation with the relevant stakeholders. It is anticipated that in the first (1<sup>st</sup>) quarter of 2016, this Policy will be finalised for the submission to Cabinet for consideration.

- Sexual Offences Policy
  - This Policy proposes to transform the current legal and administrative framework for sexual offences. It is being developed through extensive consultation with the relevant stakeholders. It is anticipated that in the first (1<sup>st</sup>) quarter of 2016, this Policy will be finalised for the submission to Cabinet for consideration.
  
- Policy for Amendments to the Evidence Act Chap. 7:02
  - A Bill has been drafted and circulated to all relevant stakeholders. Consequent upon the receipt of comments, the Bill will be revisited in anticipation of presentation to the Legislative Review Committee. It is anticipated that this Bill will be introduced into Parliament in the first (1<sup>st</sup>) quarter of 2016.
  
- Policy to amend the Coroners Act Chapter 6:04
  - This Policy proposes to modernise the existing coronial system. It is anticipated that in the first (1<sup>st</sup>) quarter of 2016, this Policy will be finalised for the submission to Cabinet for consideration.
  
- Policy to amend the First (1<sup>st</sup>) Schedule to the Justice Protection Act Chapter 5:33
  - The Policy proposes to amend the First (1<sup>st</sup>) Schedule by including offences under the Trafficking In Persons Act Chapter 12:10. The Ministry is awaiting feedback from the Commissioner of Police and the Director of Public Prosecutions on this Policy. Upon receipt, the Schedule to the Act will be amended by Order of the Minister of Justice.
  
- Offender Management Policy
  - Subsequent to the approval of this OM Policy, a draft Bill was submitted to the Ministry in January 2014. This led to further consultation with various stakeholders viz. the Chief Probation Officer. Pursuant to these discussions, it was agreed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of People and Social Development that the implementation of offender management will be carried out by the Probation Services Division.
  - In this regard, the proposed roles of the offender management officers will be subsumed into the duties and responsibilities of the probation officers. The OM Policy is now being revised in consultation with the Chief Probation Officer. It is anticipated that in the first (1<sup>st</sup>) quarter of 2016, this Policy will be finalised for the submission to Cabinet for consideration.

## Infrastructure

### ➤ **Construction of Judicial Centres**

- The Ministry of Justice has responsibility for the construction of six purpose built supreme court of judicature buildings in the following areas
  - Trincity,
  - Sangre Grande,
  - Chaguanas,
  - Penal/Siparia,
  - Malabar and
  - Tobago.
- The Courts to be constructed in Malabar is now the Ministry's Project priority
  - Pre-construction surveys completed
  - A Memorandum of understanding has been executed with NIPDEC for the provision of project management services
  - The submission of tenders closed on July 10th, 2014
  - The evaluation process of the submitted tenders is still to be completed by NIPDEC

### ➤ **Maximum Security Prison – Construction of a Perimeter Fence and Infrastructural Works**

- Cabinet in 2013 agreed to the closure of the Carrera Convict Prison and the inmate population and all moveable / useable plant and equipment be relocated to the Maximum Security Prison, Golden Grove. In order to facilitate this move, Cabinet Minute in 2013 agreed to the construction of a perimeter security fence and attendant infrastructural works in an area adjoining the MSP.
- Cabinet in 2014 agreed to the award of contracts for Package 1, Package 2 and the consultancy services at a total cost \$87, 742,244.43. Package 1 was awarded to Junior Sammy Contractors Ltd. Package 2 was awarded to Adams Project Management and Construction Ltd.
- The completion of the construction was revised by UdeCott to May 31, 2015 and the Ministry of Justice was so advised.
- At this time the project has not been completed and is expected to be completed in mid-August.

- **Construction of Video Conferencing Court Facilities**
  - Construction of a video conferencing facility on the Remand Prison compound to facilitate court hearings by video conferencing link.
  - On September 17, 2014 NIPDEC advised the Ministry that a contract has been signed with TIACHO on 15th September 2014 in the sum of \$6,233,614.38.
  - The Contractor commenced works on April 28, 2015.
  - The works are expected to be completed in September 2015.
  - Currently works are in progress to meet the target completion date.
  
- **Construction of a New Remand Prison (Pre-Trial Detention Centre) – Golden Grove**
  - Construction of a New Remand Facility at Golden Grove to house 1500 remandees. The facility to meet modern human rights standards and the thrust of restorative justice. Project funded under IDF.
  - On December 22, 2014 UdeCott recommended that Urban Architecture Systems Limited (Urbasys) as the preferred provider of the preliminary design services.
  - Urbasys commenced works on April, 22, 2015.
  - Preliminary design is expected to be completed in September 2015.
  
- **Installation of full body scanners in the Prisons Service**
  - Supply, Delivery and Commissioning of 5 full body scanners and 5 full enclosed cabins.
  - The Ministry of National Security on May 13, 2015 advised the Ministry of Justice of the award of contract to AE Tactical.
  - The Office of the Prime Minister NSCS advised the Ministry of Justice on June 5, 2015 that the Purchase Orders for the supply of 5 full body scanners, at a cost of \$6, 308, 187.20, and 5 full enclosed cabins, at a cost of \$1,250,920.00, have been prepared and submitted to the supplier AE Tactical. The 30% downpayment has been made.
  
- **Installation of cell phone jammers and grabbers**
  - Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of cell phone jammers and grabbers. Supply and delivery of 20 handheld electronic contraband detectors.
  - On May 7, 2015 the Special Tenders Committee by letter to advised that that the proposal of Verint Systems Limited for the supply of jammers and grabbers has been accepted at a cost of US\$9,451,000.00; and their proposal for the supply of handheld detectors has also been accepted at a cost of US\$520,000.00.
  - On May 21, 2015 the Ministry of Justice executed the contract with Verint Systems Ltd. for the supply of the handheld devices at a cost of US\$520,000.00
  - On May 29, 2015 the Ministry of Justice executed the contract with Verint Systems Ltd for the jammers and grabbers at a cost of US\$9,451,000.00

- On June 5, 2015 the Office of the Prime Minister, NSCS advised that the Purchase order for the supply and delivery of the 20 handheld devices has been prepared and submitted to the supplier.
  
- **Extension and Modification of Forensic Science Centre**
  - Relocation of Conference Room, Library, Stores and several administrative offices to the New Administrative Wing
  - Redesign of the Conference Room and Library to house the Documents Section, Photography Section and Offices for Scientific Officers
  - Redesign of the Photography Section to accommodate secure evidence storage rooms for the Biology, Chemistry and Toxicology Sections.
  - Acquisition of external storage unit to store unserviceable items awaiting disposal
  - Redesign of old Stores to accommodate IT Section
  - Refurbishment of Autopsy Suite approximately 98% completed – delivery and installation of specialized furnishings and equipment outstanding
  - Acquisition of Genetic Analyzer
  
- **Construction of New Forensic Science Centre Facility**
  - Cabinet approval granted for the construction of a New State- of- the- Art Forensic Science Centre facility at Carlsen Field.
  - Contract entered into with NIPDEC for the provision of project management services
  - NIPDEC recommended preferred proponent for design/ consultancy services
  - Cabinet approval granted to incur expenditure for design/consultancy services. Awaiting allocation to continue project.
  
- **Computerisation of the Forensic Science Centre**
  - Expansion of network to new Administrative Wing
  - Connectivity of all network users at the Centre from MNS domain to MOJ domain
  - Acquisition and installation of 29 computers and 2 printers
  - Certification of network infrastructure
  - Upgrade of Server Room infrastructure
  - Acquisition of a Laboratory Integrated Management System (LIMS) in 2015
  
- **Trinidad and Tobago Prisons' (TTPrS) Projects**
  - Construction of a kennel to accommodate twenty four (24) dogs to be used to provide security for the TTPrS. This project was started and completed in 2014.
  - Installation of Perimeter Lighting at the YTC. This project commenced in June 2014 and was completed On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014.
  - Construction of a Visitors' Waiting Facility at the Golden Grove Prison (GGP). This project was completed on April 25, 2014 and official hand-over took place on July 21, 2014.

- Upgrade of Sewer System at GGP. This project commenced on June 16, 2014 and was completed on July 29, 2014.
- Supply, installation and connectivity of a fibre optic cable network for electronic security upgrade. This project was started and completed in 2014.
- Construction of a dormitory at the Port of Spain Prison for the housing of E.R.U officers. This project commenced on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and was completed on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2015.
- The inner perimeter fence at the Remand Yard at Golden Grove, Arouca was refurbished with the previously installed chain link fencing being replaced by a wire wall system. This project commenced on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014 and was delivered on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015
- Cabinet Minute 2468 - 4/9/2014 authorized the acquisition of the Eastern Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre. The facility was acquired on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014. At the present time several smaller refurbishment projects, all with the aim of making the E.C.R.C operational, have been proposed and are currently under consideration.

## Additional

- **Training Programmes conducted at the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service for inmates and staff.**
  - During the Period under review the Penal Reform and Transformation Unit (PRTU) at the MOJ conducted the following training programmes for inmates and staff:
    - “Unpacking a journey to masculine and feminine excellence programmes for inmates at remand prison, golden grove prison and Carrera”- 300 inmates were trained
    - “Repositioning parents for raising successful youth”- 50 inmates were trained
    - Rehabilitation of gang members - 41 inmates participated
    - “A Man’s Journey to Authentic Manhood” - 70 inmates participated
    - Cross Gender Supervision For Female Offenders Pt. 1 - 28 officers trained
    - Cross Gender Supervision For Female Offenders Pt. 2 - 22 officers trained
    - Life Skills Pre-Release Programme – 26 inmates participated
    - In-Prison Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Programme – 16 inmates graduated
    - “Me, Masculinity and Society” – 25 inmates participated
- **Duty counsel scheme initiated- Pilot project (Legal Aid and Advisory Authority)**
  - The revised *Legal and Advice (Amendment) Act* No. 11 of 2012 the **Duty Counsel Scheme**. Under this Scheme, mechanisms were put in place so that immediate access to legal representation and advice will be provided to minors from the moment they are detained on suspicion of having committed any criminal offence.

- **Compensation for victims of crime**
  - During the period October 01, 2010 to September 30, 2012 the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB) received 309 applications for compensation. Of those 253 cases were approved for payments amounting to 180 Cases were presented before the Board. Payments amounting to \$1,982,350. .
  
- **Collaboration with Canada to Improve the Criminal Justice System**
  - The Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service (TTPS) has signed a memorandum of understanding with Correctional Service Canada (CSC) as it moves to reform the local penal system.
  
- **Prison Radio Initiative**
  - The Ministry of Justice supported the establishment of a Prison Radio Station together with the British High Commission, Trinidad and Tobago Prisons Service, Ministry of National Security and various NGOs. The prison radio station Rise (Rehabilitating Inmates Seeking Empowerment) Maximum is located at the Maximum Security Prison, Arouca and started airing on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2012.
  
- **Increase in Staff Complement of Forensic Science Centre**
  - Six (6) additional contract positions were created and filled, viz. Health and Safety Officer, Forensic Exhibit Clerk, Forensic Biologists (2) and Scientific Examiner - Narcotics (2).



**THE MINISTRY  
OF  
LABOUR AND  
SMALL AND  
MICRO  
ENTERPRISE  
DEVELOPMENT**

# THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SMALL AND MICRO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 2010 – 2015

*March 06, 2015*

### Introduction

The Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development (MLSMED) is a dynamic government institution that is focused on making Decent Work the platform upon which sustainable development is achieved in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Decent Work Agenda has been endorsed in the Government's Policy Framework for Sustainable Development. Decent work is promoted through the Decent Work Agenda which comprises the following four pillars or strategic objectives:

**(a) Promotion of Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work** - recognition and respect for the fundamental rights of workers, specifically related to freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining; elimination of forced labour; abolition of child labour and elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation.

**(b) Creation of Employment** – creation of sustainable opportunities for work.

**(c) Enhancement of social protection** - ensuring that men and women enjoy working conditions which are safe, allow adequate free time and rest, take into account family and social values, provide for adequate compensation in case of lost or reduced income and permit access to adequate healthcare.

**(d) Strengthening of social dialogue** - promoting meaningful and deliberate tripartite consultations (among Government, Employers' and Workers' representatives) in order to resolve conflict, achieve social equity and support policy implementation.

In addition to providing a decent working environment, the Ministry's programmes are targeted to diversification and the reduction in the reliance on the energy sector via the creation and development of the micro and small enterprise sector. In this regard, the Ministry is seeking to increase the contribution of the SME sector to GDP and employment creation from an estimated 25% contribution to jobs to approximately 60% in the next decade.

The Ministry seeks to achieve these goals through the following strategic objectives:

1. Provision of a framework that promotes decent work in Trinidad and Tobago aimed at achieving economic and social growth and improvement in the quality of life.
2. Reduction the incidence of HIV and AIDS in the workplace in accordance with the National Workplace Policy on HIV/AIDS and the Sustainability Plan.
3. Reduction in discrimination in the workplace and promotion of fairness and equality of treatment in employment.
4. Reduction in the incidence of child labour in Trinidad and Tobago.
5. Creation and maintenance of an industrial relations climate that fosters productivity and competitiveness.
6. Maintenance and strengthening of Trinidad and Tobago's leadership position in regional, hemispheric and international labour matters.
7. Modernization of the legislative framework for labour administration and micro and small enterprise development in Trinidad and Tobago.
8. Development of MSEs, creation of entrepreneurial culture and improvement of MSE's access to business opportunities.
9. Promotion and development of Co-operatives into sustainable and viable business enterprises.
10. Provision of accurate, timely and reliable labour market information to guide national policy formulation and business investment decisions.
11. Contribute to labour market equilibrium through an effective national public employment service.

In this context, the following key achievements for the period 2010 to 2014 are highlighted hereunder.

## 2010

- The Honourable Errol McLeod piloted PETROTRIN's Pension Plan Act **No. 9 of 2010** which was assented to on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2010.
- In **August 2010** the MOLSMED commenced the process of developing a Decent Work Policy and Programme of Action for Trinidad and Tobago with the hosting of three (3) Stakeholder Consultations (*Workers' Organizations – August 2010; Employers' Organizations – October 2010 and Government – January 2011*).
- In **October 2010**, a modern Labour Market Information System for Trinidad and Tobago known as LAMISTT was established. This system is modeled after the ILO's Caribbean

Labour Market Information System (CLMIS) and is currently being piloted, using labour market information collected by the Labour Administration Units and Divisions of the Ministry. The data collected would enable data fields to be built from which annual and bi-annual reports on the current and projected status of the labour market will be produced.

- **October 2010** –the Enterprise Development Division was expanded to enable the engagement of short term consultants to develop programs such as Monitoring and Evaluation, Business Incubation Feasibility Studies, Financing Programmes and a Women’s Entrepreneurship Programme.

## 2011

- Increased the national minimum wage from \$9 to 12.50 per hour with effect from January 1, 2011.
- Tripartite Stakeholders’ consultations continued towards legislation to replace the Workmen’s Compensation Act, Chap. 88:05 (WCA). Consultations commenced with the first being held in Trinidad in February, 2011. One was also held in Tobago on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
- **February 2011**- MOLSMED established its HIV/AIDS Advocacy and Sustainability Centre (HASC). The Centre has responsibility for implementing the National Workplace Policy on HIV/AIDS and a Sustainability Plan for addressing HIV and AIDS in the workplace.
- Launched “Labour Link” a radio programme which is aired on five (5) radio stations and provides information on industrial relations guidelines to the public.
- The Cipriani College for Labour and Co-operative Studies (CCLCS) launched its Distance Education Programme. This Programme facilitates a virtual distance-learning platform to expand the access and reach of programmes of the College. At present, the Tobago campus is the main beneficiary of this initiative.
- HASC Conducted 87 sensitisation sessions for public and private sector organizations, unions, non-governmental organisations, members of the informal economy, and training organisations – 2011-2013. These sensitization sessions have continued in 2014 with both the Public and Private agencies.

- **March 2011** - Provided assistance to the Office of the Chief Personnel Officer in training one hundred (100) Human Resource Officers across the public service in the treatment of persons infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS in the workplace.
- **April 2011** – Appointed members of the ILO 144 Tripartite Committee.
- **April 2011** – In accordance with the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, Chapter 88:04, the Minimum Wages Board was appointed for a period of three (3) years.
- **June 2011** - The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago was elected to serve as a Titular Member on the ILO's Governing Body.
- **August 2011** - To address the continued challenges for financing for small and micro business, through the National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited (NEDCO), the Government approved an increase in lending limit for first time borrowers to a ceiling of two hundred and fifty thousand (\$250,000). Under a graduating scheme, NEDCO clients with a satisfactory repayment and business performance record could access increased levels of funding up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

Government also expanded funding to include businesses in the Tourism sector and for financing the purchase of new or used maxi taxis, maxi taxi repairs and maxi taxi insurance. Lending will be subject to a ceiling of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). In response to the changing demographics and economic and social climate of Trinidad and Tobago, the NEDCO Board approved the granting of loans to persons who are non-nationals of Trinidad and Tobago but possess legal residential status or the required immigration documents.

- **October 2011** – Launched the National Integrated Business Incubator Programme (IBIS). The IBIS programme provides entrepreneurial training, with successful candidates receiving seed capital, mentoring, operational and professional support as well as facilities for entrepreneurs that have successfully completed training. Two main phases of the programmes are 1) the Pre-incubator phase, focusing on training and development and 2) The incubation phase, the operationalization of the business.

Main highlights of the IBIS programme comprise of the following:

**As of January 2015**, one hundred and eighty one (181) persons participated in the IBIS Pre-incubation programme; the programme has expanded its geographic reach to the following Pre-incubator locations:

- Sangre Grande
  - Penal
  - Point-Fortin
  - Chaguanas
  - Couva
  - Point-Fortin
  - San Juan Laventille
  - Diego Martin
- ✓ A total of one hundred and thirty-four (134) candidates have completed Pre-Incubation Training, ninety-one (91) candidates have transitioned to the Incubation or Business Phase of IBIS and forty-four (44) have received seed capital to assist with financing equipment and business start up.
- ✓ Five (5) incubator facilities have been established in the following areas:
- Sangre Grande
  - Penal/Siparia
  - Point-Fortin
  - Diego Martin
  - Barataria/San Juan/Laventille
- **November 7 -18, 2011**, the Honourable Errol McLeod and representatives of the MOLSMED participated and fulfilled obligations for Trinidad and Tobago at the 312<sup>th</sup> Session of the ILO Governing Body in Geneva, Switzerland and submitted Reports on the following ratified Conventions to the ILO:
- No. 16, Medical Examination of Young Persons (Sea) Convention, 1921;
  - No. 19, Equality of Treatment (Accident Compensation) Convention, 1925;
  - No. 29, Forced Labour Convention, 1930;
  - No. 81, Labour Inspection Convention, 1947;
  - No. 98, Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949;
  - No. 100, Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951;
  - No. 105, Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957;
  - No. 111, Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958;

- No. 125, Fishermen’s Competency Certificates Convention, 1966;
  - No. 138, Minimum Age Convention, 1973;
  - No. 144, Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976;
  - No. 150, Labour Administration Convention, 1978; and
  - No. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999.
- **December 2011** – Operationalization of the Fair Share Programme. The Fair Share Programme was created to provide Government procurement opportunities up to \$1.5 Million to qualifying micro and small enterprises.

Main highlights throughout this period comprise of the following:

- The operationalization of the web portal interface which provides better and quicker access to both Ministries and Micro and small business (MSEs) clients of the Programme. It allows government ministries to post their tenders for to MSEs to access. It also allows MSEs to register to become an active part of the process.
- ✓ As at December 2014, a total of one hundred and thirteen (113) Ministries and agencies acquired web portal accounts.

Some Ministries registered with the Fair Share Programme include:

- Ministry of Health
  - Ministry of Tourism
  - Ministry of Education
  - Ministry of the People and Social Development
  - Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs
  - Ministry of Justice
- As at January 2015, one thousand four hundred and sixty (1,460) micro and small enterprises are registered on the FairShare portal and there are one thousand and twenty four (1,024) fully certified MSEs in the FairShare programme.

## 2012

- **January 2012** - MOLSMED's new Strategic Plan 201-2015 approved by Cabinet.
- **January 2012** - Commenced process of establishing a Social Dialogue Process in Trinidad and Tobago and reconstituted the National Productivity Council.
- **January 2012** - Tripartite Stakeholders' consultations to replace the Workmen's Compensation Act, Chap. 88:05 (WCA) was held in Tobago on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
- Hosted several information sharing seminars and promotional activities with the Co-operative Movement in observance of the International Year of Co-operatives 2012.
- MOLSMED launched the Domestic Workers Register in recognition of the value of the domestic work and as the first step in recognizing domestic workers as workers.
- **February 2012** - MOLSMED commenced the process of establishing a Heroes Park and Museum in Fyzabad.
- **March 9, 2012** – Members of the Industrial Relations Advisory Committee were officially appointed in accordance with Section 80 of the Industrial Relations Act. This Committee had not been in existence for twenty plus years.
- **March 27, 2012** – Held the first National Youth Employment Forum with the theme *“my work-my-future-my life”*. The forum was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development (MGYCD) and the International Labour Organization. The Forum attracted approximately two hundred and sixty (260) youths throughout Trinidad and Tobago from the 15 to 25 age group. Participants engaged in discussions on a range of topics pertaining to youth employment, employability, entrepreneurship and equal opportunities in the labour market. Also in attendance were approximately fifty (50) policy makers whose major role was to listen to the feedback and recommendations from the youths with the aim of assessing current policy, programmes and projects.
- **April 18, 2012** - The first consultation was held which served as a platform to obtain feedback on the specific location, nature and requirements of the Heroes Park and Museum. The feedback received will be used to inform the next stages of the project.



- **April 2012** – Amended the Maternity Protection Act Chapter 45:57 to increase maternity leave for women from 13 to 14 weeks. This brings Trinidad and Tobago in line with international standards established by the International Labour Organization.
- **April 2012** - Repealed the Masters and Servants Ordinance Chap. 22 No. 25.
- **April 2012** – Established the Labour Advocate Training Programme. This Programme is designed to extend the reach of the Labour Inspectorate by empowering community advocates and by extension the communities to become activists for decent work. This initiative is supported by the Cipriani College for Labour and Co-operative Studies and the Ministry of Community Development.

To date, over one hundred and thirty four (134) Labour Advocates have been trained in Trinidad and Tobago in the area of industrial relations with a focus on the fundamental rights of workers, labour legislation and labour standards.

- **June 26-27, 2012** - The MOLSMED hosted a Regional Workshop on Social Dialogue Process for Trinidad and Tobago on with the theme *“Towards People – Centred Development: Social Dialogue as the Key Driver.”*
- **July 2012** – MOLSMED’s first four day national exposition – “MOLSMED CONNEX” which showcased the services of the Ministry and provided an opportunity for 250 small businesses to display their products and services.
- **July 2012** - NEDCO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of the West Indies to establish a physical presence at the University campus. This initiative seeks to create a more strategic working relationship with the University to achieve long-term self-sustainable employment, human development and poverty reduction.
- **September 2012** - MOLSMED signed a Memorandum of Understanding with fourteen (14) organizations from the private, public and informal sectors to develop workplace HIV/AIDS policies and programmes.
- **September and October 2012** – Conducted two capacity-building workshops on HIV Workplace Policy Development.
- **October 2012** - To accommodate the increasing demands for the expanded course offerings and to meet the increased student intake, the CCLCS completed construction of five (5) additional classrooms and a science laboratory at the East Wing of the Valsayn Campus. This would facilitate the growing number of students in the Occupational Safety and Health programmes that require the use of a laboratory.

- **December 2012** – In 2010, there were 75 outstanding collective agreements from state owned companies, statutory authorities and other entities dependent on state funding. As of December 2012, 49 of these disputes were settled bilaterally or through conciliations or adjudication in the Industrial Court.
- **December 2012** - Workmen's Compensation Act, Chapter 88:05 - Tripartite and stakeholder consultations were held on the Workmen's Compensation Act Chapter 88:05. A Draft Policy to inform the new legislation which will repeal and replace this Act was approved by Cabinet in December 2012. It should be noted that the Draft Policy proposes that the new legal framework for employee injury benefits should provide employment injury benefits to all persons in an employment relationship with an employer and all persons in a state of dependency on a deceased employee. The Bill drafting stage is currently before the Ministry of the Attorney General.

## 2013

- **January 2013** - MOLSMED commenced action for the amendment of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 3 of 2006 that will further strengthen the Act for the enhancement of compliance and enforcement.
- ILO consultancy in progress to develop a *Legal Gap Analysis re ILO Recommendation concerning HIV and AIDS and the World of Work, No. 200 (ILO Recommendation No. 200): the case of Trinidad and Tobago – January 2013 – present.*
- Labour Inspectorate Unit recovered TT\$ 1,793,125.00 owing to employees from employers during the period May 2010-September 2013.
- MOLSMED partnered with the Division of Settlements and Labour of the Tobago House of Assembly on the implementation of the Tobago Labour Advocacy Training Programme.
- “Mayaro Community Mediation Caravan” – a public awareness Programme held in collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development and the Ministry of Gender Youth and Child Development to promote peaceful resolution of conflict through mediation and community empowerment.
- **February 2013** – The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar officially opened the first IBIS Incubator in Penal/Siparia. The National Integrated Business Incubation System (IBIS) provides the necessary support mechanisms to assist graduates in the establishment and growth of their micro and small businesses.
- **March 2013** – MOLSMED Officially opened IBIS’ second Incubator in Sangre Grande.
- **May 2013** - NEDCO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP). This strategic partnership will contribute to the advancement of the micro and small sectors (MSE) by assisting in the development of young entrepreneurs.
- **May 2013** - MOLSMED held consultations in Tobago on The Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2013 and The Credit Union Bill 2013.
- May 2010 there were 75 **negotiations** for collective agreements outstanding in the state and public sectors. These were for periods that had already expired or were expiring shortly thereafter. Another **14** such negotiations broke down during the period May

2010 to May 2013. The collective effort of MOLSMED and the Government as Employer saw the settlement of **66** of these collective agreements.

- **June 2013** - The Industrial Relations Advisory Committee presented to the Honourable Errol McLeod its first report which is based on an analysis of the industrial relations system in Trinidad and Tobago and proposed recommendations to improve the system.
- **July 2-3, 2013** – Eighth ILO Meeting of Caribbean Ministers of Labour, a two-day meeting hosted by the MOLSMED and the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean, under the theme, *“The Caribbean & Labour 2013 and beyond: Strengthening Decent Work for Development.”*
- The CCLCS achieved institutional accreditation for a period of five (5) years. Accreditation signifies that the College’s programmes, operations, procedures and processes meet the academic criteria set by the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT).
- **August 2013** – IBIS hosted its first Graduation Ceremony for twenty-five (25) IBIS clients who successfully completed the Programme. From this group, nine (9) persons have established new businesses. These businesses range from Waste Management, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to Fashion and Beauty, Health and Fitness, IT and Food and Beverage.
- **October 2013** - MOLSMED secured technical cooperation from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the European Union (EU) to formulate the Green Enterprise Policy and accompanying Communication and Implementation Plans. Stakeholder Consultations were held in October 2013 for a review of the Draft Policy. The Policy is currently being finalized to support MSEs and Cooperatives to go “green”.
- Agreement was reached on the Hindu Credit Union with regards to relief to shareholders and depositors and payments have been made in 2013. The Ministry undertook the payment exercise in 2 phases. Phase I which addressed those shareholders with deposits under \$75K was completed in October 2013 with payments being made to 18,113 shareholders to a value of \$134,998,019.44.

Phase 2 of the exercise is being completed in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and the Economy; Liquidator Deloitte and Touché and the Ministry of Legal Affairs. And addressed shareholders with holdings over \$75K. This phase of the exercise is still ongoing. Payments to persons in this category were made either by cash or by bond payments. 1,253 persons have received payments to the value of \$94,597,717.63 whilst 1,311 persons selected to be paid in bonds to the value of \$319,393,000.00.

Additionally, the Ministry has conducted activities that involved the Removal of 126 inactive/dormant Credit Unions from the Register, in accordance with Part VI of the Cooperative Societies Act 22 of 1971. These Credit Unions have been listed as inactive and have been published in the Trinidad Gazette Vol.52 No.5, January 16, 2013.

The Friendly Societies Movement has grown to one hundred and fifty-three (153) registered Friendly Societies with an estimated membership of twelve thousand (12000) persons and an asset base value at approximately 30 million dollars. For the better governance of the Friendly Societies, the Ministry has taken action for the De-Registration of Societies in accordance with the Friendly Societies Act, Chapter 32:50. Sixty (60) closed Friendly Societies are in various stages of the de-registration process. Five (5) Societies have been closed, the assets of these societies have been evaluated and the Ministry is in the process of reviewing Tenders for the selection of a provider for sale of assets of these societies. The membership of these societies will be the beneficiary of these assets.

- **November 6, 2013** - CCLCS, expanded its programmes to 32 courses and launched the Caribbean Journal of Labour and Cooperative Studies and the Centre for Debate and Intellectual Enquiry.

## 2014

- **January 10, 2014** - MOLSMED hosted the first **FairShare Exposition** at the Centre of Excellence under the theme *“FairShare First: Encouraging Entrepreneurship, Building Relationships.”* The Exposition featured the diverse services of one hundred (100) certified MSEs from twenty-seven (27) sectors representative of the various micro and small businesses in Trinidad and Tobago and served as a launching platform for the FSP web-portal ([www.fairshare.gov.tt](http://www.fairshare.gov.tt)). The objectives of the Exposition served to create an awareness of the FairShare Programme and the range of businesses available to Ministries and state agencies by providing a space for showcasing available products and services.
- **May 2013** - The Honourable Errol McLeod was invited by the President of the United Nations General Assembly to participate in a high-level meeting on the topic *“Achieving poverty eradication through full employment and decent work for all in the post-2015 development agenda.”* Minister McLeod attended the meeting which was held on May 23, 2014 in New York. The High-Level Meeting was organized as part of the ongoing global deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda which focuses on promoting sustainable development beyond 2015 - the deadline for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Minister McLeod, being the first Minister of Labour from Trinidad and Tobago over the past few decades to be invited to participate in such an august Meeting, took the opportunity to emphasize the important linkages between decent work, poverty eradication and sustainable development when he contributed both to the General Debate and the High-Level Panel Discussion.
- **June 2014** - Trinidad and Tobago was re-elected for a second consecutive term as a Titular Member of the Governing Body of the ILO. Achievements of the MOSLMED include:
  - ✓ Election as a Deputy Member on the Board of the International Training Centre of the ILO in 2014 for the period 2014-2017;
  - ✓ Fulfilment of international labour obligations of Trinidad and Tobago – including participation in meetings, contribution to international labour standard setting, and reporting;

- ✓ Attracted bilateral and multilateral support to Trinidad and Tobago in critical areas: such as Micro and Small Enterprise development (ILO, European Union; Brazil, India); green jobs (ILO); occupational safety and health (ILO, US Department of Labour); labour migration (ACP Migration Forum); labour inspection (Argentina); labour market information system (ILO).
  - ✓ Enhanced the profile of Trinidad and Tobago as a leader on labour issues – given the increased visibility of this country in international labour affairs and sustained contributions to international discussions on labour issues, there has been a marked enhancement of the esteem for Trinidad and Tobago, particularly in the Caribbean and among countries of Latin America and international organizations United Nations, the Organisation of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank.
  - ✓ MOLSMED settled eighty-four (84) negotiations for collective agreements in the public sector and state enterprises from 2010 to 2014.
- In an effort to decentralize the services of the Conciliation Unit, an office has been established in Chaguanas and services are now provided in Point Fortin and Tobago.
  - **September 2014** - Approval was granted for the establishment of partnerships for Commercial Business Incubators (CBIs), intended to attract a higher value clientele. These partnerships are to facilitate the expansion of resources to the CBIs, and encourage innovation and creativity for sustainability as CBIs benefit from existing competencies and strengths of parent agencies. The partnerships are also intended to benefit innovative, aspiring and existing entrepreneurs for the implementation of the commercial business incubators.

The Ministry has identified the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business' (GSB) BizBooster and the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute's (CARIRI) CARIRI's Centre for Enterprise Development for the establishments of partnerships in the private sector and in academia. It is proposed that the academic partnership will be established for a period of five (5) years and the business partnership will be for a period of four (4) years. Both partnerships will be governed through Partnership Agreements as executed by NEDCO. Funding of Projects under the EIF will be on the advice of the IBIS Advisory Board.

- **September 25, 2014** - MOLSMED received approval from Cabinet for its “Policy for the Development of Micro and Small Enterprises (2014-2016): Driving Entrepreneurship” (called “the Policy”). This represented the culmination of a process of public consultations held both in Trinidad and Tobago from June 2012 to June 2014. While the Policy is multifaceted, its chief aim is to support viable and innovative micro and small enterprises (MSEs) to maximise their potential and thereby contribute substantially to economic diversification and wealth creation.
  
- The National Employment Services was strengthened to expand its services to facilitate access to sustainable employment opportunities which are made available to job seekers and the placement of vacancies by employers via its on line registration system and its network of offices across Trinidad and Tobago.
  - ✓ From May 2010 to present, the NES has placed over 3,000 persons in both the private and public sectors.
  - ✓ The NES website has been re-designed which will make it easier for job-seekers and employers to register and upload their particulars. A Mobile Application feature that allows access via smart devices such as smart phones and tablets is accessible through the redesigned NES Website and will be launched later this year.
  - ✓ Meetings were held with employers across Trinidad and Tobago in September and October 2013 with a view to increasing matching of vacancies with job seekers.
  - ✓ For the period 2010 to present, over 5,000 persons were employed under the Commonwealth Caribbean Seasonal Agricultural Programme.
  - ✓ In December 2014, Trinidad and Tobago hosted the Annual Review Meeting for the CCSAP. This meeting was chaired by the Honorable Minister Errol McLeod and hosted by MOLSMED. This meeting was attended by representatives from the Government of Canada and Governments of participating countries, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and Barbados, The High Commissioners of Canada in the Caribbean, other stakeholders inclusive of CANAG, the official Travel Agency, the Canadian Horticultural Society, Foreign Agricultural Resource Management Services (F.A.R.M.S).



## 2015 (In Progress)

- Increased the national minimum wage from \$12.50 to \$15.00 per hour with effect from January 1, 2011.
- From 2010 to present, industrial relations advisory services have been provided to approximately 10,000 individual non-unionized workers and MOLSMED has facilitated conciliation proceedings in 4,141 rights disputes involving some 10,352 hours of conciliation.
- The proposed Bill to amend the ***Co-operatives Societies Act, Chapter 81:03***, which is aimed at, among other things, fostering the growth of Co-operatives and enhancing the regulatory framework, is currently before the Legislative Review Committee.
- **Industrial Relations Act, Chapter 88:01** - The Industrial Relations Advisory Committee (IRAC) was established in 2012. Cabinet, by Minute No. 3206 of November 14, 2013, noted the contents of the Report of the IRAC and the three (3) accompanying Background Papers titled “The Situation of Industrial Relations in Trinidad and Tobago (June 2013)”, “Industrial Relations and Employment Law: Lessons from the Global Environment for Trinidad and Tobago (June 2013)” and “Judicial Appointments at the Industrial Court: Issues for Trinidad and Tobago (June 2013).” Cabinet also noted the recommendations and strategic approaches of the IRAC which included initiation of incremental priority amendments to the IRA and repeal and replacement of the IRA with new law.

By Minute No. 1849 of July 3, 2014, Cabinet agreed to the engagement of a Consultant, on the basis of the sole selective tendering process to prepare amendments to the IRA. The Consultant has been engaged and the work to be undertaken will include:

- Preparation of a draft Policy for the amendment of the IRA;
- Preparation of draft amendments to the IRA;
- Preparation of detailed drafting instructions; and
- Overseeing the overall conduct and management of the drafting process to the stage of a draft Industrial Relations Amendment Bill, 2014.

The Policy was presented to the Legislative Review Committee on March 02, 2015.

- In 2013, Cabinet agreed to the composition of the Social Dialogue Task Force which is chaired by the Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development and comprises six (6) representatives each of Government, Employers and Workers and one (1) representative of the Civil Society Board. To date, the Task Force has developed an Operational Framework, proposals for the establishment of a dedicated Secretariat which was approved by Cabinet, and recruitment commenced. Discussions have been held with stakeholders on priority issues such as productivity and competitiveness. A Social Dialogue Agreement with the theme “Partnering for a better Trinidad and Tobago: Working Towards Sustainable Development” was adopted in January 2015 and is carded to be signed in March 2015.
- **Heroes Park and Museum** - The concept of a Heroes Park and Museum in Fyzabad, Trinidad is borne out of the absence of a repository of archival material related to the history of the labour movement in Trinidad and Tobago and a permanent mechanism to share information on and recognize the contributions of labour stalwarts who laid the foundation for the realization of decent work such as Tubal Uriah ‘Buzz’ Butler, Andy Beharry, Elma Francois, Dora Bridgemohan, Adrian Cola Rienzi, Clothill Walcott and George Weekes, to name a few.

The preliminary concept of the Heroes Park and Museum is that it would serve to recognize and showcase the contributions of great labour leaders through various educational forms such as documented information, the arts and theatre, exhibitions and public lectures that would be targeted at schools and students, researchers, and the general public. In addition to the Museum, it proposed that the facility also serve as a Community Park that would facilitate recreational activities for families and children. It is foreseen that the Heroes Park and Museum would become a main local and tourist attraction which provides educational, recreational and employment opportunities.

The Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development (MOLSMED) obtained permission from the Trinidad and Tobago Petroleum Company Limited (Trintopec). Design and construction works is expected to begin in fiscal 2014/2015. The topographical survey of the site (Trintopec Staff Club and its Appurtenances) was completed. The geotechnical surveys and fencing has been completed.

The following are the next steps to be undertaken in the Project:

- (i) the engagement of a Museum Consultancy Firm to develop conceptual design, engineering design and preliminary cost estimates for the Project by PSAEL;
- (ii) the engagement of consultant (consultancy firm) to develop the detailed engineering designs and costs;
- (iii) the construction of the Labour Heroes Park and Museum; and
- (iv) the operation of the Labour Heroes Park and Museum.

It is proposed that Phase I of this project would be launched in May 2015.

**THE MINISTRY  
OF  
LAND AND  
MARINE AFFAIRS**

## **THE MINISTRY OF LAND AND MARINE AFFAIRS**

The Ministry is specifically responsible for:

- Land Management
- Agricultural Land Development, Distribution and Regularization
- Land Settlement
- Regularisation of Squatters
- Regularisation of Tenure
- Surveys and Mapping
- Hydrographic Surveys
- Marine Fisheries

### **Statutory Boards and Other Bodies**

- Land Settlement Agency

### **Wholly-owned Enterprises**

- Caroni (1975) Limited

### **Programmes**

- Land for the Landless

### **Training Institute**

- The Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute

## **RESIDENTIAL LOTS PROGRAMME (LAND FOR THE LANDLESS)**

This programme is aimed towards satisfying the demands of housing for low and middle income families and individuals who are landless but would like to utilise their existing resources to construct a home. The aim is to provide citizens with residential state lands at an affordable price. Successful beneficiaries of the Programme are required to finance the purchase of the land as well as the cost of construction of their houses. The implementation process is spearheaded by the Land Settlement Agency and includes land surveying, land use planning, engineering designs of infrastructure and construction and issuance of Titles. Other services provided by the Land Settlement Agency include the construction of road access, drainage, water, sewerage infrastructure and electrification.

### **Objectives:**

- Provision of alternative solutions to address the National housing shortage and the delivery of residential lots to landless citizens;
- Creation of safe, secure and sustainable communities through the provision of all necessary amenities and services;
- To provide subsidised residential lots to low and middle income families as well as to Public officers and Special need cases; and
- To provide support to the recipients through the Housing Support Centre which will offer advice in financing, planning, designing and building of houses.

### **Achievements/Deliverables:**

- ✓ The development and delivery of over 2000 residential lots located on 23 sites throughout Trinidad.
- ✓ A further 30 sites in the planning and preconstruction stage.
- ✓ Construction has been completed in approximately 2,000 lots..

### **Status:**

- ✓ There are approximately 5,000 landless applicants under the Programme.
- ✓ At present, 750 Residential lots are ready for distribution in 4 sites, with a further 1250 to be ready in the coming months on 6 sites, where construction is presently taking place. Additionally, the Agency is in various stages of pre-construction and planning for approximately 30 sites which can yield approximately 5,000 Lots.

## **SQUATTER SETTLEMENT REGULARISATION PROGRAMME (IDB FUNDED)**

The Squatter Settlement Regularization Programme is primarily geared towards the regularization and grant of security of tenure to families living in squatter settlements on State lands. Squatter Regularisation Projects in the 2015/2016 Programme are all funded by the Inter-American Development Bank's (IDB) Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme (LO 2469/OC-TT).

### **Objectives:**

- Issuance of Certificates of Comfort and Deeds of Leases to eligible applicants;
- Provision of infrastructure services and security of tenure to these families;
- Provision of adequate roadways, drainage systems, potable water, sewerage disposal and electrification.; and
- Land surveying, land use planning, engineering designs and construction supervision, construction.

### **Achievements/Deliverables:**

- ✓ Distribution of approximately 7,800 Certificate of Comforts to eligible applicants
- ✓ A further estimated 10,500 applications are currently being processed
- ✓ Approximately 300 Deeds of Leases have been distributed to successful beneficiaries
- ✓ Infrastructure development works in 7 sites which includes up to 1360 lots on sites throughout Trinidad.

### **Beneficiaries:**



- 18,000 families who have applied for Certificates of Comfort

**Status:**

- ✓ Infrastructural Development works ongoing on 7 sites which will lead to the regularization of approximately 1753 Households, vacant lots will be used for resettlement of squatters or as part of the Vacant Lot Programme.

It should be mentioned that squatters are expected to pay for the lots they are being regularised upon, a lease will not be granted without payment to the State.

**SQUATTER SETTLEMENT REGULARISATION (NON IDB FUNDED)**

This Programme has the same objectives and involves similar type of activities as above, but is not funded by the IDB. The difference between both Programmes is in the scale and comprehensiveness of the Projects. Whilst H002 caters for Projects that will involve full infrastructure regularization and Tenure, Projects under H004 may be incremental in some instances, or they may involve Early and Emergency Works. They may also be smaller Projects and may comprise upgrade rather than full regularization. Provision of security of tenure.

**Objectives:**

- Provision of infrastructure services and security of tenure to these families;
- Provision of adequate roadways, drainage systems, potable water, sewerage disposal and electrification;

- Land surveying, land use planning, engineering designs and construction supervision, construction; and
- Performing emergency infrastructural works in communities that may be affected by drainage or other issues.

### **Achievements/Deliverables:**

- ✓ Infrastructure development works, planning studies and surveying works are being performed on close to 60 sites.

### **Beneficiaries:**

- Over 4,000 households in squatter sites on State Lands

### **Status:**

- ✓ At present, works have been completed on 19 sites with 3647 Households, where final approvals are now being sought so that leases can be distributed.
- ✓ Construction is ongoing on 2 sites with 216 Households and pre construction and planning has been initiated for 41 sites.
- ✓ To date, some 326 sites have been profiled, with 30,035 residential structures identified, and 9,372 persons claiming that they are Certificate of Comfort applicants.

## **SURVEY OF SQUATTER SITES**

This project commenced in January 2009.

The project involves the following four (4) phases:

1. Physical Mapping of Squatters -Through the use of Global Positioning Systems;
2. Social Surveying - Collecting Socio-Economic Data;
3. Data Entry; and
4. Analysis of Data using various software applications on hardware devices.

### **Objectives:**

- The objective of the programme is to produce a data bank of squatters on State Lands, identified in the State Land (Regularization of Tenure) Act No. 25 of 1998, together with any new sites, and to determine those persons who can be regularized under the provisions of said Act, as well as to inform future policies and programmes.

### **Achievements/Deliverables:**

- ✓ Data collection of squatters, structures and areas.
- ✓ Proper census and assessment of conditions and requirements of the vulnerable.
- ✓ Control and enforcement of squatters.
- ✓ Protection of State Lands.

**Beneficiaries:**

- Residents in squatter communities
- Government Institutions
- Enforcement Agencies

**Status:**

- ✓ For the 2014/2015 period, 6 new sites have been mapped resulting in 407 new residential households being documented; and 118 other structures inclusive of pens, sheds and religious structures.
- ✓ Approximately 2200 new structures were found on existing squatter sites for the same period.

## **RESETTLEMENT OF SQUATTERS**

Resettlement of Squatters can be considered an integral part of squatter regularization but there are some sites that involve total relocation. To relocate/ remove squatters in instances where squatters are located on environmentally sensitive areas, government reserves, disaster prone areas or on lands that are required by the State for other urgent public use. The cost associated with the projects would involve the development of alternative sites and other costs associated with the resettlement.

### **Objectives:**

- Relocation of squatters in instances where necessary.

### **Beneficiaries:**

- Residents in squatter communities
- Government Institutions

### **Status:**

- ✓ For this year, 8 squatters have been relocated on site from 4 sites where construction works are ongoing.

# UPGRADE OF THE GEOSPATIAL FUNDAMENTAL DATA OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

## 1. Aerial and LIDAR survey of Trinidad

### Objectives:

- Capture digital aerial imagery and LIDAR of Trinidad and Tobago for 2014.

### Achievements/Deliverables:

- ✓ Aerial imagery and LIDAR data showing spatial developments in the country. Data capture 100% completed. Awaiting delivery of data for 50%.

### Beneficiaries:

- Both Public and Private Sectors. This forms the base data upon which physical planning, infrastructure development rest.

### Status:

Data Capture completed. Full delivery by contract end July 4th 2015.

## 2. Upgrade of National Cadastral database

Objectives: Design and development of improved information system to manage Cadastral Survey Information; and conversion from old system to new system.

### **Achievements/Deliverables:**

- ✓ Improved database design.
- ✓ Streamlined work processes.
- ✓ Web enabled service delivery.

### **Beneficiaries:**

- Public and private sectors. This is another component of the fundamental datasets for planning and development of land.

### **Status:**

- ✓ Project is 50% completed with contract to end March 2016.

### **3. Procurement of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle mapping system**

#### **Objectives:**

- Procure Mapping System;
- Procure training; and
- Undertake aerial mapping.

### **Achievements/Deliverables:**

- ✓ UAV and camera system for performing aerial surveying.
- ✓ Training in entire workflow

### **Beneficiaries:**

- Public and private sectors. This will allow the Division the ability to undertake mapping to update the base mapping.

### **Status:**

- ✓ 85% complete. UAV acceptance and flight training to be completed

## **SURVEY PLAN RESTORATION**

Implementation of a program of works to establish a Survey Plan Archive and the restoration of the fragile documents.

### **Objectives:**

- Improve the environment for storage of survey plans;
- Create a digital archive of survey documents;
- Identify fragile documents to be restored;
- Procurement of equipment and materials;



- Implement a document restoration program; and
- Develop a survey document management system.

### **Achievements/Deliverables:**

- ✓ 65% completion in scanning of survey plans.
- ✓ 75% replacement of storage cabinets.
- ✓ Preparation of a survey document restoration room 75% complete.
- ✓ 5% completion in restored maps and books.

### **Beneficiaries:**

- Public and private sectors. This will allow the Division the ability to undertake mapping to update the base mapping.

### **Status:**

- ✓ Awaiting Cabinet Approval for implementation of consultancy recommendations.

## **FULL INVENTORY OF STATE LAND**

An Enterprise Wide Land Information System that includes a web-based application, spatial inventory of state land and non-spatial data on tenant/ occupancy lease, bio and rental data, inter alia.

### **Objectives:**

- Provide better management of land information;
- Provide faster more efficient processing of State Land Leases;
- Improve service delivery within the confines of the current legal framework;
- Optimize the use of resources and technology where appropriate;
- Link information systems to streamline data entry and produce a holistic picture of state land; and
- Provide a platform for other Government agencies and Ministries to share and analyse data.

### **Achievements/Deliverables:**

- ✓ Parcels digitized – 9501
- ✓ Digitization quality check – 5458
- ✓ VSEP Agricultural leases scanned – 4202
- ✓ Lease data entered from CSS log book – 5939
- ✓ VSEP agricultural road names assigned – 698
- ✓ ECCE schools identified for ECCE Project – 599

- ✓ Potential Sites identified for Special Needs Schools - 1493

**Beneficiaries:**

- Ministry of Land and Marine Resources (MLMR)
- Tenants
- Professionals

**Status:**

- ✓ First Phase is complete and the second phase entails maintenance, updates, upgrades and continued data entry.

**MANAGEMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES AND THE COASTAL COMMUNITIES  
THAT DEPEND ON THEM**

Upgrade of fish-land facilities at thirty-one (31) locations in Trinidad.

Activities include:

- Renovation of buildings
- Construction of net repair buildings, lockers, boat repair facilities, training rooms, freezers and ice-making facilities for the fisher folk

- Fish landing facilities such as jetty, slipway and retaining walls
- Establishment of facilities management, waste and security systems, and
- Installation of security infrastructure

### **Objectives:**

- For long-term sustainability of a fisheries sector that is safe, eco-friendly and one that satisfies all HACCP conditions; and
- Contribute to food security by optimising the sustainable use of fish that is caught from the seas.

### **Achievements/Deliverables:**

- ✓ In 2012, the tonnage of fish recorded was 11,605 tonnes

### **Beneficiaries:**

- Fisher-folk
- The general public of consumers of fish
- Community persons through employment

### **Status:**

- ✓ Cabinet Approval Obtained for eleven (11) sites.

✓ NIPDEC has been retained to undertake the procurement for major infrastructural works at fish landing sites. Eleven (11) sites are targeted for development in: 2016-2018

- Orange Valley
- Brickfield
- Cocorite
- Las Cuevas
- Felicity
- Blue River
- Cacandee
- Cumana
- La Brea
- Carenage
- Gran Chemin

✓ In addition projects to install security infrastructure at all facilities and to commence concept designs for one of four centralised vessel repair facilities intended for each coastal cluster are planned.

✓ Nipdec is currently Project Managing works at Two (2) sites:

- Blanchisseuse
- Cocorite

## **CARONI (1975) LIMITED VOLUNTARY -SEPARATION OF EMPLOYMENT PACKAGE (VSEP)**

The Ministry of Land and Marine Resources is committed to honouring the Government's promise to deliver to the former employees of Caroni (1975) Limited, all *Residential Lots* and *Agricultural Plots*, as part of their Voluntary Separation of Employment Package (VSEP).

### **Achievements/Deliverables:**

- ✓ **3,062** Leases to two-acre *Agricultural Plots* and **3,097** Deeds to *Residential Lots* have been executed.
- ✓ **1,764** *Residential Lots* have been distributed with a further **1,333** to be distributed shortly.
- ✓ **Fifteen (15)** Residential sites have been prepared and subsequently handed over to **Caroni (1975) Limited** for processing and distribution.

### **Beneficiaries:**

- 8,855 former employees of Caroni (1975) Limited.

### **Status:**

- ✓ **Fourteen (14)** sites are currently being prepared by the **Estate Management & Business Development Company (EMBD)** to be handed over for distribution.
- ✓ All outstanding leases for lots are at various stages of the execution process and will be delivered before the end of 2015.

## **FARM OUTREACH PROGRAMME**

The Ministry of Land and Marine Resources, under the patronage of the Honourable Jairam Seemungal, continued its initiative to go into the Agricultural Blocks or in the vicinity thereof and make its staff readily available to collect real time information in order to facilitate the quick processing of Agricultural Licences in or within that area. The primary purpose of these interventions is to meet the needs of those constituents who reside in rural communities and who may have otherwise had to visit the Ministry's centralized offices miles away.

### **Objectives:**

- To collect and collate real-time information;
- To identify impediments and obstacles to processing;
- To alleviate the need for most prospective licensees to come into the office by having on-the-spot interviews; and
- To verify any information submitted to the Ministry's offices.

### **Achievements/Deliverables:**

- ✓ A total of six (6) Farm Outreach Programmes were conducted from the period March 2014 – April 2015, following which approximately 250 Agricultural Licences were distributed between October 2014 – April 2015.

### **Beneficiaries:**

- Close to 300 farmer-recipients of some 250 Agricultural Licenses.

## Status:

- ✓ To date the Programme has received the endorsement of about thirty (30) Constituency Offices and it is the intent of the Ministry to utilize these periodically as mobile offices during the coming months.

## STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

### 1. Caribbean Land Conference 2014

At a Caribbean Land Conference hosted by my Ministry in collaboration with the Land Settlement Agency (LSA) and the Institute of Surveyors of Trinidad and Tobago (ISTT) in September - October 2014, best practices in the management of informal settlements were thoroughly explored.

It highlighted the need for the equitable, transparent, sustainable, and economical allocation of State lands in the context of national development and noted its direct dependency on good governance and the requirement that the management of informal settlements do not compromise the enjoyment of formal interests in land by all other parties nor impact negatively on the environment. However, despite the Ministry's efforts to explore best practices in land development, land surveying and managing informal settlements, it continues to be challenged by those unscrupulous persons who engage in illegal quarrying and illegal squatting.

As a consequence, the Ministry has secured an alliance with the **Ministry of National Security** insofar as combatting the splurge of illegal occupation, land-grabbing and praedial larceny through **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** technology which caters for the acquisition of detailed pictorial imagery and thus, enables the Ministry to visualize the physical descriptors of State lands and thus better serve the monitoring and enforcement agencies of the State.



## **2. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Conference 2015**

The Government has welcomed Information Technology as one of the pillars of economic growth and stability in Trinidad and Tobago and has embarked on installing basic, technologically-driven infrastructure so as to create the information superhighway that will connect us locally, regionally and internationally.

As part of the People's Partnership Government's thrust to foster a more knowledge intensive and communications savvy nation, the **Surveys Division** of the **Ministry of Land and Marine Resources**, through its utilization of **GIS**, has embraced the use of modern technology to speed up the process of identifying, processing, distributing and managing the nation's valuable land resources.

In May this year, the Ministry hosted a **two (2)-day GIS Conference**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development** and the **University of the West-Indies (UWI) St. Augustine Campus**. Under the theme – *'Enhancing GIS for a better tomorrow through a spatially enabled society'* – this Conference was aimed at providing:

- **GIS** Education for capacity building, knowledge transfer, geospatial advancement and solutions;
- An avenue to showcase the impact of geospatial products to national problems as well as;
- Recognition of the effects of **GIS** on milestone achievements by the various Ministries under the current administration.

The GIS Conference highlighted, inter alia, the role of **GIS** as a vital component for informed decision making by government and the private sector; minimizing the risk of digital geo-spatial divide and the demand for geospatial information and its connection to ecosystems.

**THE MINISTRY  
OF  
LEGAL AFFAIRS**

## THE MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

<p><b>Availability of updated laws on CD ROM</b></p>	<p>In order to meet the demands of its stakeholders, the Ministry of Legal Affairs in 2010 embarked on a project to make the laws available in electronic format via CD ROM. This was an in-house project which came to fruition in August 2011. The project required the outlay of machinery and equipment totaling One Hundred and Forty Thousand Dollars (\$140,000). CDs have been sold at the unit cost of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500),</p>	<p>2010</p>	<p>Completed</p>
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<p><b>Committee to Review the Regularisation of Land Titles in Tobago.</b></p>	<p>A Committee recommended solutions to the difficulty experienced by people in Tobago in obtaining title to the property they currently occupy. In Tobago, the issue of land titles has been problematic. Currently, land transfers are done by word of mouth. This creates an issue when owners of these properties approach financial institutions to access funds for renovation purposes or seek to use their properties as collateral for loans. In order to address this situation the Ministry of Legal Affairs undertook a project for the regularisation of land titles in Tobago. There is now a system in place whereby owners of properties can now have proper title to land. The Registrar General's Office currently processes applications from residents of Tobago and the Ministry has already delivered some deeds to applicants.</p>	<p>2010</p>	<p>Completed</p>
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<p><b>Constitutional Reform</b></p>	<p>The responsibility for the Constitutional Reform Project was transferred by Cabinet Minute No. 1255 dated May 10th 2012 from the Office of the Prime Minister to the MLA. In the 2010 Manifesto, it was stated that the Government would address the issue of legislative amendments; specifically, the introduction of a referendum process, the recall of representatives for non-performance, limitations to terms of office for the Head of Government, as well as fixed dates for Local Government and National elections. In keeping with this promise, seventeen (17) public consultations, of which three (3) were held in Tobago and fourteen (14) in Trinidad, provided the population the opportunity to ventilate their concerns on constitutional reform. Additionally, members of the public also had the opportunity to submit their views in either hard copy or electronic format. Further, two (2) consultations were held with private stakeholders, the first of which was with the Tobago House of Assembly (THA). All comments received were compiled and formed the basis of the Trinidad and Tobago Constitution Commission's Report (Report) which was submitted to Cabinet. Some of the recommendations contained in the Report included: members of the House of Representatives should be subject to the right of recall by their constituents; there should be a limit of two (2) consecutive terms for the office of the Prime Minister- with the option with the Prime Minister returning after another person has served a term as Prime Minister; fixed dates for general and local elections; the number of senatorship allocated to each party is determined by the percentage of the total vote gained by the party; the number of elected senators should be equal to the number of seats in</p>	<p>2012</p>	<p>Completed</p>
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	<p>the house of representatives; there should be constitutional recognition of Local Government; and the issue of Trinidad and Tobago making the Caribbean Court of Justice its final Court of Appeal should be put to a national referendum. Cabinet decided to circulate the unedited Report to members of the public for further comment and that four (4) additional consultations be held. In preparation for the four (4) additional consultations, sixty five thousand (65,000) copies of the Report were circulated throughout the country. In fact, the staff of the Ministry traversed the country distributing copies to schools, malls and persons in the street. In addition, the Report was included in the daily newspapers and placed on the Ministry's website. Subsequently, an addendum comprising feedback from these consultations including the run-off provision, which entailed that in cases where less than fifty percent (50%) of the votes were obtained by successful candidates or fresh elections should be held, was prepared and submitted to the Prime Minister. Having regard to the fact that no further issues and no objections to the recommendations contained in the Report, Government felt that it had the authority of the citizenry to amend the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014 was debated in both houses in Parliament.</p>		
<p><b>Electronic Publication of the Laws</b></p>	<p>The electronic publication of the laws project came to fruition in 2010. The in-house production of a 2009 CD containing the revised laws, was indeed a successful undertaking which realized revenues in the sum of \$230, 000. Having regard to the popularity of this initiative, the Commission in 2014 produced an updated CD at the reduced price of \$300 to</p>	<p>2010</p>	<p>Completed</p>

	<p>facilitate young attorneys and law students. This new CD which went on sale from April, 2014 and has already brought in revenues in the sum of \$21, 000.</p>		
<p><b>E-Registration Centres</b></p>	<p>In keeping with the policy of the Government to serve the people, the MLA established fifteen (15) e-Registration sites throughout Trinidad and Tobago in an effort to facilitate the ease of registering births and deaths. No longer would persons have to come to Port of Spain or San Fernando to register births or deaths. Electronic registration of births and deaths at all major hospitals was implemented. Through re-engineering of its processes and using electronic technology, citizens are now able to register births and deaths online from the Port of Spain, San Fernando, Mount Hope and Tobago Hospitals. Of the fifteen (15) District Registrar Offices in which e-Registration is to take place, it was imperative that remote areas would also be served for instance Tobago, Penal/Debe and Point Fortin. The significance of this development is that birth certificates for new-borns can now be collected within a few days instead of a few weeks.</p>	<p>2011</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p><b>Establishment of a National Centre for Dispute Resolution</b></p>	<p>The National Centre for Dispute Resolution (NCDR) was commissioned by Cabinet in 2012 and placed under the authority of the MLA. The NCDR is mandated to provide co-ordination for alternative dispute resolution practices within all offices of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. Under the direction of its director, the NCDR will promote and consolidate Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) on a national scale for Governmental</p>	<p>2014</p>	<p>Completed</p>

	<p>departments and relevant state agencies. The centre was launched on November 4th 2014.</p>		
<p><b>Land Tenants (Security of Tenure) Act, Chap 59:54</b></p>	<p>The MLA, working together with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development developed a strategy to alert statutory tenants that they should send Notices of Renewal to their respective landlords. It aided in the development of a newspaper advertisement that was published and a list of Frequently Asked Questions was prepared which was forwarded to the Corporate Communications Unit (“CCU”) to assist members of the public with their queries. The Land Tenants (Security of Tenure) Act, Chap 59:54 was eventually amended to extend the period of time in which tenants were allowed to submit their Notices of Renewal. The period of time was extended to May 31st 2011.</p>	2010	Completed
<p><b>Review of the Local Supermarket Sector in Keeping with International Best Practices</b></p>	<p>A project was undertaken by the RPMU to Review the Local Supermarket Sector in Keeping with International Best Practices. Interviews with the regulatory agencies were completed in 2010 and surveys were conducted for a sample of supermarket owners and consumers in 2011. A report has been drafted and is being revised. This report also contains recommendations for a Code of Practice for supermarkets in Trinidad and Tobago, which would be in keeping with international best practices.</p>	2010	Completed

<p><b>The Births and Deaths Registration (Amendment) Act, Chap. 44:01</b></p>	<p>The Policy Document to effect legislative changes to facilitate the name of a child to be entered on the Register of Births at any time after the birth has been registered was drafted in January of 2012. In June of 2012 the Policy Document was approved by Cabinet and the Bill was approved by the LRC in November of 2012. The Bill was assented to on May 16, 2013 and is now known as the Births and Deaths Registration (Amendment) Act, Act No. 3 of 2013.</p>	<p>2012</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p><b>The Marriage (Amendment) Act, Chap. 45:01</b></p>	<p>This amendment allows for a “Fee Exempt Form for Registration of Marriages” which will bear the pin number necessary for the issue of the computer generate Marriage Certificate under the Marriage Act, Chap.45:01; Hindu Marriage Act, Chap. 45:03; Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act, Chap 45:02 and the Orisa Marriage Act, Chap.45:04. The Amendment also deals with the delegation of the Minister’s authority to issue President’s Licences, President’s Authorities and Special Licences to the Registrar General. The Policy Document was drafted and approved by Cabinet in June of 2012 and the Bill was approved by the Legislation Review Committee (“LRC”) in November of 2012. After debate in Parliament the Bill was assented to by the President on May 16, 2013 and is now known as the Marriage (Amendment) Act, Act No. 4 of 2013.</p>	<p>2010</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p><b>The Miscellaneous Provisions (Licensing Committee) Act, No. 6 of 2014</b></p>	<p><b>The Miscellaneous Provisions (Licensing Committee) Act, No. 6 of 2014</b> - In March of 2011 the Policy Document was drafted to effect legislative changes to allow for approval of applications for licences for various purposes as an administrative process, reduce the time required for Magistrates in dealing with such matters by limiting their role by dealing with objections only and shortening the time</p>	<p>2011</p>	<p>Completed</p>



	<p>for approval of licences when required. The Act sought to amend to amend the Liquor Licences Act, Chap. 84:10, the Cinematograph Act, Chap. 20:10, the Registration of Clubs Act, Chap. 21:01, the Theatres and Dance Halls Act, Chap. 21:03, the Moneylenders Act, Chap. 84:04, the Pawnbrokers Act, Chap. 84:05, the Licensing of Dealers (Precious Metals) Act, Chap. 84:06 and the Old Metal and Marine Stores Act, Chap. 84:07. The Policy Document was approved by Parliament in November 2012 and after approval by the LRC the Bill was assented to on July 21, 2014 and is now known as the Miscellaneous Provisions (Licensing Committee) Act, No. 6 of 2014.</p>		
<p><b>The opening of regional consumer complaints offices in Arima and Point Fortin</b></p>	<p>The Arima office was opened on 10th April, 2010 and the Point Fortin office was opened on 21st April, 2010. These offices were set up with the purpose of receiving consumer complaints from members of the general public in more remote and accessible locations.</p>	<p>2010</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p><b>The Revised Consolidated Index</b></p>	<p>Prior to 2010, the compilation of the Consolidated Index was undertaken by the Law Library, Faculty of Law, Barbados. However, due to the difficulty in receiving the Acts and Legal Notices of Trinidad and Tobago in a timely fashion, the updating of the Index suffered severe setbacks with the last publication from Barbados being in 2005. As a consequence, and due to the demand for the Index by the Judiciary and Legal Profession, the Ministry in 2010 undertook responsibility for the updating and publication of the Index on a bi-annual basis. By April of 2011 the Ministry had produced an updated Index to December 2009 and in 2014 the Ministry was able to provide to the public, a further updated Index containing all relevant updates to the Acts and Subsidiary Legislation up to December 2012. These Indexes have</p>	<p>2010</p>	<p>Completed</p>

	brought in a combined revenue of \$67,000.		
<b>Updated Laws – First, Second and Third Supplements</b>	From 2010 to 2014 the Law Revision Commission (LRC) successfully completed the preparation and publication of a First, Second and Third Supplement which updated the laws of Trinidad and Tobago to December 2007, 2009 and 2012 respectively. These updated laws are now accessible on the internet on the Ministry’s website and the revised pages have been published and distributed. It is to be noted that work on a Fourth Supplement has already begun and the Commission is committed towards publication by August 2015. To meet the needs of our stakeholders and with the aim of achieving real-time law revision, the Internet is being continuously updated so that users of the web can now view our laws updated to June 2013.	2010	Completed

**THE MINISTRY  
OF  
LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT**

## The MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Local Area and Regional Planning and Development Unit

#### Accomplishments September 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 –June 1st 2015

- 1) **Review of the Municipal Development Plans** for consistency against the National Spatial Development Strategy. The updated fourteen (14) Municipal Development Plans will additionally serve as a tool to strengthen the ability of the Municipal Corporations to individually negotiate with Central Government on matters related to the development of their municipality consistent with the NSDS.
  - Local Area Economic Profiles (LAEPs)

Technical Services being provided by Kairi Consultancy Services Ltd. To prepare ten Local Area Economic Profiles for Municipalities not included in demonstrations projects for CARILED. Expected completion June 2015.
  - Business Improvement Areas (BIAs)

Support from Caribbean Local Economic Development Program (CARILED) ongoing.
  - Land Use Policy Review in collaboration with the Town and Country Planning Division.
- 2) **Institutional and Administrative Support to Municipal Corporations** to receive Physical Planning responsibilities upon proclamation of Planning and Facilitation of Development Act No. 10 of 2014.
  - Work of Cabinet Appointed Coordinating Committee and Sub-committees ongoing. Approximately 20 meetings of Plenary and Sub-committees held to date in addition to one workshop conducted. Proposed Organisational Structure and related staffing proposals completed.
  - Presently finalising report to initiate Development Control pilot projects in four additional Municipal Corporations (MCs).
- 3) **Support to Municipal Corporations in Municipal Investment Plans (MIPs) projects.**

- Projects are based on developing regional economic strategies as well as building capacity as it relates to the securing of funding (outside of state allocations) for project implementation at the local authority level. The MIPs are being used to translate the strategic proposals put forward in the Municipal Development Plans (MDPs) into tangible, localised, implementable projects and programmes in communities.

#### **4) CARILED**

- Work ongoing to implement LED projects and technical assistance with CARILED demonstration Municipalities (San Juan/Laventille, Chaguanas, Princes Town and Point Fortin) and additional MLG pilots in Mayaro/Rio Claro and Siparia Municipal Corporations.

#### **5) Caribbean Urban Forum (CUF)5**

- Presented paper entitled, 'Lean Strategies;' A Development Planning Tool for Trinidad and Tobago at The Municipal Level. June 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> 2015.

#### **6) Technical Support to Cabinet Appointed Committees and other Technical Committees.**

## **2012/2013**

### **Waste Management –**

The Ministry in its continued quest to modernize the waste management system in Trinidad and Tobago achieved the following during the fiscal year 2012/2013:

#### **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN:**

On December 13, 2012 Cabinet by Minute No. 3295 agreed to the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee for a period of nine months to oversee the consultancy that will be engaged to develop a Solid Waste Management Strategic Plan (SWMSP) for Trinidad and Tobago and to function as a counterpart team to work alongside the IDB. The SWMSP is geared towards operationalizing the Integrated Solid Waste/Resource Management Policy developed by the Ministry to address the

challenges faced in the waste management sector. This SWMSP is being carried out in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Under the Water and Sanitation initiative the IDB agreed to assist the Government in the preparation of the SWMSP through technical assistance in the form of a consultancy and this initiative will be funded by the IDB. The Committee was constituted in April 4, 2013 with officials nominated from Ministries and Agencies identified in the Cabinet Minute. During its tenure the key objectives were to assist the IDB in the recruitment of an appropriate Consultant to undertake the Development of the Plan and subsequently monitor, assist, provide guidance and review the development of the plan.

#### **INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY:**

On June 20, 2013 Cabinet by Minute No.1724 agreed to approve the National Integrated Solid Waste/Resource Management Policy for Trinidad and Tobago, subject to the amendment of the Policy to include the comments of the Minister of the Environment and Water Resources. Subsequently, the Policy was amended and gained the approval from the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources.

### **2013/2014**

#### **Waste Management -**

The Ministry through its commitment to modernize the waste management system in Trinidad and Tobago, achieved approval from Cabinet by Minute No.2433 of August 28, 2014 for the revised National Integrated Solid Waste/Resource Management Policy for Trinidad and Tobago

The National Integrated Solid Waste/Resource Management Policy sets a clear direction for Trinidad and Tobago for a ten-year period. It will integrate a policy and regulatory framework and will build on a valuable existing foundation by providing a nationally agreed direction and focus informed by extensive consultation. The policy encompasses solid wastes, including hazardous wastes and substances, in the municipal, commercial and industrial waste streams.

The policy sets directions in a number of key areas adopting strategies that are designed to:

- Provide a coherent, comprehensive national framework for solid waste management, to include waste diversion - reduction, resource recovery and recycling over the next decade;
- Enable Trinidad and Tobago to meet its international obligations regarding the management of hazardous wastes and substances and persistent organic pollutants (pops) with reduced risk for future generations;
- Structure and encourage recycling initiatives;
- address transportation, shipping and market impediments and streamline the regulatory frameworks so that national companies and small and medium businesses can operate effectively and efficiently by managing products and materials responsibly throughout its life cycle;
- provide national leadership on waste and resource recovery where it is needed and facilitate collaboration with other regional states on pertinent issues;
- Combat climate change, contribute to sustainability, innovation and employment opportunities, and
- Be high impact and cost effective by setting clear national directions informed by a consultative process and carefully targeted actions that incrementally build on the previous and existing efforts of governments.

## 2014/2015

### Solid Waste Management Strategic Plan

A Consultant hired through IDB to develop a strategic plan and action plan on behalf of the Ministry. The consultant began work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 and will be completed by August 2015. It should be also noted that the Inter Ministerial Committee engaged to develop a Solid Waste Management Strategic Plan (SWMSP) for Trinidad and Tobago was also reinstated in March 2015

## Status Report on the Implementation the Dog Control Act, 2013 and the Dog Control (Amendment) Act, 2014

### Background

Cabinet by **Minute No. 1041** of April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 agreed *inter alia* that the Ministry of Local Government undertake the following actions to facilitate the proclamation of the Dog Control Act, 2013 and the Dog Control (Amendment) Act, 2014:

- (a) To the construction of four (4) shared pound facilities, strategically located throughout Trinidad and Tobago, aimed at improving the facilities for impounding dogs in the Municipal Corporations;
- (b) To the establishment of an Advisory Committee comprising representatives from the under-mentioned Ministries/Organizations to guide the process of siting, designing and constructing the Pound facilities referred to at (a) above:
  - The Ministry of Local Government;
  - The Ministry of Food Production;
  - The Trinidad and Tobago Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (TTSPCA); and
  - The Trinidad and Tobago Veterinary Association.

Cabinet noted that the MoLG would make a further submission to Cabinet with respect to the location and resources requirements for the construction of the four (4) shared Pound facilities, and the funding requirements for the Corporations to equip and operationalize Canine Units, as



well as to strengthen their institutional arrangements to adequately meet the requirements of the Dog Control Act, 2013 and the Dog Control (Amendment) Act, 2014.

An Advisory Committee was established in the Ministry of Local Government to guide the process for the implementation of the Dog Control Act, 2013 and the Dog Control (Amendment) Act, 2014. The Advisory Committee was formed and received their instruments of appointment on the 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2014. The Committee advocated a holistic approach to addressing the matter of the stray dog population inclusive of dangerous dogs. The Committee submitted interim and medium to long-term recommendations which Cabinet agreed to by Minute No. 2271 of August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Cabinet by **Minute No. 2271** of August 14, 2014 agreed to the following:

- (i) The shelter arrangement put in place by the ministry of Food Production continue for a further period of six (6) months (Minute No. 1040 of April 10, 2014 refers).
- (ii) The upgrade of the North Facility of the Trinidad and Tobago Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (TTSPCA), at an estimated cost of \$285,000.00, to accommodate 'dangerous dogs.'
- (iii) The provision of a one-off payment in the sum of \$368,513.00 to the TTSPCA to assist with its recurrent operating expenses for one (1) year.
- (iv) The upgrade of the Southern pound at the San Fernando City Corporation and the siting, design and construction of three (3) additional pound facilities in Central, Western and Eastern Trinidad at an estimated cost of \$6-Mn made up as follows:
  - a. the expansion and upgrade of the current Pound at the San Fernando City Corporation to service the Siparia, Point Fortin, Penal/Debe, San Fernando, Mayaro/Rio Claro and Princes Town Municipal Corporations, at an estimated cost of \$1.5-Mn.
  - b. the construction of Central Pound in Carlsen Field to service the Chaguanas and Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo Municipal Corporations, at an estimated cost of \$1.5-Mn.
  - c. the construction of the Western Pound on lands south of the Churchill Roosevelt Highway or east of the Beetham Landfill to service the Port of Spain, Diego Martin and San Juan/Laventille Municipal Corporations, at an estimated cost of \$1.5-Mn.
  - d. the construction of the Eastern Pound either south of the traffic intersection at Maloney or Wallerfield to service the Tunapuna/Piarco, Arima and Sangre Grande Municipal Corporations, at an estimated cost of \$1.5-Mn.

- (v) The appointment of a Monitoring Committee for a period of one (1) year to oversee the upgrade/construction of the four (4) shared Pound facilities, among other things.
- (vi) The staffing of the four (4) Pound Facilities in Southern, Central, Western and Eastern Trinidad as set out in the Organizational Structure for the Dog Pound at page 9 of the Report, at an estimated cost of \$2,541,168.00.
- (vii) The training of staff at the Corporations and the four (4) Pound Facilities, at an estimated cost \$2,296,000.00.
- (viii) The conduct of a Public Awareness Campaign, at an estimated cost \$1,200,000.00.
- (ix) The establishment of a National Dog Control Database, at an estimated cost of \$1.5-Mn.

The Total Estimated Sum for the implementation of the Dog Control Act, 2013 and the Dog Control (Amendment) Act, 2014 is **\$14,190,681.00**.

**Update on the Implementation of the Recommendations:**

Implementation Approach	Update as of 13 <sup>th</sup> March, 2015
(i) the upgrade of the North Facility of the Trinidad and Tobago Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (TTSPCA) to accommodate 'dangerous dogs.'	The Upgrade to the TTSPCA facility is in progress.
(ii) the upgrade of the Southern Pound at the San Fernando City Corporation and the construction of three (3) additional pound facilities which will be strategically located in Central, Western and Eastern, Trinidad.	<p><u>The Southern Pound</u> The Southern Pound is at the tendering stage. The Contract Documents have been prepared and approved by the Permanent Secretary for selective tendering. Documents are being prepared to obtain Town and Country approvals for the designs of Pound which will be used for all locations.</p> <p><u>The Central Pound</u> The construction of the Central Pound will be second on the agenda. A site visit was conducted to view the property. A Land Surveyor will be hired to re-survey the portion of land to identify the boundaries. Permission</p>

	<p>has already been sought from the Commissioner of State Lands to utilize the lands for the construction of a Pound.</p> <p><u>The Eastern and Western Pound</u></p> <p>The Eastern Pound will follow next, then the Western Pound.</p>
(iii) the appointment of a Monitoring Committee for a period of one (1) year to oversee the upgrade/construction of the four (4) shared Pound facilities, among other things.	To expedite the work of the Monitoring Committee, the Permanent Secretary, of the MoLG had mandated the establishment of a sub-committee to be called the Working Committee, whose sole responsibility will be to oversee the construction of the four (4) Pound facilities in Southern, Central, Western and Eastern Trinidad. The Working Committee received their instruments of appointment on 1 <sup>st</sup> December, 2014 and the process has started for the construction of the Pounds.
(iv) the training of staff at the Corporations and the four (4) pound facilities.	The Ministry of Local Government has met with the <b>Mounted and Canine Section of the</b> Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) to assist in designing, developing and executing a Training Programme for the staff of the Municipal Corporation and the four (4) shared Pound facilities.
(v) the conduct of a Public Awareness.	Public Awareness campaign will be rolled out on a phase basis.
(vi) the establishment of a National Dog Control Database.	The Ministry's Management Information System Unit is currently evaluating the tenders for this project with the Central Tenders Board.

### **Dog Control Legislation**

The Dog Control Act, 2013 was proclaimed in July, 2013. On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 only some sections of the Act were proclaimed. These Sections do not require supporting regulations and focus mainly on the general welfare of class 'A' dogs and the additional protection for members of the public. The Sections which were proclaimed include Sections 1-5, 5A, 8, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 26A.

The Legislation Review Committee of the Attorney General has finalized the Dog Control Regulations, 2015. Accordingly, Cabinet by **Minute No. 458** of February 26, 2015 approved the remaining sections of the Dog Control Act and the Dog Control Regulations, 2015 which was required prior to the remaining Sections of the Act being proclaimed. The President has signed for the remaining Sections of the Act to be proclaimed and this will take effect from March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. It is important to note that the public will have six (6) months in which to become compliant that September, 2015.

**THE MINISTRY OF  
NATIONAL  
DIVERSITY AND  
SOCIAL  
INTEGRATION**

## MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION

### Preservation of the Heritage Legacy of Trinidad and Tobago:

- Refurbishment and Upgrade of National Archives Buildings;
- Establishment of the Sugar Archive and Documentation Centre at the Sugar Heritage Village;
- Conducted outreach activities throughout Trinidad and Tobago;
- Hosted National Archives Awareness Week;
- Drafted a Museum Sector Policy: consultations held and final Policy being revised;
- Established a Multi-sectoral Committee to draft a National Heritage Policy;
- Refurbished the Annex of the National Museum and Art Gallery;
- Completed the air conditioning of the Art Gallery at National Museum and Art Gallery;
- Commenced refurbishment work of Sevilla House as a Sugar Museum;
- Progressed work towards the creation of a virtual Museum of Trinidad and Tobago: Ongoing digital cataloguing of the entire collection of the National Museum and Art Gallery;
- Completed the installation of signage at Heritage Sites in Rio Claro;
- In collaboration with the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago, hosted event: 1970 Revisited on Nelson Island;
- In collaboration with the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago, hosted Celebration of Indian Arrival, 2015 on Nelson Island;
- In collaboration with the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago, hosted first ever Butler Day on Nelson Island; and
- Restoration of Nelson Island continues towards to establishment of a National Heritage Site

### **Fostering of national pride:**

- Developed and launched the National Identity Guidelines of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to ensure that key identifiable insignias inherent in our National Emblems: the Coat of Arms, National Flag and National Flower are standardised to ensure consistency in image, appearance and messaging;
- Observed a National Year of Patriotism from August, 2012 to August, 2013 which included:
  - Hosting of National Patriotism Fairs in Port of Spain, La Romain
  - Hosting of a National Heroes Consultation in 2013, Tobago;
  - Staging a National Week of Patriotism, and First Heritage Walk, March, 2013;
  - Re-Enactment of Indian Arrival on Nelson Island, May, 2013
  - Reflections of the Journey from Slavery to Emancipation, 2013, Port of Spain;
  - Hosting of Vacation Camp Patriotism and Heritage Tours August, 2013;
  - Republic Day Extravaganza, 2013
  - A National Flag Competition under the “Flag for Every Home Initiative.

### **Inclusion of issues of diversity in National Development Policies:**

- Hosted the First National Diversity Conference in October, 2013;
- Drafted a National Diversity and Social Integration Policy: First Draft considered by Cabinet and is currently being revised.

### **Creation of an environment for the inculcation and transmission of moral and spiritual values:**

Provided support for the celebration of the undermentioned Religious festivals by community and faith based organisations:

Indian Arrival Day

- Corpus Christi
- Emancipation
- Christmas Day
- Eid-ul-Fitr
- Divali
- Amerindian Heritage Day and Santa Rosa Festival
- Ramleela
- Phagwa
- Spiritual Shouter Baptist Liberation Day
- Easter

Hosted two (2) National Days of Prayer in schools, 2013.

**Promotion of the recognition of the contributions of the First Peoples of Trinidad and Tobago:**

Reconstituted the First Peoples Development Committee formerly known as the Amerindian Project Committee;

Facilitated the acquisition of 25 acres of land for the establishment of the Model Amerindian Village;

Assisted in undertaking a consultancy for the development of a preliminary Master plan for the development of the Model Amerindian Village;

Co-hosted an International Conference of the First Peoples fin October, 2013.

**Promotion of broad-based participation in decision-making through engagement of Civil Society:**

Held regional public consultations towards facilitating the establishment of the Civil Society Board;

Conducted regional elections as a first phase of the establishment of a Civil Society Board;

Conducted a national election for the establishment of a Civil Society Board.

**THE MINISTRY  
OF  
NATIONAL  
SECURITY**



## THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

### LIST OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND ON-GOING LAW ENFORCEMENT MEASURES

#### 1. Introduction of New Units –

- Formal Establishment of the National Operations Centre as the backbone for intelligence gathering and information sharing among law enforcement agencies;
- Formal Establishment of the Rapid Response Unit;
- Formal Establishment of the Counter Human Trafficking Unit
- Establishment of the National Security Training Academy
- Formal Establishment of the Energy Sector Security Initiative;

#### 2. Improved Visibility and Response of Law Enforcement Agencies-

- A heavy increase in law enforcement presence has taken place throughout the country with more anti-crime operations, roadblocks, stop and search exercises and breathalyser testing;
- Higher visibility of law enforcement officers on the nation's roadways via the rebranding of the Highway Patrol Unit
- The introduction of the Rapid Response Unit has assisted law enforcement to respond to the needs of citizens in a more timely and effective manner and provide a higher level of visibility to afford citizens a general feeling of security.
- Establishment of the NSSOG specialised group comprising members of the various law enforcement agencies

#### 3. Inter-Agency Joint Patrols –

- Collaboration between the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force in Inter-Agency Joint Patrols has contributed to a noted reduction in crime in all patrolled areas.

#### 4. Collaboration with International Agencies –

- Collaboration with Mayor Giuliani
- Twinning of TTPS and the NY Police department through Police Commissioner Bill Bratton
- Audit of police service strength to empower expertise in all aspects of policing
- Trinidad and Tobago law enforcement Agencies have collaborated successfully with regional and international security counterparts in several drug interdiction operations. In October 2013, 800 kilos cocaine were seized through local Agencies, inclusive of the Transnational Organized Crime Unit, working with Spanish police. Based on critical tip offs and data acquired from our Intelligence agencies, local law enforcement worked with the United Kingdom National Crime Agency and French Customs Caribbean Operations upon which 310 kilos cocaine were seized.

- The Ministry has been forging stronger communication links and collaboration with countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Venezuela, Colombia, China, France, Spain and Italy.

#### **5. Improved Communications System –**

- Implementation of an integrated radio network so police can communicate effectively
- A Memorandum of Understanding was established between TSTT and the Ministry of National Security to expedite the expansion of the CCTV Network by 500 cameras throughout Trinidad and Tobago to enhance law enforcement capabilities to detect, deter and respond to crime and other incidents that would otherwise go undetected.
- All Trinidad and Tobago Police Service vehicles have been equipped with GPS Technology, in an effort to improve police response to calls for service.
- Body cameras for police officers to be provided as evidence in the case of accusations by the public about excessive force being meted out by police officers.
- Establishment of the E999 Centre

#### **6. Training –**

- The establishment of an indoor range to train police officers
- Simulation theatres to train officers real life encounters and when to use force. This type of training is to ensure minimal use of force
- The introduction of Tasers and Pepper spray to assist citizens to protect themselves and even officers to use minimal force in apprehending suspects
- The training of Crime Scene Investigators has been on-going at The National Security Training Academy has trained several batches of Crime Scene Investigators to supplement the Homicide Investigations Bureau of the TTPS. These new CSIs have been contributing to a gradual improvement in the detection rate of serious crimes and a more professional approach in forensic recovery.
- The National Security Training Academy has been working at delivering a minimum of two hundred and four (204) training sessions in fifteen (15) core courses to the National Security Community for the fiscal period commencing October 1, 2013, benefitting an estimated eight thousand, nine hundred and sixteen (8,916) personnel from the various Divisions within the National Security and Law Enforcement Sector.
- The Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service have all gained an increase in force numbers with the passing out of recruit intakes.

- In the past year, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) – one of the programmes that fall under SYSP - recorded an enrolment of two thousand, two hundred and nineteen (2219) young adults. The programme lists as an achievement the ability to curb the rising incidents of crime committed by youths between the ages of 18 and 25 by keeping an average of 1400 youths engaged in productive activities from 7am to 4pm daily in a supervised environment.

**7. Equipment and Vehicles –**

- Additions have been made to the fleets of the TTDF, TTPS and TTFS.
- Formal approval for the acquisition of armoured personnel carriers for the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force

**8. Construction –**

- Completion of eight (9) police stations throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

**THE MINISTRY  
OF  
THE PEOPLE  
AND  
SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE PEOPLE AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### Project 1:

#### **National Enrichment and Empowerment Centre**

*formerly the National Development Centre for Persons with Disabilities*

**Start date:** October 2012

**Completion date:** Completion of Superstructure - September 2013  
Completion of Remedial and Additional works - April 2015  
Operationalization of the Centre is scheduled for mid-Fiscal 2014/2015

#### **Background:**

According to the 2011 Trinidad and Tobago Population and Housing Census, there are approximately 52, 244 persons living with a disability (PWDs), which is equivalent to 4% of the total population of 1,328, 019. This data is reflective of a 13% person increase in comparison to the last census in the year 2000. A review of the data highlighting the number of persons with disabilities by region, reveals that the Tunapuna/Piarco and Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo and San Juan/Laventille regions constitute 37% of persons with disabilities in Trinidad and Tobago.

Currently, there is a dearth in the availability of therapeutic services for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Trinidad and Tobago in both the private and public sectors. At present, access to therapies from the main public health care institutions including the San Fernando General Hospital, Port of Spain General Hospital and Mt. Hope General Hospital is limited to treat with the demand of the disabled community. In the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) sector, the Lady Hochoy Home, Princess Elizabeth Centre Caribbean Kids and Families Therapy Organisation and the Life Centre are some of the main options at which therapeutic services are provided. The private sector also is limited in the number of therapies available which is further compounded by the high costs to access same for example, TTD\$400.00 per hour.

While opportunities for vocational training and employment and an independent life skills programme are available in the local NGO community, at institutions such as the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD), San Fernando or the Goodwill Industries, Port of Spain, there exists no single facility which provides rehabilitation and developmental services for the national community of persons with disabilities.

**Purpose of Project:**

Cabinet in May 2011 approved the allocation of land at Carlsen Field to construct the first National Development Centre for Persons with Disabilities in Trinidad and Tobago.

The purpose of the Development Centre is to provide diagnostic and rehabilitative services to persons with disabilities; offer opportunities for vocational training and employment; facilitate independent life skills programmes and socially interactive activities through a Day Activity Centre. The Development Centre will also function as a Resource Centre to accommodate non-governmental organizations. It is intended that the therapeutic services to be provided at the Centre will support similar services offered at the various health facilities.

**Beneficiaries:**

1. Nationals who are PWDs
2. NGOs that treat specifically with PWDs,
3. Families and Caregivers of PWDs

**Opportunities:**

1. It is envisaged that the Centre shall relieve/reduce the demand for therapies at the main public health care institutions including the San Fernando General Hospital, Port of Spain General Hospital and Mt. Hope General Hospital.
2. Suitably qualified PWDs will be employed at the Centre.
3. The establishment of other multidisciplinary Centres throughout Trinidad and Tobago to provide rehabilitative services to persons with disabilities.
4. The establishment of a support group for families and caregivers of clients.

**Advantages:**

1. The Centre will be a first centralized facility where a significant number of PWDs can access specialised services.

**Implementation Details:**

The Ministry of the People and Social Development entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Community Improvement Services Limited (CISL) as the Project Manager for the construction of the Centre with actual construction commencing in October 2012. While completion of major infrastructural works ended on August 30, 2013; remedial works were undertaken to ensure compliance with OSHA and international accessibility standards. Additional works to improve the aesthetic and make the facility more user friendly are scheduled to be completed by April 2015.

## **Status**

At present the physical infrastructure of the National Empowerment and Enrichment Centre is 99% complete. It is envisaged that the building will soon be handed over to the Ministry, for outfitting and operationalization of the Centre. Subsequent Stakeholder meetings have been held with the Disabled Community seeking sign-off and finality of the Construction Phase of the Project as well as engaging input for operationalization of the Centre.

The Ministry is currently finalising plans to operationalize the Centre on a phased basis. It is anticipated that this will involve partnership with an NGO to offer limited therapeutic services.

A list of equipment has been prepared by the Project Implementation Unit for the outfitting of the Centre. Collaboration with NGO Stakeholders would continue to ensure that the Centre provide the range and quality of services envisaged.

**Project 2:  
Establishment of Social Displacement Centres:  
Queen Street Assessment Centre and Temporary Accommodation for Street Dwellers**

**Start date:** June 2006

**Completion date:** September 2015

**Background:**

The street dweller population in Port-of-Spain is an ongoing challenge and there are significant social and economic costs to this phenomenon. Corrective measures need to be undertaken before the situation becomes untenable. It is discomfoting and not in keeping with developed world status to have citizens of Trinidad and Tobago roaming the streets in various stages of disarray, begging and engaging in decidedly unhygienic practices such as foraging in dustbins for meals or bottles to sell to generate income. It is against this background that the Ministry of the People and Social Development proposes to provide a service that would:

1. Allow for the assessment and subsequent referral to treatment and rehabilitation Centres/Programmes
2. Provide temporary accommodation for socially displaced persons
3. Attract the homeless population by the quality of service offered
4. Empower street dwellers through education to improve their lives

Cabinet by Minute No. 1842 of July 27, 2006 agreed, inter alia, to the purchase of a property located at Nos. 35-41, Queen Street, Port of Spain, for the establishment by the Ministry of Social Development of an Assessment Centre with associated temporary accommodation for persons who are socially displaced.

**Objectives:**

In order to restore socially displaced persons an acceptable level of social skills and functioning to the best of their capacity we must begin with assessment. This project will establish a facility which provides assessment and temporary shelter, the services delivered therein will:

- Provide a viable alternative to street dwelling



- Determine the socially displaced person rehabilitation and treatment needs
- Facilitate voluntary and involuntary removal from the streets and provide temporary care and accommodation.
- Provide referral to treatment and rehabilitation centre and programmes
- Prepare clientele for treatment or rehabilitation

The facility will provide an office location for outreach staff, intake and assessment services. Hygiene facilities, first aid and nurse's referrals to mental and general health care services, social work advice and counselling.

Intake, assessment and referral processes at the facility will be for a period of no more than eight (8) weeks.

### **Beneficiaries**

The targeted beneficiaries include all socially displaced/homeless persons, both male and female, living on the streets of Port-of-Spain and surrounding areas.

### **Timeframe**

The timeframe for the process of thorough assessment is expected to take a maximum of eight (8) weeks. This Assessment Centre would accommodate a maximum of one hundred and sixty (160) persons.

### **Project description:**

The Centre will provide areas for diagnosis and evaluation of street dwellers inclusive of dormitories for both male and female persons, training, recreation and staff administration.

### **Planned activities for 2014/2015:**

- Finalize user brief
- Commence refurbishment works
- Operationalise Centre

### **Status:**

An NGO has already approached the Ministry with an offer to operate the Centre.

### **Project 3: Biometric Smart Card System**

#### **Background:**

The implementation of an integrated multi-application Biometric Smart Card System (Biometric Smart Card System) in the MPSD will be the sequel to the Debit Card System implemented by the MPSD on August 1, 2006. As GORTT continues to explore the delivery of end to end services inclusive of e-payments, the MPSD is seeking to implement a solution that will be interoperable with GORTT's current ICT infrastructure.

The implementation of a Biometric Smart Card System seeks to harmonize the efficiency of the MPSD by providing a common platform for the delivery of various social services grants. The Biometric Smart Card System would remove the existence of the multiple grants administration processes and still largely paper-based grants system which has resulted in a fragmented approach to service delivery, and replace such a system with a modern, electronic, and rapid processing grant delivery system providing enhanced identity verification, and identity fraud reduction capabilities. The Biometric Smart Card System will also allow for an efficiently streamlined service delivery approach and mechanism instead of a service delivery that lacks standardization, compatibility, and coordination.

The Biometric Smart Card System will facilitate the delivery of the following social services grants, initially:

- The Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (TCCTP),
- The Public Assistance Grant,
- The Disability Assistance Grant,
- The Senior Citizens Pensions, and
- The General Assistance Grants, where applicable.

There are currently 171,000 MPSD Clients accessing social services grants.

#### **Expected Outcomes:**

The following major outcomes are expected:

- An integrated, multi-application Biometric Smart Card System fully operational within the MPSD, and interoperable with other Government e-platforms to facilitate delivery services from other Ministries;

- Consolidated and streamlined delivery of all MPSD social services grants through a Biometric Smart Card System;
- Smart Cards enabled with Biometric technology and that allow the withdrawal of cash, and access to non-cash services by Card Users; and
- Comprehensive monitoring and management of information and activities relating to Smart Card transactions.

**Specific Benefits:**

- Efficient utilization of State resources in the delivery of Government services and programmes;
- A technologically secure solution for minimizing fraud in the delivery and receipt of Government services and programmes,
- Reduced abuse of Government services and programmes;
- Greater efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of Government services and programmes;
- Efficient management of information relating to Government services and programmes as well as successful information sharing among Government Ministries and;
- Effective monitoring of Smart Card recipients.

**System Implementation:**

The Ministry of the People and Social Development, through the Central Tenders Board, requested proposal for ***Supply, Delivery, Implementation, Operation and Maintenance of an Integrated, Multi-Application Biometric Smart Card System***. It was intended that this system will reduce the levels of fraud and duplication in the system as well as provide the Ministry with one solution to manage the transfer of payments. Accordingly on September 26, 2013, the Ministry entered into a contractual arrangement for a system which comprise the following:

- A. the **Biometric Platform** inclusive of the Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), Government Resource Management System (GRMS) and the Card Management System (CMS) .
- B. the **Financial Platform Module**.

The national implementation (rollout) of the System is intended to be done in two (2) phases:

1. *The Enrolment of Biometric Data* (fingerprints, photographs, and digital signatures where possible) of each MPSD Client and Nominees, at Enrolment Centres located in both islands of Trinidad and Tobago.

2. *The Personalization and Issuance of a Smart Card to each Client*, where the Biometric Data (fingerprints, photographs, digital signatures) and Personal Information of each client will be **uploaded** to the Card and issued on-spot to the client at the Distribution Sites. The System is expected to become fully operational in April 2015.

**Status:**

To date the System's first component Biometric Platform has been fully delivered with successful testing in a 'live' environment by the MPSD with the commencement of biometric enrolment on July 15, 2014. The Smart Cards have already been pre-personalized (uploading of the card design and security features to the blank, white chip-embedded cards) at the NagraID factory in Switzerland. Development of the other components of the System have been completed and is ready for interfacing with the Financial Platform.

The enrolment process has already began at centres in Sangre Grande, Penal and Chaguanas. Other centres will be fully operational in Barataria and Tobago by March 11, 2015. The first batch of 10,000 cards will be requested by March 12, 2015. The full System (Biometric Platform inclusive of the AFIS and GRMS interfaced with the CMS and Financial Platform) is expected to be fully operational in April 2015 with the distribution of these cards. Clients of the TCCTP will be able to use their cards to purchase goods in supermarkets and at other participating retailers using biometrically enabled Point of Sale (POS) Terminals. This will also include recipients of the Baby Care Initiative. Thereafter, clients will be able to conduct financial transactions (withdraw cash) at ATMs, as other services (Senior Citizens' Pension, Public Assistance and Disability Assistance Grants) are enabled.

**Project 4:**  
**Toco Home for Senior Citizens**

**Start date:** March 2014

**Completion date** April 2015

**Background:**

The Toco Senior Citizens' Home was constructed in 1959 on a one (1) acre parcel of land situated on Petit Trou Road, Toco. Government funding was secured to enable the construction of the home to accommodate eight (8) residents. Funding was also obtained in 1965 to construct quarters on the compound to accommodate the live-in Matron. The Home commits itself to providing affordable, safe, secure and comfortable accommodation to Senior Citizens who are unable to secure a home for themselves. It also provides internal and external residents with opportunities for socialisation and camaraderie in an environment which fosters peace, contentment and fellowship.

The Home which is currently run by a Management Committee is one of nine (9) Homes in receipt of government subventions from the Ministry of the People and Social Development. The existing building which is fifty-five (55) years old currently accommodates eleven (11) residents, and is in an extremely dilapidated state as the walls of the structure are porous and absorb water. The galvanised roof also has several leaks.

In July 2006, the Management Committee of the Home submitted a proposal to the National Commission for Self Help Limited (NCSHL) requesting assistance to not only refurbish the Home but also to upgrade the facilities since there was a growing demand to accommodate more residents.

In March 2008, the Ministry of the People and Social Development, (MPSD) through its Division of Ageing, conducted a Needs Assessment of the Toco Senior Citizens' Home. It was recommended that a general and extensive upgrade of the Home be undertaken in accordance with the specifications outlined in the Homes for Older Persons legislation.

Cabinet by Minute #2315 of September 6, 2012 agreed to the provision of the following grants to the Toco Senior Citizens' Home for the following purposes:

- A one-off grant in the sum of \$1,000,000.00 to cover labour costs associated with reconstruction works of the Home;
- A one-off grant in the sum of \$500,000.00 to cover costs associated with the furniture and furnishings of the Home; and
- A one-off grant in the sum of \$1,000,000.00 to cover labour and materials to upgrade the Matron's Quarters as well as to meet the monthly rent of \$5,000.00 for the lease of the premises located at No. 28 Paria Main Road Toco on a month-to-month basis from September 1, 2012 until Toco Senior Citizens Home is completed.

Cabinet by Minute #2766 of September 26, 2013 agreed:

1. That in accordance with the provisions of section 20A(1) (c) of the Central Tenders Board Act, Chap 71:91, the Government (MPSD) enter into a contract with Community Improvement Services Limited (CISL) to provide project management services for the completion of construction of the Toco Senior Citizens' Home and to serve as the procurement agency for the outfitting and fit out of the said Home located at Petit Trou Road, Toco; and
2. To the provision of a one-off grant in the total sum of \$1,500,000.00 to meet the cost of completing construction works, inclusive of project management fees and the cost of labour and materials, to upgrade the Matron's quarters (\$1,000,000.00) and to procure furniture and specialised furnishings/fixtures to outfit the Home (\$500,000.00)

### **Objectives**

1. To provide residential facilities and care to senior citizens in Toco and its environs;
2. To provide services that include live-in accommodation, meals, laundry and healthcare to cater to the needs of the residents.

### **Beneficiaries**

1. Senior citizens living in Toco and its environs in need of residential care;
2. Existing residents of the Home
3. Families of senior citizens in the Toco area in need of residential care;
4. Staff of the Toco Senior Citizens' Home

**Planned Activities For 2014/2015:**

1. Outfit the Home - installation of furnishings and fixtures
2. Commence construction of the Matron' Quarters.

**Activities Accomplished as at September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014:**

- Obtained Cabinet Minute# 2766 of September 26, 2013
- A Contract was awarded to Maraj Hill Construction Ltd. to complete the construction of the Home and the Matron's Quarters.
- The Contractor mobilized on site and refurbishment works are 100% completed.

**Status:**

In fiscal 2015, construction is expected to be finalised as well as outfitting of the Home. It is proposed to construct a fence at the back of the Home for security. Once completed it is expected that the Home could be handed to the Management Committee for operationalization.

**Project 5:  
Baby Care Assistance Initiative**

**Start date:** October 2014

**Completion date:** September 2015

**Background:**

A new programme to provide financial assistance for one (1) year only, for any child born to under-privileged parents during the course of the fiscal year 2014/2015, was introduced by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in the Budget Statement 2015 presented by the Honourable Minister of Finance. Subsequently, the Ministry of the People and Social Development was charged with the responsibility to further develop and implement this initiative. Accordingly, a proposal, entitled 'Baby Care Assistance Initiative' was developed.

**Problem Statement:**

Families living with a combined monthly income of \$3000 or under are less likely to be able to provide adequate nutritional requirements and care to an infant aged 0-12 months.

**Project Description:**

The Baby Care Assistance Initiative is comprised of two (2) components:

(I) A Cash Transfer Component and (II) an Empowerment Component. The Cash Transfer Component is expected to provide financial assistance to families living with a combined monthly income of three thousand dollars (TT\$3,000.00) or less, to purchase food and non-food items essential to an infant's well-being during its first year of life. It is expected that this transfer will assist families to provide basic food and non-food items for an infant 0-12 months. The items allowable under this transfer include diapers, wipes, baby formula, cereal and baby equipment, toiletries and other essentials necessary for an infant development.

Data extracted from the Vital Statistics (2008) published by the Central Statistical Office suggested that the number of live birth in Trinidad and Tobago can be calculated as approximately 20,000 per annum. Utilizing proxy data from the Survey of Living Condition (2005), the Continuous Sample Survey of Population (2013) and the data base of the Ministry of the People and Social Development, it is estimated that seven thousand (7000) families are



expected to access this grant. The value of the transfer is five hundred dollars (TT\$500.00) per month per infant, for one year only. Accordingly, \$42,000,000 will be required to fund the cash transfer component of this initiative

(2) The Empowerment Component seeks to provide the recipient with additional critical services relevant to the development of the family, such as parenting workshops, family planning and financial literacy sessions and opportunities for employment and education.

This component will require that the recipient enter into a social contract with the Ministry of the People and Social Development aimed at improving the overall quality of life of, not only the infant and mother but, the entire family to which they belong. In this regard, post-natal visits at a health facility, parenting workshops, family planning and financial literacy sessions are some of the core conditions to be fulfilled by families accessing this initiative. Participating families will be required to enrol in the Ministry's developmental programme - Rights of Individuals to Social and Economic Security Universal Prosperity (RISE-UP) which is an approach that seeks to empower the household to improve its quality of life. Additional support will be provided to families to enhance their chances of meeting the established conditions. Such support include material resources required to take part in training, support to get to and from training institutions and other facilities necessary for the development of the family, as well as facilitating other support services which do not exist within the network of government agencies. It is expected that an additional \$10,000,000 will be required to fund this component of the initiative.

**Allocation:** TT\$52 million

**Source of Funding:** 04/007/022 –Relief for Underprivileged Newborns

**Project Duration:**

The Project is expected to be implemented over a period of twelve (12) months, October 2014

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September 2015, following which a review will be undertaken. Investing and improving the health

and nutrition of children from these households can lead to long-term economic improvements and

assist in the reduction of poverty.

**Target Population:**

Parents and legal guardians with an infant 0-12 months, born during the period October 1<sup>st</sup>,

2014 – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, earning a combined monthly income of ≤ TT\$3,000.00.

**Care coverage:**

The following items are allowable under this grant for care of the infant: Diapers, wipes, baby formula, cereal, baby equipment(such as baby bottles, brushes), and baby toiletries<sup>1</sup>.

**Duration of Transfer:**

This transfer will be paid to the recipient for a period of twelve (12) months, only, per infant 0-12 months.

**Amount of Assistance:**

The value of the transfer is five hundred dollars (TT\$500.00) per month per infant, for one year only.

**Co-responsibilities (Empowerment Component):**

This component of the initiative is expected to be effected during the period in which the recipient is receiving the transfer, and may continue beyond twelve (12) months to ensure that the social needs of the family are adequately met. In this regard, the recipients of the grant are required to:

- (1) Enter into a social contract with the Ministry of the People and Social Development to participate in the Ministry’s developmental programme- Rights of Individuals to Social and Economic Security Universal Prosperity (RISE-UP). This programme is a holistic approach to poverty alleviation, which takes into consideration conditions that constrains the family’s effort to move out of poverty. It provides families in extreme poverty with access to critical services, facilitating their access to and benefit from services relevant to their needs. The programme seeks to empower the household to improve its quality of life in eight dimensions<sup>2</sup>;
- (2) Attend post-natal visits at a health facility<sup>3</sup>, as prescribed by the attending medical practioner<sup>4</sup>;
- (3) Attend parenting workshops<sup>5</sup>;
- (4) Attend family planning sessions<sup>6</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup>Baby toiletries can include: cotton balls, ointments such as for skin irritation and oral drops. A spreadsheet will be developed with the costs of items.

<sup>2</sup>The eight dimensions are:personal identification, income,education, employment, family dynamics, health, housing, safety and security.

<sup>3</sup>Health Facility encompasses private and public health institutions.

<sup>4</sup>Discussions to be held with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to develop a system to track attendance, MOU to be signed including the Tobago House of Assembly (THA).

<sup>5</sup>Discussions to be held with Service Volunteered for ALL (Servol) and the Ministry of Gender, Youth & Child Development (MGYCD), including the Children’s Authority, to develop, inter alia, a system to track attendance, MOU to be signed

(5) Attend financial literacy sessions.<sup>7</sup>

*Every attempt will be made to ensure compliance with these co-responsibilities.*

**Eligibility Criteria:**

(1) Persons applying for the assistance must be eighteen (18) years and older and either:

- ❖ The natural parent(s) of the child, or
- ❖ The adoptive/legal guardian of the child;

(2) In cases where the parent of the infant is less than eighteen (18) years, the legal guardian will be eligible to apply;

(3) Families' combined monthly income<sup>8</sup> should be less than or equal to TT\$3,000.00<sup>9</sup>;

(4) Infant(s) must be a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago.

Other considerations:

- ❖ Where the principal caregiver<sup>10</sup> is not the natural, adoptive or legal guardian, the grant will be administered with recommendations from the relevant authorities such as the Children's Authority and Medical Social Workers.
  
- ❖ In the case of multiple births, the grant will be given for each child.

**Grant Administration:**

(1) The Social Welfare Division (SWD), under the purview of the Ministry of the People and Social Development, will be responsible for grant administration.

(2) Persons desirous of applying can visit any Social Welfare office where a preliminary intake and assessment will be conducted. Staff of the SWD will be responsible for validation and approvals of application.

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<sup>6</sup>Discussions to be held with the Family Planning Association (FPA), to develop, inter alia, a system to track attendance, MOU to be signed

<sup>7</sup>Discussions to be held with the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago (CBTT) to develop, inter alia, a system to track attendance, MOU to be signed

<sup>8</sup>Applicants whose only source of income is obtained from grants such Public Assistance, Disability Assistance or Senior Citizens' Pension and in receipt of the TCCTP will be eligible for the Baby Care Assistance Grant. Person in receipt of a Pension under the National Insurance Scheme valued ≤ TT\$3,000 will be eligible for the grant.

<sup>9</sup>Staff of the Social Welfare Division of the Ministry of People and Social Development will be responsible for validation and verification of income data.

<sup>10</sup>The principal caregiver has the primary responsibility for the day to day care of the child, other than on a temporary basis or expect to care for the child for at least 12 months or more. Source: [http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/manuals-and-procedures/income\\_support/main\\_benefits/orphans\\_benefit\\_and\\_unsupported\\_childs\\_benefit/orphans\\_benefit\\_and\\_unsupported\\_childs\\_benefit-03.htm](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/manuals-and-procedures/income_support/main_benefits/orphans_benefit_and_unsupported_childs_benefit/orphans_benefit_and_unsupported_childs_benefit-03.htm)

(3) The Ministry of People and Social Development will also engage the Ministry of Health regarding intake and referrals to the SWD. In this case Social Welfare officers will visit applicants, complete application and validate information.

It is also envisioned that staff of the various health facilities will be sensitised on the Baby Care Assistance Initiative and provided with the application form so that mothers satisfying the criteria can apply at the various health facilities. The completed forms will be forwarded to the nearest Social Welfare office for consideration.

**Case management** (Including monitoring of Co-responsibilities):

Social Workers under the SWD, in collaboration with liaison officers of the TCCTP will be responsible for working with the recipient and household members (where applicable). This will include skills acquisition and/ or educational development; employment opportunities, and other dimensions as outlined under the RISE-UP.

Applicants of the baby grant will be placed on high priority given the nature of this service. These applicants may or may not be in receipt of other grants at the Ministry, however, once they come before a case worker, and qualify for other grants, these will be processed accordingly.

**A verification process, including monitoring mechanisms, will be developed during the first three (3) months of the project. This will include spot checks on households in receipt of the grant.**

**Payment mechanism:**

It is proposed that payments be effected via the use of the People's Card under the Biometric System.

**Stakeholders:**

Ministries of the People and Social Development, Health and Gender, Youth and Child Development; Tobago House of Assembly; SERVOL; the Family Planning Association and the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago will collaborate to implement this initiative.--

**Meetings with the aforementioned stakeholders will be required during the first three (3) months of the project.**

**Monitoring of project Implementation:**

A monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed during the first three (3) months of project implementation, inclusive of a logic model identifying key activities, outputs, outcomes and accompanying indicators. This activity will be carried out by the Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Ministry of the People and Social Development, in collaboration with other key divisions in the Ministry.

**Status:**

The project has received Cabinet approval under Cabinet Minute No. 275 of January 29, 2015 which articulates that expenditure to be incurred in fiscal 2014/2015 in the estimated sum of \$52-Mn. The payment to clients who qualify for the Baby Care Assistance Initiative will be effected via the use of the People's Card under the Biometric Smart Card System.

Additionally, existing MPSD clients who qualify for the grant will be used in the first instance for the implementation of the project.

**THE MINISTRY  
OF  
PLANNING AND  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**

# The Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development

## Brief on Achievements

- Successfully held the Americas Competitiveness Forum on 8-10 October 2014, 955 delegates attending representing 56 countries, distinguished guests included the President of Haiti, Deputy Secretary of Commerce of the USA, the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General of the Organisation of American States, Assistant Secretary of State of the USA and Minister of government from Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Dominica, Guatemala and El Salvador.
- The following Bills were laid in Parliament:
  - Public Procurement and Disposal of Property Bill 2014 – Passed
  - Planning and Facilitation of Development Bill 2014 – Passed
  - Urban and Regional Planning Bill 2014
- The Planning and Facilitation of Development Bill was passed in 2014, and the Ministry is transitioning to facilitate implementation of the National Planning Authority which will replace the Town and Country Planning Division.
- Port Rationalisation study completed
- Central Growth Pole:
  - Completion of Aerial Mapping Survey
  - Several Stakeholders' consultations held
- SW Peninsula Growth Pole:
  - Completion of Cluster Mapping Study
- North Coast Growth Pole:
  - Completion of Land Use Plan and Economic Assessment of Traded and Non-Traded Sectors
  - Construction of Net Repair Facility and Refurbishment of Engine Locker Room Building – Project Five Zero
  - Capacity Development Programme strengthened and re-initiated – Project Five Zero

- Successful launch and promotion of i2i competition, to date has received 1,694 applications and awarded 186 grants to persons with potential commercial ideas.
- Developed and implemented other methods for training past i2i winners (e.g. entrepreneurial evenings)
- Launched the nation's largest Social Innovation Programme in January 2015. On May 8 awards were granted for 12 concepts/projects all aimed at making positive social change. The programme, aptly called LUMINATION is part of the Ministry's drive to promote and encourage an innovation driven society with the aim of bringing together inspired, passionate individuals in the sphere of social work to encourage innovative solutions to social problems. The tagline is 'Create the change that changes lives' and the goal here is to alleviate many of the social issues plaguing Trinidad and Tobago through innovation, to positively impact lives and to light the way for a better future by empowering citizens.
- Hosting of successful 2013 Innovation Forum and School's Innovation Road Show
- The maximum allocation of €9.7 million for the 11th EDF Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2014-2020 was successfully negotiated with the EU. The Financing Agreement was signed at the SIDS Conference in Samoa.
- Pilot Projects in collaboration with Municipal Corporations for simple projects, from February 20, 2013, the Town and Country Planning Division has been collaborating with the Port of Spain City Corporation, to conduct a joint Pilot Project, aimed at expediting planning and building approvals for 'simple applications' within the City of Port of Spain. This project has significantly reduced processing time from planning approval to building permit requests and there is a proposal to roll it out to three other municipalities.
- Automation of the Regulatory Process. In August 2014, a Request for Proposals was issued for the Reconfiguration, Installation and Implementation of an Automated Construction Permitting System. This system will allow applicants to monitor the status of their applications within and between agencies. All policy information will be available digitally.
- National Spatial Development Strategy, which replaces the 1984 National Physical Development Plan was tabled in Parliament on January 14th 2014
- Creation of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure. In August 2014 Cabinet approved the establishment of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Council. The intension is to



create a harmonized national system of spatially referenced physical, socio-economic and environmental data.

- Land Use Policy reviews and land and building use surveys:
  - St Augustine Education City
  - Adoption of the 2014 Updated National Land Use Policy
  - Revisited Residential Density Policy
  - Barataria Policy Review Survey
  - The San Fernando Special Use District 2014
  - The Revised National Land Use Policy and Standards, which informs several land use policy decisions in:
    - Bournes Road and Patna Street, St James
    - Montrose Crown Trace
    - Factory Road and Golden Grove Road
    - Aranguez
    - Barataria Policy Review Survey
- Process Re-engineering at T&CPD
  - Re-alignment of staff to reduce backlog of processing
  - Public Day is now everyday- Public Day conducted once weekly on a Wednesday has been replaced by a daily customer Technical service at all TCPD's Regional Offices.
  - Pre-application checks and advice are provided to applicants in an attempt to minimize/reduce chances of an application being refused or returned undetermined.
- Complex Project Facilitation Mechanism. Establishment of a minimum fortnightly meeting between TCPD, ATPP, NPTF, EDB and TTSP to review complex plans.
- Internal Review Committee. An internal review system has been implemented to ensure all matters recommended for refusal, are reviewed thereby minimizing the number of matters that have to be refused and/or appealed.
- Development control:
  - Processed and reached decisions on 84% of all development of land applications received

- Status of Land, Liquor License or Stamp Duty Requests – 90% processed
- Completed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Country Report.
  
- National Innovation Policy:
  - Survey Instruments for Innovation Survey Consultancy was approved and the training and survey commenced
  - Consultancy for mapping of the Innovation Ecosystem has commenced
- Assisted by the CSO and as at August 2013, profiles for 555 communities within Trinidad and Tobago were completed.
- In the last fiscal year, after consultation with various Ministries and stakeholders, we have successfully negotiated the following IDB loan operations:
  - Strengthened Information Management at the Registrar General’s Department: USD 20 million
  - Global Services Promotion Programme: USD 18 million
  - Flood Alleviation and Drainage Programme: USD 120 million
  - Project Preparation and Execution Facility (PROPEF) for the Health Services Support Programme USD 1.5 million
- We have also been the recipients of technical cooperation funding from the IDB, in the amount of USD 1.55 million for the following projects:
  - Support to the Design and Implementation of a T&T Women’s City Centre: USD .45 million
  - Feasibility studies for a risk resilient coastal zone management programme: USD .50 million
  - Preparation for Flood Alleviation and Drainage Programme in T&T: USD .60 million

- President of the IDB, Luis Alberto Moreno, and Minister Tewarie signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the establishment of the Multi-Donor Energy Facility for Caribbean Sustainability. Some of the main objectives of the MOU include the promotion of energy diversification, energy efficiency and a reliable supply of alternative fuels at a reduced cost in the Caribbean, designing the governance, operational and administrative structure of the proposed facility, including fiduciary and financial mechanisms and instruments, co-ordinating resource mobilisation activities with donors, partners, bilateral donor agencies, multilateral institutions and other public and private investors and developing an adequate fund raising strategy.
- The Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development is taking the first steps towards making payments to Ex-Caroni Cane Farmers.
- The San Fernando Waterfront Redevelopment Feasibility Study was completed in September 2014. The purpose of the study was to assess the feasibility of the various elements presented in several plans prepared for the San Fernando Waterfront over the last thirty years, in order to ascertain the viability of the proposals and projects. It proposes an Integrated Development Programme be implemented in the following four phases over a 10 year period.

#### *CARIRI*

- The earned revenue target for fiscal 2014 is \$18.7MN. As at the end of August 2014, CARIRI generated TT\$18.6MN in revenue. This is approximately TT\$6.1 MN above the level of revenue generated for the corresponding period in fiscal 2013. Projected revenue to September 30, 2014 is approximately \$20 MN.
- In May 2014, a surveillance audit was conducted by SGS Systems and Certification on the Institute's ISO 9001:2008 quality management system. The auditor has recommended continued ISO 9001:2008 certification.
- Two reassessment audits were conducted of the Institute's Laboratory Quality Management Systems of the Testing Laboratories and the Calibration Laboratory by the International Accreditation Service Inc (IAS). The assessors recommended that CARIRI's

status as an accredited Testing laboratory and Calibration lab respectively should be continued.

- In the current financial year, sixty (60) indoor air quality (IAQ) projects were conducted, forty-eight (48) were for Government agencies (four of these were for Tobago), nine (9) private sector, and three (3) regional.
- The Institute launched, in June 2013, its Centre for Enterprise Development (CED). The CED incorporates four (4) units that support enterprise development from "idea through to business".
  - The CED houses a Business Incubator, Technology Bays, and an ICT Centre comprising a Mobile Application Development Centre (MCentre) and a Developer's Studio (Tekmania) which would cater for development of ICT related project initiatives.
  - The CED was fully operationalized in January, 2014. Highlights of achievements over the period January to August, 2014 are as follows:
    - Five (5) clients are expected to be the first graduates of the programme, with two (2) on the verge of so doing and the other three (3) slated for late 2014/early 2015.
    - Business Hatchery Programme. Launched in July 2014, Ten of the thirteen persons taken into this programme were from the 2012 i2i Awardees/Graduates
    - Technology Bays. These constituted the CED's technology incubation infrastructure and are intended to demonstrate production lines earmarked for commercialization of, garlic, cassava, soy-based products, equipment has been installed for the manufacture of soy-based products, including soy burgers, tofu and tempeh, goat milk processing
    - I C T Centre. A Mobile Application Development Centre for mobile apps was operationalised in January 2014, several workshops were held an outcome of the Workshops was the launch to the Windows store of four (4) new mobile apps.

- Microsoft Innovation Centre (MIC). A Microsoft Innovation Centre (MIC), is to be established at the CED. This facility is currently under construction and expected to be operational in October, 2014.
  - 5-day Entrepreneurship and Innovation Boot Camp for thirty-five (35) entrepreneurs at its Centre for Enterprise Development (CED) at Freeport in August 2014.
  - Strategic Partnerships were formed with MOUs signed with Microsoft, Digicel, Massy Technologies, Caribbean Association of National Telecommunication Organizations Organizations (CANTO), Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI), China Institute for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (CISME), Youth Business Trinidad and Tobago (YBTT)
- Caribbean Climate Innovation Center (CCIC) was launched on January 27 2014. Since then it has:
  - undertaken a major study on the market for “green’ technologies in the Caribbean
  - Set up Climate Innovation Hubs in the fourteen countries which benefit from the work of the Center.
  - Launched a Proof of Concept grant scheme for innovative business ideas involving green technologies. Over 300 applications were received and grants valued at over US\$425,000 awarded to eleven innovators from seven Caribbean countries.
- CARIRI / IDB ICT PROJECT. The Project’s objective was “Improving Performance of Small and Medium sized Enterprises in the Food and Beverage, and Printing and Packaging sectors through the Application of Information and Communication Technology”.
  - In excess of 350 SMEs from the target sectors throughout Trinidad and Tobago were sensitized to the benefits to be derived from increased use of ICT

- Eighty (80) SMEs were shortlisted from the target sectors and were recipients of a diagnostic scoping study
- A total of 50 SMEs were shortlisted to be the recipient of an ICT implementation based on recommendations generated at the diagnostics stage.
- CARIRI successfully hosted the 72<sup>nd</sup> WAITRO Board Meeting and Networking Session in Trinidad and Tobago over the period March 17 -20, 2014.
- UNICEF and GORTT signed:
  - Programme of Cooperation between Government of the Eastern Caribbean and UNICEF – Multi Country Programme of Action Plan 2012-2016
  - Trinidad and Tobago Strategic Actions for Children and GORTT – UNICEF Work Plan 2013-2016
  - MOU between IIR-UWI and UNICEF
- Development of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. Trinidad and Tobago signed in December 2013, the UNDAF which articulates a coherent and coordinated strategy for the delivery of UN assistance.
- Development of Population Policy: a first draft of the National Population Policy was presented to the Population Committee for review.

#### *Central Statistical Office*

- In February 2013, the Central Statistical Office (CSO) launched the first volume of the 2011 Population and Housing Census Demographic Report. The report was one of the highlights of CSO's achievements for 2012-2013 and was completed in eighteen months, a record feat for an undertaking of this magnitude.
- The very first Trinidad and Tobago Human Development Atlas was published in 2012. The Atlas, the result of a joint effort between the CSO and UNDP Trinidad and Tobago, seeks to map patterns of development and identify areas where growing inequalities exist in the country. Out of this exercise, a national Human Development Index (HDI) has been produced for the first time. There is much ongoing work by the CSO in the areas of

the poverty index for T&T, revision of the retail price index, business surveys, labour force surveys and collaborations with national, regional and international bodies.

- The Annual GDP estimates at current and constant prices were produced for 2011, 2012 and 2013 and provisional GDP estimates were made for 2014.
- Monthly Retail Prices Index (RPI) was produced up to February 2015

#### *Chaguaramas Development Authority*

- Phases 1 and 2A of the Boardwalk completed. Extension of 1330 linear ft of the boardwalk from Williams Bay to Kayak Center which include boardwalk, infrastructure upgrade, drainage, seawall repairs, jogging path, vending plaza, modern washroom facilities, seating, solar lighting, Welcome Centre and landscaping.
- Refurbishment of a building formerly known as the Seed Centre to establish as the new headquarters for the CDA Police that will provide modern spacious office accommodation, kitchen, dormitory and meeting space for 100 officers
- Development of 15 year Master plan for the Chaguaramas Peninsula and Offshore Islands
- Introduced zip-lining to Trinidad and Tobago and Macqueripe in 2012

The Ministry produced the following policy documents:

- The Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2015
- Working for Sustainable Development in Trinidad and Tobago
- The National Spatial Development Strategy for Trinidad and Tobago
- 'Achievements Aligned to Government's Framework for Sustainable Development' presents the opportunity for all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago to assess Government's commitment to service delivery
- National Performance Framework and Annual Reports on Government Performance 2012 - 2014
- The Trinidad and Tobago 2011 Population, Housing Census Demographic Report

**THE MINISTRY  
OF PUBLIC  
ADMINISTRATION**



## THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

### 1. Diamond Point: Human Capital Management

#### ○ Scholarships and Advanced Training portfolio

##### ▪ Scholarships and Advanced Training Awards

The Scholarships and Advanced Training Division of the Ministry administers scholarships to nationals on the behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. The table below presents information related to the number of scholarships administered for the period 2010 – 2015:-

Period	Scholarships Awarded
2010 – 2011	604
2011 – 2012	503
2012 – 2013	603
2013 – 2014	594
2014 – 2015	tbd

##### ▪ Policies relating to Scholarships and Advanced Training

The Policies revised/developed over the period includes:-

- Revised Postgraduate Scholarship Policy
- Obligatory Service in Respect of Scholarships and Training Awards
- Placement and Employment Policy
- Deferral of Obligatory Service Policy
- Extension of Scholarships Policy
- Programme Eligibility for Scholarships
- Termination of Scholarships
- Entrepreneurship Policy

##### ▪ The Associate Professional Programme

The SATD has developed and utilised the Associate Professional (AP) program whereby returning scholars are placed in positions across the Public Service in alignment with their education. The table below captures the information related to the number of scholars on the AP programme:-

Period	No. of Scholars
2010 – 2011	228
2011 – 2012	375
2012 – 2013	377
2013 – 2014	228
2014 – 2015	tbd

- *The Professional Development Programme*  
 The Professional Development Programme, which was introduced in 2009, continued during 2013 and 2014. Cohorts 2 – 4 were held during the period with a total of ninety-five (95) scholars participating in the 4 Cohorts. The aim of the programme Professional Development Program (PDP) is to enable the returning scholars to make the successful transition from student to professional by guiding them in understanding their roles within their organisations and their own self-development via the use of the thirteen (13) identified competencies.
  
- *Scholar Symposiums*  
 The SATD has continued to host annual A Level Scholars Symposium and also a Returning National Scholars Symposium. In September, 2013 an Outreach Seminar was held for recipients of Teachers Scholarships attending the University of Trinidad and Tobago.
  
- *SATIS*  
 In 2011 the SATD implemented a Scholarships and Advanced Training Information System (SATIS) which is an online application system to facilitate the management of the scholarship process.

**Public Service Academy portfolio**

- *Training*  
 The Public Service Academy (PSA) facilitates the enhancement of skills, knowledge and competencies of public officers through the conduct of training courses in key areas. The information related to the number of public officers trained is captured in the table below:-

<b>Period</b>	<b>No. of persons trained</b>
2010 – 2011	810
2011 – 2012	1,151
2012 – 2013	1,060
2013 – 2014	843
2014 – 2015	tbd

- Technical Cooperation

For the period 2010 – 2015, the PSA also administered Technical Co-operation Awards (TCU), which are short term training awards offered to GoRTT by Foreign Governments/Institutions. The table below captures information related to the number of awards administered:-

Period	No. of TCU Awardees
2010 – 2011	55 awardees
2011 – 2012	30 awardees
2012 – 2013	17 awardees
2013 – 2014	18 awardees
2014 – 2015	tbd

- Leadership Development

- **Human Resource Management (HRM) Modernisation programme**

- **Standardisation of common contract jobs and terms and conditions:** in fiscal 2011/2012, standardisation of twenty-six (26) job descriptions and job designations in respect of common contract employment positions in five (5) job streams Human Resource Management, Communications, Legal, Administrative Support and Office Support. Together with standardised terms and conditions and delegation of preparation of contracts to Ministries/Departments’ legal divisions to reduce recruitment time of contract officers and to create the new professional jobs in the civil service.
- In fiscal 2013/2014, forty-nine (49) DRAFT standardised job descriptions were developed in eight (8) streams: Project Management, Facilities Management, Legal (Central Agencies), Monitoring and Evaluation, Research and Planning, Information Technology, Internal Audit, Procurement, Finance and Accounting
- **Contract Staffing Plans for Six (6) Year Periods:** In August 2012, Cabinet approved the implementation of a new system to allow agencies to plan six (6) years ahead for their contract positions and obtain approval for this via a single submission for all positions or a two (2)-part submission; one for existing positions and another for the creation of positions. Previously, ministries and departments would have prepared and submitted requests for approval from Cabinet for batches.

- As at September 2014, sixteen (16) Ministries have submitted Plans to cover their existing contract establishment and are therefore benefitting from shorter recruitment times.
  
- Compensation:
  - **Review of Process for the Determination and Calculation of Increments in the Public Service.** The current administrative process, as guided principally by Personnel Department Circular No. 5 of 1976 and a subsequent Circular No. 5 of 2004, involves manual and quite tedious calculation to determine an officer's incremental date. There have been ongoing concerns expressed not only by officers who are themselves due increments but also by those persons responsible for administering the relevant Circulars regarding the challenges encountered in correctly interpreting the relevant rules and provisions. As a consequence, officers have either not been paid increments when due or paid increments on an incorrectly determined incremental date, resulting in most cases in an overpayment or underpayment of salary.
  - This project was initiated to review and improve the systems and processes involved in the determination and calculation of Increments to make the administrative responsibilities easier.
  - Recommendations have been put forward to simplify the process.
  - **Review of process re: Travelling, Mileage and Upkeep Allowances in the Public Service.** The travelling portfolio within the Public Service is guided by the **Travelling Allowances Act and Regulations Chapter 23:50**. The Act was promulgated in 1953 and while, over time, certain sections have been revised, many still need to be reviewed. In order to clearly identify the challenges and concerns involved in the administration of the Travelling legislation, consultations were held with officers from the HR, Audit and Accounts Divisions/Units of several Ministries, who are engaged in the handling/processing of travelling claims.
  - From the contributions of participants in these consultations, it was determined that concerns and challenges were most prevalent in the processing of claims under the Travelling Allowances Regulations, in particular, those for **Upkeep and**

**Mileage/Kilometric** Allowances, Home to Office Travelling, Subsistence Allowances.

- Recommendations have been put forward for these issues.
- **Backlog of Terms and Conditions:** In fiscal 2013, the MPA in collaboration with the Personnel Department (PD) determined terms and conditions of employment for one thousand, three hundred and fifty-five (1355) persons engaged on contract.
- In fiscal 2014, terms and conditions of employment for 307 persons engaged on contract were determined.
- MSO series
- SHRM Council
- HR Capacity Building
- **Public Management Consulting portfolio**
  - Rationalisation exercises
  - Organisational structures and staffing
  - Position Management

## 2. Diamond Point: Service Delivery

- **Trinidad and Tobago Diamond Standard (TTDS)** is a National Citizen Service Certification Programme open to all Ministries, Departments and Agencies within the Trinidad and Tobago Public Service which seeks to encourage, recognise and reward improvements in the quality of their service delivery. Since its launch in June 2013, two (2) cohorts were undertaken:
  - Cohort 1
    - 30 services registered, 20 applied for certification in June 2013 and assessments commenced in Mid-March 2014
    - 11 services certified January 2015
  - Cohort 2
    - 12 services from cohort 1 reapplied in 2015
    - 38 new services registered (including 23 schools) also in 2015
- **Award ceremonies**
  - TTDS inaugural awards ceremony held January 2015,= for which the 11 services were awarded.
  - Gala Awards Ceremony held in December 2012

- Three (3) Ministries jointly received the highest awards for “Excellence in Service Delivery Award”.
  - Fifty (50) public officers were also honoured at the Gala for their contribution to the development of the public service
- **Shared Services**
    - A Position paper for the introduction of shared services in the Public Service was approved in principle by Cabinet Minute No. 3505 dated December 12, 2012
    - A Pilot project with MPA and the then Ministry of Communications was undertaken during the period from October 2012 to September 2014, to provide support services for Finance and Accounts, Information Technology, Facilities Management and Legal services
  - **Integrated Services**
    - Stakeholder consultations held on concept of integrating service delivery in the social services sector in 2013
    - Draft Action plan prepared
    - Working group established with Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry of the People and Social Development, Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development, Ministry of Community Development and the National Insurance Board of Trinidad and Tobago.
  - **Business Process Re-engineering**
    - As a precursor to BPM, Personnel from the following agencies have been trained in BPR principles:
      - Ministry of Public Administration,
      - Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development,
      - Ministry of Transport (Transport Division),
      - Ministry of National Security (Immigration Division),
      - Service Commissions Department,
      - North West Regional Health Authority and
      - Ministry of Education (Examinations Section).
  - **Business Process Management (to be updated, awaiting information from PSTD)**
    - Presentation to Ministries/Agencies on the objectives and benefits of BPM

- BPM Sensitization Session to the Executive of participating Ministries/Agencies
- Seven (7) BPM Training Sessions conducted during the period February 2015 - (to get from PSTD)
- Provision of technical support to participating Ministries/Agencies on their BPM projects
- Framework for the institutionalization of BPM in the Public Service of Trinidad & Tobago, inclusive of an Action Plan

### 3. Diamond Point: Infrastructure

#### ○ IDB loan programmes

- Under the **E-Government and Knowledge Brokering**, there are twenty-four (24) projects:
  - MPA PMD - Project Staff: Financial Specialist
  - Service Commission Department (SCD) - Procurement of Consultancy Services to assist with the design of an Electronic Document Management System for the Service Commission Department
  - Tertiary Education Skills Training (TEST) - Consultancy Services to Develop a Short Term Expansion Plan and a 5 Year Business Plan for the UWI Faculty of Medical Sciences
  - Parliament - Modernisation of Parliament - Development of Asset Management Solution
  - Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development (MPSD) - Port Rationalization Study for Trinidad and Tobago
  - Ministry of Finance and the Economy (MFE) - Financial Management Reform Coordinator
  - Ministry of Public Administration (MPA) - Review of Allowances paid to Scholarship Recipients
  - Ministry of Finance and the Economy (MFE) –Information Technology (IT) Hardware and Networking Systems for the Board of Inland Revenue (BIR)
  - Ministry of Finance and the Economy (MFE) - Change Management and Project Management for Electronic Services
  - Ministry of Health (MOH) - Development of Individual Master plans for the Redevelopment of POSGH, SFGH, EWMSC
  - Ministry of Legal Affairs (MoLA) - Shelving for the Vault of the Registrar General's Department

- Ministry of Public Administration (MPA) - Provision Of Business Process Management (BPM) Support In The Public Service
  - Ministry of Public Administration (MPA) - Institutional Strengthening of PSA
  - Ministry of National Security (MNS) - Development and Installation of an Enterprise Geographic Information System (eGIS)- NETWORKING
  - Ministry of National Security (MNS) - Development and Installation of an Enterprise Geographic Information System - GEOSPATIAL DATASETS
  - Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MoHUD) formally Ministry of Housing Land and Marine Affairs (MHLMA) -Upgrade of Cadastral Management Information System for Lands and Surveys Division
  - Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MoHUD) formally (MHLMA) - Procurement of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Mapping Systems for Lands and Surveys Division
  - Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MoHUD) formally (MHLMA) - Conduct of Aerial and Lidar Survey for Trinidad and Tobago
  - Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development (MPSD) - Eurotrace Programmer
  - Ministry of Public Administration (MPA) SHRM - Human Resource System Modernization
  - Ministry of Public Administration (MPA) - Envisioning and Planning for Enterprise wide Records and Information Management (RIM) System
  - Ministry of Public Administration (MPA) - Procurement of a Consulting Firm to Develop an E-Learning Strategy for the Ministry of Public Administration
  - Ministry of Public Administration(MPA)- E-Government Strategy
  - Ministry of Public Administration (MPA) - Data Classification
- Under the **Public Sector Reform Initiation Programme (PSRIP)** six (6) projects were funded and completed:
- Central Statistics Office has 3 projects under PSRIP:
    - Restructuring CSO project
    - Business Intelligence SPSS Statistical package project



- E-views project
  - Institutional Strengthening of Applied Research Agenda
  - A 'Computer Outfitting Lab' project was recently initiated by the Public Service Academy
  - Ministry of Finance – Project Management Unit (PMU) Financial Management Reform Coordinator
- **Business Continuity Management** - The BCM programme envisages the building of the capacity of the Public Service to ensure the continuity and survival of the organisations within, provide protection of assets such as Employees, Information and the Physical Location, mitigate risks and exposures and take control of any interruptions.
  - Pilot Ministries as BCM 'early adopters';
    - Finance and the Economy;
    - People and Social Development;
    - Education; and,
    - Trade, Industry and Investment.
  - A BCM counterpart team was established and the following was completed by the team:
    - Diagnostic Assessment for the BCM readiness of Pilot Ministries and Departments;
    - Held one stakeholder workshop on July 25 2014 with Ministries and Departments regarding the importance of BCM;
    - Draft BCM Policy Developed
    - Draft Governance Structure and Operational Framework for BCM in Government.
- **GoRTT Office Outfitting policy**
  - Cabinet in January 2012 approved the policy developed by the MPA and the Property Real Estate Services Division of the Ministry of Housing for the outfitting of government-owned and leased buildings.
  - The focus of this policy is to ensure appropriately safe, secure and healthy infrastructure for not only public officers but for all persons accessing Ministry accommodations.

#### 4. Diamond Point: Governance

- **Open Government** - Trinidad and Tobago became a member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in early 2013. The OGP is a global initiative with

the aim of achieving more effective, efficient and open governments for the benefit of their citizens. During the period under review, the follow initiatives were undertaken:

- Supported the Cabinet-appointed Open Government Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) through an ad hoc Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that also included the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Science and Technology;
  - Represented Trinidad and Tobago at two Open Government Conferences:
    1. The 2013 Open Government Summit, London, United Kingdom, October-November 2013
    2. The Launch of the IDB Open Government Forum, Washington D.C., USA, April-May 2014
  - Secured assistance from the IDB and Open Government Support Unit to engage a consultant to assist with the development of the Trinidad and Tobago Open Government Action Plan.
  - Organized targeted stakeholder consultations on the following Open Government thematic areas:
    1. The delivery of Public Services to citizens
    2. Open Data
    3. Results Based Budgeting
    4. Public Procurement
    5. The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)
  - Development of T&T Open Government Agenda:
    1. T&T Open Government National Action Plan (NAP) 2014-2016
- **Centre of Government** is a *'whole of government'* concept that speaks to those core organizations responsible for policy formulation, implementation, management, and monitoring and evaluation. In fiscal 2013/2014, the follow initiatives were undertaken:
- A Working Group of Permanent Secretaries and Technical Committee was established to advance the necessary areas to enable priority areas in July 2014 and produced the following:
    1. Draft Job description for Head of the Public Service
    2. Draft Framework document for defining the Role of the Board of Permanent Secretaries
    3. Draft Performance Agreement for Permanent Secretaries
    4. Draft Requirements for Permanent Secretaries

- **Green Paper on Civil Service Transformation**
  - Launched in 2011
  - Multiple stakeholder consultations were held in FY 2011 and FY 2012.
  
- **Philosophy for the Public Service** provides the general framework that governs the overall conduct of operations, codes of behavior and its relationships within the Trinidad and Tobago Public Service.
  - Philosophy for the public service paper was prepared in January 2015 for approval by Cabinet.
  
- **Public Service Day/week activities**
  - Open House held in 2012 where **fifty four (54)** different public sector entities showcased their history and presented their services, plans and achievements.
  - “Mystery Shopper” exercises at over two hundred (200) government agencies across the Public Service to assess the customer service delivery mechanisms was held during 2012.
  - 5k walk/run held in 2012, 2014, 2015. In 2014, 1115 public officers participated in the 5k.

## **Mandate**

The Ministry of Public Administration (MPA) has responsibility for the Public Service, more specifically, Public Service Administration and Management. (Source: Gazette Notice dated July 6, 2012). MPA's core business is centred on modernisation and renewal initiatives that improve the capacity and capability of the Public Service to better deliver government services. The Ministry:-

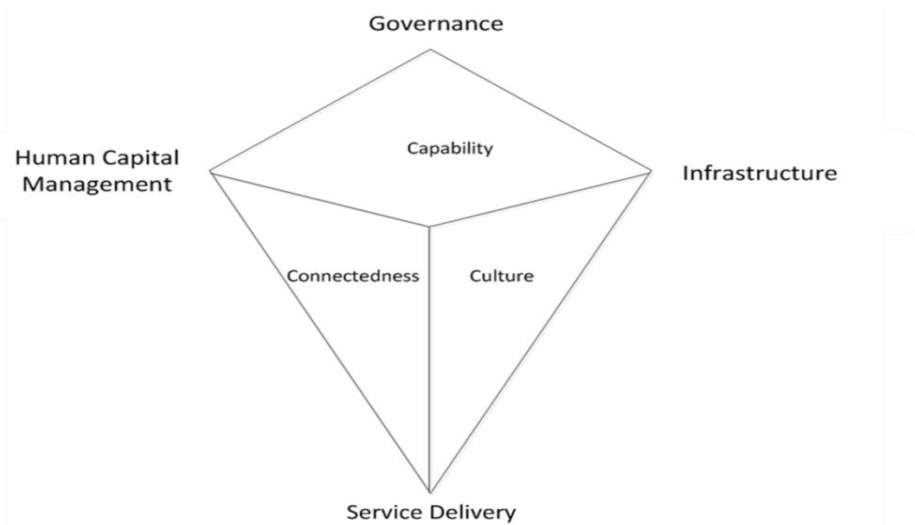
1. Manages service delivery transformation projects
2. Coordinates human resource management policies
3. Directs the modernisation programme
4. Provides organisational design services to improve on structures and staffing
5. Facilitates training and development of public officers and administers scholarships on behalf of the government of the republic of Trinidad and Tobago
6. Is a principal partner in strengthening public service governance
7. Leads business continuity management to ensure response to and recovery from interruptions to business operations.

## **Gold to Diamond**

The Public Service Renewal and Modernisation Programme, is branded "Gold to Diamond" and was formally launched by the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, at the Public Service Gala Awards Ceremony on December 5th, 2012.

The "Journey from Gold to Diamond" requires the public service to reinvent itself to meet the needs of an increasingly sophisticated society. Just as a diamond's worth is a factor of its cut, carat and clarity, so too will the value of the public service be measured by its ability to improve:

1. **Capability** - the enhancement of the competencies of our public servants and building our leadership capacity. Also, great improvement in the systems and processes that are used by our institutions;
2. **Connectedness** - the promotion of human networks focused on citizen-centricity and using technology and communications as enablers to improve the way we work with the global environment; and
3. **Culture** - which we cannot dictate but we can influence, involves the promotion of a change in public management thinking and encouragement and endorsement of innovation, entrepreneurship, performance accountability, transparency and change orientation, while facilitating an environment that encourages risk.



**Figure 1 – The Diamond Model for Public Service Transformation**

To improve the Capability, Connectedness and Culture of the public service, four (4) important issues must be addressed:

1. **Governance** – nurturing a participatory culture and strengthening existing institutions to support accountability, transparency, consultation, consensus-building and more meaningful representation;
2. **Human Capital Management** – building effective leaders, capable organisations and managing and maintaining the human capital needed to maximise organisational performance;
3. **Infrastructure** – ensuring the quality, reliability and maintenance of the existing infrastructure of the public service; and
4. **Service Delivery** – guaranteeing citizen-centric service delivery; that is, citizens’ needs are the organising principle around which the public interest is determined and service delivery is planned.

### **The Trinidad and Tobago Diamond Standard**

The Trinidad and Tobago Diamond Standard (TTDS) was launched on June 24th, 2013. The TTDS provides national certification of services delivered by public service institutions that exemplify service excellence.

**THE MINISTRY  
OF PUBLIC  
UTILITIES**

## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Ministry of Public Utilities is a very unique Ministry with an enormous span of operation and responsibility in Trinidad and Tobago. The Ministry is accountable to the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago for the Utilities Sector which includes the areas of: electricity and electrical inspections; telecommunication services; postal services; and government printing services.

Further, the Ministry of Public Utilities will maintain its alignment to the Government's 2011-2014 Medium-Term Policy Framework for Sustainable Development by delivering on the priority areas: ***“Economic Growth, Job Creation, Competitiveness and Innovation”*** and ***“Poverty Reduction and Human Capital Development”***.

Delivery on these two (2) important priority areas were realised through the Ministry's four (4) Strategic Objectives:

1. To provide effective and efficient leadership and governance to the Utilities Sector;
2. To ensure that Trinidad and Tobago's Utility Sector is modern, customer oriented and technologically enabled to provide efficient, cost effective, quality services to all citizens;
3. To provide a framework within the Ministry for promoting employee well-being and ensuring that all employees are treated with dignity, fairness and respect; and
4. To collaborate with the Agencies to ensure that they practice prudent financial management with a view to become financially viable.

The pursuit of these four (4) strategic objectives was conducted via the Ministry's programmes/projects and executed under the following major initiatives:

- Modernization of the Ministry's Head Office, the Government Printery and the Electrical Inspectorate Division;
- The Utilities Assistance Programme (UAP);
- The National Street Lighting Programme;
- Bulk Power Delivery;
- Infrastructure to move power from TGU to the National Grid;
- Postal Sector Reform; and
- Modernization of the Telecommunication Sector

Innumerable lives have been impacted as a result of these initiatives that were undertaken by the Ministry and its respective agencies. The diligent stewardship of the Honourable Nizam Baksh, Minister of Public Utilities, has been the principal driving force, and ensured that many of these accomplishments have been realised during fiscal years 2013 and 2014. We therefore invite you, the customer, to see for yourself how the Ministry of Public Utilities has been hard at work for you.

### **The Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC)**

T&TEC is currently improving its transmission infrastructure to allow for the absorption of the full potential capacity of the TGU power station into the national grid.



## Fiscal 2014 (October 2013 – August 2014)

### Achievements

#### 1-D. National Street Lighting Programme

**Table 4: The National Street Lighting Programme**

Project Name	Planned/Actual	August 2014	Total for the period October 2013 - August 2014
Street Lighting Programme	<b>Lights Installed/upgrade d</b>		
	Planned	<b>100</b>	<b>2950</b>
	Actual	<b>49</b>	<b>884</b>
	<b>Poles Installed</b>		
	Planned	<b>40</b>	<b>565</b>
	Actual	<b>37</b>	<b>128</b>

#### 1-E. Illumination Projects

The Agency planned to illuminate 78 public spaces, 15 parks/recreational grounds, 40 regional health authority facilities and 17 police station grounds for the fiscal period. **Table 5** highlights the works completed for the period October 2013 - August 2014.

**Table 5: Illumination Projects**

Project Name	Planned/Actual	August 2014	Total for the period October 2013 - August 2014
Illumination of Public Spaces	<b>No of Public Spaces Illuminated</b>		
	Planned	5	68
	Actual	0	25*
Lighting of Parks and Recreation Grounds	<b>No of Parks/Grounds Illuminated</b>		
	Planned	1	14
	Actual	1	12

**Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation (TTPost)**

**2-A. Completion of Refurbishment Works: Fyzabad Delivery Office**

The refurbishment works on the Fyzabad Delivery Office was 100% completed.

**2-D. Other Projects**

➤ ***Postal Code and the National Address Improvement Project***

TTPost is rolling out the National Address Improvement Project simultaneously with the assignment of Postal Codes. The expected end date for this project is in 2015. This project consists of the following eight (8) categories:

1. Postal Code Email Address
2. Postal Code Finder
3. Route Maps
4. Numbering of Buildings
5. Bulk Mailer

6. Official Launch of the Postal Code Finder
7. Public Awareness Campaign
8. Address Management Systems Unit

During fiscal 2014, the Agency plans to complete five (5) regions. The status of these regions as at August 2014 was as follows:

1. The project has been completed in the Boroughs of Point Fortin and Chaguanas

### **Telecommunication Services of Trinidad and Tobago (as at August 2014)**

#### **Achievements**

The Telecommunication Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT) continued its plan to modernise Trinidad and Tobago's telecommunications sector in a bid to make it a customer oriented and technologically driven sector. The aim is to provide efficient, cost effective and quality services to all its customers. During the period, TSTT achievements were as follows:

1. Launch of a pilot Gigabit Community in Lange Park, Chaguanas, the first of its kind in Trinidad and Tobago and the English-speaking Caribbean. The community, which providing homes with fiber optic connections, delivers access speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second, enough to view 3,000 web pages or upload 4,000 photos. The enhanced internet capabilities provided by the service can be applied to domestic recreational settings, office commercial settings, educational settings (at schools), and critical facilities such as health care and medical institutions.
2. Launch of BLINK Wireless Broadband powered by new, cutting-edge LTE technology. The project, which was initiated in April 2014, involved the provision of LTE 4G Wireless Service to the Bridge of Hope Children's Home, Sangre Chiquito, Trinidad and in Golden Lane, Tobago. The service, which is geared towards reaching rural areas that were previously underserved,

complements the national coverage of our population with access to wireless broadband connectivity.

3. Delivery of Project Mahogany, a Fibre To The Community (FTTC) Programme, to Milford Court, Tobago. This project, launched in May 2014, will improve the quality of life and enhance business capability to citizens in Tobago by providing full access to TSTT's full quad-play - voice, broadband, entertainment and security. Over the next three years, TSTT expects a ten-fold increase in the number of homes that can access the service.

4. Establishment of an Access Centre in Cumana. This initiative, which involves the use of high speed fiber optic links that enable the use of voice and data usage, provides patrons of the centre with free access to the internet. Furnished with user friendly, state-of-the-art technology and powered by BLINK high speed broadband internet, the Cumana Star.tt ICT Access Centre provides the facilities to assist in propelling the social, economic and cultural development of Cumana, and by extension Trinidad and Tobago.

5. Launch of a pilot project in Tobago utilising the Adaptive Bit Rate (ABR) Technology. ABR Technology allows customers to stream television via their broadband connection. As part of the pilot, a hotel solution was designed with the aim of reducing some of the entertainment overheads borne by hotels on the island, while providing a premium service.

6. Establishment of the Samsung Smart School Solution in May 2014. This pilot project, undertaken by BLINK/Bmobile in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Samsung, helps teachers manage classes better and engage students more effectively through the use of E-education techniques.

7. Launch of T&T's first Samsung Experience Store. The store, located at Gulf City Mall, La Romaine, gives customers an opportunity to experience Samsung's products to find those most suited to their lifestyles.

## **Utilities Assistance Programme (UAP)**

### **Fiscal 2013**

- Provided assistance to 871 new beneficiaries increasing the recipients of the programme to eleven thousand, eight hundred and fifty-four (11,854).

Two hundred and eighteen thousand six hundred and nine dollars and fifteen cents (\$218,609.15) was spent on forms and public education.

### **Fiscal 2014 (October 2013 – March 2014)**

- Provided assistance to 471 new beneficiaries increasing the recipients of the programme to twelve thousand, three hundred (12,300).

Eighty-six thousand two hundred and forty three dollars and thirty-two cents (\$86,243.32) was spent on forms and public education.

On October 1, 2013 the Utilities Assistance Programme (UAP) was extended to include an increase in the subsidy and maximum requirement for electrical consumption. Other low income earners, pensioners and persons with disabilities were also added as possible eligible applicants. The provision of a water tank and solar panel were two components that were also added to the Programme, all with the aim of providing more options to citizens in ensuring they can access the basic utilities of water and electricity.

## **Head Office Projects**

### **October 2010 to March 2014**

#### **Achievements**

- **The Electrical Inspectorate Division (EID)** - The EID's has relocated its North Office to a new spacious building in Arouca. The North Office relocation was in keeping with the Ministry's objective to provide quality and efficient service to citizens of Trinidad and Tobago and to provide both staff and members of the public with more comfortable accommodation. Thus far the EID has a presence in North, East and South and Tobago.

The EID received new equipment to assist in providing a more efficient service to citizens requiring electrical inspection. In this regard, ten (10) insulation resistance testers and three (3) "three phase rotation meters" were purchased for use by Electrical Inspectors. Safety gears for the Electrical Inspectors were also purchased in keeping with OSH regulations. Additionally, in keeping with the Ministry's strategic objective to provide quality service to all citizens, Electrical Inspectors attended a training programme on Writing Technical Regulations and Photovoltaic and small wind-turbine energy systems.

- **The Government Printery Division** - The Government Printery Division has relocated its operations and infrastructure to a larger, safer, and more modern facility at ETeck Park Frederick Settlement Caroni.

The projects, programmes and services offered by the Ministry of Public Utilities during fiscal 2013 and 2014 have directly benefited citizens throughout Trinidad and Tobago. We have seen an increase in the number of beneficiaries in some services, whilst others benefited from an improvement in the quality of the services offered and thus attained a higher standard of living. The MPU continues to deliver on its mandate in compliance with its mission and core values. In addition, we continue to make strides in improving our operational efficiency via timely reporting, stringent monitoring of our plans and programmes, as well as improvement in customer care and service delivery.

### **TTPost adds 72 scooters to transport fleet**

Residents of certain rural communities in Trinidad and Tobago will now receive mail directly at their doors because of the addition of 72 brand new scooters to the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation's transport fleet. The Corporation's transport fleet will be further expanded with the arrival of 10 additional panel vans.

TTPost processes over 60 million pieces of mail per year via an extensive national network that consists of 485 delivery routes, 72 of which are scooter routes.

Some of the rural districts which will benefit from the new additions to the fleet include Manzanilla, Biche, Caparo in Trinidad and Castara and Mt. Pleasant in Tobago.

**THE MINISTRY  
OF  
SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY**



## THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- **Development of a National Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Plan.** In November 2013, Cabinet approved the National Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Plan 2014-2018 for Trinidad and Tobago, named “*smarTT*”. **This Plan focuses on the development of “...a people-centered, knowledge-based nation, driven by the innovative use of ICTs, to enhance social, economic and cultural development.”** Five (5) thematic areas were designated as the focal points for action toward achieving this goal.

These thematic areas are as follows:

- a. *Innovation and Human Capital Development* focuses on fostering a creative e-ready society as a catalyst for ICT advancement and speaks to the inculcation of ICT skills and competencies among citizens.
- b. *Access and Digital Inclusion* focuses on bridging the digital divide in Trinidad and Tobago and to increasing ICT availability among underserved communities.
- c. *e-Business and ICT Sector Development* focuses on building a pro e-enterprise environment and highlights the importance of increasing the adoption of e-business and e-commerce.
- d. *Infrastructure Development* focuses on enhancing accessibility, usage and governance by addressing gaps in existing national hardware and software infrastructure, particularly telecommunications and broadband.
- e. *e-Government* focuses on improved government efficiency in service delivery premised on a secure and robust telecommunications infrastructure.

*smarTT* focuses on:

- Creating opportunities in the ICT sector;
- Facilitating sustainable development and social inclusion; and
- Improving the quality of life of the nation’s citizens.

By:

- Unleashing the potential for human capital development and innovation;
- Fostering diversification of the economy;
- Providing strategic direction for ICT;
- Facilitating coordination amongst government agencies and business sectors; and
- Increasing GDP from growth in ICT impacted sectors.

A *smarTT* Secretariat, was also created and is charged with the responsibility to coordinate the implementation of the Plan and report on implementation progress to

various Governance Committees including the Ministerial Committee on ICTs. Successful implementation of the Plan requires the engagement of key stakeholders among the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT), the private sector and civil society and as such, the Secretariat has begun its stakeholder engagement activities and project implementation.

- **International Rankings show great strides in ICT** - Trinidad and Tobago continues to make great strides in ICT. T&T moves up in the World Economic Forum-Global Information and Technology Report (GITR) for the third Consecutive Year. Trinidad and Tobago moved up the International Telecommunications Union ICT Development Index by three points from 70 to 67.
- **The World Bank Group has adjudicated Trinidad and Tobago as being Open Data Ready and the Ministry of Science and Technology is leading the Open Data Initiatives.** Being “Open Data Ready” and participating in an “Open Data initiative” assist Trinidad and Tobago with its goal to develop an open, accountable and transparent public sector and the delivery of public services to its citizens. **This initiative augurs well with the Government’s National Broadband Plan for Development which aims to ensure that citizens across Trinidad and Tobago have access to high speed broadband connectivity, which is an important driver of economic growth and development and facilitates job creation for our citizens.** This forms part of the National ICT Plan 2014-2018 (branded as *smarTT*) which will ultimately transform Trinidad and Tobago into a more diversified, information and knowledge-driven economy.
- **Work has begun on the implementation of electronic transactions (e-transactions).** The Ministry of Science and Technology is the lead driver of this process and spearheads the National Technical Advisory Committee for e-Transactions which is charged with the responsibility of reviewing the Draft National Policy and Draft Regulations on Electronic Transactions in order to ensure compliance with regional and international best practice standards as well as domestic requirements. The regulations under the Committee’s purview, take into account the implications arising from other legislation such as, inter alia, data protection and privacy, national security, cybercrime and consumer protection. **In its 2015 Global Information Technology Report, the World Economic Forum noted that Trinidad and Tobago is on track with the implementation of e-transactions.**
- **Strengthened e-legislative and ICT policy environment, greater utilization of e-business as a core economic driver and increased Foreign Direct Investment in the ICT**

**sector.** The e-legislative framework will effectively support the transformation of Trinidad and Tobago into an ICT knowledge-based nation. This is a necessary foundation for the implementation of advanced ICT projects and programmes which will ultimately facilitate the development of e-government, e-health, e-justice, e-democracy and e-commerce.

- **The Star.tt Access Centres.** Since 2014, more than eleven thousand, six hundred (11,600) persons ranging from ages 12- 65 years have taken advantage of the four Star.tt ICT Access Centres which are located in Penal, Cumana, Guayaguayare and Marac. At these locations, there was previously a dearth of basic ICT infrastructure, online connectivity to Government services and even social services. Now, residents in these communities can access the technology and receive the necessary technology-based training without having to venture far from their homes and communities. These centres provide opportunities for access to information by overcoming the barriers of distance and location; therefore providing broader access to technology and training opportunities for every man, woman and child throughout the twin island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Each Star.tt Access Center includes a WIFI Patio (a place for portable device owners to access the internet), a cyber café (a room with several computers offering high speed internet), and a state of the art training and conference room where the community's residents can receive training on technology and its diverse usages. These services are provided at no cost to anyone.

**The next star.tt centre will be launched in Granville and in the next fiscal year, 24 centres will be constructed and launched.** In April 2015, the Ministry's Star.tt Access Centre initiative has been nominated for the UN World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Project Prize 2015 in the Category 3: Access to Information and Knowledge. The WSIS is a United Nations initiative which seeks to regularise the development of ICT projects in countries with an active digital divide

**ICT for Seniors-** This is a programme of the Ministry of Science and Technology which is conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of the People and Social Development. Launched in May 2014, this programme seeks to highlight the benefits of Science and Technology to the senior citizens of Trinidad and Tobago and encourage greater use of ICT platforms to improve their lives. At the first *ICT For Seniors* event, conducted at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad, **more than 500 senior citizens actively participated and were exposed to new learning opportunities to support their active ageing by effectively harnessing of ICT.**

**Through this programme, our country's seniors have been introduced to the internet, email, communication tools such as Facebook, Skype, Viber and What's App and have even been**

**taught how to access government services and conduct electronic banking transactions with just a few clicks.**

The second instalment of this initiative was hosted in **Central Trinidad and the third activity was held in Valencia**. Additional *ICT For Seniors* programmes will be conducted in the upcoming months.

*Girls and Women in ICT* is an initiative which was developed by the International Telecommunications Union. The Ministry of Science and Technology hosted its Women and Girls in ICT Forum on April 25, 2013 and May 14, 2014 at the National Academy for the Performing Arts (NAPA), Port of Spain. The Forum marks Trinidad and Tobago's commemoration of *Girls in ICT Day*, an International Day that is recognised by the 148 Member Countries of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU); and which is aimed at highlighting the importance of gender diversity in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), a field in which women are under-represented globally and nationally. Celebrated annually on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of April, *Girls in ICT Day* is intended to raise awareness among girls and young women of the opportunities that can be realised from pursuing careers in ICT and the role of ICT as a catalyst for development.

The national commemoration is also closely aligned with the one of the primary objectives of the Ministry of Science and Technology in keeping with the National Development Strategy for Sustainable Development which is to ensure that all citizens, including girls and women, become active partners in the Trinidad and Tobago's emerging digital society and economy. It is noted that the gender disparity in the ICT field is replicated despite the educational advancement of women.

Both forums facilitated the participation of over 250 female students and their accompanying teachers, from some thirty schools from across both islands. Through interactive sessions the students were exposed to established female professionals and entrepreneurs in a variety of fields who provided insights on the role of ICT in their professional lives. The Students also had first-hand experience of some of the emerging technological developments, such as 3D printing and robotics, through an interactive ICT exhibition mounted by leading public and private sector ICT/science and technology organizations. Further, they received guidance from experienced information security professionals on how to be cyber-smart and protect their security while online.

For its commemoration in 2015, the Ministry hosted a Women and Girls in ICT Coding and Design Workshop for its female members of staff. In partnership with a local ICT company while using its own in-house professionals, the day-long activity introduced the more than 30 participants to the fundamentals of algorithms and logical thinking; and website design and

development through practical and hands-on simulations. The workshop also addressed the use of social media, being cyber smart and online shopping.

The Ministry of Science and Technology will host a ***Girls in ICT School Tour*** in each education district of Trinidad and Tobago starting with the Eastern Educational District.

- ***International Engagements-*** In June 2014, the Minister of Science and Technology led a delegation to the World Summit on the Information Society +10 High Level Event (HLE) which was held in Geneva, Switzerland. The World Summit on the Information Society process addresses the harnessing of technology in pursuit of international development objectives including the MDGs. As Head of Delegation, Minister Griffith tabled a number of proposals for incorporation in the post 2015 WSIS Agenda, which advocated:
  - a clearer identification of the enabling role of ICTs for inclusive development across all sectors and spheres of human activity in keeping with the key pillars of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability;
  - greater attention being paid to the increasing importance of mobile broadband technology in developing countries, the fasted growing technology in human history whose evolution is provided the basis for bridging the digital gap; and
  - The establishment of formal mechanisms that will lessen or avoid duplication among the work streams of the organizations which provide technical assistance and active coordination in the area of Cyber Security and cybercrime. He noted that for Trinidad and Tobago, cyber security is part of the enabling framework for ICT, and the creation of a secure digital environment will facilitate those actions and activities that can contribute to ICT growth and development. Furthermore, given the pervasive and borderless nature of criminal activity in cyberspace, regional coherence and collaboration will also ensure a more balanced treatment of the issues within and across regions.

# **THE MINISTRY OF SPORT**

## THE MINISTRY OF SPORT

Over 100 local community recreational grounds across Trinidad and Tobago were rehabilitated and upgraded. Works included relaying of grass outfield, construction of pavilions and hard courts, installation of permanent lighting courtesy the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission, drainage, fencing, and other minor improvements. In some areas, sporting equipment was also donated to local groups.

Within the next few weeks, four major national facilities will be commissioned. These include: the National Tennis Centre in Tacarigua, the National Cycling Velodrome and National Aquatic Centre in Balmain, Couva as well as a state-of-the-art multipurpose facility in Sangre Grande. These facilities will make Trinidad and Tobago the preferred destination for high-level elite athlete training and is intended to be a great boost to the local sports tourism industry.

In addition to these mega facilities, the community of Siparia will soon have a modern, multipurpose facility at Irwin Park, which will include a 333m cycling track, international-standard football pitch, international-standard cricket pitch, 400m grass running track, pavilion and bleachers.

A similar facility is underway at the Brian Lara Recreation Ground in Santa Cruz, which will boast of an international-standard cricket pitch, a 500-seat pavilion, cricket practice nets and hard court.

For just the cost of a movie and a meal, over 40,000 children benefitted from the annual July/August Vacation Sport Camps in 70 locations in Trinidad and Tobago. Parents could select from at least 15 sporting disciplines for their child to participate and included among others, cycling, tennis, sailing, football, cricket, hockey, volleyball and basketball.

Over 1,000 community sporting groups have benefitted from funding for their activities over the last five years.

Over 50 NGBs have benefitted from millions of dollars of funding for various sporting activities, including local and overseas competition, national team preparation and training costs.

2012 was the most successful ever for Trinidad and Tobago at an Olympic Games. The country earned one Gold (Keshorn Walcott-Javelin), one Silver (4x100m Relay Men; upgraded from bronze) and two Bronze (Lalonde Gordon-400m, 4x400m Relay Men) medals.

In 2013, the Anti-Doping in Sport Act was unanimously passed in both Houses of Parliament. The Act is intended to add structure and parameters to the anti-doping regime in Trinidad and Tobago as well as to align local regulations to the international movement against doping in sport. An organisation called the Trinidad and Tobago Anti-Doping Organisation (TTADO), within the Ministry of Sport, was established to manage the execution of the regime, as well as education on the subject of doping in sport.



**THE MINISTRY  
OF  
TERTIARY  
EDUCATION AND  
SKILLS TRAINING**

## The Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training

### LIST OF AGENCIES UNDER MTEST

1. Metal Industries Company Ltd (**MIC**)
2. National Energy Skills Center (**NESC**)
3. National Training Agency (**NTA**)
4. Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (**ACTT**)
5. Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute (**TTHTI**)
6. Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (**YTEPP**)
7. College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (**COSTAATT**)
8. University of Trinidad and Tobago (**UTT**)
9. University of the West Indies (**UWI**)

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE  
MINISTRY OF TERTIARY EDUCATION & SKILLS TRAINING  
2010 - 2014**

**YEAR: 2010**

***JULY 2010***

1. **Launch of National Stakeholder Consultations** - The Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education hosted three (3) National Stakeholder Consultations on the Policy on Tertiary Education, Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) and Lifelong Learning in July 2010 at the following venues:
  - University of the West Indies – St. Augustine Campus
  - Rudranath Capildeo Learning Resources Centre
  - Tobago
  
2. **NTA signed a Memoranda of Agreement with the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT)**. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed with the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago which paved the way for the rationalization of Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) in Trinidad and Tobago. The NTA being the main awarding body for TVET, with registration and approval of all TVET training and programmes offered in Trinidad and Tobago. This initiative informed the NTA's stakeholders and the general public that we are the accreditation body for Level 1, 2 and 3.
  
3. **Launch of Caribbean Vocational Qualifications in Schools** - Forty schools submitted candidates for CVQ awards. One thousand and fifty one (1051) candidates registered, 9996 unit awards and 584 full CVQs were awarded. One hundred and twenty eight (128) teachers were given Assessor training, 94 were certified as Assessors and 16 teachers were given Internal Verification training.

## ***SEPTEMBER 2010***

4. **National Skills and Entrepreneurship Expo 2010 conducted by the NTA** - Sectors displayed and key sub-areas were Agriculture, Creative Industries, Finance, Health, Information and Communication Technology, Manufacturing and Engineering, Personal Services, Tourism and Hospitality, Yachting. Geared towards targeting the interests of secondary and post-secondary students/apprentices as well as career seekers, job-changers, the skilled and the unemployed. Approximately 3000 persons attended.

## ***NOVEMBER 2010***

5. Metal Industries Company Ltd (MIC) HYPE Graduation 2010- **On Monday 22nd November 2010, the MIC Institute of Technology hosted the graduation ceremony of 560 trainees who successfully completed the Helping You Prepare for Employment (HYPE) Programme.**
6. **President's Awards at MIC** -Thirty-six (36) trainees from the MIC Institute of Technology's National Skills Development Programme (NSDP) were honoured as they received gold and silver awards for their successful participation in the President's Award Programme on 26 November 2010.
7. **7th Annual Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (CANQATE) Conference**- Hosted by the ACTT.

## ***DECEMBER 2010***

8. Master Craftsman Mechatronics Diploma- **On December 13th 2010, 17 employees of MIC returned home armed with a Master Craftsman Mechatronics Diploma after successfully completing the Master Craftsman Mechatronics Programme in Germany.**

## YEAR: 2011

### **JANUARY 2011**

9. **TVET Policy-** The Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education laid the Policy on Tertiary Education, TVET and Lifelong Learning in the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago in January 2011, which resulted in the successful release of €22.3 Million from the European Union under the 9<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund Programme.

### **FEBRUARY 2011**

10. **Repositioning of the Multi-sector Skills Training (MuST) Programme-** The Multi-sector Skills Training (MuST) Programme was repositioned to the Metal Industries Company (MIC) Limited; the Retraining Programme to the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP) Limited, and the On-the-Job Training (OJT) Programme and Life Skills Unit to the National Training Agency (NTA).
11. **Launch of OJT Medical** - in February 2011 in conjunction with the Ministry of Health. This programme is geared toward the training of persons who intend to pursue medical training programmes, in order to provide them with a hands-on perspective of the health sector. The OJTs will be distributed among the regional health authorities in Trinidad and Tobago to familiarize themselves with the health care sector before they begin their tenure as medical students.
12. **The Re-Alignment of the On- The Job Training Programme-** In February 2011, the OJT Programme was re-launched under the aegis of the National Training Agency with an objective to develop and implement strategies for the **Reorganization, Expansion and Rebranding of the programme**. The critical areas addressed were Human Resources, Information and Communication Technology, Systems and Procedures in order to ensure

efficiency and compliance in all areas, including Finance. This initiative made the public aware of the re-alignment of the OJT Programme through advertising.

13. **Life Skills Unit repositioning-** Life Skills Unit was repositioned to the National Training Agency (NTA).

### ***MARCH 2011***

14. **M-Fisheries Application launch-** The Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education launched in March 2011, the m-Fisheries application, which features navigational tools, learning companions and online market place. This venture involved the Distance Learning Secretariat in collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Caribbean Fisheries Training Development (CFTDI) and 50 fisher folk.

15. **Establishment of the National Commission for Higher Education (NCHE)** - The Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education established the National Commission for Higher Education (NCHE), in March 2011 to guide and monitor the development of the Tertiary Education and Technical Vocation Education and Training sector.

### ***APRIL 2011***

16. **Expanding of GATE to TVET-** The GATE Programme was expanded to include Technical Vocational Education and Training in April 2011.

## **MAY 2011**

17. **MOU between MSTTE and UWI St Augustine-** A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education and the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine in May 2011 for the development of a Centre for Workforce Research and Development (CWRD) to focus on tracking, monitoring and forecasting labour market trends, skills gaps and training needs.
18. **Institutional Accreditation Granted-** The ACTT granted Institutional Accreditation status to:
- College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT)
  - University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT)
  - University of the West Indies
19. Opening of the Tobago Technology Centre Under MIC- **The Tobago Technology Centre was formally opened on Friday 20th May 2011 in the esteemed presence of the Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar and her Cabinet colleagues.**
20. **YTEPP at Tobago Technology Centre-** Establishment of YTEPP training programmes at the Tobago Technology Centre.
21. **YTEPP signed an MoU with USAID-** This was done in order to provide mobile Computer Bus services to communities in Tobago. The computer lab is housed in a large bus where ten people can sit at a time at computers to learn Information Communication Technology (ICT). At present YTEPP has three such buses operating in Trinidad. They are used to provide computer literacy training. The training intervention is also considered as an opportunity to stimulate positive lifelong learning to young people in rural communities that have not

embraced additional training since secondary school and would be a useful tool to assist in closing the digital divide that exists in society.

**22. National Energy Skills Centre (NESC) attained ISO 9001:2001 Certification.**

**23. UTT launched its Chaguanas Campus Agora-** With the purpose of catering primarily to UTT's Professional Education courses.

**24. Launch of Workforce Assessment Centre-** The WAC, an initiative of the Ministry of Science Technology and Tertiary Education (MSTTE) and the National Training Agency, is a skills assessment and recognition facility, which is specifically setup to facilitate the efficient and effective initiation of individuals into the Technical and Vocational Education and Training system via the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) process. The Workforce Assessment Centres which includes the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP), Metal Industries Company Limited (MIC) and National Energy Skills Centre (NESC). This event advertised the WACs, creating awareness and building participation. As well as have skilled workers assessed and certified through this initiative.

**25. Higher Level Programme Graduation-** On Wednesday 25th May, 2011 MIC Institute of Technology hosted its Annual Graduation Ceremony for its levels 2, 3, 4 and 5 Programmes at its Auditorium, Century Drive, Macoya Industrial Estate.

**26. Launch of the TVET Control Centre-** The TVETCC is an online database designed to assess and reorganize existing skills training programmes. The objective is to facilitate a more coherent training system in line with efforts to rationalize and coordinate all Technical Vocational Education and Training. This initiative informed stakeholders and the public about the TVET Control Centre's features, benefits and advantages. Development of a TVETCC Brochure



- 27. MSTTE and NTA Launch Sector Advisory Committees-** The National Training Agency (NTA) in collaboration with MSTTE, hosted a forum on 26th May 2011 at NAPA to give recognition to its partners in industry. The following SACs were established: Fish and Fish Processing, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Industry Association, Supermarket Association of Trinidad and Tobago, Creative Industries, Yachting, Printing and Packaging and Energy. This initiative informed stakeholders and the public about the SACs and the importance of their role in the development of ROS and NOS.
- 28. More Workforce Assessment Centre's Established-** YTEPP established 3 Workforce Assessment Centres in Maloney, Valencia and Chaguanas in May 2011.
- 29. Launch of Jobs Report** - "The Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training will this month launch a "Jobs Report" to alert citizens about the jobs available on the market and project future job demands. The report will be carried during "prime time" on television and newspapers. Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, Fazal Karim said the Report would let people know what fields to pursue in education, and inform training providers of job market needs. He added that the National Training Agency (NTA) would host the Jobs Report and sector (energy, tourism, hospitality and maritime) advisory councils/committees would collect information and advise the NTA on the skills gap. A data base will be created by the NTA along with the Centre for Workforce Research and Development."
- 30. Launch of the Labour Market Surveys-** The Labour Market Survey is intended to forecast the number of persons needed to meet labour market demands for all the occupations identified in all sectors in the economy in Trinidad and Tobago. This initiative was used to update the public of the availability of jobs in various sectors and institutions to acquire the skills to qualify for the respective jobs in Trinidad and Tobago.

## **JUNE 2011**

31. **Gender Study Findings-** YTEPP was commissioned to produce a Gender Study on the Factors Affecting Male Re-entry into the Post-Secondary and Tertiary Education System which sought to interrogate the issues relating to male representation, male achievement and male re-entry into the sector. The findings of the study were presented to key stakeholders (gender specialists, tertiary level education administrators, Government agencies and the private sectors
  
32. **MSTTE Statistical Digest-** The Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education produced a Statistical Digest on Post-Secondary and Tertiary Education (2010) in June 2011 which represented cross-sectional data on three (3) clusters of data (students, programmes and faculty) for the academic year 2009/2010.
  
33. **MSTTE signs MOU with Institutions** -the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UWI, UTT, COSTAATT, MIC, TTHTI, Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies. The MOU was signed to adopt the '*Guidelines for the framing of Articulation Agreements*' which will allow students to transfer accumulated credits from one Institution to the next.
  
34. **MSTTE Appoints St Augustine Education City Committee-** the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education appointed a St. Augustine Education City Committee for the development of a University Town in St. Augustine. The Committee will oversee the establishment of the St. Augustine Education City as an Integrated Centre for Academic Excellence. It will foster growth of a vibrant service linked to the academic community.
  
35. **UWI Collaborates with McGill-** UWI launched in collaborated with McGill University, Canada the UWI/McGill CARICOM Food Security Project. This project was initiated as a part of The University's mission to improve food and nutrition security in the Caribbean. It will apply an "integrated and systems approach" to the issues of agriculture, food and health in

the Caribbean and aims to adopt the “farm-to-fork” approach that links agriculture and food to human health and wellness.

This project is also aimed at addressing the paradox of under-nutrition and over-nutrition (manifested by the prevalence of obesity and diabetes) in CARICOM countries by researching and introducing technologies for increasing agricultural productivity and diversity, while seeking to produce more nutritious foods in four CARICOM countries, including Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia and St. Kitts and Nevis.

In addition to its collaboration with McGill University, The UWI is working with a number of Third Party Partners, including the University of Guyana (UG); the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT); the Group for the Analysis of Development (GRADE) Lima, Peru; the Ministries of Education – National School Dietary Services Limited in St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago; the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI); the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI); the Ministries of Agriculture in St. Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia; the Ministry of Health in St. Kitts and Nevis; the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC), St. Lucia; and the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) and Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana.

**36. ACTT Publication-** ACTT’s Publication of Compendium of Registered Institutions and Awarding Bodies.

**37. Caribbean Vocational Qualifications in Schools-** forty three (43) schools submitted candidates for CVQ awards. One thousand, three hundred and one (1301) candidates registered, 9032 unit awards and 524 full CVQs were awarded. One hundred and ninety (190) teachers were given Assessor training, 34 were certified as Assessors and 194 teachers were given Internal Verification training.

## ***JULY 2011***

**38. YTEPP opened Training Academy-** Official opening of the Pt. Lisas Training & Enterprise Academy in July 2011.

**39. Centre Approval** – the Quality Assurance Department of the NTA approved:

- a. National Energy Skills Centre (NESC) to deliver the CVQ in;
  - i. Electrical Installation Level 2
  - ii. Instrumentation and Control Level 2
  - iii. Mechanical Maintenance Level 2
  - iv. Motor Vehicle Chassis Systems Level 2
  - v. Pipefitting Level 2
  - vi. Welding Level 2
- b. School of Refrigeration & Air Conditioning (SORAC) to deliver the TTNVQ in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Level 1
- c. St. Vincent & the Grenadines Caregiver Training College Ltd to deliver the CVQ in allied Health – Health Care Assistance (Patient Care) Level 2
- d. Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality & Tourism Institute (THTI) – Bartending Level 1 TTNVQ

## ***AUGUST 2011***

**40. Committee for Nursing and Health Care Education and Training Facility-** In August 2011, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education formed a Standing Committee for the establishment of a Nursing and Health Care Education and Training Facility at the previously named El Dorado Girls' Youth Camp.

41. **Tobago Technology Centre Career Fair 2011- The MIC Institute of Technology hosted its first Career fair at the recently opened Tobago Technology Centre Tuesday 16th August 2011 to Thursday 18th August 2011.**
42. **Launch of Workforce Assessment Centres with the MIC-** The 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2011 marked the official launch of Workforce Assessment Centres. Through these centres the MIC Institute of Technology will facilitate the certification of persons who are masters in their trade but have never been formally trained.
43. **Launch of the Mechatronics Unit** -The Mechatronics Unit was formalized on the 8th August 2011.

#### ***SEPTEMBER 2011***

44. **COSTAATT's Highest Enrolment** -In 2011-2012 COSTAATT achieved the highest enrolment to date with over 11,600 students (33% increase over the past 3 years).
45. **New bachelor Degree Programmes for COSTAATT-** For the period 2011 – 2012, COSTAATT developed and launched 35 new Bachelor degree programmes.
46. **Launch of Ken Gordon School of Journalism under COSTAATT-** COSTAATT established the Ken Gordon School of Journalism and Communication Studies in September 2011 offering four (4) new Bachelors and Associate degree. The School aims to provide academic training complemented by internships and possessing facilities including a state-of-the-art media centre.

## **OCTOBER 2011**

47. **ACTT's Online Compendium-** In October 2011, the ACTT hosted and launched the *"Online Compendium of Registered, Accredited and Recognised Institutions, Awarding Bodies and Programmes 2011-2012"*.
48. **ACTT Holds Quality Assurance Month-** In October 2011 the ACTT hosted the Quality Assurance Month *"Promoting a Culture of Quality through Continuous Improvement of the Higher Education Sector"*.
49. **WAC Caravan-** Members of the NTA Marketing Department in collaboration iGovTT visited several rural communities. Approximately 300 persons were registered through this initiative. This allowed for continued visitation to rural communities to increase the number of applicants through the WAC.

## **NOVEMBER 2011**

50. **National Consultations on GATE-** These were held under the theme "Securing and Expanding the GATE programme", and was hosted by the Standing Committee on the GATE Programme during the period November 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> 2011. Issues such as performance standards for students, financial accountability of institutions, funding, labour market needs and the abuse of the GATE Programme were all ventilated at the consultations.
51. **National Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education-** on 17-18<sup>th</sup> November, hosted by the ACTT

52. **MIC Opens O'Meara Technology Centre-** MIC opened the O'Meara Technology Centre in November 2011.

53. **MIC and the Arima Dial** - The MIC Institute of Technology was heavily involved in the refurbishment of the Arima Dial, one of Trinidad & Tobago's national landmarks. The new Dial was reinstalled in November 2011.

### ***DECEMBER 2011***

54. **NESC Enrolls Nigerian Nationals-** the NESC enrolled 100 Nigerian nationals for a six-month training programme under the Agreement signed with Qess Consulting Inc. (Qess) of Nigeria in Automotive, Services Technician, Heavy Equipment Operations and Maintenance, Shielded Metal Arc Welding and Industrial Mechanical Maintenance.

55. **YTEPP Mobile Computer Training Lab-** Formal launch of the YTEPP Mobile Computer Training Lab in Tobago in conjunction with USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development).

56. **Centre Approval** – the Quality Assurance Department of the NTA approved: The Trinidad Tower Crane Services Ltd – Civil Construction (Material Handling Operations) Level 2.

## YEAR: 2012

### **JANUARY 2012**

57. **Minister Assumes Chairmanship-** The Minister assumed Chairmanship of the Commonwealth Connects Steering Committee in January 2012.
58. **GATE Standing Committee** - In January 2012, a GATE Standing Committee was established to enforce the student performance policy at public tertiary institutions with students being required to maintain the minimum GPA.
59. **COSTAATT Sangre Grande Campus** - COSTAATT established the Sangre Grande Campus on January 2012 where over 200 students were enrolled to pursue programmes including Nursing, Management, Entrepreneurship, Information Technology, Mass Communication and Environmental Sciences. The Campus has a capacity to accommodate an additional 800 students.
60. **UTT Rebrands-** UTT embarked on a massive rebranding exercise to turn its campuses into Centres of Excellence.
61. **UTT Signs MoU in India-** UTT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with India's leading petroleum university, Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDPU), to collaborate on faculty and student exchanges, joint research projects and other areas. The MoU was signed during the official state visit to India by this country's Prime Minister, the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar.
62. **Establishment of WASA as a WAC and Signing of MOU** - Two (2) MOUs were signed in January 2012 between the National Training Agency in collaboration with the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), namely for the establishment of:



- a Sector Advisory Committee (SAC)
- a Workforce Assessment Centre (WAC)

## ***FEBRUARY 2012***

63. **NESC Halls of Residence** - February 2012 marked the start of construction of the NESC Halls of Residence at Point Lisas.

64. **OJT Ad Campaign during February - March, 2012.** The Marketing Department launched an Ad Campaign for the OJT Programme. This campaign was used to make the public aware of the OJT Programme through various forms of advertising. This consisted of:

- Prints ads on the Newsday, Express and Guardian
- Adlibs on various radio stations
- OJT Caravan

## ***MARCH 2012***

65. **SERVOL Funding** - In March 2012, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between SERVOL and the Ministry for funding of SERVOL Programmes.

66. **Institutional Accreditation Granted-** The ACTT granted Institutional Accreditation status to:

- Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business

67. **Agreement with Private Tertiary Institutions for GATE-** A new agreement was signed with Private Tertiary Level Institutions with respect to GATE.

68. **NTA hosts launch of CARICOM EDUCATION for Employment Programme-** The NTA hosted the launch of the CARICOM Education for Employment Programme (C-EFE), which will be

implemented in conjunction with the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC). The C-EFE programme is designed to contribute to an increased competitive, productive and gender-equitable workforce in the CARICOM region by supporting the development of enhanced, demand-driven TVET and workforce certification systems.

**69. New OJT Offices** - The NTA opened the following OJT Sub-Regional Offices:

- Couva Office at NESC Couva – March 2012
- Sangre Grande Office – April 2012
- Ste. Madeleine Office – April 2012
- Rio Claro Office – April 2012
- Princes Town Office – May 2012
- Point Fortin Office – May 2012
- Debe Office – May 2012
- Fyzabad – May 2012
- Goldsbourough, Tobago Office – June 2012

**70. UWI Student Recreational Centre** - March 2012 marked the start of construction of the UWI Faculty of Medical Sciences Student Study/Recreational Centre.

**71. YTEPP Mobile Computer Buses** - In March 2012, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between YTEPP & PTSC for the provision of four (4) Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC) buses to YTEPP to expand the reach of YTEPP Computer Training programmes.

**72. Launch of the CEFE Programme**- The CARICOM Education for Employment. (C-EFE) Program was launched on Friday 2nd March 2012, at the La Boucan Room, Trinidad Hilton, Port-of-Spain. This launch featured a variety of presentations and culminated in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), between CARICOM and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC). The goal of the C-EFE Program was to increase

economic growth, by developing a more competitive, productive and gender equitable workforce in the Caribbean.

73. **Centre Approval** – the Quality Assurance Department of the NTA approved:

- Trinidad and Tobago College of Therapeutic Massage and Beauty Culture Ltd (TTCOTM&BCL) – General Cosmetology Level 1

#### ***APRIL 2012***

74. **Consultations on National Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Plan** - In April-May 2012, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education held National Consultations on the National ICT Plan to develop an agenda for ICT implementation across Government Ministries and provide services to the Public using a Technology-Based Framework.

75. **National Consultations on Life Skills Curriculum** - National Consultations on Life Skills Curriculum and Values Education were held in April/May 2012 for holistic development of Post-Secondary and Tertiary Graduates.

76. **ACTT South Outreach Office** - The ACTT opened its South Outreach Office and launched its Digital Map of Registered and Accredited Post-Secondary and Tertiary Level Institutions in April 2012.

77. **UTT Student Social Responsibility Centre** - UTT launched the Student Social Responsibility Centre in April 2012. This centre will be responsible for managing volunteer commitments and relationship building with students, staff and external volunteer host agencies and will also work in collaboration with various NGOs.

78. **YTEPP Head Office** - YTEPP's Head office was formally opened at Mulchan Seuchan Road, Chaguanas in April 2012.

79. **YTEPP opens Centre in Woodland** - YTEPP launched Community based Projects in Woodland in April 2012. The projects launched were focused on:

- Grow Box
- Household Furnishings
- Graphic Design
- Bread, Cakes & Pastries.

### **MAY 2012**

80. **Ministry Headquarters in Chaguanas** - Sod Turning MSTTE Complex: May 18th, 2012. The Sod Turning for the MSTTE Complex was held on May 18th 2012 at the proposed site of the complex at Nasaloo Ramiah Trace, Chaguanas. Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim delivered an address and The Honourable Jack Warner, Acting Prime Minister delivered the feature address.

81. **Institutional Accreditation Granted**- The ACTT granted Institutional Accreditation status to:

- University of the Southern Caribbean

82. **Establishment as VMCOTT as a WAC**- On May 5th, 2012 The Vehicle Management Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (VMCOTT) agreed to work in collaboration with and NESC to have their employees assessed and certified.

83. **Closing the Digital Gap Initiative** - YTEPP in conjunction with the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training and Bmobile, launched the "Closing the Digital Gap" initiative in Bangladesh, St. Joseph in May 2012, to narrow the Computer Literacy and Usage of Technology by Disadvantaged At-Risk Communities.

84. **MOU for Aviation Training** - A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in with the UTT, MIC, Caribbean Airlines (CAL), National Helicopter Services Limited (NHSL) and the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority (TTCAA) for the establishment of a training programme for the Aviation sector.
85. **WAC in Laventille** - In collaboration with VMCOTT Limited, NESC established a Workforce Assessment Centre and Trade School in May 2012 at VMCOTT's Headquarters, Laventille, to provide opportunities for training, assessment and certification for persons.
86. **MOU with Automotive Dealers Association of Trinidad and Tobago and Tracmac Engineering Limited**- NESC signed a MoU with the Automotive Dealers Association of Trinidad and Tobago and Tracmac Engineering Limited to establish the NESC Automotive Technology Institute and the NESC Tracmac Cat Training Centre to be located at the Woodford Lodge Workforce Development Centre in Chaguanas.
87. **MOU between NIHERST and India** - NIHERST signed an MoU with two of India's premier science institutions-the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) and the National Institute for Science, Technology & Development Studies (NISTADS) to host one of NCSM's hallmark exhibitions "*India: A Culture of Science*" which features 7000 years of scientific discoveries and technological achievements. This Science Exhibition was opened in May 2012.
88. **Launch of Labour Market Reports** - The NTA launched the Labour Market Report in May 2012. This report seeks to identify key jobs opportunities in both the public and private sectors to better enable members of the public to identify their career potential, inclusive of training opportunities available. The first report launched was based on the Energy sector.

89. **Certification through WAC** - One year after the introduction of the Workforce Assessment Centres (WAC) in May 2011, 1,603 persons graduated with certification through the WAC centres at a ceremony held in May 2012.
90. **Rebranding of UTT John Donaldson Port of Spain Campus** - In May 2012, UTT John S. Donaldson's campus was rebranded as "*the Creativity Campus*" for programmes in Fashion design and management, ICT and Visual Design and Animation.
91. **Launch of the Energy Institute of Trinidad and Tobago** - The Energy Institute of Trinidad and Tobago (EITT); a collaboration between UTT and the National Energy Skills Centre (NESC), was launched at the rebranded UTT Point Lisas. The Energy Campus as the place for research and commercialisation of research in energy studies. EITT will foster research and educate students and policy makers on energy issues that are crucial to the future of the sector.
92. **MOU between UTT and LABIDCO** - In May 2012, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the UTT and the La Brea Industrial Development Company Limited (LABIDCO) Port Services, to execute strategic programmes in Port skills within the La Brea community.
93. **Medical Students' Facilities opened in San Fernando** - In May 2012, the UWI Medical Students' Accommodation and Training Facilities was launched at the San Fernando General Hospital to house training facilities, catering to approximately 100 students and equipped with video conference equipment and wireless Internet.
94. **YTEPP Campus at Waterloo** - Opening of the YTEPP Waterloo/Carapichaima Business Education and Training Campus in May 2012. This is carded to become a centre for Maritime Studies as well as Multimedia and Digital Animation Training, Rabbit Rearing and

Production. Classes have already begun in Television and Video Production, Aquaculture and Grow Box/Plant Propagation.

95. **YTEPP Training Centre at Preysal** - YTEPP launched a training centre at the Preysal High School in May 2012.
96. **MIC signs MOA with Pansa, Suriname**- On Tuesday 2nd May, 2012, MIC Institute of Technology signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Pansa Group of Companies NV of Suriname.
97. **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) - for Aviation Studies**- The MoU represents a unique collaboration among UTT, Caribbean Airlines Limited, Metal Industries Limited, National Helicopter Services Limited and the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority to begin academic training in Aviation Technology.
98. **UTT signs Memorandum of Understanding with Memorial University – Newfoundland, Canada**- This MOU was signed for the advancement of marine education and training through staff and student exchange and programme development initiatives.
99. **First WAC Graduation**- The first Workforce Assessment Centre Graduation was held on May 7th 2012 at the NESC Compound in Couva. 1603 persons graduated from various WACs across the country. To promote the achievement of the initiative one (1) year after it was launched. To promote the achievement of the initiative one (1) year after it was launched.
100. **Launch of Labour Market Report**- The launch was held on May 1st, Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education delivered the feature address. Labour Market Reporting includes trend analysis of various occupational sectors, inclusive of new and emerging jobs, vacancies, and skill shortage and employment opportunities. The first Labour Market Report was based on the Energy Sector. To update the public of the availability of jobs in various sectors and institutions to acquire the skills to qualify for the respective jobs in Trinidad and Tobago.

101. **Letter of Intent between MSTTE and the Supermarket Association of Trinidad and Tobago-** MSTTE and Supermarket Association of T & T (SATT) to start Training Institute. The SATT signed a Letter of Intent with MSTTE and the NTA to continue collaboration and cooperation with respect to TVET and human resource development in the sector. The signing was the second phase to the MOU developed between SATT and NTA in May 2011 that developed the Standards for the Occupational areas in SATT. This initiative promoted the expansion of TVET into the Distribution Sectors – (Supermarket Assoc. is under the Distribution sector)

### ***JUNE 2012***

102. **Tribute to Trinidad and Tobago's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence-** On June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012, the Ministry hosted a Gala Performance featuring the talent of staff at the Ministry and its various Agencies. Entitled "Our Nation's Dawning" this Gala performance was a tribute to Trinidad and Tobago's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence. This day also marked the realignment of the Ministry from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education, to the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training.

103. **ACTT Tobago Office** - The ACTT re-commissioned its Tobago Office and launched its Tobago Student Caravan and Digital Map of Registered and Accredited Institutions in June 2012.

104. **COSTAATT's Main Campus in Chaguanas** - June 2012 marked the commencement of preliminary works for COSTAATT's Main Campus Facility, which will be located on a 30 acre parcel of land at Pierre Link Road, Chaguanas, and is expected to cost approximately \$30 million.

105. **Collaboration with the Supermarket Association** - In June 2012 the NTA in conjunction with the Supermarket Association of Trinidad and Tobago (SATT) signed a Letter of Intent



for collaboration and co-operation with respect to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and the human resource development of the workforce in the supermarket industry. This Letter of Intent will lead to the establishment of the Supermarket Industry Training Facility which will be located at Connector Road, Chaguanas.

106. **MIC Vertical Farming places 1<sup>st</sup> in IET awards-** Ms. Shivani Boodram an Engineer in Training at the MIC Institute of Technology was awarded the Institute of Engineering and Technology 2012 “Presentation Around The World” 1st prize on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2012.
107. **President Medals for MIC Trainees-** On 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012, Ms Afron Corban received the President’s Medal for Craft Studies and Mr. Amith Seeth received the President’s Medal for Technical Studies (open) 2011.

#### ***JULY 2012***

108. **Launch of the T&T Research and Education Network** the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, launched the Trinidad and Tobago Research and Education Network (TTRENT), and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UWI, UTT and COSTAATT to establish guidelines for the T&T Research and Education Network. This initiative will connect all post-secondary, tertiary level, research institutions and agencies of TEST and various other stakeholders, locally and regionally. The National Research and Education Network (NREN) will also allow students and researchers to engage with international and regional e-learning content. It is also expected that this initiative will provide a national platform that will allow Trinidad and Tobago to link with regional and global networks in order to drive research and development in the service of economic activity and transformation.
109. **ACTT Online Database** - The ACTT launched its Online Institutional Database in July 2012. This database is a secure portal through which institutions can input and update information required by both the MTEST and the ACTT on an annual basis.

110. **NESC's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and MOU with Petroskills-** NESC celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in July 2012 and signed an agreement with Petroskills Limited of Houston, Texas, an International Petroleum Training Institutes

111. **NESC Nigerian Graduation** - The NESC graduated the first Cohort of Nigerian Trainees in July 2012. This graduation followed a Training Agreement signed between the NESC and QESS Services Limited of Nigeria for the training of Nigerian nationals at the NESC in the following skill areas:

- Automotive Services
- Shielded Metal Arc Welding
- Maintenance
- Industrial Mechanical
- Heavy Equipment and Crane Operations
- Maintenance (Millwright)

112. **Launch of World Skills T&T** - The NTA hosted the launch of World Skills Trinidad and Tobago in July 2012. This will provide the opportunity for hundreds of young persons between the ages of 15 – 21 to compete in a plethora of technical vocational skill areas for a chance to represent Trinidad and Tobago at the World Skills International competition. The categories of skill areas for the competition will include:

- Automotive Technology
- Cosmetology
- Commercial Food Preparation
- Graphic Design Technology
- Restaurant Service
- Web Design
- Information Technology
- Welding
- Network Systems
- Electrical Installation
- Administration
- Wall and Floor Tiling
- Fashion Technology
- Joinery

113. **Centre for Workforce Research & Development at UWI** - Construction commenced in July 2012 on the Centre for Workforce Research and Development (CWRD) at UWI, at an expected cost of \$1.5 million. This project is funded by the Ninth European Development

Fund (EDF) and is designed to process existing labour market information relating to market shortages and productivity, and will co-ordinate labour market processes in Trinidad and Tobago and the CARICOM region.

114. **UTT Signs Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CrimsonLogic PTE Ltd.-** CrimsonLogic PTE Ltd is a Singapore-based provider of eGovernment solutions. The MoU will facilitate opportunities for joint seminars and visits for UTT staff to interact with CrimsonLogic PTE Ltd., student internships, curricula development and exploration of a single sign-on portal for UTT staff and students through web-based and mobile technology application.
115. **UTT Launches New MSc.** -Launch of UTT's new Master of Science (MSc) in ICT programme.

#### ***AUGUST 2012***

116. **Virtual Welding Training** - MIC launched the VRTEX 360 Virtual Welding Machine in August 2012. This is an educational training tool designed to accelerate welding training through the utilization of virtual reality.
117. **NESC hosts the President of Nigeria** – with word of the training at NESC of Nigerian Nationals reaching the ears of governmental officials across the African Continent, his Excellency Goodluck Johnathan, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria paid a visit to the NESC's Point Lisas Campus in August 2012. His Excellency was on an official visit to Trinidad and Tobago for Emancipation In August 2012
118. **St. Augustine Education City Logo and Public Consultation** - The St. Augustine Education City Committee unveiled its logo in August 2012 and commenced a public consultation on Traffic Management, Transportation and Pedestrianisation, intended to solicit feedback from stakeholders on these issues.

119. **YTEPP Centre in Biche** - YTEPP launched Community based Projects in Biche in August 2012/

120. **Career Guidance Outreach**- The NTA partnered with MTEST institutions and other tertiary level institutions to execute Career Guidance Outreaches at the malls throughout Trinidad and Tobago. These Malls include:

- Gulf City Mall
- Mid Centre Mall
- Trincity Mall
- Movietowne

### ***SEPTEMBER 2012***

121. **Launch of OJT Agriculture Programme** - OJT – Agriculture was launched in Sangre Grande in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture. OJT Agriculture is a sustainable approach to the sector which allows for skill development in traditional areas as well as:

- Safety in the use of agro-chemicals;
- Alternative methods of pest management;
- Organic agriculture;
- Environmental protection measures;
- Occupational health and environmental health approaches to list a few.

122. **Launch of OJT Environment Programme** - OJT – Environment was launched in Sangre Grande. The programme targets both skilled and unskilled persons and introduces them to training in first aid, masonry, auto mechanics and wildlife protection. The trainees will take part in beautification projects at beaches, rivers, cemeteries, senior homes and nature trails and will be assessed by an evaluation officer.

123. **Career Fair** - NTA launched the Career Fair and Skills Expo 2012.

124. **Start of Construction of UWI South Campus** - Contract works for the UWI South Campus officially commenced in September 2012.
125. **UTT signs Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning-** This partnership will see UTT pairing with the Canadian institution on integration of practical training with academic application in animation. Three UTT students: Christy-Ann Motee, Joyelle Williams and Arminda Bailey have benefitted as they were the recipients of scholarships through the Canadian government's "Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP)". It was this formalised agreement (UTT's MoU with Sheridan College) that served as the catalyst for negotiations with the Canadian Government that resulted in the award of these three (3) ELAP scholarships.
126. **UTT Hosted the Entrepreneurial Conference: The Role of Universities in Entrepreneurship for Socio-Economic Development: UTT's Response:** The Conference featured Prof. Henry Etzkowitz, author of the Triple Helix.
127. **Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) FORUM** - the PLAR unit of the NTA in conjunction with CARICOM- Education for Employment Project hosted a successful forum over three days; 26-28<sup>th</sup> September 2012. The forum offered contributions from International, Regional and local expert speakers in the arena of Education with specific emphasis on Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition. A tour of the Workforce Assessment Centres was conducted by MIC, NESC and YTEPP. Representatives from Guyana, Suriname, Belize, Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados and Canada were present.
128. **Skills Expo 2012-** Sectors displayed and key sub-areas were Agriculture, Creative Industries, Finance, Health, Information and Communication Technology, Manufacturing and Engineering, Personal Services, Tourism and Hospitality, Yachting. Geared towards

targeting the interests of secondary and post-secondary students/apprentices as well as career seekers, job-changers, the skilled and the unemployed. Approximately 10,000 persons attended.

## ***OCTOBER 2012***

129. **Start of World Skills T&T Competition** - The World Skills Trinidad and Tobago Competition was officially opened in October 2012.
130. **Animae Caribe Festival** - UTT hosted the Animae Caribe Festival.
131. **MOU between UWI & National Entrepreneurship Development Company (NEDCO)** - UWI signed an MOU with NEDCO in for entrepreneurial development for students.
132. **Vacuum Table Thermoforming Machine from the MIC**- MIC successfully designed, built, tested and put into production, the Vacuum Table Thermoforming Machine.
133. **Centre Approval** – the Quality Assurance Department of the NTA approved:
  - A-Class Draperies and Interiors to deliver the CVQ in Home Furnishings Production (Fabric) Level 2
  - Ministry of Health, School Health Programme to deliver the TTNVQ in Health Screening Level 2
  - Atlantic Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited to deliver the TTNVQ in Process Plant Operations Level 2.

## ***NOVEMBER 2012***

134. **NESC/PTSC/NTA** – Launch of WAC & Apprenticeship Programme. The current cycle of the PTSC Apprenticeship is on-going (16 Apprentices in Trinidad and 16 in Tobago). Apprentices are expected to move on to year 2 in January 2014.

**DECEMBER 2012**

135. **Jobs & Career Coach** - Two (2) Jobs and Career Coaches were launched in December 2012, to educate the population about their career and training options and provide a forum where persons can explore their career goals.

**YEAR: 2013**

**JANUARY 2013**

136. **Symposium on Workforce Research and Development and MOU between UWI and Georgetown University**- The Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development hosted a one (1) day Symposium on Workforce Research and Development in January 2013. At this Symposium, Minister Karim signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University of the West Indies and the Georgetown University for the development of a Workforce Research and Development Centre. This Workforce Centre will be housed at the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine campus, and will help identify future labour market needs of key industries and capture trends in the labour market.
137. **The ACTT hosted a Panel Discussion**- The discussion was held on “Financing Higher Education: A Development Imperative” in Tobago in January 2013.

138. **NESC & PTSC Apprenticeship Programme** - The NESC, in collaboration with the NTA and PTSC launched a Heavy Equipment Technician Apprenticeship Programme in Tobago in January 2013. In this programme, Apprentices will be taught the skills to diagnose, repair and maintain the working parts of modern Heavy Equipment.
139. **NESC Graduation** - In January 2013, the NESC hosted a Graduation Ceremony for 59 Craftsmen trained at the NESC in the areas of:
- Air Conditioning and Refrigeration
  - Industrial Electrical Installation
  - Plumbing
  - Facilities Maintenance
  - Structural Fabrication
  - Welding
140. **National District Career Fairs** - The Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, launched the National District Career Fairs in January 2013. These fairs were held throughout Trinidad and Tobago during the January to March period, and focused on career guidance for high school students.
141. **Launch of the OJT Culinary Programme** - OJT Culinary was launched in January 2013 in collaboration with the National Schools Dietary Services Limited. Through this programme, trainees are placed at catering services throughout Trinidad and Tobago, which provide services to the School Feeding programme.
142. **UTT Scarborough- Education Campus in Tobago** - The UTT Scarborough – the Education Campus was launched in Tobago in January 2013 as the Government aims to increase access and participation in tertiary education and skills training in Tobago.
143. **Launch of the Public Access Learning System (PALS)** - YTEPP launched the Public Access Learning System (PALS) and its fifth Mobile Computer Training Unit. The PALS model



was taken from the “Hole in the Wall” project conceptually designed by Dr. Sugata Mitra in India, as an initiative to encourage IT based learning amongst children outside the formal schooling system. This initiative is based on the concept of minimally invasive education which encourages people to learn through exploration.

144. **National Skills and Entrepreneurship Expo 2013** - Sectors displayed and key sub-areas were Agriculture, Creative Industries, Finance, Health, Information and Communication Technology, Manufacturing and Engineering, Personal Services, Tourism and Hospitality, Yachting. Geared towards targeting the interests of secondary and post-secondary students/apprentices as well as career seekers, job-changers, the skilled and the unemployed. Approximately 10,000 persons attended. This initiative helped to create awareness and buy-in from the public as well as skills based institutions to promote TVET in Trinidad and Tobago.

#### ***FEBRUARY 2013***

145. **Launch of the Caribbean Research and Education Network** - In February 2013, the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training officially launched C@ribNET - the Caribbean Research and Education Network, which offers local students, researchers, educators, professional and administrative staff of Tertiary Level Institutions (TLIs) access to research and education centres throughout the region in a variety of areas including science and technology, health, security and culture. C@ribNET’s broadband, high-speed fibreoptic infrastructure connects over 26 million persons in at least 21 countries in the region. It was facilitated through partnerships among the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN - the inter-governmental agency of Caricom responsible for C@ribNET) and LIME Caribbean. Seven months ago, fibre-optic network infrastructure between C@ribNET and TT’s main TLIs: the University of the West Indies (UWI); the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT) and the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) was completed by the country’s major telecommunications service provider, TSTT. As such the Caribbean was then able to celebrate its first operational National

Research and Education Network (NREN) when UWI, COSTAATT and UTT came together to form the Trinidad and Tobago Research and Education Network (TTRENT).

146. **NESC/PTSC Trade School** - The NESC, in collaboration with the NTA and PTSC launched the PTSC Trade School at PTSC, Port of Spain in February 2013.

147. **MOU between NTA and TTIFC** - In February 2013, the National Training Agency (NTA) signed an MOU with the Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre (TTIFC) for the production of a Sectoral Labour Report for the Financial Services sector to inform the existing and future labour capacity and requirements of the sector.

148. **Book Launch by Chalkdust** - In February 2013, UTT hosted a Book Launch by Hollis “Chalkdust” Liverpool. The book is entitled “Rituals of Power and Rebellion – The Carnival Tradition in T&T (1763 – 1962)”.

149. **YTEPP Anniversary**- YTEPP celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in February 2013.

150. **YTEPP opens Signature Creations Centre**- YTEPP formally opened its Signature Creations Centre at San Fernando in February 2013.

151. **Centre Approval**– Centre approval was granted to the Divine Health Care and Home Care Agency- Allied Health – Health Care Assistance (Patient Care) Level 2 CVQ

### **MARCH 2013**

152. **Community Service** - the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training launched its Community Engagement and Service Learning initiative to encourage the concept of community service amongst its students and agencies.

153. **Entrepreneurship Training** - COSTAATT hosted the Entrepreneurship Springboard Programme in conjunction with the Boston Pledge to provide training to entrepreneurs.
154. **Reopening of the NESC Debe Centre** - the NESC opened its refurbished and modernized Debe Centre, where training will be provided in areas such as Autotronics and ICT.
155. **ICT Training facility at St. Joseph** - The NESC formally launched ICT training at the St. Joseph Learning Resource Centre.
156. **World Skills T&T Closing Ceremony** - The NTA hosted the Closing Ceremony and Awards Function for the World Skills Trinidad and Tobago 2012 Competition in .
157. **TVET Masters at UWI** - UWI launched the Masters in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programme.
158. UWI hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium on Service Learning and Community Engagement in March 2013.
159. **BAFT Industry Feedback Consultation** -UTT hosted the BAFT Industry Feedback Breakfast for consultation among stakeholders in the field of *Biosciences, Agriculture and Food Technologies (BAFT)*
160. **Community Service-** UTT's Student Volunteers spearheaded a community service project in the Sea Lots Community at the non-governmental organisation (NGO) facility "It's Up to Me Nvironmental". This was done in collaboration with students visiting from the University of Louisville, Kentucky.
161. **Centre Approval** – Centre approval was granted to:
  - a. JP Steelpan and Accessories – Steelpan Manufacturing Level 1 CVQ
  - b. JK Quality Services – food and Beverage – Restaurant Service (Server) Level 1 TTNVQ

- c. JK Quality Services – food and Beverage – Bar Service (Portering) Level 1  
TTNVQ

### **APRIL 2013**

- 162. **Launch of Aviation sector Training** - On April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013, the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) in conjunction with the Metal Industries Company Limited (MIC), Caribbean Airlines Limited (CAL), the National Helicopters Services Limited (NHSL) and the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority (TTCAA) formally launched the first programme of the Aviation Institute of Trinidad and Tobago at the NHSL compound in Couva. This programme has roots in a MoU which was signed by these parties in May 2012 for the supply of training and education programmes geared toward the aviation sector. Sixteen (16) participants will immediately embark on training for the Aircraft Maintenance Engineer’s License (AMEL) modules 20, 21, 22 and 23.
  
- 163. **YTEPP Training Academy in Moruga** - YTEPP formally launched its Fifth Company Training and Enterprise Academy. This launch represented a significant partnership through the signing of an MoU with British Gas of Trinidad and Tobago (BGTT) and the Lewis Inniss Memorial Baptist Church to make this training facility available to the community of Moruga. Courses offered include Child Care Attendant; Skills for the Automated Office; Building and Electrical Assistant; and Bread, Cakes and Pastry Making.
  
- 164. **NESC Nigerian Graduation** - The NESC graduated the second cohort of Nigerian Trainees who received training and certification in Shielded Metal Arc Welding accredited by the American Welding Society (AWS).

165. **YTEPP Graduation in Trinidad** - YTEPP graduated 1,600 trainees from cycles 25 (Retraining) and 37 (Youth Training), in April 2013. These graduates received the Caribbean Vocational Qualification and National Examination Council certificates.
166. **YTEPP Graduation in Tobago for Mobile Computer Bus Training** - Over two hundred persons in Tobago graduated from the 12-week Computer Literacy training provided through the YTEPP/USAID mobile computer buses that were first launched in December 2011. The goal of the program was to foster computer proficiency amongst individuals throughout Tobago, particularly in the rural areas.
167. **YTEPP Graduation in Tobago** - In April 2013, 315 students in Tobago received certification and special awards as a result of completing technical and vocational courses through YTEPP. These participants were part of Cycle 25 (Retraining); and Cycles 37 and 38 (Youth Training).
168. **Launch of the UTT Southern Academy of the Performing Arts** - The UTT's Southern Academy of the Performing Arts (SAPA) was formally opened, together with the launch of the UTT Ramlila Institute and the Pan Institute which will both be based at SAPA. This formal opening facilitates the hosting of programmes from UTT's Academy for the Performing Arts, which were previously only available at Port of Spain.
169. **Memorandum of Understanding signed between UTT and Brock University of Canada**- The MOU creates a mechanism to pursue partnerships and exchange opportunities between the two universities. It may see Brock students going to Trinidad for studies such as cultural, social and instructional advancement. It is aimed at accelerating levels of collaboration between the two institutions.

### **MAY 2013**

170. **ACTT Conference** – The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) held its first International Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education from April 30<sup>th</sup> to

May 3<sup>rd</sup>. At the opening ceremony held on May 1<sup>st</sup> a Memoranda of Co-operation was signed amongst the ACTT, the Council of Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) and the United Kingdom National Academic Recognition Information Centre UK NARIC). These Memoranda of Co-operation will facilitate technical co-operation amongst these agencies in matters related to quality assurance.

171. **Jobs & Career Coach Drive** –. The Career Coach Drive took place at the following malls:

- Gulf City
- Trincity
- Movie Towne, Price Plaza
- Grand Bazaar

172. **IVETA Conference** – The Metal Industries Company (MIC) Limited hosted the International Vocational Education and Training Association (IVETA) Regional Conference for the Caribbean and Latin America from May 1<sup>st</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
173. **Launch of OJT Media** –the NTA launched the OJT Media Programme to facilitate the training of persons in the media sector at COSTAATT.
174. **Arts and Disabilities Conference** –the UTT, in collaboration with the Consortium of Disability Organisations (CODO), the Embassy of the United States and First Citizens Asset Management, hosted the first Annual Arts and Disabilities Conference at NAPA Port of Spain. This conference facilitated discussion on the role played by the arts and other educational opportunities in the lives of the country’s disabled population. Following this conference, an Arts & Disabilities Music Festival was held on May 10<sup>th</sup>.
175. **MOU between YTEPP and NEDCO** – YTEPP and NEDCO signed an MOU on May 6<sup>th</sup> to facilitate the provision of loans to YTEPP graduates of up to \$15,000 for small businesses.
176. **COSTAATT Chair of Nigerian Languages** –COSTAATT received a cheque of US\$100,000 for the development of Yoruba and Igbo studies at the College to foster greater cross cultural exchanges.
177. **MOU between UTT and Toon Boom** – The UTT signed an MOU with Toon Boom, the world leader in digital content and animation creation software. This MOU will facilitate the establishment of business incubators in UTT’s Animation Studies programme.
178. **YTEPP Graduation of Cane Farmers** –YTEPP hosted a Graduation Ceremony for 131 former cane farmers in the Barrackpore area who received free Computer Literacy training through YTEPP’s Mobile Computer training unit. During this training programme, they were exposed to Microsoft programmes such as Word 7, Excel, Publisher and the Internet.

179. **Launch of “What’s Your Profession”** – The Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training launched the radio programme “What’s Your Profession” on 94.1 FM. This programme will facilitate the dissemination of information related to training programmes available under the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training to enhance the skills of the workforce.
180. **Launch of Sector Advisory Committees** – The NTA launched Sector Advisory Committees (SACs) in four (4) key employment sectors, including Agriculture, Cosmetology, Financial and Health. These are consultative committees comprising institutions and industry representatives that focus on workforce development through education and training.
181. **NTA MOU signing with CEPEP and URP** – The NTA signed MOUs with the Community Environmental Protection Enhancement Programme (CEPEP) and the Unemployment Relief Programme (URP) to facilitate the training and certification their employees through the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ).
182. **Launch of the Occupational Standards Booklet** – The NTA launched an Occupational Standards booklet for Process Plant Operations.
183. **NEDCO office opened at UWI** – A NEDCO sub-office was opened at the St. Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI) to provide a centre for entrepreneurial activity for UWI staff and students. Through this office loan financing and other support services will be provided in the promotion of entrepreneurship.
184. **Launch of the Public Access Learning System in San Rafael** – On May 22<sup>nd</sup> YTEPP launched its 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Access Learning System (PALS) at San Rafael with the intention to extend this method of learning through Minimally Invasive Education via computer literacy, allowing children and adults to learn to use a computer on their own, without any direct intervention.



185. **OJT office opens in Gasparillo** – The Ste. Madeleine OJT Sub Regional Office was successfully relocated to Gasparillo.

186. **Launch of the WAC NEET Field Office** – The NESC launched the WAC NEET Field Office and mobile buses. This office together with the mobile buses launched will provide support for the certification of persons through the Workforce Assessment Centres.

187. **MIC SIGNS MoU with SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**- On Friday 3rd May 2013, the MIC Institute of Technology signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Suffolk County Community College, the largest Community College within the State of New York.

188. **Book Launch**- Launch of Professor Selwyn Ryan’s book- “Entrepreneurship in Trinidad and Tobago- The Black Experience” by UTT.

189. **OJT Week** - OJT Week began on May 17th at NESC Pt. Lisas and continued on the following dates:

- 20th May at Woodbrook Youth Facility
- 22nd May at Tobago Nutrition Co-operative Society Ltd.
- 27th May at UTT, O’Meara

This week also included the Launch of OJT-M (Media), whereby the NTA worked in collaboration with OJT, COSTAATT for the successful launch of OJT-M on May 3rd, 2013.

## **JUNE 2013**

190. **MOU signing with Microsoft** – The Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training signed an MOU with Microsoft Trinidad and Tobago for the establishment of a local arm of Microsoft’s youth in education and entrepreneurship project, YouthSpark. Under the agreement, Microsoft will provide access to software solutions at State-operated academic institutions, as well as training for educators and students in the use of solutions. Microsoft will also provide support for other development programmes such as DreamSpark, BizSpark and Imagine Cup, which help young students and potential business creators gain access to technology to start a business with the aim of solving global challenges.
191. **Pan Symposium-** Pan Symposium conducted under the purview of UTT’s Pan Institute at the Southern Academy for the Performing Arts.
192. **INCITED Conference-** hosted by NIHERST in collaboration with the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS) in India, the conference attracted an impressive array of local and global brain power from academia and research the public and private sectors and development agencies. Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, delivered opening remarks and outlined his Ministry’s many initiatives and reforms underway to ‘build the brains’- to better respond to the emerging needs of a modern, knowledge-based economy and workplace that will demand greater levels of scientific literacy and training. He stressed the need for ‘data driven development’, demand led training and the enhanced use of ICTs to increase reach.
193. **Quiz Launch-** Launch of 1st National Quiz on Quality Assurance in Higher Education by the ACTT.
194. **MIC signs MOU with National Self Help Commission** – In the presence of stakeholders and trainees, the Metal Industries Company Limited (MIC), signed a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) with the National Commission for Self Help Limited. This MoU represents the MIC's commitment to philanthropic work in communities. In the MoU, the MIC has committed to utilize its instructors, trainees and skills within the field of construction to complete two low cost homes. The National Commission for Self Help Limited will give these homes to socially disadvantaged persons. This project will join other philanthropic initiatives of the MIC.

195. **NEDCO opens sub-office at UWI-** "A National Entrepreneurial Development Company Limited (NEDCO) sub-office has been commissioned at the University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine Campus at the Student Activities Centre. This sub office is one of the key developments coming out of a memorandum of understanding for a Strategic Working Relationship on Entrepreneurial Development signed in October 2012 between UWI and NEDCO".

196. **Launch of Hop-a-Bus** –the Hop-a-Bus service was launched. This is a collaborative initiative between the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, the St. Augustine Education City Committee and the Ministry of Transport. This service will foster enhanced access and interconnectivity throughout St. Augustine and surrounding areas by providing free transport to students at all levels (including tertiary), and the elderly. This service is also available to the general public, at a minimal cost.

197. **Launch of the first Productivity School** – "Trinidad and Tobago's first worker productivity school has been established at the OAS job site in Golconda, South Trinidad. OAS, a Brazilian firm, is the main contractor for the building of the highway from Golconda to Point Fortin. The OAS worker productivity school, which follows a model for on-site training practiced in Brazil where construction workers are expected to perform their regular duties during their work day and learn additional skills at their job site after work. These local workers will have an opportunity to travel abroad to work on construction sites if they complete their proper training. Training will be provided by the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) and the National Energy Skills Centre (NESC).According to OAS Country

Superintendent, Rodrigo Venture, the idea of a productivity school in Brazil, was as a result of the low literacy level in the South American Country. Courses include Form Work Carpentry, Steel Fixer, Banksman Safety Course and Leadership for Foremen.

198. **Launch of the new Life Skills Curriculum** – Culminating from national stakeholder consultations, the revised Life Skills Curriculum was launched. This curriculum aims to train young persons in the skills necessary for life after school and includes topics such as budgeting and work ethics. Held at UTT Charleiville.
  
199. **In June 2013, Installation of UTT's New President:** Professor Dyer Narinesingh
  
200. **In June 2013, MODE REPERTOIRE:** Senior Thesis Fashion show featuring the work of the 2013 graduating class of The Caribbean Academy of Fashion and Design (CAFD), UTT
  
201. **Ugandan delegation visits UTT in July 2013.**
  
202. **CAFD represents the nation,** the University, and the local Fashion Industry at the Caribbean Festival of Arts (Carifesta) XI in Suriname in August 2013.
  
203. **MOU Signing between NESC and Haiti** - the NESC signed an MOU with PETROGAZ – Haiti for the provision of technical vocational education and training to citizens of Haiti by the National Energy Skills Center both in Trinidad and Tobago and in Haiti. In addition, the NESC will provide 14 scholarships to Haitian Nationals to pursue programmes at NESC's Point Lisas Campus.

204. **Scholarships awarded to Local Government Employees** – The Government has allocated \$6.5 million toward the education of 50 employees from the Ministry of Local Government to study for an Associate Degree in Environmental Health at COSTAATT. The scholarships awarded for this two year programme includes \$22,000 for tuition fees, \$1,000 for a book grant and the payment of their monthly salaries while away from work.
205. **MYPART realigned to the Ministry Tertiary Education and Skills Training** - The Military-Led Youth Programme of Apprenticeship and Reorientation Training (MYPART) has been reassigned to the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training. Director of the Military-Led Academic Training (MILAT) Programme, Major Michael Celestine made the announcement yesterday while addressing graduates of the MILAT and MYPART programmes at Teteron Barracks, Chaguaramas. The military-led programmes, conceptualized during the term of the People’s National Movement (PNM) in 2007, were placed under the purview of the Ministry of National Security to address issues to at-risk youth.
206. **Centre Approval** – the Quality Assurance Department of the NTA approved:
- JP Steelpan and Accessories – Steelpan Manufacturing Level 2 CVQ
  - Nails by Odale – Nail Technology Level 2 CVQ

### ***JULY 2013***

207. **19 Scholarships for Haiti** - The Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training under the leadership of the Honourable Prime Minister, Kamla Persad-Bissessar, S.C. is proud to award 19 scholarships to our CARICOM neighbors in Haiti. The scholarships are being funded by the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, and offered through its agencies, the National Energy Skills Centre (NESC) and the Metal Industries Company

Limited (MIC). The Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for the award of the scholarship. The agreement was signed between officials to the NESC, MIC and PETROGAS- Haiti, S.A. the national oil company of Haiti. The NESC will provide 14 scholarships, one in each of the 14 areas of training it currently offers. MIC has agreed to award five scholarships in various courses, including plumbing, carpentry, masonry, electrical and culinary and food preparation. Minister Karim believes this newly formed relationship in education with our CARICOM partner, will open up the opportunity for NESC and MIC to establish campuses in Haiti.

208. **MYPART Send-off Ceremony** - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 marked a turning point in the lives of 48 young men, their loved ones and families. The recruits are now part of the Military Led Youth Programme of Apprenticeship and Re-Orientation (MYPART). These young men will make a sacrifice over the next three years, for their all-round development. The three year social intervention initiative was launched in 2007 and was designed to assist at risk youth between the ages of 16-20. During the period they will receive vocational training from the NESC and take the various entrance exams for the protective services. The administration of the programme was recently shifted from the Ministry of National Security to the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training. One of the features of the MYPART Programme has been its strong military input and there were concerns that the move to the new Ministry would result in a loss of this critical element.

Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training gave the assurance that the quality of the programme will not be compromised under his Ministry. He noted the programme is being administered by a team of respected, retired defence force personnel. Senator the Honourable Marlene Coudray, Minister of Gender, Youth and Child Development has made the youth camps in Chatham and Persto Praesto available to MTEST for two new MYPART centres.

209. **NSDP/ICP Graduation 2013**- Over 1,500 graduates crossed the stage at the Centre of Excellence, Macoya to collect their certificates to mark the successful completion of their respective programmes. The Metal Industries Company Limited (MIC), an agency under the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, held this graduation to recognize the achievements of the students of the Teacher Training Programme, National Skills Development Programme (NSDP), Industrial Craft Programme (ICP), the Multi-Sector Skills Training Programme (MuST) and the Helping You Prepare for Employment Programme (HYPE). Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training stressed the importance of certification as well as vocational education for a country's development.
210. **Launch of TechnoKids**- 120 children between the ages of 6-9 with their parents attended the Launch of the TechnoKids at the Rudranath Capildeo Learning Resource Centre (RCLC) in Couva. The vacation Camps will be held at four venues- YTEPP's Waterloo Campus and the NESC's Campuses at Laventille, Point Lisas and Debe. TechnoKids is the 'brain-child' of Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training and its first cycle, will run from July 15<sup>th</sup>- August 7<sup>th</sup>. TechnoKids has been made possible through the efforts of the staff of the MTEST, YTEPP and NESC, as well as the support of sponsors Petrotrin, Blink Bmobile, Microsoft Limited and The National Schools Dietary Services Company Limited.
211. **CVQ in Schools** - Fifty schools submitted candidates for the CVQ awards. One thousand, and sixty two (1062) candidates registered, 15506 unit awards and 688 full CVQs were awarded. One hundred and twenty eight (128) teachers were given Assessor training, 82 teachers were certified as Assessors and 44 teachers were given Internal Verification training. To date the number of schools that accessed training for the CVQ is ninety nine (99).

**AUGUST 2013**

**212. MTEST and Business Groups enter Strategic Alliance, Signing of an MOU with MTEST,**

**ECA, the Trinidad and Tobago Local Content Chamber and TTMA-** “The citizens of this country can look forward to seeing the latest Trinidad and Tobago jobs statistics in the comfort of their own homes.

Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training has long dreamed that this would become a viable option for the citizens of this country, an important step was taken to produce this Jobs Report recently when a Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry, the Employers’ Consultative Association (ECA), the Trinidad and Tobago Local Content Chamber and the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturer’s Association (TTMA).The Minister explained that it is essential for this country to have a published Jobs Report which will help institutions, businesses and citizens to align themselves to fill vacancies in this country’s job market. The signing of the Memoranda signifies an innovative collaboration between the Ministry and various chambers and business organizations around this country

**213. TechnoKids Graduation-** 125 children between the ages of six and nine gathered at the

Rudranath Capildeo Learning Resource Centre to receive their certificates after spending four weeks immersed in age appropriate technology related learning. The children of this nation can soon look forward to a local convention which will expose them to a whole new world of technology and innovation

**214. Distribution of Certificates for Master Craftsman Solar Photovoltaic Programme (MIC)**

- trainees present received certification to mark their successful completion of the first phase of training. The nine month Master Craftsman Solar Photovoltaic Programme was established with the aim of training Master Craftsman from different training institutions including MIC, UTT and UWI and other training institutions from our regional counterparts in Jamaica and Guyana in the areas of Solar Photovoltaic and Level 4 Train the Trainer. The



initial cohort of students are intended to be Instructors in MIC's Certificate in Solar Photovoltaic Installation and Repairs, Entrepreneurs in the Field of Renewable Energy and support staff to other institutions engaged in renewable Energy programmes.

215. **MoU signing between UTT and TTIFC**- An MoU regarding the strategic collaboration between the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) and the Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre to ensure that the labour supply for the financial services sector will meet the projected demand and requirements as the sector continues to grow. Under the MoU, TTIFC as a market facilitator in the financial sector will consult with financial and business process outsourcing (BPOs) firms and guide the UTT as to the knowledge, skills and expertise required to satisfy the needs of the Financial Institution Support Services (FINeSS) Industry in the areas of finance and accounting, banking, financial services and insurance.

216. **Jobs & Career Coach Drive**. The JCC also partnered with 94.1 for their career guidance outreach programme during August at the Malls nationwide. The Jobs and Career Coach Drive took place at the following venues:

- Brian Lara Promenade
- Trincity Mall
- Price Plaza

### ***September 2013***

217. **MIC Institute of Technology Launch of Industrial Training and Apprenticeship**

**Programme**- The MIC Institute of Technology launched the Industrial Training and Apprenticeship Programme in collaboration with the National Gas Company. This event at the Tobago Technology Centre stems from a Memorandum of Understanding signed between two companies aimed at the development of the energy sector. 22 of these trainees have been exposed to the MIC curriculum including Industrial Maintenance,

Electric Installation and Electronics, Welding and Mechanical Engineering. The programme is aimed at providing targeted support to the energy industry.

218. **Opening of COSTAATT Sangre Grande**- This college is dedicated to expanding tertiary education access to citizens in eastern Trinidad. This campus increases opportunities to communities such as Arima, Wallerfield, Valencia, Guaico, Cumuto, Toco, Matelot, Manzanilla, Biche, Mayaro, Guayaguayare and Rio Claro. The establishment caters to approximately 1,000 fulltime and part-time students and will deliver programmes such as nursing, journalism, social work, psychology, information technology, business administration, entrepreneurship and graphic arts.
219. **UTT Students receive Scholarships to study at Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced learning in Canada.**- The scholarships were granted through a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Trinidad and Tobago and Sheridan College. It served as the catalyst for negotiations with the Canadian Government, resulting in the award of these three scholarships.
220. **UTT Signs MOU with Japanese Company**- The University of Trinidad and Tobago signed a letter of intent with the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) of Japan to conduct research into the uses of Dimethyl Ether (DME) at UTT's Point Lisas Campus. DME is a colourless gas which has been described as a promising fuel in diesel engines, petrol engines and gas turbines owing to its high cetane number. The fuel could reduce the nations fuel subsidies, as well as create more sustainable jobs for our nation.
221. **UTT and Oracle Information Exchange** - This event which took place in September 2013 showcased Oracle as a real-time data management platform. Interesting and relevant areas of discussion were forged, including the development of a collaborative environment in which to exchange ideas, as well as the creation of a platform to host links to global content and integrated individual records, among others.

222. **Professional Development Programme for Instructors at NESC**- It was launched in preparation for the start of the 2013-2014 academic year, the National Energy Skills Centre (NESC) has its Campus Managers, Instructors, Department Heads and Student Affairs Officers engaged in an intensive Professional Development Programme at the NESC's Point Lisas Campus. The programme will expose the targeted employees to a number of areas including Classroom Management, Train the Trainer, Report Preparation, Report Writing and Leadership.

223. **Skills Training for Tobago**- the "Industrial Training and apprenticeship Programme in Tobago was launched at the Tobago Technology Centre, Milford Road, Canaan, in Tobago's west end. The programme is being administered by the National Gas Company (NGC) and MIC.

### ***OCTOBER 2013***

224. **MIC opens New Technology Centre Opens in O'Meara**- The opening of the MIC's new Technology centre at the O'Meara Industrial Estate caters to approximately 120 trainees, aged 16-25 under the Helping You Prepare for Employment Programme (HYPE), with a stipend of \$50 per day. The programmes include small appliance repair, small engine repair and refrigeration and air conditioning. Programmes under HYPE include masonry, carpentry, welding, plumbing and electrical installation.

225. **NESC Welcomes Highest Intake**- On Monday Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, over 1500 new trainees were welcomed into the NESC's Point Lisas Campus during the Welcome Ceremony and Student Orientation. Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim noted that this was NESC's highest intake ever, and commended them on making a positive step.

226. **ACTT Holds Public Consultation and Presents a National Qualifications and Credit Framework (NQCF)** - "The NQCF will assist in standardizing qualifications by defining titles,

outcomes of qualifications at each level, the rules for credit accumulation and transfer and the relationship between qualifications. The framework will benefit the nation by establishing a coherent system for credit accumulation and transfer, facilitating an outcomes-based approach to teaching and learning, assisting providers with designing programmes that lead to recognised qualifications and accessing transfer and progression for all learners.

227. **Launch of the Point Lisas Apprenticeship Programme (PLIAP)**- PLIAP was launched at the Point Lisas Nitrogen Company, located on the Point Lisas Industrial Estate. The programme forms a partnership between employers in the energy sector and providers of training. Trainees will spend 2 years working with key companies in the energy industry, developing their skills such as welding, pipe-fitting and fabricating, mechanical maintenance and electrical instrumentation. The NESC and NTA will be overseeing the implementation of the programme.
228. **UTT Installs His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chancellor of the University of Trinidad and Tobago** – UTT welcomed President Carmona on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013 in a ceremony held at UTT's O'Meara Campus in Arima. In his address, President Carmona announced his intentions to propose a chair of Philosophy for UTT, as well as urged Education Minister Tip Gopeesingh to consider making Critical Thinking an A'Level Subject.
229. **First Peoples' Heritage Week 2013 Inauguration Ceremony** - The event was a collaborative initiative among the Santa Rosa First Peoples Community, Ministry of National Diversity and Social Integration, Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training and UTT. The ceremony was part of the official 'Heritage Week' of celebrations during the period 11-19 October, 2013.
230. **In October 2013, First National Diversity Conference** - a partnership of the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training (through The University of Trinidad and Tobago [UTT],

the University of the West Indies [UWI] and the University of the Southern Caribbean [USC]) with the Ministry of National Diversity and Social Integration, for important dialogue on issues of diversity and inclusion.

231. **Launch of the COSTAATT Academy of Nursing and Allied Health, El Dorado-** The Prime Minister officially opened the Academy on the 25<sup>th</sup> October. The Academy was previously the Girls' Youth Facility, and is now a project of the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training. The Academy will be used by COSTAATT and UWI St Augustine to increase national capacity for the training of students in nursing and allied health sciences, to expand the pool of nursing doctors and practitioners. The academy can accommodate over 2,000 students and its first intake is approximately 1,200 students.

232. **Launch of the OJT Medical Programme-** The programme is a collaboration between major stakeholders involved in the education and training of medical practitioners in Trinidad and Tobago, namely UWI Faculty of Medicine and the NTA OJT unit. It targets individuals who have been accepted to pursue a Bsc. In Medicine, Dental Surgery or Pharmacy at UWI. Trainees will train with different medical professionals and gain hands-on exposure in the profession.

233. **Jobs Report: Culinary.** The Jobs Report for the Culinary Industry have been produced and aired on CNMG for the Tourism Sector. This initiative helped to create awareness and buy-in from the public as well as skills based institutions to promote TVET in Trinidad and Tobago. Also highlighting various industries and the potential jobs and earnings.

### **NOVEMBER 2013**

234. **12th Annual Career Fair and Skills Expo 2013-** This is the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in which the NTA has hosted this event. It has attracted thousands of secondary and post-secondary students/apprentices, as well as the skilled and also the unemployed. The event has also attracted over 100 leaders and entrepreneurs who have simulated an exciting, interactive

and dynamic learning environment at the Career Fair and Skills Expo. This year there were on-site skill competitions. These offered individuals the opportunity to demonstrate their skills against prescribed standards and compete for prizes.

235. **UWI gets new lease from HDC**- Chairman of the HDC Rabindranath Moonan signed a 199 year lease with UWI St. Augustine pro-vice chancellor and principal Professor Sankat, for 8 lots of land situated at Gordon and Smart Streets, St Augustine.

236. **Opening of UWI Family Development Centre on Universal Children's Day**- Universal Children's day 2013 saw the official opening of the newly constructed UWI Family Development Centre on St. John's Road, St Augustine. Its aim is to enhance child and family development on a national, regional and international level.

237. **897 Prisoners receive training under YTEPP**- Under YTEPP, the "Rehabilitation of Inmates through Training and Retraining Programme" (RITTR) targets assists convicted inmates and since its inception, a total of 897 persons have undergone the intervention.

238. **Centre Approval** – Centre approval was granted by the NTA to :

- Trinidad and Tobago College of Therapeutic Massage and Beauty Culture Ltd (TTCOTM&BCL) - Cosmetology Level 2 CVQ
- The Face and Body Clinic – Cosmetology Level 2 - CVQ
- Borderless Horizons@ Medical Associates Hospital – Peri Operative Surgical Technology Level 3 CVQ

239. **Jobs Report: Food and Beverage**- The Jobs Report for the Food and Beverage Industry have been produced and aired on CNMG for the Tourism Sector. This initiative helped to create awareness and buy-in from the public as well as skills based institutions to promote TVET in Trinidad and Tobago. Also highlighting various industries and the potential jobs and earnings.

## **DECEMBER 2013**

240. **MTEST and Microsoft sign MoU**- an MoU was signed between the Ministry and Microsoft. It will allow the Ministry to integrate its existing customer service interfaces into a larger integrated platform by using Microsoft's 311 customer Relationship Management Solution. It will support the Ministry's Student Social Project which provides prospective and current students with access to a knowledge base of information on the Ministry's Offerings.
241. **Launch of \$18.8 m Drilling Academy at Ste. Madeleine**- The school will be located at the former site of the Transport and Field Engineering Department of Caroni (1975) Limited in Usine, Ste Madeleine, on about 6,000 square feet of land. The minister said that the academy bears an estimated start-up cost of around \$18.8m, including \$13m for a rig for practical purposes, imported from Oklahoma in the USA.

## **YEAR 2014**

### **JANUARY 2014**

242. **Opening of the OJT Headquarters**- On January 1<sup>st</sup> Minister Karim officially opened the On the Job Training Head Quarters on Connector Road in Chaguanas.
243. **Hand-over of San Fernando Teaching Hospital** – The ceremony was held at Chancery Lane, where the Teaching Hospital was officially handed over to the Ministry of Health.
244. **OJT Sectoral**- MIC Institute of Technology launched OJT Engineering on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014. The MIC Engineer-In-Training programme is one of the premium training options for the optimisation of engineering skills in Trinidad and Tobago. This programme has produced a cadre of work ready engineers and will now extend its operations to facilitate the OJT Sectorial – Engineering operations.

245. **New Opportunities for OJT's-** Through the MoU Signed between Microsoft Trinidad and Tobago and MTEST, there will be new opportunities for trainees under the OJT Programme. It will give young nationals the chance to work and learn with Microsoft TT and their partner companies.
246. **Nine (9) Tertiary Projects for 2014** – Minister Karim announced the estimated completion of nine projects under the Tertiary Education and Skills Training Expansion programme. The projects are UWI Penal/Debe Campus; UTT Aviation Campus in Camden Couva; NESC Automotive Training Facility in Woodford Lodge; UWI Open Campus in Chaguanas; MIC Technology Centre in Penal; YTEPP Training Facility in Woodford Lodge; COSTAATT Main Campus in Charlieville; UTT Campus in Petrotrin compound Pointe-a-Pierre and a training facility built in conjunction with the Supermarket Association.
247. **Launch of Masters in Forensics Degree to begin at the new South Hospital** – The faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI St. Augustine to launch a Master's degree in Forensic Science. The programme will be multi-disciplinary, incorporating physical and biological sciences, criminal investigation, psychology and law. UWI will collaborate with the School of Forensic and Investigatory Sciences at the University of Central Lancashire, UK.
248. **Launch of OJT Sectoral Engineering Programme** – OJT Engineering Programme launched by the MIC Institute of Technology under the auspices of Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim.
249. **Launch of OJT Global** – MTEST and Microsoft Trinidad and Tobago signed a Memorandum of Understanding designed to create new opportunities in technology for OJT trainees. The initiative will give young nationals a chance to work and learn with Microsoft TT and their partner companies.



## ***FEBRUARY 2014***

250. **UTT signs MOU with Khan Academy** – Trinidad and Tobago the first Caribbean nation to partner with the Khan Academy as part of its national E-Learning strategy. The partnership will provide videos and exercises through Learn.tt Khan Academy will provide detailed reports to show how persons accessing their tutorials are progressing.
251. **Launch of OJT Airport** – The Piarco International Airport for the first time will play host to the training of persons within the OJT programme, with 25 persons being the first intake of trainees.
252. **Launch of National District Career Fair** – The project aims to prepare students for their transition to post- secondary studies and the world of work and supports and recognizes the role of lifelong learning and the importance of aligning students' careers with the labour market needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
253. **NESC Celebrates the Graduates of its Goldsborough Campus** – The ceremony celebrated the success of young persons who completed 10 months of training in Welding, Electrical Installation and Facilities Maintenance.
254. **UTT's Students Animate the Future** – UTT showcased the innovative work of students enrolled in the Diploma in Animation Studies programme. The Animation sector will diversify the economy of Trinidad and Tobago and offers an opportunity for sustainability.
255. **Trinidad and Tobago makes Fiber Optic History in Caribbean** – The first ever Fiber Optics Engineering Diploma in the Caribbean was officially launched.

## **MARCH 2014**

256. **Sod Turning at Camden Airstrip for Aviation Institute** - On Monday March 10<sup>th</sup> at the sod turning ceremony at the Camden airstrip Minister Fazal Karim, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training (MTEST), announced that Trinidad and Tobago's first aviation institute will be ready to open by September 2014. The event also celebrated the graduation of 34 students of UTT's 1st Avionics Programme and its Trinidad and Tobago Airguard Applied Engineering Programme. In addition to the graduation exercise, the occasion marked the signing of three historic memoranda of understanding. With the goal of further developing the local and regional aviation sector, the memoranda were signed with Art Williams & Harry Wendt Aeronautical Engineering School; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation and Agustawestland.
257. **MTEST and COSTAATT Host Inaugural International Women's Day Symposium** – The symposium which took place at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad on Friday March 14<sup>th</sup> was themed 'Inspiring Change...Influencing the Future'. The symposium brought together a wide cross section of participants from the education, corporate and non-governmental sectors to engage in focused deliberations on key issues relating to women's current and evolving roles in Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean nation.
258. **Launch of 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Engagement and Service Learning Day of MTEST** –March 14<sup>th</sup> marked the second annual Community Engagement and Service Learning Day. The day is intended to inculcate a culture of service and giving back to community and nation amongst the thousands of students who annually benefit from free tuition under the GATE programme, COSTAATT provided services including a variety of free basic health tests, information on proper foot health-care and dental-oral hygiene and sound environmental practices. Approximately 100 student volunteers, faculty and staff spent the day attending

to a constant stream of patrons. Agencies who participate in this day are NESC, YTEPP, COSTAATT, MIC, ACTT, MTEST (Staff).

259. **Honourable Fazal Karim to set up Scholarships for Young Women** – On Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> Minister Fazal Karim intends to discuss with internationally recognized education activist Malala Yousafzai plans to establish scholarships at UWI and COSTAATT for young women.

260. **Meet the Ministry** – MTEST brings opportunity to the people, community by community. Meet the Ministry provides citizens with the opportunity to interact directly with the Minister and with Chairmen and staff of the agencies under the MTEST. The meeting at Todd's Road was the most successful to date judging from the large turn-out of young persons, elderly individuals and children of all ages from the central community.

261. **Caribbean Basin Security: 1st Virtual Conference (March 12th – March 14th)**- brought together experts from various areas related to Caribbean Security to track major security issues, present solutions and successful cases, exchange ideas, review global best practices and gain operational feedback from experts towards solving local and regional security problems.

262. **Launch of the "Workshop to Finalise the Open Distance Learning Policy Framework for the Caribbean"** – On March 25<sup>th</sup> the workshop was launched to fine tune the MTESTs Distance Learning Policy for the Caribbean.

263. **KARIM MEETS WITH SAUDI GOVERNMENT MINISTER: FUELLING CLOSER TRAINING TIES BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES A MUST.**

Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim received a courtesy call at his office from His Excellency Dr. Fahad M Al Dawood on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March , Minister in the Ministry of Justice, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Minister Karim welcomed the Saudi Minister and held

discussions on ways to boost relations between both nations particularly in the fields of education, training, technology and banking.

264. **In March 2014, APA Workshop in Indian Classical Music.**

265. **In March 2014, UTT's Institute of Criminology and Public Safety (ICPS) and hosts a two-day conference** entitled, "Emerging Crimes in the Caribbean: Implications and Proposed Solutions".

266. **"Rededication and Interfaith Ceremony"** to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Eastern Caribbean Institute of Agriculture and Forestry (ECIAF) was held in March 2014.

#### **APRIL 2014**

267. **Increase in OJT Stipend** - Effective April 1<sup>st</sup> 2014, trainees of the On the Job Training Programme will receive a 20-25% increase in stipend. The increases are as follows:

<b>Trainee Level</b>	<b>Present Stipend</b>	<b>Proposed Stipend</b>
1	\$2,000	\$2,500
2	\$3,000	\$3,600
3	\$5,000	\$6,250
4	\$6,000	\$7,200

268. **Construction of the Ministry's Administrative Headquarters Begins** - On Tuesday April 1<sup>st</sup>, marked the start of construction of the Ministry's Administrative Headquarters at Narsaloo Ramaya Road Chaguanas. This will house the Head Office of the Ministry as well as some of its agencies.

269. **Karim: PhD for Tech Voc Education soon** -MINISTER of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, Senator Fazal Karim has announced the establishment of a PhD programme for Technical Vocational Education (TVET). He made the announcement at a lecture he delivered to a Masters of Arts in TVET class at the University of the West Indies, last week on Monday, April 14th 2014.
270. **Rise in Tertiary Education Students** - The student participation rate for Tertiary education in Trinidad and Tobago has risen to a high of 57 percent, Tertiary Education and Skills Training Minister Fazal Karim revealed during debate on the Nurses and Midwives Bill (Amendment) in the Senate on Tuesday April 15th 2014.
271. **On April 16<sup>th</sup> 2014, the 4th edition of Meet the Ministry was held at Gulf View Community Centre** - Meet the Ministry is an initiative of Minister Karim which seeks to educate the community about his ministry's work. Karim announced that the University of the West Indies (UWI) South campus will be opened in September in time for the academic year. The Minister noted that all students attending UWI will have automatic entry into the Hugh Wooding Law School so that they won't have to leave our shores to get their professional qualifications.
272. **Launch of the National Energy Skills Centre (NESC)** - On Friday, April 18 2014 the National Energy Skills Centre (NESC) Pointe-a-Pierre constituency sub- office Information Learning Resource Centre along Cedar Hill in Claxton Bay was launched. In a feature address, Karim urged residents present to spread the word of the opening of the new centre to all. "This would be a centre of teaching and learning. And students writing the CSEC examinations would also be assisted with research information for their SBAs (school-based assessments).
273. **Launch of the "Train the Trainer" initiative** – The programme is a joint venture between the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP) and the Emmy Award Winning, Animation Production Company, called Toon Boom. The programme will see local animators trained to become Toon Boom certified tutors to facilitate YTEPP's plans to launch courses in Animation and Multimedia Studies at their Waterloo and Diego Martin branches, as well as through their Mobile Computer Units. Toon Boom software instructor Michael Wiesmier has enjoyed a lucrative career at both Walt Disney Feature Animation and Film Max Films. The Minister also announced that from September 2015 the University of Trinidad and Tobago which currently runs a two year Diploma in Animation, will also begin a Bachelor Degree in Digital Media Studies specialising in Animation and Gaming.

274. **YTEPP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chaguanas Chamber of Commerce** - YTEPP's e-Employment Services (YeES) was launched on Wednesday April 30th 2014 at YTEPP's Head Office in Chaguanas. YeES is an online service that connects students with potential employers. The MoU with the Chaguanas Chamber of Commerce will allow registered members of the chamber to post job vacancies on the database. YTEPP trainees and graduates can now access the database to search and apply for jobs. Students will also be allowed to upload their resumes and employers can access a pool of potential workers based on their skills set.

#### **MAY 2014**

275. **Sod Turning Ceremony at the site of the construction of UWI's Open Campus Esmond D Ramesar Centre in Chaguanas.** - The centre will be a school for continuing studies and will give tribute to the work and accomplishments of one of the distinguished sons of Trinidad and Tobago; an icon in the field of adult, liberal and vocational education in the history and development of our country, Esmond Dharampersad Ramesar. The sod turning took place on May 06<sup>th</sup> 2014.

276. **UWI Launches of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2014.** The Launch was held at the University Inn and Conference Centre, University of the West Indies.

277. **MIC Launches Diego Martin Technology Centre** - Wednesday May 07<sup>th</sup> marked the official opening of this centre. This is the 16<sup>th</sup> training facility launched by MIC and creates a necessity to provide training to keep up with the economic needs of Diego Martin and the western peninsula.

278. **MTEST Launches The Urban Design and Land Use Planning Strategy for the St. Augustine Education City** - This strategy will manage the growth of the St Augustine Education City and stipulate relevant urban design and land use planning policy, codes and standards; guiding spatial development and investment in the area with the aim of making the St. Augustine Education City an 'integrated centre for academic excellence.' The strategy was formally launched on May 07<sup>th</sup> 2014.

279. **NESC opens D'Abadie/ O'Meara Constituency Office Information Learning Resource Centre.** - The launch of the Information Learning Resource Center by the NESC seeks to equip citizen's with the basic skills to operate in a computerized environment. Persons will

be taught the basics in its Information Technology Specialist and Microsoft Office Specialist programmes at no cost. The centre was opened on May 09<sup>th</sup> 2014

280. **UWI Launches Science & Technology and Food & Agriculture Faculties.** – The faculties were formally launched on May 12<sup>th</sup> 2014.
281. **Two MoU's were signed between MIC and Uganda.** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between MIC Institute of Technology and the Uganda Industrial Research Institute and a second MoU between MIC and the Petroleum Institute of Kigumba was signed on Tuesday May 13<sup>th</sup>. The MoU's will help facilitate the planning and organising of academic and technical programmes, courses and seminars workshops and conferences.
282. **UWI Launches Student Recreation Centre in Mt. Hope** - The Recreation Centre was formally launched on May 14<sup>th</sup> 2014
283. **NTA's Meet the Ministry** - In keeping with the aim to inform and educate the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago on the opportunities afforded to them within the Tertiary Education and Skills Training sector, there will be an information booth assigned to each agency under the Ministry. This will allow residents the opportunity to become familiar with all agencies and their respective services and programmes available to them through the Ministry. This segment of Meet the Ministry was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014
284. **UTT Hosts 2<sup>nd</sup> Arts and Disabilities Conference** - This conference facilitated discussion on the role played by the arts and other educational opportunities in the lives of the country's disabled population and was held on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2014.
285. **NTA Launched Skills TT on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014.** The website skillstnt.com will act as an online marketplace for Trinidad and Tobago's service providers.
286. **MTEST Publishes: Key Achievements May 2013 – May 2014.** The 16 page supplement appeared in all three newspapers on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2014.
287. **NESC Launches Drilling Academy Classes** – The first batch of trainees started classes at NESC's Ste. Madeline Drilling Academy on May 19<sup>th</sup> 2014.
288. **MTEST signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Tourism** on May 20<sup>th</sup> 2014. The partnership will give the Ministry of Tourism the opportunity to access staff, teaching faculty, etc., to improve the tourism industry. Minister Karim announced plans to develop OJT Tourism.

289. **NESC Opens its Technology Campus at Woodford Lodge, Chaguanas on May 23<sup>th</sup> 2014.**  
The Campus consists of the NESC Automotive Institute and the NESC Tracmac Cat Training Centre.
290. **The MIC Institute of Technology launches its Penal Technology and Workforce Assessment Centre on May 27<sup>th</sup> 2014.** The Centre will facilitate training for persons in Panel and environs.
291. **UTT Launches Knowledge TT** – The launch was held at UTT Campus at NAPA on May 28th 2014.

#### ***JUNE 2014***

292. **UWI signed MOU for Steelpan Collaboration with Pan Trinbago** - on Wednesday June 4th, 2014, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) was signed between The UWI and Pan Trinbago.
293. **UTT's Caribbean Medical Providers Practicing abroad (CMPPA) Meet and Greet** was held on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
294. **UTT's 10th Anniversary CAFD Fashion Week** - The Caribbean Academy of Fashion and Design (CAFD) hosted a week of fashion events from June 14th to June 22nd, 2014 to commemorate the University's tenth anniversary. The Senior Thesis Fashion Show/Award Ceremony on was held June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014.
295. **UTT Launched Agri Tech Expo UTT ECIAF Campus.**
296. **UTT Partnered with Apple for Training and Education** - UTT partnered with Apple Computer of Cupertino, California to become the first official Apple Authorized Training Center for Education (AATCE) in the Caribbean.
297. **UWI Law Students awarded 'Best New Team' at world's largest moot court competition** - A team from the Faculty of Law of The University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine Campus won the 'Best New Team' prize at the 55th Phillip C. Jessup International Law Moot Competition held in Washington D.C. from April 6 to 12, 2014. The 'Best New



Team' award is given to a team who joined the competition within the past three years and obtained the highest marks in the oral and memorial writing sections combined.

298. **UWI student topped the 2014 World Karate Championships** - UWI student Isiah Pollard received high commendation at the 2014 World Karate Union Hall of Fame Championships and the Legends Hall of Fame Championships held during June 21-22 and 28-29 respectively in Pennsylvania, USA.

### ***JULY 2014***

299. **The UWI's Open Campus Received Accreditation** - the UWI Open Campus was granted its second institutional accreditation status within a year; first from the Barbados accreditation council in July 2013, and now from the accreditation council of Trinidad and Tobago. The campus's institutional accreditation status was confirmed during a small ceremony held at the office of the ministry of tertiary education and skills training in Port-of-Spain on July 10.

300. **NESC Launch of Techno kids 2014 on July 12th.**

301. **ACTT's "Excellence in Teaching and Learning" Symposium** on July 16<sup>th</sup> at UTT Agora Campus.

302. **UWI's "International Symposium on Nanoscience and Nanotechnology"** – hosted at the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine, from July 15-17, 2014. The symposium, focused on the frontier areas of science, medicine and technology, is the first of its kind in the English-speaking Caribbean and was organized jointly by Cariscience, the UWI and the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT). The symposium consists of a public lecture on day 1 and scientific sessions over days 2 and 3.

303. **Malala Yousafzai's Visit to T&T** - On July 14th, 'Malala Day', Minister Karim, announced the historic visit of Malala Yousafzai to Trinidad and Tobago. Malala Yousafzai, the seventeen year old global education activist, whose cause is synopsised in her book, I Am Malala, came to Trinidad and Tobago on the invitation of The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) as part of UTT's 10th anniversary celebrations. Malala arrived on Sunday July

27th 2014 at Piarco and remained as a guest of the University until August 1<sup>st</sup> 2014. She spoke at two public engagements on the 30th & 31st July, 2014.

304. **UTT Hosted Taste UTT** - The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), through its Food Science and Technology programme of the Biosciences, Agriculture and Food Technologies (BAFT) unit, hosted "Taste UTT" on Thursday July 31st, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Graduation Pavilion, UTT O'Meara Campus, Arima. Students showcased their culinary talents and event management skills in order to execute an evening of quality food, service and entertainment.

#### ***AUGUST 2014***

305. **NESC Techno kids Graduation Ceremony** on August 9th 2014.
306. **NESC Jobs Fair** - the opening of National Energy Skills Center's (NESC) first Jobs Fair was held on August 13th at its compound located at Point Lisas, Couva.
307. **The NTA Workforce Assessment Centre and Apprenticeship Forum** held at the Chaguanas Borough office on August 29th 2014.
308. **Aquaponics Graduation at NESC Woodford Lodge** on August 29th 2014.
309. **UTT Students Participate at 2nd Youth Olympic Games in China** - Four (4) students of The University of Trinidad and Tobago's High Performance Unit travelled to Nanjing, China, from August 16 - 28, 2014 to compete in the 2nd Youth Olympic Games. This trip is made possible through the support of China Jiangsu International Corporation Trinidad and Tobago Limited.

#### ***SEPTEMBER 2014***

310. **Online Launch of ACTT's 4th Annual Essay competition.** ACTT's Essay Competition opened to Forms 5, 6 and undergraduate students on September 2nd 2014. The goal of the competition was to foster an appreciation for issues related to quality assurance in higher education and highlight the impact on the benefit to students, institutions, society and the economy.

311. **TED Prize Winner, Professor Sugata Mitra's Visit to T&T** - Professor Mitra was the keynote speaker at a National Symposium entitled "The Future of Learning through Technology" that was hosted by YTEPP Limited, on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014 at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre, Grand Ballroom, Lady Young Road, Port-of-Spain from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. The symposium focused on the use of technology as being more than a tool but a process to improve student outcome.
312. **Public Access Learning System installed in Sea Lots** – On September 4th, 2014 several residents of Pioneer Drive, Sea Lots warmly welcomed educational researcher, Professor Sugata Mitra into their community, at the installation of Government's Public Access Learning System (PALS) in the area. The system is facilitated through the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training (MTEST) and its agency the Youth Training Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP) Limited. Mitra, who is an Educational Researcher at the Newcastle University in the United Kingdom first implemented his idea - the "Hole in the Wall" systems - several years ago in an impoverished district in India.
313. **UTT Partnership with the New York Institute of Finance** - On 5th September, 2014 the Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre (Trinidad and Tobago IFC), the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) and the New York Institute of Finance (NYIF) announced a new partnership today to boost financial education in Trinidad and Tobago as the country develops into a regional financial centre.
314. **NESC opened its Palo Seco campus** on September 5th 2014. Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, Fazal Karim announced that the campus will become a Techno Kids Centre by 2015.
315. **ACTT held its Celebration of Nationhood Event** on September 12th, 2014.
316. **Launch of uSTART- UTT Start-ups & Graduation of Businesses Ceremony** at the UTT Campus Caroni on September 17th, 2014. The Graduation recognised those who have been impacted by the entrepreneurial climate of the University and who have created their own businesses in the areas of Animation, Performing Arts, Agro-Processing and Fashion.

#### ***OCTOBER 2014***

317. **Sector Advisory Committees (SACs) Launch** - on Wednesday 1st October, 2014 the National Training Agency (NTA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Tertiary Education and

Skills Training (MTEST) launched three new Sector Advisory Committees (SACs) for the Maritime, National Security, and Construction Sectors. These SACs are advisory committees comprising institution and industry representatives for a particular sector whose focus is on workforce development.

318. **MoU Signed to Establish OJT Finance** - On Wednesday 1st October, 2014 there was an official signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre (TTIFC) for the establishment of OJT Finance at the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training headquarters.

319. **UWI St. Augustine Campus Research Awards Ceremony 2014 “Celebrating Excellence in Research”**. On Wednesday 1st October, 2014 UWI held its Research Awards Ceremony which recognized the outstanding work of academic scholars, both staff and students.

320. **National Consultation: The Blueprint for MTEST**. A series of national consultations on the Framework for Tertiary Education and Skills Training 2015-2025 were held at various locations across the country on:

- Tuesday 7th October, 2014 at NESC, Point Lisas Campus
- Friday 10th October, 2014 at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) Tobago Campus
- Monday 13th October, 2014 at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) San’do Tech Campus
- Tuesday 14th October, 2014 at the Cipriani Labour College, Valsayn

The consultations provided a forum for all citizens to contribute to the future of Tertiary Education and Skills Training. Components of the draft framework such as: access to Tertiary Education and Skills Training, the quality of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, the links between programmes, the financing of programmes and the needs of the labour market in Trinidad and Tobago.

321. **MOU Signed between NESC and NGC** - On Wednesday 15th October 2014 the National Energy Skills Center (NESC) and the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago (NGC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding. This partnership between the NESC and NGC will introduce specialised training in Automotive Field. The MOU will allow for a strategic training programme “CNG Maintenance Technician” to be offered at the NESC and will provide practicing technicians with an opportunity to understand the operation, diagnosis and maintenance of CNG systems on gasoline and diesel vehicles.

322. **NTA Launched 13 Workforce Assessment Centres** - On Monday 27th October 2014 the National Training Agency (NTA) launched 13 Workforce Assessment Centres. The purpose of this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is to establish an operational relationship between the NTA and the Approved Training Provider, where by the NTA hereby agree to recognize as an established Workforce Assessment Centre, having met its relevant criteria.
323. **YTEPP Ltd Received Caribbean Vocational Qualification Approval** - On Wednesday 29th October 2014 YTEPP Limited received its certification as an approved CVQ Centre for training and development. This means that YTEPP Ltd has satisfied the National Training Agency requirements that its sites, structures, resources and facilities are appropriate for specific programmes and as such can provide candidates with relevant industry focused training, and certify can them via the CVQ.
324. **ACTT Excellence in Higher Education Ceremony** - The Accreditation Council of Trinidad And Tobago (ACTT) held its Excellence in Higher Education Ceremony and Dinner on Wednesday 29th October 2014. At this event ACTT presented its Quality in Tertiary Education (QuITE) Awards to outstanding tertiary institutions.

#### ***NOVEMBER 2014***

325. **NESC Opened its MYPART Dormitory** - NESC held a send-off' of the new Military-led Youth Programme of Apprenticeship and Re-orientation Training (MYPART) in-take on Sunday 2nd November 2014. The new MYPART Dormitory was also opened. MYPART seeks to address the increasing despondency of youths from diverse backgrounds, referred to as 'At-Risk Youth' and provides both military and vocational training. The new intake of trainees consists of 72 young men who recently were accepted into the 3-year MYPART training programme at NESC's Presto Praesto, Chatham and Mausica.
326. **OJT Medical Launched** – On 5th November 2014 OJT Medical was launched. OJT Medical is a strategic collaboration between the National Training Agency (NTA) and the local health sector. The purpose is to expose prospective medical students to various health care delivery environments, as well as provide them with a chance to experience and benefit from practical insight into the medical profession.
327. **NESC/La Horquetta/Talparo Constituency Information Technology Resource Centre Opened** - The National Energy Skills Centre (NESC) installed 12 computers on Tuesday November 11th 2014 at its La Horquetta/Talparo Constituency Information Technology

Resource Centre. A Microsoft Office Specialist Programme was also started for residents of the constituency.

328. **National Energy Skills Center (NESC) Graduation Ceremony** - The NESC held a Graduation Ceremony for its trainees 2013/2014 on Friday 7th November 2014. 686 students will graduated from various disciplines such as the Automotive, Heavy Equipment, Construction Maintenance, Plant Operations, Information, Welding and Fabrication, and the Music Technology fields.
329. **University of Trinidad and Tobago's 2014 Graduation Ceremony** - More than 1,600 graduates in over fifty (50) programme areas graduated on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th November, 2014.
330. **University of Trinidad and Tobago's 2014 Job Fair** - On Wednesday 19th November, 2014 UTT held a Job Fair at the UTT's O'Meara campus Graduation Pavilion. The main objective was to provide an avenue for the graduates of the university to gain employment as it gives the participating companies the opportunity to interact with and screen potential new employees.

#### ***DECEMBER 2014***

331. **Guardian Media School of Journalism Launched** – A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the UWI St. Augustine and ANSA McAL on December 02nd, 2014. The Guardian Media School of Journalism, the Anthony N. Sabga School of Entrepreneurship were launched and the ANSA McAL Psychological Research Centre was reopened.
332. **St. Augustine Education City Award for Academic Excellence 2014** - On Wednesday 16th December 2014 the St. Augustine Education City held an award ceremony to honour the students within the top 100 School Entrance Examination (SEA) performers who would have both attended a primary school and passed for a secondary school within the region (17 students). It also honoured the Open and Additional Scholarship winners emanating from SEC secondary schools (133 students). An Outstanding Achievement Award for the best performing school at the primary and secondary level, as well as the Most Improved Award for the primary and secondary school which has demonstrated improved academic excellence in 2014 was also awarded.

333. **NESC Expansion of the Ste Madeleine Campus** – On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014 the NESC expanded its Ste Madeleine Campus. The upgraded facility boasts of a new multi-purpose hall with a capacity of holding 250 persons, state-of-the-art Welding facility equipped with 100 work stations and a refurbished Automotive Training facility, which is on par with international standards.

**YEAR: 2015**

***JANUARY 2015***

334. **Inter Faith Service held for the new MTEST Administrative Complex** - An Inter Faith Service for the new MTEST Administrative Complex took place on Thursday January 1st 2015. The Integrated Administrative Complex which will be built in the Borough of Chaguanas will remove the high costs being incurred for renting private property in Port of Spain.

335. **National Incubator Council Launched** - On January 7th, 2015 the National Incubator Council for entrepreneurship was launched. The National Training Agency (NTA), the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), the Youth Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP), the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business (ALJGSB), and the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT) all become part of this novel initiative. The collaboration will provide a framework for on-the-job-training to citizens of Trinidad and Tobago through the OJT Programme.

336. **MOU signed between the National Training Agency and the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board** - A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the National Training Agency (NTA) and the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB) on Friday 9th January, 2015. Through the MoU, the NTA and the ECITB will establish a relationship to cooperate and work together for the mutual benefit of the Engineering Construction Industry and the people within the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The Engineering Construction Industry Training Board is a UK based organization and provides professional advice, information; skills development and qualifications to help individuals within engineering construction succeed in their chosen careers.

337. **Centre Approval Award Ceremony for the National Security Training Academy** - On January 14th, 2015 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the National

Training Agency (NTA) and the National Security Training Academy (NSTA). The MoU formalized the relationship between the NTA and the NSTA allowing them to collaborate with regard to the award of the Trinidad & Tobago National Vocational Qualification (TTNVQ) and the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ).

338. **Centre Approval Award Ceremony for the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Police Training Academy** - On January 16th, 2015 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the National Training Agency (NTA) and the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) Police Training Academy. The MoU formalized the relationship between the NTA and the TTPS Training Academy allowing them to collaborate with regard to the award of the Trinidad & Tobago National Vocational Qualification (TTNVQ) and the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ).
339. **YTEPP Launched the Diego Martin Training and Enterprise Academy** - On Wednesday 28th, January 2015 YTEPP launched the Diego Martin Training and Enterprise Academy. The academy is YTEPP's full-time training facility, and can cater to 220 residents per year. Courses offered at the facility include Cosmetology, Data Operations, Electrical Installation, Plumbing, Tour Guide, Patient Care Assistant, Small Business Management and Career Enhancement.
340. **The MIC Institute of Technology's Tobago Graduation Ceremony 2015** - The MIC Institute of Technology's held its Tobago Graduation Ceremony on Friday 30th, January 2015. The graduation ceremony celebrated the achievements of approximately 250 trainees of the Multi-Sector Skills Training Programme (MuST), the Helping You Prepare for Employment Programme (HYPE) and the Industrial Craft Programme (ICP). The ceremony also served as an opportunity to highlight the role that the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training plays in the certification of today's workforce.

### ***FEBRUARY 2015***

341. **MoU Signed between UTT and the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development** - On Friday 6th, February 2015 the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development.



342. **UTT Carnival Market** - UTT, in collaboration with the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (AATT), UpMarket, COSTAATT, YTEPP Ltd. and Fairshare Programme hosted the “UTT Carnival Market” at on Friday 6th February 2015 from 1:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. The Carnival Night Market provided an opportunity for the University to showcase local products, talent and businesses by UTT entrepreneurs: staff, present student and alumni.
343. **ACTT Launched Quality Institute** – On February 25<sup>th</sup> 2015 ACTT launched the Quality Institute (QI). The Quality Institute was established for the development of training programmes designed to support higher education institution and other stakeholders by enhancing the skills of profession in higher education sector. This initiative ACTT’s commitment to supporting post-secondary and tertiary level providers towards achieving international best practice in their quality assurance.
344. **The MIC Institute of Technology Launched a Welding Caravan** - On Friday 27th, February 2015 the MIC Institute of Technology’s Welding Caravan was launched. The state-of-the-art 25-seater bus outfitted with eight welding simulators will employ similar technology to the larger VRTEX 360 welding machines used to facilitate welding training at the MIC Institute of Technology’s Advanced Training Centre in Macoya. The Welding Caravan will make welding training accessible to remote areas of Trinidad and Tobago.
345. **‘Passing out Parade’ for MYPART Cadets** - The National Energy Skills Center (NESC) hosted a ‘Passing Out’ parade at its Point Lisas Campus on Saturday 28th, February 2015 to mark the end of the Induction Phase of the Military-led Youth Programme of Apprenticeship and Re-orientation Training (MYPART) Programme (Batch 01-14).
346. **YTEPP’s Mobile Cosmetology Training Bus Launched** - The Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP) Limited launched a Mobile Cosmetology Training Bus on Saturday 28th, February 2015. This bus will be used to target communities across the country, preparing person for the cosmetology sector. It will offer specialized training in cosmetology in specific areas of make-up, nail technology, massage therapy and hair styling.

### **MARCH 2015**

347. **MoU signed between the University of the Southern Caribbean and the MIC Institute of Technology** - A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) and the MIC Institute of Technology on Wednesday 18th, March 2015. The purpose of this MoU is to facilitate the planning and

development of academic programmes and courses; organizing seminars, workshops and conferences for the mutual exchange of information in the areas of teaching, research and industrial practices.

348. **NESC signed a Letter of Intent with Ansa Automotive** - On Friday 20th, March 2015 the National Energy Skills Center (NESC) signed a Letter of Intent with Ansa Automotive to formalise the existing working relationship between these two companies. Ansa Automotive also donated a fifth vehicle to the NESC for training purposes.
349. **Father Gerry Pantin Life Centre Brick Laying Ceremony** - On Wednesday 25th March, 2015 a Brick Laying Ceremony was held for the Father Gerry Pantin Life Centre. The construction of the new Life Centre will allow SERVOL to facilitate the Adolescent Development Skills Programme as well as provide all SERVOL's services to Point Fortin and its environs.

#### ***APRIL 2015***

350. **UTT signed a MoU with the National Basketball Federation of Trinidad and Tobago** - On Wednesday April 1st, 2015 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) and the National Basketball Federation of Trinidad and Tobago (NBFTT). The MoU is intended to enhance the quality of the NBFTT's talent pool with a view to establishing a competitive tertiary-level league in Trinidad and Tobago and will promote transparency, professional standards, community building and youth development in local basketball.
351. **UTT signed a MoU with STORK Technical Services** - On Wednesday April 8th 2015 UTT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with STORK Technical Services. The purpose of this MoU signing was to facilitate the exchange knowledge, technology, research and development, training and entrepreneurship activities between both organisations.
352. **NESC Industry Stakeholder Consultation** - On Wednesday April 8th 2015 the National Energy Skills Center (NESC) held an Industry Stakeholder Consultation. The purpose of the consultation was to strengthen the Point Lisas Industrial Apprenticeship Programme (PLIAP) brand by positioning it as a worthwhile solution to skills shortages in the Point Lisas

Industrial Estate and other Industrial Clusters by providing companies with the opportunity to partner with the NESB for competent skilled workers.

353. **Technokids Achievement Ceremony** - On Saturday April 11th, 2015 an achievement ceremony was held for the Easter Edition of TechnoKids 2015.
354. **YTEPP Mobile Computer Training Unit for the Differently-abled Launched** - On Monday April 13th, 2015 YTEPP launched a Mobile Computer Training Unit for the Differently-abled. The mobile unit is a result of YTEPP's partnership with Republic Bank Limited, which donated \$251,000.00 to YTEPP for the refurbishing and outfitting of a PTSC bus to service the differently-abled within our society. The bus can facilitate nine (9) persons at a time. It has cutting edge equipment and software for the benefit of persons who are visually or hearing impaired as well as those who are bound to wheelchairs.
355. **ACTT's 2nd International Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education** - On Wednesday April 15th, 2015 the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago held its 2nd International Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education. Practitioners in the field and other key stakeholders from the local regional and international communities presented academic papers, shared best practice and reviewed recent developments in the field.
- MAY 2015**
356. **COSTAATT's World Press Freedom Day Symposium** – Monday May 4<sup>th</sup> 2015
357. **MoU Signing between the National Training Agency & TTPOST** – A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the National Training Agency and the Trinidad & Tobago Postal (TTPOST) Corporation on Wednesday 6th May, 2015. The key objective of the MoU is to promote co-operation between the NTA and TTPOST for the establishment of a Postal Internship by recruiting On the Job trainees for the sector in Trinidad & Tobago. Secondly, it is hoped that TTPOST will be established as an approved Training Provider and Workforce Assessment Centre.
358. **UWI School of Nursing Launched** - On Wednesday 13th May, 2015 the University of the West Indies School of Nursing (UWISoN) was launched at the COSTAATT's Academy of Nursing and Allied Health, Corner College and St. Cecelia Roads, El Dorado. Courses offered include; AAs Basic General Nursing, AAs Basic Psychiatric Nursing, BSc's in Nursing, Oncology, Nursing Administration and many other programmes designed to expand the pool of nursing doctors and practitioners in Trinidad and Tobago.

359. **Sod-turning held for UWI Dental School** – The Sod Turning for the expansion of the UWI Dental School took place on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2015.
360. **COSTAATT Time Capsule Ceremony** - The Sealing of COSTAATT Time Capsule Ceremony took place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT), in collaboration with the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training (MTEST), hosted a ceremony to commemorate the filling and sealing of a COSTAATT Time Capsule at the College's new campus site which is currently under construction at Pierre-Connector Rd, Chaguanas. The time capsule, which will be sealed for 25 years, will serve to commemorate the construction of the College's first purpose-built campus and will be placed in the top beam of the new building. The capsule will be filled with a wide range of COSTAATT memorabilia, including photographs and video messages from Minister Karim, present and past members of the college community, and other MTEST agencies, expressing their vision for COSTAATT in the years to come. Video footage containing the messages will also be presented at the ceremony.
361. **MTEST O.N.E. (One Network for Everyone) Store Launched** – The MTEST O.N.E. Store was on launched Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 at Gulf City La Romaine. The store offers several services include; enrolling or registering for programmes or courses offered by any institution under MTEST, registering for the Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses (GATE), registering for the On-the-Job-Training (OJT) programme, obtaining information on tertiary learning institutions, logging issues from existing students or trainees on any agency or MTEST service and registering for services via TTConnect kiosk.
362. **National Lifeskills Day** – The National Training Agency held a National Lifeskills Day on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015
363. **The UTT Institute of Printing Launched** - The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) Launched its Institute of Printing on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2015. This event is significant as it represents UTT's thrust in developing the Printing and Packaging sector. The University will provide a dedicated training facility as it seeks to develop programmes specific to this area of functionality. The Certificate in Sheet-Fed Offset Press Operations is the first academic programme that UTT will offer in this regard.

### ***JUNE 2015***

364. **NESC Jobs Fair** – On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2015 NESC hosted its second Jobs Fair.

365. **National Consultation for Retirees Returning to Work (RRW) Programme** - In June, 2015 the National Training Agency (NTA) held National Consultations for the Retirees Returning to Work (RRW) Programme. The NTA has been mandated to engage the public through a series of these National Stakeholder Consultations to develop a framework to support human capital formation. The framework would explore objectives, benefits, performance measures, assessment practices and management approaches for the implementation of the RRW Programme.

The dates and times of consultations:

<b>Region</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
North	<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2015</b>	8.00a.m. – 12.00noon	University of Trinidad & Tobago (UTT), Valsayn Teaching College
South	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2015</b>	8.00a.m. – 12.00noon	University of Trinidad & Tobago (UTT), San Fernando Campus
Tobago	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2015</b>	8.00a.m. – 12.00noon	University of Trinidad & Tobago (UTT), Scarborough Tobago.
Central	<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2015</b>	8.00a.m. – 12.00noon	National Energy Skills Centre (NESC), Point Lisas Compound.

366. **UTT Airport Store “aboUTT” Launched** – On Wednesday 10th June, 2015 the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) launched the UTT airport store, aboUTT. AboUTT will provide a means for UTT entrepreneurs to generate income by selling their products.

**THE MINISTRY  
OF**

# TOURISM

## THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM

The arrival figures are as follows, figures were last updated on **April 30, 2015**:

YEAR	ARRIVALS
2010	452,813
2011	430,922
2012	443,165

2013	434,044
2014	412,447
2015	155,671 (YTD)

**Source: Immigration Division**

# **THE MINISTRY OF**



# **TRADE, INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

## **MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS (MTIIC) 2010-2015**

### **A. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

#### **i. Partial Scope Trade Agreement with Panama**

A Partial Scope Trade Agreement was signed between Trinidad and Tobago and Panama on 3rd October 2013. This Agreement provides domestic exporters with additional market access in one of the fastest-growing economies in Central America with a population of 3.8 million persons.

#### **II. Negotiation of the Trinidad and Tobago – Guatemala Partial Scope Trade Agreement**

On 27 June 2013, a final agreement for a Partial Scope Trade Agreement (PSA) with The Republic of Guatemala was concluded. The negotiations commenced in 2011. This agreement will enable Trinidad and Tobago exporters more favourable market access into the Guatemala market for agricultural products.

**III. Negotiation of the Trinidad and Tobago – El Salvador Partial Scope Trade Agreement**

Trinidad and Tobago commenced the negotiation of a Partial Scope Agreement (PSTA) with the first rounds of negotiations held in San Salvador, El Salvador during October 27<sup>th</sup> – November 01<sup>st</sup>, 2013. The second and third rounds of negotiations were held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and San Salvador during January 20<sup>th</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 and April 07<sup>th</sup> –11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 respectively. Negotiations were completed in September 2014 and the PSTA will provide enhanced market access for local exporters to approximately 7 million new persons.

**iv. Implementation of the CARIFORUM-EC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)**

The CARIFORUM (Caribbean Community and Dominican Republic) European Community Economic Partnership Agreement Act No. 9 of 2013 was assented to and gives effect to the EPA Agreement which provides enhanced market access for domestic exporters to approximately 505 million persons in the EU market.

**v. New Trade Policy and Strategy (2014-2017)**

A new Trade Policy and Strategy for Trinidad and Tobago was completed in July 2013. The primary goal of the new trade policy is to expand and diversify the export of Trinidad and Tobago's goods and services through an aggressive agenda.

**vi. Trade Policy Review**

Trinidad and Tobago achieved a successful review of its trade policy from the Third Trade Policy Review (TPR) under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland. The TPR which is a periodic exercise undertaken by WTO Member States into the trade policy and practices of a member state was undertaken on 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March 2012. An excerpt from the WTO TPR Chairman's Report cited that "WTO Members commended Trinidad and Tobago on its prudent macroeconomic policies

that enabled it to weather the global economic crisis and the collapse of two insurance companies without resorting to protectionist measures. Trinidad and Tobago was also commended for the establishment of the Heritage and Stabilization Fund as a way to reduce its exposure to fluctuations in oil and gas price”.

**vii. Measures to Reduce Inflation on a Selected List of Items**

The MTIIC successfully reduced the CARICOM Common External Tariff (CET) on the following items:

- Compact Florescent Lamps for the period January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2016
- Dried Salted Pollock Fillets for the period January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2015
- Soya-bean Oil for the period January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014
- Refined Sugar for the period January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2015

**B. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**i. *Development of the Yachting Industry***

- An Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed to determine the present economic contributions of the Yachting cluster to the national economy. This study evaluated direct and indirect impacts and provided statistical data on the Industry, which will assist in decision-making to further develop the sector.

**ii. *Implementation of a Food Safety Management System***

exporTT on behalf of the MTIIC worked directly with exporters to implement the Food Safety Management System (FSMS). The FSMS

involves the adoption of food safety standards for export to the USA, Canada the European Union and other major export markets. Specifically, exportTT assisted twenty (20) local companies in completing gaps audits on their plants and supported the work of a consultant to prepare these Companies for foreign inspections. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspected and passed eighteen (18) of these companies.

**iii. Consumer Protection in Trinidad and Tobago**

• **Complaints Resolution**

During the period October, 2013 to March 2014, the Consumer Protection Services Unit (CPSU) received approximately four hundred and thirty seven (437) consumer complaints. Of these complaints, a total of three hundred and thirty-four (334) were resolved, which represents a total of 76.4% of the total complaints received. The value of these resolved complaints was in excess TT\$1Million.

**iv. Development of the Creative Industries**

The MTIIC through CreativeTT hosted the Vogue-Italia Magazine from January 26-31, 2014. This event showcased some of the best local designers and up-and-coming designers to fashion's top international publication.

**v. Incentives for the Creative Industries**

New Incentives for enhancing the Creative Sector were approved by Cabinet in February, 2013. These included the removal of Customs Duty and Value Added Tax (VAT) on commodities imported to serve as inputs into the production of final goods and services for the Creative Industry. These incentives were included in the Finance Act 2013.

**vi. Istanbul Convention**

In 2012, MTII co-ordinated Trinidad and Tobago's accession to the Istanbul Convention (ATA Carnet) to allow for the temporary importation of goods.

**C. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF INVESTMENT IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**i. Renovation of Magdalena Grand Beach Resort**

Magdalena Grand Beach Resort - Renovations on the Magdalena Grand Beach Resort, formally known as the Vanguard Hotel Limited, in Tobago were fully completed by Evolving TecKnologies' and Enterprise Development Co. Ltd in December 2011. The hotel received its first paying guests in January 2012.

**ii. Granting of Import Duty Exemptions**

Over the period October 2013 to May 2014, the MTIIC processed eight (8) applications for import duty concessions. The total investments facilitated under this incentive was approximately TT\$87.2million and the employment generated/supported was approximately 453 persons.

**Tamana Intech Park (TIP)**

- iii.** The MTIIC through eTeck completed the construction of the Flagship Building and development of 21 lots at TIP. The completed Flagship Building has made available over 103,790 sq. ft. of office space for investors seeking to locate at TIP.

**iv. Investments at the Tamana InTech Park (TIP)**

In January of 2014, the MTIIC facilitated the approval for the development of a Tier III Data Centre at the Tamana InTech Park. The estimated initial capital outlay will be approximately US\$135Mn and will result in the creation of approximately 25-40 highly skilled jobs in the ICT sector.

**v. Bilateral Investment Treaties**

An Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement (IPPA) between Trinidad and Tobago and Switzerland was signed on 26th October, 2010 and entered into force on 4th July, 2012. This agreement allows transparency and predictability for investors of both countries.

- vi.** On 17th April 2013, negotiations were concluded for an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and the Republic of Guatemala. The Agreement facilitates increased levels of comfort for investors in Guatemala and Trinidad and Tobago and is designed to make the environment more transparent and predictable and will therefore be a key instrument in the promotion of trade and investment between both countries.

## D. IMPROVING THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

- i. During fiscal 2014, Trinidad and Tobago improved its ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking from 69 in 2013 to 66 in 2014 due to the work of the MTIIC in the following areas:

### a. Starting A Business

- Employers can now apply online (through TTBizLink) and receive a National Insurance Employer/Employee Registration Number in **one (1) business day**. This is a significant reduction from the previous **30 day duration**; and
- Companies and Partnerships can now apply online to the Board of Inland Revenue (through TTBizLink) and receive their (i) BIR File Number in **one (1) business day** and (ii) Certificate of VAT Registration in **two (2) business days**. This represents a significant reduction from the previous **30 day duration**.

### b. Trading Across Borders

- The Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications (MTIIC) established an electronic interface between the Customs Border Control System (Automated System Customs Data – ASYCUDA World) and its Single Electronic Window (TTBizLink) which allows licensed Customs Brokers and Clerks to receive online endorsements by the various regulatory agencies while importing goods which reduces the cost of imports.
- An e-Maritime Module was officially launched in May 2014 on the Single Electronic Window for Trade and Business Facilitation (TTBizLink) which allows shipping agents in Trinidad and Tobago to prepare and submit vessel pre-arrival and pre-departure declarations electronically to the Maritime Services Division, Coast Guard, Customs and Excise Division, Port Administrations, Immigration Division and Ministry of Health, thereby reducing unnecessary delays in the processing of documents and clearing of cargo upon arrival and departure from Trinidad and Tobago.
- The MTIIC facilitated the procurement of a non-intrusive container inspection scanner for the Port of Port of Spain. This scanner will significantly improve the time it takes for the Port to clear shipments entering the country and have a positive and direct impact on both international trade and enhanced border security.

### **c. Bankruptcy and Insolvency**

- The Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and the Economy and the Ministry of the Attorney General successfully reformed the domestic bankruptcy and insolvency system in May 2014 through the Partial Proclamation of the 2007 Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act (BIA), which came into force on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The partial Proclamation of the BIA with accompanying Regulations allows for the treatment of both corporate and individual insolvency. The BIA will dramatically impact positively on the flow of credit in the economy which will expand business activity locally.

## **E. IMPROVING THE POLICY ENVIRONMENT IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

### **I. New Scrap Metal Policy**

A new Policy for the Scrap Metal Policy was developed and approved by Cabinet in December 2013. The objective of the new Policy is to strengthen the regulatory aspects of the trade in scrap metals in order to develop and grow the industry which currently employs over 5,000 persons locally.

### **II. New Foreign Used Car Policy (2014-2018)**

A new Policy for the Foreign Used Car Industry was developed. The objectives of the policy are:

- to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of the existing regime for the importation of foreign used cars in Trinidad and Tobago in keeping with Trinidad and Tobago's multilateral trade obligations;
- to ensure that all foreign used cars are imported legally and meet appropriate safety standards;
- to strengthen consumer protection in the Industry; and
- to improve the existing compliance and monitoring system for foreign used cars.

The industry currently provides employment for just over 10,000 persons and accounts for a significant amount of revenue to the State in the form of Motor Vehicle Taxes (MVT), Value Added Tax (VAT) and import duties.





# THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

## THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

2011 – 2015

**Preamble:** The Ministry of Transport (MTR), became a full –fledged Ministry in July 2011 after having been subsumed under the former Ministry of Works and Transport for many years. The Ministry of Transport has oversight over the following entities: -

- Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago.
- Point Lisas Port Development Corporation Limited ( Port of Point Lisas)

- **Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago**
- **Maritime Services Limited**
- **Transport Division- Licensing Office**
- **National Helicopter Services Limited.**
- **Vehicle Management Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (VMCOTT)**
- **Public Transport Service Corporation ( PTSC)**
- **Water Taxi Service.**

During the period 2011 -2015, the Ministry of Transport (MTR) has continued to make significant progress with respect to the transformation of Trinidad and Tobago's transportation sector with a view to making it more efficient, customer friendly and cost effective for the travelling public of Trinidad and Tobago. Highlighted below are some of the major achievements under the Ministry's purview.

#### **AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

- The development of over 200 acres of prime commercial property for the establishment of the North Aviation Business Park at the Piarco International Airport. The infrastructural works and services inclusive of roads, potable water, waste water, and electricity and communication duct bank were completed in January 2013.
- Repairs to the fire alarm system at PIA
- Upgrade of perimeter lighting at PIA
- Staff of the Customer Service Department was outfitted with official AATT uniforms. This effort was aimed at increasing the visibility of the Customer Service Representatives to members of the public while projecting a professional image as the face of the organization.
- ID badge printing facility was set up at the ANR Robinson International Airport in January 2013.
- Cabling of offices to facilitate relocation of three security divisions at Piarco International Airport. This project was completed in January 2013.
- Repairs to perimeter road and fence line, PIA.
- Rehabilitation and perimeter road and fence upgrade at ANR Robinson International Airport.
- Upgrade of Airfield Lighting and Control Monitoring System at PIA and ANRIA.
- Expanded Aircraft Parking Ramp Flood Lighting.
- Construction of a sewage treatment plant at ANRIA.
- Introduction of new airline services e.g. JETBLUE, WESTJET
- Completion of negotiations with the EPA to settle outstanding collective agreements.

## **POINT LISAS PORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

- Development of a new performance management system.
- Acquisition of new 5- high Container Handling Reach Stacker
- Computerized LCL locator and Web Tracker System.
- Implementation of Navis 322 Messaging for Terminal Operating System.
- Computerized Records Management System.
- Computerized Labour Allocation System.
- Construction of new Fenders at Berth 5.
- Installation of CCTV System for Port.
- Acquisition of state of the art 50 metric ton ship – to – shore gantry crane.
- Office and facilities expansion of LCL warehouse.
- Completion of negotiations with the majority bargaining unit the SWWTU.
- Replacement of ageing port infrastructure to ensure equipment reliability and improve productivity.

## **PORT AUTHORITY OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

- Implementation of NAVIS computerized system in 2012
- Significant improvements in turnaround times, and productivity in container –vessel operations.
- Re-designed more customer friendly website.
- Purchase of 16 Gaussin trailers and two empty container handlers in 2012 for use in container handling.
- Completed the building of a modern equipment maintenance facility which provided a covered workshop area for maintenance /repair of top-lifting container –handling equipment.
- Improvement in safety rating recording zero hours of accident/incident lost time in 2012.
- Installation of new Ship to Shore crane rails at Berth 6A, 6A East, and 6A West at the Port of Port of Spain.

- Completion of outstanding wage negotiations with representative union ....the SWWTU.
- Leasing of the Super –Fast Galicia to be used to transport passengers and cargo between Trinidad and Tobago.
- Installation of X- Ray Container Scanners.

### **MARITIME SERVICES DIVISION**

- Ratification by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago of several international maritime instruments and conventions.
- Removal of 12 wrecks from the Port of Spain harbor and environs considered hazards to navigation ( project is on-going )
- Drafted the following pieces of legislation : Shipping Bill ; Marine Pollution Bill,
- Shipping Standards of Training, Certification and Watch Keeping (STCW) Amendment Regulations were enacted in January 2012.
- Achieved 100 per cent of Flag State inspections of Trinidad and Tobago ships.
- Upgrade and modernization of navigational aids.
- Groundwork is being laid for the establishment of a Maritime Authority of Trinidad and Tobago.
- Establishment of a National Task Force for the implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention under IMO guidelines.
- Phases one and two completed towards the establishment of a Vessel Traffic Management Information System.

### **NATIONAL HELICOPTER SERVICES LTD.**

- Acquisition of one used S76C medium twin Sikorsky helicopter in 2013.
- Acquisition of two new 12 seater S76D medium twin helicopters.
- 41 per cent increase in net profit after tax in 2013, over the corresponding period in 2012.
- The acquisition and refurbishment of NGC hangar and facilities.
- New charters and additional clientele for 2013 -2014.

### **VEHICLE MANAGEMENT CORPORATION OF T&T. (VMCOTT)**

- Commissioned automatic car wash system at its San Fernando facility as an additional revenue generating business unit.

- Repair of existing roofing and turbines due to wear and tear and damage over the course of time.
- Upgrade of the existing security fencing surrounding the Beetham facility to prevent theft and vandalism to property.
- Improved building image for launch of Automated Car Wash service at the San Fernando facility.
- Enhance security at VMCOTT's Beetham and San Fernando facilities to curtail instances of pilferage.
- Repair of existing septic tank and soak away due to improper installation of septic tank system and soak away during construction of San Fernando facility.

### **PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE CORPORATION**

- Phase one of acquisition of 100 CNG powered buses completed....first tranche of 35 buses delivered in November 2014 and now operational on PTSC routes throughout the country thus expanding the operational efficiency of the Corporation.
- Septic tank upgrade at the Arima facility.
- Roof replacement at the Arima transit facility
- Refurbishment/maintenance of the sewer treatment plant at the Sangre Grande Transit facility.
- Upgrade of the San Juan Transit Mall.
- Upgrade of the Curepe Transit Mall.
- Upgrade of the maxi taxi hub at the Port of Spain, South Quay Transit facility.
- Refurbishment of the female washroom at the Port of Spain, South Quay terminal facility.
- Refurbishment of the Administration Building roof, Port of Spain, South Quay.
- Major refurbishment work done at the Port of Spain, San Fernando and Sangre Grande garages.

### **WATER TAXI SERVICE**

- Completed construction and commissioning of San Fernando water taxi facility.
- Completed safety net installation at Port of Spain and San Fernando terminals.
- Emergency berthing infrastructure at the Port of Spain terminal.
- Ride control T- foil system installed in the HSC Carnival Runner.
- A monthly reserved paid parking system was implemented at the San Fernando terminal in July 2012.
- Introduction of San Fernando Bus shuttle in December 2013 between the water taxi terminal and the High Street area of San Fernando.

- Successfully operated charters to Grenada in August 2012, August 2013 and August 2014 for that country's Spice Mas celebrations.
- Tobago Sailings – The Water Taxi Service, as part of its mandate to provide emergency back- up service on the inter- island service, operated three round trip sailings to Tobago over the Easter long weekend, Tobago Jazz weekend and the Indian Arrival Day long weekend.
- On the revenue side, rental of berthing space was secured to two leisure craft at Port of Spain during off –peak hours.
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#### **TRANSPORT DIVISION –LICENSING OFFICE / MVA.**

- Motor Vehicle Authority – head office building 99 per cent completed. Servers and ICT equipment to be procured and installed.
- Motor Vehicle Authority – Vehicle Inspection building 99 per cent completed.
- Motor Vehicle Authority – Warehouse building 99 per cent completed
- Motor Vehicle Authority – infrastructure work on-going at the other MVA access centers.
- Major refurbishment work was undertaken at the Wrightson Road facility of the Licensing Division.
- Implementation of a new certified copy document with new security features.
- This allows for an improvement in the system of accountability of the generation and issuance process for vehicle certified copy.

# THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### **1. Landslip Repair Programme**

Approximately 486 landslips throughout Trinidad on the Highways Division road network have been targeted for rehabilitation by the Bridges, Landslips & Traffic Management (BLT) Programme Implementation Unit (PIU)

### **2. Rehabilitation of - Bonne Aventure Road, Gasparillo (Landslips L39 and L41) - Landslips Repair Programme**

The Bridges, Landslips & Traffic Management (BLT) Programme Implementation Unit (PIU) of MOWI began repairs to two major landslips on Bonne Aventure Road area on February 10<sup>th</sup> 2014. Works are scheduled to be completed by October 2014. The project will include the

demolition of the existing retaining walls, construction of new retaining walls, reinstatement of roadway and drainage rehabilitation which will bring relief to residents in the area worried about the stability of their homes.

### **3. Launch of Critical Coastal Protection Works**

The Critical Coastal Protection Works programme was launched recently and was marked by a Coastal Erosion Tour on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2014. Overall, 26 Coastal Protection Projects will be undertaken, the first being at the Shore of Peace, Mosquito Creek. Four more will follow in this fiscal year in keeping with the Ministry's role in Coastal Management. The project will utilise soft engineering projects, where feasible, to stabilise the erosion. Soft engineering is environmentally friendly, and in some cases more sustainable.

### **4. Official Opening of Bridge B1/5 – Golden Grove Road, St. Helena**

The B1/5 Bridge was officially opened on January 19 2014. The project was spearheaded by the Major Highway Project Monitoring Unit of MOWI. This project forms part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to provide safe, efficient and adequate road infrastructure. The B1/5 has improved the accessibility to the Piarco International airport and its surrounding communities.

### **5. Launch of Bridges Reconstruction Programme**

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>, January, 2014 Minister of Works and Infrastructure officially launched the Bridges Reconstruction Programme. This programme aims to reconstruct 62 bridges on the Highways Division network which were found to be severely dilapidated after a year-long assessment. Ten Bridges will be reconstructed in Phase 1.

1. B 1/12 Eastern Main Road, St. Joseph
2. B 1/9 Talparo Main Road
3. B 2/1 Valencia Main Road
4. B 1/19 Eastern Main Road, Guanapo
5. B 2/10 Toco Main Road
6. B 1/19 Toco Main Road
7. B 1/3 Cedar Hill Road
8. B 1/3 Sisters Road
9. B1/13 Mayaro Guayaguayare Road
10. B 3/5 Pluck road

### **6. Reconstruction of B1/3 Cedar Hill Road - Claxton Bay**

The BLT Unit of the MOWI will be reconstructing B 1/3 at Cedar Hill Road, Claxton Bay. This is one of the 62 bridges under the Bridges Reconstruction Programme and will see the current one-lane bridge transformed into a two-lane structure. The new bridge will significantly reduce the traffic experienced daily by motorists and provide safe passage for pedestrians with rails and sidewalks.



### **7. Reconstruction of the B2/1 Valencia Road**

The BLT Unit of the MOWI will be reconstructing B2/1 Bridge. The new bridge will consist of a single span bridge 20.9m long with seven precast, pre-stressed AASHTO Type III beams. Two lanes, two sidewalks will also be constructed for pedestrians.

### **8. Reconstruction of the B1/19 Eastern Main Road - Guanapo**

The BLT Unit of the MOWI will be reconstructing B1/19 Bridge. The construction entails the construction of 27.9m long with seven precast, pre-stressed AASHTO Type IV beams. Two lanes, two sidewalks will also be constructed for pedestrians.

### **9. Opening of the Boodoo Branch Trace #2 Penal**

MOWI officially opened the B1/1 at Boodoo Trace, Penal on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013. This is in keeping with the mandate to provide alternative access routes as well as ensuring the safety of pedestrians, commuters and motorists. The installation of the Bailey bridge and associated infrastructural works will significantly improve the lives of residents. It allows for freer traffic flow and inevitably a reduction of travel time, enables access to the communities, improved safety to residents and the links Ramai Trace, Congo Village and Boodoo Trace #3.

### **10. Diego Martin Highway Expansion Programme**

This Highway Expansion is designed to alleviate traffic congestion while entering and exiting the at the Diego Martin area. This ongoing project includes of the following:

- ❖ Provision of an additional lane on the northbound section of Diego Martin Main Road between the Western Main Road and Victoria Gardens. This is already completed.
- ❖ Construction of an additional southbound lane on the Highway, from Morne Coco Road to the Western Main Road
- ❖ Construction of 2 new northbound travel lanes (1km approx.), plus shoulders, median, acceleration/deceleration lanes.
- ❖ Construction of a new retaining wall between the existing drain and the widened Highway east of Acton Court.
- ❖ Construction of drains adjacent to the widened highway and demolition of existing sidewalks and box drains.
- ❖ Widening of Morne Coco Road between Diego Martin Highway and Diego Martin Main Road (approximately 100m length).
- ❖ Full traffic signalization of Morne Coco Road junction with Diego Martin Highway.
- ❖ A new barrier wall between Jurawan Terrace and Morne Coco Road.

### **11. Oropune Pedestrian Overpass**

In keeping with the Ministry's mandate to ensure the safety of motorists and pedestrians on the nation's roadways, the Oropune Pedestrian Overpass was completed in October 2013. The 38m span walkover takes pedestrians north-south, to and from the Oropune Gardens. This project of MOWI was seen as necessary to effectively manage pedestrian traffic moving in and

out of Oropune Gardens Housing Development and will also reduce the incidence of road fatalities in the area.

#### **12. Diego Martin Lay By Project**

A project of the PURE Unit of MOWI, this project was completed in July 2013. It was borne out of the need to address major traffic congestion along the Diego Martin Main Road from Victoria Gardens to Morne Coco Road Junction. Road users can now benefit from a designated stopping area, reduction in travel time, greater pedestrian safety.

#### **13. Tarouba Link Road Upgrade Project**

MOWI completed upgrades of the Tarouba Link Road in June 2013. Works included the construction of double lane roundabout at Tarouba Link Road & San Fernando Bypass Road Intersection and a signalised intersection. Residents of Tarouba Village will now benefit from reduced travel time, greater pedestrian safety and improved drainage to prevent deterioration of the roadway and flooding.

#### **14. Valencia Bypass Project**

With the intent of alleviating traffic congestion along the Eastern Main Road in the vicinity of Valencia, the PURE Unit of MOWI constructed a roadway south of the existing EMR to bypass the Valencia town centre. The Bypass will take motorists from the Antigua Road, in an east-west direction to the Eastern Main Road along the Long Stretch. This construction also involved the upgrade of Barbuda Extension. Silica Road would also be upgraded and be used to connect (in a north-south direction) the EMR to the proposed bypass. Motorists will benefit from a reduction in travel time as they have alternate routes to their destinations.

#### **15. Reconstruction And Widening Of B 1/14 Churchill Roosevelt Highway (Arouca River Bridges)**

The widening and reconstruction of the Arouca River Bridges began on Tuesday 15th October, 2013. The scope of works for these projects involved the construction of 22.75km of roads, 15 retaining walls, 3.6km of box drains, 7.7km of covered box drains and 28.5km of slipper drains. By executing the widening and reconstruction of B1/14 Churchill Roosevelt Highway (Arouca River Bridges), the Ministry will also inevitably implement safety measures for motorists and pedestrians who traverse the major access road.

#### **16. La Puerta Road Works Project**

MOWI successfully completed road works in the La Puerta community. This saw the construction of 390m of new road pavement, the rehabilitation of 1000m of existing roadway along La Puerta Avenue, improvements to the drainage and pavement markings. Residents of La Puerta now benefit from increased pedestrian safety and easier access of the roadway for vehicles. This project also provided employment for La Puerta residents.

#### **17. Churchill Roosevelt Lane Expansion Project – Golden Grove to Maloney**

The CRH, the major thoroughfare taking motorists along the east-west corridor, is usually plagued with traffic congestion. As a result, PURE continued its highway expansion project by constructing a third lane from the Golden Grove intersection to Maloney Gardens. Motorists can now benefit from a reduction in travel time as traffic in the area now flows freer. In total, 2.6 km of roadway was added. This segment of the highway was officially opened on July 26<sup>th</sup> 2013.

#### **18. Anthony Branch Trace**

MOWI officially opened the Anthony Branch Trace on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2013. This roadway connects the S.S. Erin Road to the Penal-Quinam Road. Now that the roadway has been repaired, there will now be a free traffic flow along that stretch. Residents who live on this road now benefit from proper drainage and road structure. The Anthony Branch Trace upgrade now ensures the comfort residents of Syne Village.

#### **19. Brasso B1/13, Brasso Tabaquite Road**

This project of the Major Highway Project Monitoring Unit was completed in November 2012. The new B1/13 replaced the existing structure, making the access to and from the community of Brasso Tabaquite significantly easier. This project forms part of the ongoing National Highway Programme (NHP) – Roads and Bridges Rehabilitation Programme.

#### **20. The Red Light Enforcement Project**

MOWI is piloting a Red Light Enforcement Project. RLEP is a system that employs technology: cameras and video footage to increase enforcement for the breach of traffic laws. The RELP is one of many initiatives that evolved, in keeping the Ministry's mandate, to develop and implement traffic management strategies for the benefit of the country.

#### **21. Todd Station Road, Caparo**

The Honourable Dr. Surujrattan Rambachan, Minister of Works and Infrastructure held a Sod Turning Ceremony to officially start rehabilitative road works at Todd's Station Road, Caparo on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2013. Todd's Station Road, Caparo links Caparo to Talparo and Tamana. The intended road works include 2 km of road rehabilitation from Caparo Valley Brasso Road. This work will, no doubt, alleviate the distress and inconvenience experienced by the residents with regards to landslides, flooding, and poor drainage.

#### **22. Morne Coco Road**

Residents of Pioneer Drive, Morne Coco Road benefitted from a brand new Pedestrian Bridge and other Rehabilitation Works in 2013. Prior to these works, the existing roadway was consistently being eroded due to flooding. The then existing bridge collapsed in 2011, leaving residents stranded. On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2013, MOWI formally opened the 15 m footbridge. Residents of that area can now access their homes and communities conveniently.

#### **23. Hoseinee Trace/ Lower Piparo Road**

In November 2012, MOWI officially opened Hoseinee Trace and Lower Piparo Road after yearlong rehabilitation works were completed on them. Hoseinee Trace was used as as an

alternative access route to the communities of Gasparillo, Williamsville and environs as Lower Piparo Road was impassable to vehicular traffic after the volcanic eruption. Works to both roads consisted of drainage works and soil stabilization completed road works and slope stabilization. Residents of these communities now benefit from an ease in access to and from their homes.

#### **24. Bassie Road to Trantrill Road - Southern Main Road, Curepe**

The Bassie Trace to Trantrill Road improvement works were opened after 10 months of extensive rehabilitation by the MOWI's PURE. The improvement works consisted of three bridges, construction of two new culverts, 700m of new roadway ancillary works, rehabilitation of an additional 500m of Southern Main Road, 230m of open box drains and the paving of 150m of an access road.

#### **25. Arima/Blanchisseuse Road, Morne La Croix**

MOWI completed rehabilitation works to this roadway in October 2012. A section of the road collapsed after a major landslide in the area in December 2011. This negatively affected residents and the livelihood of farmers and fishermen in the area. Motorists now have access to a comfortable, new roadway.

#### **26. Bertie Marshall Boulevard Induction Ceremony**

Bertie Marshall is revered locally and internationally as a significant contributor to the development of Steelpan. His work in Steelpan research and has not gone unnoticed, having been awarded both the Chaconia Gold Medal and the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Recognizing the contributions of Mr. Marshall to Trinidad and Tobago and to his hometown of Success Laventille, MOWI renamed the Old St. Joseph Road from the Eastern Main Road to the Fernandes Industrial Complex, the Bertie Marshall Boulevard. The ceremony for this took place on October 17<sup>th</sup> 2013.

#### **27. The Commissioning And Commemoration Of The ASHARA Safety Zone**

Following the devastating accident in February 2013 which claimed the lives of three persons, MOWI and the Ministry of National Security implemented a number of measures to ensure the safety of the residents and stake holders in the Sea Lots community. The ASHARA Safety Zone includes the following: 260 New Jersey Barriers which will protect persons on the sidewalk; two Pedestrian Push Button Crossings; 545 metres of railing along the sidewalk; 37 m span pedestrian walkway; reduction of the speed limit on the Beetham Highway from 80km to 50 km per hour to make it illegal to use excessive speed; yellow and black checkered traffic management markings to alert drivers to the pedestrian crossings and channel persons across the intersections. This zone runs from Abattoir Road to the Lighthouse and was named to commemorate the six persons injured in the accident.

### **28. Workshop on The Solomon Hochoy Highway Extension To Point Fortin with local Contractors and Suppliers**

On Wednesday 11th, December 2013, OAS Constructora in collaboration with MOWI and National NIDCO hosted a workshop comprising of a comprehensive presentation and an interactive session designed to incorporate/engage local contractors and suppliers into the 2014 work plan for the construction work of the Solomon Hochoy Highway to Point Fortin (SHHE-PTFN) Project at the Paria Suites Hotel Conference Room. During the workshop attendees were informed of the prequalification requirements and the tendering process were outlined in detail.

### **29. The Solomon Hochoy Highway Extension to Point Fortin Project**

MOWI is currently undertaking a project to extend the Solomon Hochoy Highway to Point Fortin. This project would take motorists from Golconda to Point Fortin. It comprises of approximately 47Km of 4-lane highways and 2.5km of 2 lane highways. The Highway is scheduled for completion by March 2015.

### **30. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – St. Croix Road, Princess Town**

On September 25<sup>th</sup> 2013, the completion of rehabilitation works to the St. Croix Road, Princess Town was marked with a ribbon cutting ceremony. St. Croix Road is a major thoroughfare from Princess Town to Barrackpore, Moruga, San Fernando and the Naparima/Mayaro Road. Motorists can now benefit from the use of a much more comfortable roadway.

### **31. Landslip Rehabilitation – Naparima Mayaro Road**

The PURE Unit of MOWI completed works to the Naparima Mayaro Road. Works included natural slope stabilisation and the installation of concrete piles along with ground beams. Residents of the area, who have been plagued with landslides for over 10 years, are more than happy with the work done.

### **32. Traffic Warden Graduation – Batch #II for 2013**

A total of 103 new Traffic Wardens graduated from a 5-week Induction Programme in November last. The Traffic Wardens Division was implemented to assist the police to control and regulate road traffic as well as assist to enforce traffic laws.

### **33. Fishing Pond Road Rehabilitation Sod Turning - Sangre Grande**

The official launch of repair works to Fishing Pond Road, Sangre Grande began with a Sod Turning ceremony on August 19 2013. This project is in keeping with MOWI's aggressive road rehabilitation plans for Trinidad and Tobago. The Fishing Pond Road project entails the rehabilitation of approximately 2.1 km of roadway from El Reposo Road to Boodoo Highway.

Over 80 residents of Fishing Pond were on hand for the ceremony. This project is a collaborative effort on behalf of the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure and Local Government.

#### **34. Cable Barrier System on Highways and Major Roads**

Cable barriers are ideal in preventing roadside crashes. It is the least rigid type of barrier, which means that it will absorb some of the force of impact when a vehicle hits it, and it is more likely to stop or capture a vehicle in the median. This project will assist in eliminating injuries and property damage including fatalities caused by median cross-over traffic and roadside crashes. Tension cable barriers were installed along either sides of the median of the Solomon Hochoy and the Uriah Butler Highways. Protecting motorists from vehicle crossing over the medians is high priority in ensuring the safety of our highways.

#### **35. Commissioning of Traffic Lights at Pierre Road Chaguanas –**

MOWI commissioned new traffic lights along Pierre Road, Chaguanas on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. These lights have assisted in significantly reducing traffic congestion which often spilled out to the Solomon Hochoy Highway. The intersection now has a greater capacity for vehicles and traffic now flows easier.

#### **36. Tree Planting Ceremony – Churchill Roosevelt Highway/ Uriah Butler Highway Interchange**

MOWI engaged in a tree planting exercise in the vicinity of the Churchill Roosevelt Highway. Research has shown that this type of beautification has a calming effect on road users, leading to safer driving.

#### **37. Extended lane from Aranguez to ramp heading South**

This lane extension project formed part of the ongoing Highway Expansion Programme. Travel time from Abattoir Road to the Interchange during afternoon peak hours has been significantly cut down from 30 minutes to an average of 10 minutes.

#### **38. Cumuto Sod turning Ceremony**

A simple Sod Turning Ceremony marked the official commencing of road works in the Cumuto area in August last year. MOWI Minister, Dr. Surujrattan Rambachan launched this project which will see rehabilitation to the roads and 20,000ft of drainage will be constructed. Residents in the Cumuto area stand to benefit from better access to and from their community thanks to the new infrastructure.

#### **39. Road works at Mt. Pleasant Road, Claxton Bay**

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, MOWI held a Sod Turning Ceremony to launch road works along Mt. Pleasant Road. Mt. Pleasant road is a major thoroughfare which links Cedar Hill to Point Lisas. Residents will benefit from improved drainage and an easier accessible roadway.

#### **40. Camden Link Road**

The PURE Unit completed construction of the Camden Link Road on November 9<sup>th</sup> 2012. Approximately 2.7km of new roadway was built to accommodate this largely agricultural community. The new road now serves as a connector at for four areas: Calcutta #1, Calcutta #2, Balmain Main Road and Camden Road.

#### **41. National Traffic Management Centre (NTMC)**

The NTMC became operational in July 2012. It is a central monitoring room for the Traffic Surveillance and Control System (TSCS). The Corridor Traffic Management System (CTMS) will report in the event of malfunctions, incidents and accidents and the Ministry can take action in real time to save lives and reduce congestion. The data collected is used to improve the flow of traffic. Centralised Traffic Control Systems controls traffic lights along Wrightson Road, Beetham Highway and the Churchill Roosevelt Highway up to the Interchange.

#### **42. National Traffic Management Centre (NTMC) & CNMG**

NTMC and CNMG entered into a partnership whereby the videos collected by NTMC will be transmitted, in order to issue traffic alerts that will be broadcasted on real time. This will also be filtered to various radio stations. This new relationship will foster the Traffic management awareness by actively seeking the public's interest and overall social responsibility.

#### **43. St. Helena Bypass Project**

The St. Helena Bypass is a 2.2 km roadway with two lanes and shoulders to International standards. Motorists now have an alternative access route to bypass the St. Helena Junction. The Bypass relieves severe congestion in St. Helena community. This project is also significant for the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (AATT) in meeting the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards for airports. The existing Golden Grove Road was 90m away from the edge of the runway, negatively affecting the ICAO rating of the Piarco International Airport. The ICAO guidelines require that there be a minimum clearance of 240m from the edge of the runway in order to enhance the operational safety of the airport. Upon completion of construction, this section of the existing Golden Grove Road has been decommissioned. All vehicular traffic will now use the new St. Helena Bypass Road which is approximately 270m from the edge of the runway, and thereby exceeding the minimum ICAO requirements.

#### **44. Calcutta Bridge**

MOWI is undertaking works in the community of Calcutta. It includes the demolition of the existing structure and the construction of a new 20m span bridge. The new bridge will be

constructed on a new alignment to the east of the existing road. The project commenced in February 2013 and is scheduled for completion in the third quarter of fiscal 2014.

#### **45. Official Opening Of The Maloney Walkover**

The Maloney walkover was completed in August 2012. The walkover project was executed by the PURE Unit of MOWI. The Walkover serves to take pedestrians safely, north to south, across the Churchill Roosevelt Highway. What is noteworthy is that the Maloney Walkover structure is a cable stayed pedestrian bridge. This is the first of its kind in Trinidad.

#### **46. Blanchisseuse Bailey Bridge**

The Blanchisseuse Spring Bridge was deemed incapable of supporting vehicular traffic and immediately closed on Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Only pedestrian traffic was allowed. The scope of works for the repair project was changed to the installation of a Bailey bridge, just west of the existing Spring Bridge, to provide passenger vehicular access across the Marianne River. The Bailey bridge has a load limit of five (5) tonnes. The new Bailey bridge was completed on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2012, all fixtures and accessories were installed. The road works to access the bridge were completed on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.

#### **47. Tarouba Bridge - Mon Desir Interchange –SHH to Point Fortin**

Works continue on this segment of the extension of the Solomon Hochoy Highway to Point Fortin project. The Tarouba Bridge to Mon Desir Interchange includes the construction of Berridge Trace Bridge which is 60% complete. The Mon Desir Interchange is approximately 47% complete.

#### **48. Highway Works at Mosquito Creek**

MOWI has begun the construction of additional lanes along Mosquito Creek. When this construction is complete traffic will be diverted onto the new roadway and works will begin to raise the roadway that is currently used. This project is being undertaken to address flooding and traffic problems experienced in the area.

#### **49. Freeport Southbound Deceleration Ramp**

The Freeport Southbound Deceleration Ramp is a major thoroughfare used daily by motorists to access Cunupia, Couva and St Mary's Junction. Prior to construction works, it consisted of one lane, resulting in heavy traffic congestion which often spilled onto the Sir Solomon Hochoy Highway. This also created a safety hazard for motorists using the roadway. PURE was able to complete these works in a mere four months.

#### **50. Couva Preysal Interchange**

The Couva/Preysal Interchange is an elevated interchange that connects Couva Main Road to the Solomon Hochoy Highway. This interchange is instrumental to vehicles accessing Couva, Point Lisas Industrial Estate, Balmain, Preysal and Gran Couva. The works included the construction of new exit and entrance ramps to and from the SHH, the CMR and the Point Lisas



Link Road (PLLR). Two roundabouts also facilitate continuous traffic flows within the area. Motorists now benefit from a reduction in traffic congestion in the area.

#### **51. Access road to Cipriani College**

MOWI will be constructing a new access road to Cipriani College. This roadway will make it safer for motorists coming off the Churchill Roosevelt Highway to access the Cipriani Collage of Labour and Cooperative Studies. This project forms part of the Ministry's mandate to provide safe roadways for the country's motorists and pedestrians.

#### **52. Opening of the Golconda to Debe Segment of the Point Fortin Highway**

The Golconda to Debe segment of the Point Fortin Highway was officially commissioned on August 31<sup>st</sup> 2013. The entire highway; that is the Golconda to Point Fortin Highway is scheduled to be completed in March 2015.

#### **53. Construction of Overpass at Southern Main Road and Churchill Roosevelt Highways – Curepe Interchange**

This project has already begun the initial stages of development. It will facilitate the free flow of traffic on the Churchill Roosevelt Highway through the removal of the 4 traffic lights at the Southern Main Road and Churchill Roosevelt Highway. It is anticipated that this interchange will cut down on travel time, improve access to and from adjacent communities and increase pedestrian safety. The Curepe Interchange is scheduled for completion in 2015.

#### **54. Milling and Paving of the Valencia Main Road**

The PURE Unit of MOWI embarked on a project to upgrade the Eastern Main Road in the vicinity of Valencia. The area is heavily trafficked and the existing road infrastructure in this area has declined steadily over the last few years. Motorists using this route benefitted from a newly paved roadway which will offer greater travel comfort and a reduction in travel time.

#### **55. Rehabilitation of Pluck Road**

MOWI undertook rehabilitation works of La Fortune Pluck Road, Siparia. As a result of the heavy traffic experienced on the Mosquito Creek, drivers use the La Fortune Pluck Road as an alternative access route. This road plays a major role in the south eastern road network system as it is the only alternative route to bypass Mosquito Creek. Rehabilitation works that have been undertaken are the strengthening and resurfacing of approximately 8km of roadway and associated drainage works inclusive of box drains, kerb and slipper and sidewalks.

**THE MINISTRY**  
**OF**

# TOBAGO DEVELOPMENT

## **The Ministry of Tobago Development**

The Ministry of Tobago Development (MTD) was established in June 2010. The Government and consequently the Ministry has a clear and distinct people-centred philosophy and orientation. MTD will assist in the process of accelerating the development of Tobago by working with other Ministries, and the Tobago House of Assembly (THA). The Ministry focuses on the following major areas in this developmental process as informed by the Medium Term Policy Framework Document (MTPF) (2011-2014), entitled *“Innovation for Lasting Prosperity”*:

- Facilitate the development of Tobago’s human capital in order to maximize resource utilisation and improve the quality of life on the island.
- Strengthen participation and inclusion by the people of Tobago in local and national affairs.
- Support initiatives that seek to stimulate Tobago’s economic environment and increase GDP through investment in emerging, community based and downstream energy industries on the island.
- Facilitate the provision of resources for Tobago to undertake a sustainable development plan which seeks to achieve the full potential of the people of the island.
- Engage all stake holders to work towards the completion of all projects under the Central Government’s purview in Tobago.

- Support the implementation of measures to regularize land titles in Tobago based on a review of the recommendations of recent reports on this matter.

### **Strategic Plan 2013-2017**

MTD has prepared this Strategic Plan for the period 2013-2017 in the context of an island on the verge of the most fundamental constitutional reforms and economic transformation of this generation and in light of a very competitive global economy emerging from the throes of a recession.

The spirited discussion surrounding the move “Towards Internal Self Government” has allowed Tobagonians to express their earnest needs, and has given voice to the innate capacity to achieve many of the aspirations promulgated by scholars and the common person alike. Some of these needs include:

- Legislative Autonomy for the Tobago House of Assembly
- Relative economic independence through predictable budgetary measures, strategic development and diversification
- The delivery of improved Central Government Services
- Regularization of Land Tenure
- Tertiary education
- Infrastructure upgrades
- Improved people-centered programmes.

In this context the Vision, Mission Statements and Master Strategy of MTD are:

#### **Vision Statement**

***To be a dynamic, innovative, people-centred, service-driven organization that facilitates the sustainable development of Tobago.***

#### **Mission Statement**

***To facilitate and support the sustainable development of the Human Capital and Natural Resources of Tobago, in collaboration with Central Government and the Tobago House of Assembly, through building strong partnerships and coordinating projects and service deliveries in a professional and timely manner.***

***Master Strategy***

***MTD will continuously focus on the sustainable development of Tobago.***

***STRATEGIC THEMES***

***These are the eight (8) strategic themes on which the desired outcomes in 2017 will be built:***

***Theme 1      Ensuring high management performance within MTD***

***Theme 2      Maintaining excellence in service delivery of MTD's mandate***

***Theme 3      Improving the efficacy of operations***

***Theme 4      Establishing key networks to deliver MTD's mandate***

***Theme 5      Partnering with relevant stakeholders in increasing Tobago's contribution to national GDP***

***Theme 6      Harnessing and developing the Human Capital of Tobago***

***Theme 7      Improving the brand of the MTD***

***Theme 8      Facilitating devolution and greater autonomy of Tobago through Constitutional Reform***

## **The Community Liaison Unit**

### **About this unit**

The Community Liaison Unit is a sub unit under the Human Capital Development Unit of the Ministry of Tobago Development. The unit's mandate is to function as an outreach body to the population in an effort to assess individual needs. In its quest to achieve the Ministry's goal the unit is engaged in building and strengthening partnerships with a number of agencies. The unit also functions as the "eyes and ears" of the Ministry, given the frequency with which it interfaces with the public.

This unit was specifically created to carry out the mandate of Pillars 1 & 2 of the Ministry's Strategic Plan: People Centred Development and Poverty Eradication and Social Justice. It aims to build productive partnerships with the THA, NGO's, FBO's, various organizations and stakeholders to improve the public's awareness of what services are available and what can be offered to them. This unit plays its part by bringing about meaningful change to the lives of the less fortunate in society.

This Unit also endeavours to empower and equip Tobagonians to achieve self-sustaining economic growth and development through its focus on development that meets the needs of the present without compromising future generations.

### **Achievements:**

The Community Liaison Unit engaged in various activities geared toward bridging the gap between members of the communities across Tobago and the Ministry of Tobago Development. As a result, **members of the public have benefitted from:**

1. **Increased “community connect” meetings** throughout Tobago aimed at informing the public about the Ministry’s social programmes, such as the People Helping People (PHP), Helping Our People Elevate – Human Development (HOPE-HD) and Women 4 Women (W4W) programmes.
2. Facilitated One-on-one discussions with the Honourable Minister of Tobago Development at each community connect meeting.
3. **Visitations from Community Liaison Officers and attachés to over three thousand four hundred and thirty-three (3433) households**, resulting in:
  - Seven hundred and fourteen (714) homes were referred to the National Commission for Self Help and eleven (11) families were assisted.
  - One hundred and twenty (120) families were referred to the Ministry of the People, food card office and one hundred and seventy-seven (177) received temporary food

cards from the Community Liaison Unit under the patronage of the Minister of Tobago Development.

- Three hundred and sixty-six (366) families received food hampers.
- Forty-three (43) physically challenged people were assisted by the Ministry with wheel chairs, commodes, walkers and beds.
- One hundred and twenty (120) mothers received tokens from the Ministry for Mother's Day.
- Thirty-two (32) fathers received tokens from the Ministry for Father's Day.
- Eighty-seven (87) persons were referred to the Tobago House of Assembly for assistance with social challenges and work related matters.
- New home reconstruction and funding assistance.
- Local community fora, geared toward greater public discussion and awareness on the matter of Constitutional Reform awareness.
- The distribution of twenty-one thousand dollars (\$21,000.00) to one resident of the Bon Accord community to help off-set expenses incurred from treatment of a severe medical condition.

## **The Non-Governmental Organisation Support Unit**

### **About this unit**

The Ministry of Tobago Development is mandated to ensure the delivery of services that meet the government's goal of 'Innovation for lasting Prosperity' based on the seven interconnected



development pillars as outlined in the *Framework for Sustainable Development*; with special focus on Pillars 1 & 2 People Centred Development and Poverty Eradication and Social Justice. In order to accomplish this mandate the Ministry has recognized that it cannot do it alone, but must partner with NGOs and other organs of civil society in a democratic effort to effectively deliver service to the people.

**Achievements:**

At present, the NGO Support Unit boasts a partnership with over two hundred (200) NGOs in Tobago, whose initial successes and paths toward sustainability, depend on these government/non-government partnerships. The creation of these partnerships through the provision of both technical and financial support enhances Tobago's development and creates meaningful interventions needed in today's society. As such, via the intrepid and selfless efforts of the NGO Support Unit, **the public continues to benefit from:**

1. **The provision of larger monetary grants/subventions;**
2. Short term staffing and non-monetary support to civil society organizations known to play a vital role in the Tobago society.
3. **The provision of a range of support services aimed at building capacity and economic self-sufficiency.** These services include but are not limited to the following:
  - Support in Proposal Writing;
  - Filing and document retrieval systems;
  - ICT support and Teleconferencing facilities;
  - Marketing and Advertising;

- Group Dynamics and Management training;
- Networking;
- Alternative national and international funding sources.

4. **Greater transparency in the commissioning and distribution of funding** to NGOs by the establishment of a Financial Aid Committee (FAC), chaired by the Deputy “Chief Accountant.” The objectives are to review and approve all applications for financial assistance and evaluate the success of all approved applications

5. **Public and Community relations:**

- “Meet the people” campaigns aimed at educating NGOs on proper protocol for requesting funding, financial intelligence, record keeping etc.
- Approval of two hundred (200) requests for monetary support
- Registration of over two hundred and fifty (250) NGOs

6. **Provided financial and technical assistance offered for:**

- The Village Football Cup which benefitted three hundred (300) young men and women on the island of Tobago
- The hosting of the 1st Annual Tobago Netball Knockout Tournament aimed at fostering camaraderie among the young women of Tobago within the sporting arena
- The Tobago Wind ball Cricket Competition which saw a total of ten teams registering from all over Tobago. It also gave young adults the opportunity to interact with professional coaches and veterans of the sport of cricket.

## **Government Assistance for Harmon School of S.D.A**

7. The Cabinet of Trinidad and Tobago has approved a commitment in conferring Government Assisted School status to the Harmon School of Seventh Day Adventists (S.D.A) On December 20th 2012, the Minister of Tobago Development, the Honourable Dr. Delmon Baker announced this very significant development. This provides resources and significant financial support at an estimated cost of TT\$100 million dollars per year which will cover hundreds of students' tuition and school fees. The Government's assistance also provides for the payment of salaries to teachers as well as the maintenance for the operation of the school. This initiative was started by the Tobago House of Assembly, and vigorously pursued by the Ministry of Tobago Development following extensive discussions and deliberations with representatives of the S.D.A Trinidad Conference, Tobago Mission and Ministry of Education Officials.
  
8. **A Medical Exposition** where senior medical practitioners, assisted by medical students, offered necessary primary health care services at no charge to young and elderly members of the Plymouth and Lois D'or communities.
  
9. **Funding issued toward the construction of the homes of many Tobagonians.**
  
10. An approximate two million, two hundred and eighty eight thousand and nine dollars and twenty two cents (**\$2,288,009.22**) in cheques and discretionary grants distributed during the period 2012 – 2015 to the following organisations:
  - **December, 2012** – Roxborough Police Youth Club; Best Centre; Belle Garden Fisher Folk Association; Bloody Bay Fisher Folk Association; Music Makers; St. Michaels Anglican Mothers' Union; African Women's Association; Parlatuvier Village Council;

Speyside High School; Ebenezer Methodist Primary School; Kiwanis Club; Airport Authority; Jeremiah Primary School; Candle Institute; St. Luke's Mothers' Union.

- **April, 2013** - T&T National Friendly Society; Belle Garden Fisher Folk Association; Anse Fromager Eco.; C&B Promotions; Carib Dixieland; Dem Bago Boyz; Fisher Folk Association; Tobago Golf Academy; Tobago Visual Arts; Dominion Promotions; Scarborough Football League; Our Boys Steel Orchestra; Music Amateurs; Autotrax; Junior Gold Academy; Fisher Folk Association; Tobago Dark Warriors Kick Boxing Federation.
- **June, 2013** - Montgomery Primary School; Buccooneers Steel Orchestra; St. Clair's Coaching School; Delaford SDA Church; Logwood Park Church of God; Hills United Sports and Cultural Organization; Bethel Village Council; Cadel Trading Ltd. (All Fisher Folk Association).
- **August, 2013** - Youths of Tobago; Montgomery Steel Ensemble; Seaview Sports Club; Boys Brigade; Scarborough Brownies; Junior Girls Guide; Bread of Life Ministry; Bethel Sports & Cultural Organization; Mason Hall Pentecostal Church; Drummers of Tomorrow; Castara Fisher Folk Association; Montgomery Moravian Men on the Move; Plymouth Fisher Folk Association; Parlatuvier Fisher Folk and Parlatuvier Village Council.

- **September, 2013** - Buccoo Village Council; Soroptomist International; Goodwood Initiative to be a Vanguard; Lorna Lashley Save the Children; Golden Lane Village Council; Zenith Athletic Club; Anglican Diocese; Vogue Promotions.
- **January, 2014** - Bethel Sports and Cultural Organization; Phoenix Masters Over 40; Bagatelle Dutty Camp; Calder Hall Youth Foundation; Moravian Church, Buccoo; Moriah Crusaders Pentecostal Band; Pan Trinbago-C&B Crown Cordaans; Pan Trinbago-Central Symphony; Pan Trinbago-Dem Boyz; Pan Trinbago- Our Boys; Pan Trinbago-Uptown Fascinators; Pan Trinbago- Westside Symphony; Pan Trinbago-Get Down On it; Pan Trinbago- Hope Pan Groovers; Pan Trinbago-Metro Stars; Pan Trinbago- New Vision Steel Orchestra; Pan Trinbago-Pan Fanatics; Trinidad and Tobago Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Tobago Cultural Committee.
- **February, 2014** - Healing Tabernacle; HUSH; Buccoo Village Council; Calvary Road Deliverance Temple; Carnbee/Mt. Pleasant Community Council; The Candle Institute; National Association of Athletics Administration; Pan Trinbago- Steel Sensations; Signal Hill Alumni Choir; Trinidad and Tobago Police Service- ASP Discipline; Trinidad & Tobago- Red Cross.
- **March, 2014** - Best Centre; Canaan SDA Church; Church of God, Mt. St. George; National Evangelical Spiritual Baptist Church; St. Francis Spiritual Baptist Church; St. Thomas AC Church; Jesus is the Answer- Women Ministry; Life and Health

Foundation; Phoenix Masters – Over 40; Tobago Junior Academy; New Heritage Christian Fellowship.

- **June, 2014** - Mt. Paran Perseverance Spiritual Baptist Church; Nakaisha Legerton; Over Dew Sports Club; Pan Trinbago; Pentecostal Life & Light Foundation Chess Club; Plymouth Fishermen's Association; Youth for Christ Trinidad & Tobago; L'Anse Fourmi Women with a Vision; Bon Accord Government Primary School; Tobago Netball League; Maranatha Christian Assembly.
- **August, 2014** - African Union; Belle Garden Anglican School; Bread of Life Ministries; Charlotteville Methodist Primary School; Divine Restoration Worship; Ebenezer Methodist Primary School; Fountain of Life Ministries; Healing with Horses; Maranatha Christian Assembly; Mason Hall Secondary School; North Regional SDA Primary School; North West District of SDA; Patience Hill Government School; Phoenix Masters Over 40; Sandy River SDA Church; Sea View Sports Club; Signal Hill Secondary School; Stokely Vale Sports Club; Trinbago United Calypsonians Organisation; Zenith Athletic Club; North West District of SDA; Golden Lane Community Council; Stokely Vale Sports Club; Plymouth Fisherman's Association; Plymouth Fisherman's Association ( Mr & Mrs. Tobago Star).
- **October, 2014** - Carnbee/Mt. Pleasant Sports Club; Mary's Hill SDA; Montgomery Steel Ensemble; Anglican Church, Plymouth; Bloody Bay Fisherman; Carib Dixieland Steel Orchestra; Holy Ghost Revival Intercessors Assembly; Lambeau Village Council; Patience Hill Village Council; Parlatuvier Sports & Cultural Mentors; Westside

Symphony Orchestra; Solomon's Court Mystical Healing School; Trinidad and Tobago Regiment; Trinidad and Tobago Cadet Force-Third Battalion.

11. Special attention and financial assistance were given to seven (7) visually impaired persons; an initiative costing approximately forty five thousand (\$45,000) dollars

## **The Project Development & Implementation (PDI) Unit**

### **About this unit**

The Project Development and Implementation Unit (PDI) is a sub-unit of the Planning, Research and Project Implementation Unit of the Ministry. It was formed for the purpose of overseeing the implementation of development projects to be undertaken by the M.T.D. It is expected that these projects serve as a pathway for enhancing the growth and development of the island of Tobago.

### **Achievements**

Since its formation, the Project Development Implementation Unit has achieved projects from which **the public can now benefit. These projects include:**

1. **The construction of the New Meteorological (MET) Services building in Tobago** which will further benefit the public by:
  - Creating a professional space where new and cutting-edge technologies can be utilised for continued monitoring and supplying of accurate and timely weather data to all civil aviation interests and other important stakeholders, including ensuring Tobago

is prepared to face the challenges of hurricanes and related natural occurrences. This project is to be completed by June, 2015.

- Relocating to a new and expansive location, thus, creating additional space for the expansion of the ANR International Airport.

2. **The rehabilitation, renovation & repurposing of the Central Administrative Services**

Tobago (C.A.S.T) Building as an Iconic Historical Centre, to commence in May, 2015.

Several consultancies have been engaged to complete architectural designs, interior designs and historical research content.

- The building, constructed in 1950, is flanked by Jerningham Street at the front/main facade; Hamilton Street at the back entrance; and the Assembly Legislature Building on its left. Until recently, served as office facilities for the Treasury Department, Human Resources and Accounting Units of the Ministry of Tobago Development. It has primarily been utilised by local government agencies and ministries since its construction. This new initiative seeks to completely convert the building's functionality with a special focus on recording, preserving and showcasing Tobago's rich Governance history.

3. The successful relocation of staff from this antiquated structure to the new Ministry of Development Headquarters at Singh's Building, Orange Hill Road, Scarborough.

4. The construction of several Human Capital Development (HCD) Centres scheduled to be completed by in the second quarter of 2015.

- **The Hampden HCD Centre**, to be equipped with videoconferencing capabilities.



- **The Bethel HCD Centre (BEST Centre)** which will focus on providing adult literacy and numeracy, agro-processing & CXC continuing education.
  - **The Mason Hall HCD Centre** which will host the Women 4 Women and People Helping People programmes for the northern areas of Tobago. It will incorporate three (3) vertical farm/hydroponics demonstration centres with reading, training rooms and ICT/computer training facilities.
  - **The Castara HCD Centre** which will be a special-purpose training facility that will facilitate the operations of a Dairy Processing Plant, in collaboration with the newly formed, Tobago Island Dairies Cooperative Society.
  - **The Roxborough H.C.D Centre** which will incorporate offices in East Tobago to accommodate the Registrar General Department that will provide services to individuals and businesses in the rural peripheral communities of Roxborough, such as Bloody Bay, Goldsborough, L'Anse Fourmi & Speyside.
5. **The creation of the Rocky Point Coastal Park** through partnership between the Ministry of Tobago Development and the E-Teck Company. This Coastal Park will be developed at Rocky Point and it will offer training programmes and projects relating to Horticulture and Landscaping. The historical significance and present use of the site makes it ideal for the island's first Coastal Marine Park.
6. **The retrofitting of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors of the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB),**  
to house the office of the Board of the Human Capital Development Facilitation Company Limited (HCDFCL) and Project Development and Implementation (PDI) Unit.

## **The Planning, Research and Project Implementation Unit (PRPIU)**

### **About this unit**

The Planning, Research and Project Implementation Unit (PRPIU) of the Ministry of Tobago Development, provides socio-economic planning, research and project management services to the ministry and its clients. Its primary objective is “to aid in the creation of a diversified, knowledgeable intensive Tobago economy, by facilitating projects that can become significant economic drivers; through community-based & indigenous industries, downstream energy-based industries, merging industries.”

Services offered by this Unit include:

- The development of business and the creation of new industries
- Sector analysis and visioning
- Project development and implementation facilitation

Out of the service to develop existing industries and to create new ones, the Small Watercraft sub-unit was established, charged with developing the fishing industry in Tobago

### **About the Small Watercraft sub-unit**

The Small Watercraft Unit was established to focus on developing the small watercraft fishing industry in Tobago. The main objectives of this sub-unit of the Planning, Research and Project Implementation Unit is to procure safety and monitoring systems & technologies, then distribute these technologies to the fishermen (commonly termed “fisher-folk”) of Tobago. In so doing, value would be added to the fishing industry, hence improving the livelihood of Tobago’s fisher-folk.

### **Achievements:**

Based on the responsibilities of this unit, **the fisher folk and the public now benefit from:**

1. The distribution of equipment to the fishermen of Tobago:
  - GPS Plotter/Fish Finder;
  - Transducers;
  - 4-D Charts Caribbean;
  - Floating handheld VHF Radio devices with built-in GPS and glow in the dark.

2. Five (5) field offices in the areas of Buccoo, Plymouth, Castara, Delaford, Belle Garden and will be outfitting them with desks, chairs, kitchen appliances, telephones and security systems.
3. The outfitting of seventy-five (75) boats with Global Positioning System (GPS) devices, sonar fish finding devices and marine batteries
4. Increased Data Collectors under the SWCU in 13 areas (landing sites) in Tobago
5. The launch of the official Small Watercraft Monitoring Project on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015
6. Future installation of rectifiers, tracking equipment and smart phones.
7. Increasing amounts and sizes of fish-catch within the modern fishing industry in Tobago: 150lbs, 252lbs and 300lbs respectively.

## **The Investment, Diversification and Development Economic Section (IDEDS)**

### **About this unit**

The Investment, Diversification and Economic Development Section (IDEDS) was created within the Ministry of Tobago Development to meet the need for support and development of the private sector of Tobago's economy in-keeping with Pillars 5 & 2 of the Ministry's Strategic Plan: *A more diversified, knowledge intensive economy-building on the native genius of our people and Poverty Eradication and Social justice.*

The purpose of the IDEDS is to benefit Tobagonians and the focus is to close the gap between the different social and economic castes in the Tobagonian society by providing a variety of employment and income generating options.

**Achievements:**

This unit has engaged in a rebate and refund drive. Based on this drive, **the public has benefitted from:**

1. **A distribution of over three thousand five hundred (3,500) fruit trees and over fifty pounds (50lbs) of plant seeds of various species to registered members of the Tobago Agricultural Society (TAS) and members of the Ministry's staff.** The objective of this project was to increase the fruit trees on the island thereby providing fruits for any local manufacturing cottage industry.
2. **A Business Education Workshop, July 2014:** This project took place in Plymouth and in Scarborough. Guest lecturers guided the participants and trained them in business plan/proposal writing, packaging and distribution, and cash management and record keeping. Approximately 22 farmers, agro-processors and other small-business persons attended the sessions over a five-day period.

3. **A Chocolate Making Workshop** which took place at the Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute in Mt. St. George in June 2014. This was a (3) three-day workshop that was well attended. The objective of the workshop was to assist in developing entrepreneurship aimed at creating a more diversify the economy by building on the native genius of the people. The workshop dealt with cocoa storage, processing and care, chocolate making, and the science of chocolate. A completion certificate was awarded to participants.
4. **The awarding of grants to the first group of recipients.** In this ceremony, a total of five hundred and ninety five thousand (\$595,000) dollars was given to various applicants in an effort to help foster the entrepreneurial spirit on the island. Some of these grants assisted businesses in the following areas: agricultural supplies distribution, goat farming, rabbit farming, fruit processing, fish processing, nursery construction, food delivery, ice-cream making, candle & soap making.

## **The Human Capital Development (HCD) Unit**

### **About this unit**

The Human Capital Development Unit of the Ministry of Tobago Development is a principal unit of the Ministry charged with ensuring that opportunities for developing the human resource of Tobago are available and fully operational. It is responsible for implementing, managing and overseeing the following major social programmes in Tobago:

1. The Helping Our People Elevate – Human Development (H.O.P.E.-HD) programme
2. The People Helping People (PHP) programme
3. The Women 4 Women (W4W) programme

### **About the HOPE-HD Programme**

The Helping Our People Elevate – Human Development (HOPE-HD) programme plays an integral part within the Ministry of Tobago Development’s outreach training ventures geared toward sustainable, people-centred and human capital development. The Ministry of Tobago Development’s HOPE project is “a comprehensive skills training program which the Ministry of Tobago Development hopes will train over 500 young people” with the aim of “providing skills, knowledge, and competencies that will enhance workers' abilities to secure and retain a job.

The key areas of training are within, Customer Service, Office Administration, Computer Repairs, General Services, Agro Business Development and Meteorological Services.” The HOPE-HD programme equips Tobagonians with skills needed in the thrust toward development in Tobago. A few more of those skills include:

- Hospitality services;
- Mobile cellular repairs;
- General construction (masonry etc.)

### **Achievements:**

With the upcoming graduation of students from the first cycle of the HOPE HD programme and the successful launch of the second cycle of this programme, whereby over one hundred (100) students have **benefitted from**:

1. Highly skilled labour from graduates trained within the Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (CVQ) Framework.
2. The natural manufacturing, production and marketing of honey, derived from students involved in the bee-keeping classes.
3. Young Tobagonians trained and certified in:
  - a. Life skills;
  - b. CPR;
  - c. Swimming and/or life guard services;
  - d. Driving.
4. Increased levels of employability and marketability among the youth population in Tobago.
5. A young workforce of skilled tradesmen and women.
6. Scholarships and career opportunities for your sons and daughters within the meteorological services.

### **About the People Helping People (PHP) programme**

The People Helping People (PHP) programme was launched in September of 2014 with the aim of providing vocational training to Tobagonians, both male and female in order that they



become skilled assets toward the development of the Tobagonian society. The programme provides adult men and women with training in the following industrious fields:

- Plumbing;
- Draughtsmanship;
- Quality Assurance;
- Masonry, building and construction;
- Painting;
- Carpentry etc.

This programme was also launched with the following objectives:

- To help young person's acquire certified skills
- To facilitate employment
- To help in alleviating poverty
- To help the disabled, the deprived and those affected by natural disasters
- To train and certify the unskilled and the skilled
- To execute minor repairs and restoration works whereby material and labour would be supplied to those who qualify.
- To pursue and implement training sessions for the participants as a prelude to certification

**Achievements of the PHP programme:**

Given the objectives and charge of the PHP programme, **the public has benefitted from:**

1. A cross-section of the Tobagonian society, trained in various skills, whereby participants of the programme carried out the following projects:

- Assisting in the renovating of the Redemption Sound Settlers headquarters, Bethel
- Constructing annexes, restoring roofs, renovating buildings, installing plumbing systems and fixtures, as well as casting concrete foundations to dwelling homes in Mason Hall, Castara, Bloody Bay, Speyside, Culloden and Scarborough.
- Special construction of a driveway at Speyside to facilitate the differently-abled

### **About the Women 4 Women programme**

The Women 4 Women programme, according to the *Women 4 Women Policy Document*, is a project “designed to reduce the levels of poverty among women and their households, through the provision of training that would empower and improve livelihoods.” It was established to provide a functional level of literacy among the female adult population using four (4) components:

- Non-formal/livelihoods vocational skills training
- Entrepreneurial support in the form of business skills training
- Support service to a cross-section of the poor and/or illiterate female adults
- Access to start-up capital and business development

## **Achievements:**

Since the launch of the programme in September 2014, **the public has benefitted and continues to benefit from:**

1. Two hundred (200) women between the ages of 25 – 55 from the east, west, north and central zones of Tobago, educated and trained and equipped with practical knowledge and skills-sets within the following areas:
  - i. Customer service protocol
  - ii. The fundamentals of Entrepreneurship
  - iii. Art, Craft and Interior Design
  - iv. Beauty Therapy
  - v. Hair Dressing
  - vi. Massage Therapy
  - vii. Culinary Arts
  - viii. Heritage Tourism
  - ix. Agriculture
  - x. Computer Literacy
2. Public exhibitions, sales and marketing of useful craft and aesthetic products and services
3. A cancer awareness drive, planned and executed by the women of the programme, whereby preventative information and advice were shared with members of the public; including preliminary examinations.

## **The Tobago Matters and Inter-Ministerial Coordination (TMIC) Unit**

### **About this unit**

The Tobago Matters and Inter-Ministerial Coordination (TMIC) Unit is a unit created to bridge the gap between the ministries and agencies serving Tobago by boosting the efficacious delivery of their services. It treats with matters concerning Tobago which are in conjunction with the Sixth and Seventh Schedules of the THA Act No. 40 of 1996.

The mission of this unit is “to serve as the conduit through which human, community and nation-building projects can be implemented, for the people of Tobago, through the utilization of all resources available within Trinidad and Tobago.”

The core responsibilities and functions of the Tobago Matters Inter-Ministerial Coordination are to:

- Ensure meaningful interactions with the various Ministries and Agencies, on a weekly basis, so that all projects under the seven interconnected Pillars for Sustainable Development are achieved in a timely manner.
- Maintain the effective and efficient functioning of the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Unit under the MTD through constant communication with the respective bodies.
- Contribute to the socio-economic transformation of Tobago, based on the Government’s Pillars of Economic Development, through the timely completion of projects by all agencies.

- Liaise with all Ministerial point persons on matters under the Sixth and Seventh Schedules of the THA Act No. 40 of 1996.
- Oversee the implementation of programs and projects, within the purview of the Sixth and Seventh Schedules and jurisdiction of the Inter-Ministerial portfolio, in order to obtain data for effective reporting.

### **Achievements:**

Based on its core responsibility and function to contribute to the socio-economic transformation of Tobago, **the public has benefitted from:**

1. A completed and fully functional gas station in the town of Roxborough. This gas station was completed and officially opened in January 2013. The people of East Tobago are now being adequately served with a modern and efficiently functioning gas station.

### **Constitution Reform for Tobago:**

- The Constitution Reform Forum in Tobago. In February 2012, when the Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago commissioned a three-member Committee to hold Public Consultations on a Green Paper entitled, *“Towards Internal Self-Government for Tobago”*; The Ministry of Tobago Development played a key role in facilitating the Tobago-leg of the Public Consultations. The Ministry is instrumental in matters relating to constitutional reform, the THA Act and the process of self-government and sees its role as necessary, in educating the people and toward the end recently conclude an eleven-part series titled *“The Peoples’ Forum”* a discussion on constitution reform in several communities across Tobago. The MTD along with brilliant legal, political and economic minds, led discussions on the number of issues that continues to challenge internal self-government for Tobago. Topics included the following:

- Law making power of Parliament
- Law making power of the Tobago Legislature
- Sovereignty of Parliament on matters outside the Tobago Schedules
- Delegated Powers
- Law of Sea: Territorial boundaries limitation
- The Tobago List-Finance, Education, Land use, Security
- The Concurrent List-Tertiary Education, Education, Energy and Energy Affairs and Public Infrastructure.

**The TMIC Unit** has successfully completed hosting twelve sessions of the Constitution Reform Forum which was held at the Ministry of Tobago Development Building and in villages throughout Tobago. These sessions were geared towards sensitising the public about the role of the Ministry of Tobago Development and other matters that relate to Tobago and the Constitution.

## **The General Services Department**

### **About this unit**

The Services Department also known as the General Services Department is a unit consisting of the following sub-units:

- **Registry**
- **Stores**

- **Facilities Management**

This Unit is primarily responsible for the overall general upkeep of the Ministry of Tobago Development. Because of its nature, this unit acts as the repository for official files and correspondence, as well as the appropriate distribution of these documents and files.

**Achievements:**

The refund and rebate programme, sanctioned by cabinet in 2012 for individuals needing medical assistance and two accompanying passengers to receive rebates and refunds on travel airfare.

**Full, Advance; Return Airfare – Taking care of Tobago’s Medical Needs**

1. The Cabinet of Trinidad and Tobago has approved the provision of a full, advance, return airfare of (\$300.00) to Tobago residents who require medical assistance in Trinidad, which is not available in Tobago. This significant announcement was made by Minister of Tobago Development; Dr. the Honourable Delmon Baker at a post cabinet news conference in October 2012. Additionally, this same provision will be made available for one adult to accompany that person. This will be done through the Ministry of Tobago Development and will replace the previous arrangement, whereby a rebate of one hundred and seventy five dollars (\$175.00) was granted to persons requiring medical attention in Trinidad, after the medical service was received. It was recognised that there were Tobagonians who could not afford to travel to Trinidad and have to wait to be seen at the clinics in Tobago, which at times can take up to ninety (90) days. He

highlighted that patients requiring ENT (Ear, Nose, Throat), orthopaedic and other specialist attention sometimes have to travel to Trinidad for urgent attention or even for their regular clinic appointments.

**How this process works** is that the Financial Assistance Committee at the Ministry of Tobago Development will examine the doctor's report of the person and determine whether or not the medical attention is necessary in order to preserve life. Once the criteria are met, the airline tickets will be provided for that person and accompanying adult. This service has come into full effect from January 2013 and can be accessed at the Ministry of Tobago Development. To date over fifty persons have benefitted from this service being provided through the Ministry of Tobago Development.

## **The Facilities Unit**

### **About this unit**

A sub-department of the Services Unit, this unit is primarily responsible for building maintenance of the Ministry of Tobago Development and the various offices that fall under the purview of the Ministry of Tobago Development. It provides assistance and support to other units of the Ministry of Tobago Development, namely:

- Procurement of furniture, furnishings and other minor equipment purchases
- Procurement of goods and services
- Provision of office stationery and supplies
- Procurement of office accommodation and maintenance thereof



- Messenger, transport, security and janitorial services

**Achievements:**

The Facilities Unit has been assiduously working toward the development of both the Ministry of Tobago Development and the development of the people of Tobago in general.

Consequently, **the public can now benefit from:**

7. **A new Human Capital Development (HCD) Unit located in Hampden Lowlands.** This facility houses the Helping Our People Elevate (HOPE) Centre. This centre continues to train young men and women of Tobago in literacy, numeracy, entrepreneurship, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and other vocational areas within general construction, hospitality, customer services, general services and computer & cell phone repairs. This building will be officially opened in May 2015.
8. **The relocation of the Central Administrative Services Tobago (CAST)** from the antiquated structure located on Jerningham Street, Scarborough, into the newly outfitted headquarters, Singh's Building (now MTD Building), Orange Hill Road, Scarborough. This move benefits Tobagonians, as it provides over 60% of the ministry's services, under one roof.
9. **A new gym located at the ministry's headquarters.** The facilities unit was responsible for assisting the smooth transferral of gym equipment from the USA to Trinidad, then to Tobago. Now Tobagonians can benefit considerably from the new state-of-the art exercise equipment that promises health advantages to the average health seeker.

10. **A new Day-care centre**, also located at the ministry's headquarters, Orange Hill Road, Scarborough. The unit aided in the physical construction of a safe environment for children between three (3) months and three (3) years. This Day-care is currently open to employees of the Ministry of Tobago Development and **all** participants of the human capital development social programmes, such as the Woman 4 Women, People Helping People and Helping Our People Elevate programmes.

11. **The newly built conference and meeting rooms** located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Ministry of Tobago Development headquarters, Orange Hill Road, Scarborough. Members of the public and external partners of the Ministry of Tobago Development can now benefit from a more spacious meeting place.

### **Key Achievements of Ministry of Tobago Development**

- Championed the cause for internal self-government for Tobago and legislative autonomy for Tobago by attempting to enshrine provisions to increase Tobago's minimum share of the national budget from 4.03% to 6.9% and the maximum from 6.9% to 8%.
- Two million dollars distributed to over 150 NGO groups over a three year period, with evidence of sustainability.
- In alliance with the Office of the Prime Minister and the national Gas Company, one million dollars donated toward the preservation of one of Tobago's oldest historical edifices: the Methodist Church built in 1795.
- Distributed \$400,000 to forty recipients in need of financial assistance, in partnership with the National Commission for Self-Help.
- Official outfitting and opening of the M.T.D headquarters and Gym located at Orange Hill Road, Scarborough.

- Collaborated with the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training in providing a NESC.PTSC Trade School where ten trainees are being enrolled.
- Provided a functional gas service station in the district of Roxborough equipped with modern amenities.
- In alliance with the Ministry of Legal Affairs, formed and implemented committees toward the regularization of land titles; forming various public consultations geared toward educating Tobagonians on the many aspects of land registration/acquisition.
- Championed the cause for internal self-government and legislative autonomy for Tobago by attempting to enshrine provisions to increase Tobago's minimum share of the national budget from 4.03% to 6.9% and the maximum from 6.9% to 8%.
- Another two million dollars (\$2,000,000) vested toward providing safety, monitoring and tracking equipment for the fisher-folk of Tobago, culminating with an official launch and outfitting of fishing vessels on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
- Facilitated new appointments of seven (7) Commissioners of Affidavits, three (3) Justices of the Peace and ten (10) Marriage Officers for Tobago; an undertaking that has not been done in the last fifteen to eighteen years.
- Facilitated, established and funded three (3) social programmes: *HOPE HD*, *Women 4 Women* and *People Helping People*; all contributing toward the social and economic development of 480 young women & men throughout Tobago.
- Contributed toward two (2) young Tobagonians' appointments to the Consulate General in New York and the High Commission of London to promote international commerce and tourism.

- Unveiling of the Ministry's Flag, Logo and Colours.
- Launching of the Ministry's Webpage ([www.mtd@gov.tt](http://www.mtd@gov.tt)).
- Launching of the Ministry's official theme song titled 'Working to Build.'

# THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

## THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (OPM)

### **Office of the Prime Minister Strategic Plan (2011-2014 and 2015-2020)**

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) was one of the first to submit and obtain Cabinet approval for its Strategic Plan 2011-2014 which was produced at no cost to the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT) as it was developed internally by the Policy, Strategy and Government Performance Management Division.

An appropriate planning model was developed in keeping with current “*best practice*” of most organizations with the focus on key Strategic Areas for strengthening the process of goal development and major operating departments/functions of the Office. Under these Strategic Areas specific goals were developed and listed for 2011 and beyond. Two of the major objectives identified under this planning period included the Integrated Performance Management System (IPMS) and the Information, Resolution and Communication Portal (IRCP) (this will be discussed in detail in the following section).

In keeping with the planning process and in consideration of the changes in the environment, the OPM has engaged in further continuation of the process for the period 2015-2020. Some of the major objectives identified under this planning process include:

- **National Satisfaction Index-** A framework and structure was developed during the 2011-2014 planning period to determine levels of well-being, satisfaction of the population and areas in which government can intervene to provide improvement. This diagnostic will engage the population in the 2015-2020 strategic period in order to guide national policy.
- **Expand IPMS into a complete Project Management System-** Standardization of a national Project Management System for monitoring and evaluating all Government Projects.
- **Develop Culture of Innovation in the OPM-** Undertake a cultural audit to develop and implement a programme for encouraging an innovative culture in the organization.
- **Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Policy-** Develop an ERM policy through preparation of a sensitization ERM paper.

### **Integrated Performance Management System (IPMS)**

The IPMS was developed to integrate strategic planning, budgeting, reporting, performance measurement and organizational alignment in a single online interface for all projects and programmes undertaken by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

The system's functions provide reports that enhance decision making for increasing efficiency and effectiveness, transparency and accountability in the delivery of public goods and services by all Ministries, State Boards and Regional Corporations. The system currently produces analytical reports on overall Government, as well as, individual Ministries' performance across financial years; and allows policy makers the ability to make better decision and maximize the delivery of public sector services while optimizing scarce resources. In 2012 the IPMS was approved by Cabinet to become the central government performance and project management system.

### **Information, Resolution and Communication Portal (IRCP)**

The IRCP is an innovative and revolutionary system that provides real time, two way communication between the citizenry and the Head of the Public Service. The portal functions as a single stop online repository that houses all information on the state ranging from links to other ministries to a full listing of contact information for all Permanent Secretaries in the Civil Service.

The objective of the portal is to utilize technology to vastly improve service delivery and communication between the government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and its stakeholders. It is expected that a number of tangible benefits will be accrued from this initiative, primarily:

- The ability to monitor and improve service standards of delivery within the Public Service;
- Decision makers can proactively use data to engage in service process improvements;
- That the citizens can more effectively participate in providing feedback to the government on a number of issues and influence policy making; and
- Local and international users can access a one stop location to a plethora of information on the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

### **International Recognition**

Commonwealth Association for Public Administration (CAPAM)

The CAPAM International Innovations Awards recognize and celebrate innovation in the public service and are considered the most prestigious international awards in Public Service excellence. The awards are classified under four (4) categories:

- Innovations in Public Service Management
- Innovative Use of Technology in the Public Service
- Innovations in Government Services and Programmes
- Innovations in Citizen Engagement and Dialogue

The Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago was recognized in two (2) of the four (4) categories which the CAPAM awards celebrate. The IPMS was hailed as a semi-finalist under the category *“Innovative Use of Technology in the Public Service”*. At the Biennial Conference of CAPAM for 2014, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during the period 19-24 October 2014, the IRCP system was announced as the winner in the category *“Innovations in Citizen Engagement and Dialogue”*.



## **United Nations (UN)**

The United Nations Public Service Awards Programme (UNPSA), which is the most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service, rewards the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions to a more effective and responsive public administration in countries worldwide.

The awards are classified under four categories:

- Improving the Delivery of Public Services
- Fostering Participation in Policy Making Decisions through Innovative Mechanisms
- Promoting Whole of Government Approaches in the Information Age
- Promoting Gender Responsive Delivery of Public Services

The OPM was recognized in two (2) of the four (4) categories. The IRCP was a semi-finalist in the category *“Fostering Participation in Policy Making Decisions through Innovative Mechanisms”* and the IPMS was a finalist in the category *“Promoting Whole of Government Approaches in the Information Age”*.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- 95,000 laptops delivered to secondary school students entering Form 1
- Children’s Life Fund has saved 88 lives to date
- Increased Minimum Wage from \$9.00 to \$12.50
- Increased Old Age Pension to \$3000 per month
- Provided free public transport to school children and senior citizens

- Introduced the Rapid Bus Transport System on East-West Corridor providing a bus every 15mins
- Established COSTAATT campus in Sangre Grande
- Launched UTT Education Campus in Tobago
- Commenced construction of the University of the West Indies in Debe
- Completed the Scarborough General Hospital
- Started construction on the Children's Hospital in Couva
- The new, state of the art Chancery Lane Teaching Hospital opened in San Fernando
- Increased the level of benefits:
  - Sickness
  - Disability
  - Employment
  - Special Maternity
  - Injury
  - Grants under the NIB
- 6,714 families benefited from Food Cards
- 5000 lots distributed in 3 years under the Land for the Landless Programme
- 4,000 leases handed over to former Caroni employees
- Completed the construction and delivered over 3,400 residential lots for Caroni 1975 Ltd VSEP employees
- Completed and handed over the Chancery Lane Teaching Hospital, in San Fernando, a world-class facility, a project of the Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago
- Employed a 95% local labour force through UDeCOTT, in the construction of the Chancery Lane Teaching Hospital
- Close to 150,000 people to benefit from refurbished Water Treatment Plants across Trinidad, such as Clarke Road, Moruga, Fyzabad, Toco, Valencia, Mayaro, and North Oropouche
- More than 66,000 persons to benefit from improvements in water supply across Trinidad and Tobago, from the completion of 19 pipeline projects.
- Almost half of all WASA customers now receive a continuous 24/7 supply of water

#### **A secure Trinidad and Tobago**

- Over the last year alone, all serious crimes have been reduced by 30-60 percent and murders reduced by 25 percent.
- A National Security Operations Centre; a Rapid Response Unit; and a Counter Human Trafficking Unit were established.
- Dedicated Highway Patrols re-introduced.
- The Closed-Circuit Camera Network was expanded by 500 cameras throughout the country

#### **Food Prices ... increased food security**

- Reduction in Food Price Inflation Rate from 13.8% in January 2013 to 3.0% in September 2013
- Contribution of agriculture to GDP increased by 77% from 2009 to 2013
- Agricultural sector expanded by 5.1% in 2013 from 2014
- 2% reduction in food imports from 2010 to 2013
- Distribution of 580 acres of land for rice cultivation under the Government's Commercial Large Farms Programme (CLFP)
- 2,302 farmers received financial assistance through the Revised Agricultural Incentive Program to invest in materials, equipment, machinery and modern technology
- Removed VAT on 7,000 food items

#### **Creating economic stability**

- Low Inflation 5.6% and 5% unemployment
- Four consecutive quarters of economic growth
- Foreign Direct Investment of over US\$2.5 billion in 2012
- Launched the CLICO Investment Fund – 6,000 persons benefited from \$10 million in payout and 17,794 people benefited from \$132 million payout
- Increased agricultural output and consequent decrease in food inflation from 29% in 2010 to 9% in 2013
- Improvement of Ease of Doing Business now ranked 66<sup>th</sup> out of 189 countries; up from 69<sup>th</sup> in 2012

#### **Developing a skilled workforce**

- Launched the first training programme of the Aviation Institute of Trinidad and Tobago at the NHSL compound in Couva
- Launched the UTT Southern Academy of the Performing Arts - The UTT's Southern Academy of the Performing Arts (SAPA) was formally opened, together with the launch of the UTT Ramlila Institute and the Pan Institute which will both be based at SAPA
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Microsoft for the establishment of a local arm of Microsoft's youth in education and entrepreneurship project, YouthSpark to provide access to software solutions at State-operated academic institutions, as well as training for educators and students in the use of solutions.