

# CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago 2012 - 2013



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**THANK YOU**  
Professor George  
Maxwell Richards  
2003 - 2013



**WELCOME**  
**HIS EXCELLENCY**  
Anthony Carmona





The Government  
of the Republic of  
Trinidad and Tobago

## MESSAGE

From The Honourable Prime Minister  
of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

### TURNING THE CORNER

Three years ago, on May 24th 2010, there was a new dawn for Trinidad and Tobago when you gave your People's Partnership an overwhelming mandate to govern our country.

Our coalition was based on a commitment to solve national problems and govern with transparency and accountability. The Fyzabad Declaration of April 21, 2010 remains our treaty with you to create a just society where everyone is equal and where no one is denied an opportunity to grow and blossom. Together, we have started the change process that has delivered positive results all across our country, whether it is infrastructural development or social programmes and other essential services.

Today, your Government still stands united and we remain committed to the promise to serve. The diverse political interests that constitute our People's Partnership have maintained their respective philosophies, which allow for a unique form of participatory democracy in which we resolve issues through dialogue and consensus.

Our agreement to disagree remains our greatest asset. The People's Partnership flourishes because of our diversity and our ability to debate and resolve problems with a deep sense of maturity, focusing not on individuals and organisations but on the greater good of our country. Never before have the people been so close to government; never before has government been so close to the people.

Our priority in our first three years was to place significant emphasis on service, delivery and empowerment of the people.

Three years later we are turning the corner towards meaningful national development while bridging the social and economic divide. Economic indicators point to steady growth accompanied by decreasing levels of unemployment and reduction of the number of families and individuals who live below the poverty line.

Over the past three years we have faced many challenges and I am pleased to report that through focused and strong leadership we confronted each challenge head on and made the tough and sometimes unpopular decisions to get it right. Accountability and openness remained hallmarks of our administration.

Today we begin the next two years in our task of rebuilding our country and we invite you to continue to participate in the process. We pledge to never forget that we are in office to serve you.

The publication you are holding in your hands gives you a snapshot of our achievements over the past year. There's much more to be done and with God's help and your commitment, we'll build a secure future together.

We can do it if we banish fear, keep hope alive and continue to dream dreams. Let us push aside anger and embrace one another. This is our country, our only home. Together let us continue to build Trinidad and Tobago.

God bless our nation.

Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar,  
S.C., M.P.





The Government  
of the Republic of  
Trinidad and Tobago

# CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS 2012 - 2013

## FOREWORD

The Ministry of Communications is pleased to present this magazine highlighting some of the major achievements of the People's Partnership Government led by The Honourable Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar. It covers the period May 2012 to May 2013.

This is the third such publication which seeks to put on record the promises fulfilled by the People's Partnership, which was elected to serve in May 2010.

The common thread that runs through these achievements can be found in the philosophy of the Government that indicates that all plans and programmes emanating from any Ministry must touch one or all of these objectives. These objectives are to:

- grow the economy
- create jobs
- reduce poverty
- reduce crime.

Going through this magazine, you will find all of these objectives and certainly you will agree that the Government has achieved much on behalf of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Ministry of Communications is clear in its mandate that the people of Trinidad and Tobago have a right to know what its Government is doing and this magazine offers a guide through the various Ministries and their achievements over the past year.

What is clear is that we have a Government in action working on behalf of ALL the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Much has been achieved and much more has to be done. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is focused and determined to continue its mandate to serve the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

We commend this magazine to you and your family so that you will appreciate the extent of your Government's dedication to duty and willingness to deliver on its promises.

We celebrate this success with you and look forward to your continued support on behalf of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jamal S. Mohammed**  
Minister of Communications  
24th May, 2013



50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE  
**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**



# 1

## Crime & Law and Order



### Celebrating Our Achievements in National Security

#### Improving Organisational Structures & Systems

Organisational structures and systems were improved, thereby strengthening the capabilities of law enforcement agencies, through the establishment of: A National Disaster Risk Reduction Committee, An Electronic Monitoring Unit, A Firearms Database, A Digital Photography System and An Exhibit Management System.

#### Building Human Capacity

- 85 trainees graduated from the Police Academy from April-July 2012
- Entry of 389 new officers for the Enhanced Induction Training Programme to the Police Service from October 2010 – June 2012



#### Acquisition of Equipment

- Procurement of 190 police vehicles
- 200 police vehicles were equipped with GPS
- Commissioning of two helicopters for surveillance

#### Social Programmes to Prevent Crime

In addition to the Hoop of Life Initiative, several other programmes target at-risk youth:

- LIFESport Programme (training in boxing, athletics, basketball, football)
- Continuation of National Mentorship Programmes
- National Adopt-a-School Programme (training in netball, football and singing)







### Hoop of Life Brings Hope

Hoop of Life Brings Hope: The Ministry of National Security has embarked on a number of strategies, within the context of the Making Life Important (MLI) Programme, which is intended to target persons in “at-risk” communities thereby improving these citizens’ quality of life. The Hoop of Life Initiative, a sports-based strategy, is one such viable social intervention.

The Hoop of Life Community Basketball League is designed to provide an avenue for individual and team display of sporting talent and expertise, commitment to healthy sporting rivalry and the development of community peace, cohesion and prosperity. It is a community-centred approach to crime prevention and the improvement of community life. During this initial season, some 60 communities took part with players benefiting from free uniforms provided by the Government as well as travel and insurance benefits.



### New Police Stations and Upgrade of Prison Services


In order to improve enforcement facilities, construction has begun on eight new multimillion dollar police stations throughout the nation. These police stations which are located in La Brea, Oropouche, Arima, Maloney, Piarco, Cumuto, Brasso and Moruga will provide a suitable, comfortable environment for law enforcement

officers in their efforts at crime reduction and prevention. The Prison Services are benefiting from an upgrade to the Emergency Response Unit at Golden Grove and commencement of the Remand Prison Extension.

***“It is imperative that security takes centre stage so that our economies remain robust and continue to experience growth and prosperity.”***

*- The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar*





## Celebrating Our Achievements in the Office of the Attorney General

- Emerged victorious in the historic billion dollar OPV arbitration in London. British Aerospace Engineering Systems (BAE) paid \$1.4 billion dollars to the Government.
- The scandalous GTL transaction entered into under the former administration spawned billion dollar arbitrations in New York. This project cost Petrotrin \$2.7 billion dollars and the failed plant must now be sold as scrap metal. The International Court of Arbitration ruled that WGTL had breached its obligations under the guarantee contribution agreement and ordered the transfer of over nine million common shares to Petrotrin. GTL was also ordered to pay full legal costs.
- The Urban Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago ("UDeCOTT") has sued Hyatt hotel for the return of Owner's Remittances in excess of \$150 million dollars.
- Successfully defended a claim of over \$1.2 billion dollars against the State arising out of a gas supply agreement. The matter was settled with the State acquiring a lucrative 50 acre parcel of land on the Point Lisas Industrial Estate and a small payment.
- Took unprecedented action by suing a number of former board directors and officials for a wide range of breaches and violations.
- Managed over TT\$1 billion in legal claims which the Government faced upon assuming office as a result of the exorbitant cost overruns and mismanagement of several mega projects by the former administration.
- The contract price for the construction of the Scarborough General Hospital was \$140 million dollars. In the end, the cost was almost \$500 million dollars. Several complex construction disputes have arisen, which are at various levels in the Court system.
- There has been no legal challenge to the validity of the State of Emergency (SOE) because the AG provided proper legal advice to guide the PM and Cabinet. None of the persons who were detained by the police during the SOE have been successful in any claims for monetary compensation against the State.
- We have maintained a high rating in the area of International Law and Human Rights. Trinidad and Tobago completed its first ever Universal Periodic Review before the United Nations Human Rights Council. In March 2012, Trinidad and Tobago's National Report was officially adopted by the Human Rights Council.
- A Civil Child Abduction Authority has for the first time been established pursuant to the Hague Convention. To date Trinidad and Tobago has partnered with 48 countries in the world to protect the rights of children.
- After 18 years in the wilderness, new Commissioners of Affidavits (COAs) and Justices of the Peace have been finally appointed for the island of Tobago. The last COA for Tobago was appointed in 1995.
- Over 100 new marriage officers have been appointed throughout Trinidad and Tobago. They were chosen from all faiths and different parts of the country with an eye for diversity and equality.

# Celebrating Our Achievements in Justice

## Improving Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Judicial System

- Sites for the construction of new courts were identified at Trincity, Sangre Grande, Penal/Siparia and Carlsen Field.
- Plans commenced for construction of a state-of-the-art Forensics facility.
- Implementation of a pilot Drug Court in San Fernando, moving nonviolent drug crimes out of the overcrowded court system to one with court-supervised rehabilitation.
- Sourcing of a computerised Case Management System to facilitate case preparation and building for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.
- Improvements to legislation through:

- *Administration of Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Act, 2012*
- *Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act, 2012*
- *Amendments to the Legal Aid and Advice (Amendment) Act, 2012*
- *Joint Select Committee reported on Policy to inform Public Procurement Legislation*
- *Report on the National Consultation on Rent was finalised after public consultations. A policy will be developed to guide the formulation of legislation for the protection of landlords and tenants*
- *Development of a draft policy and legislation and new prison rules*
- *Revised Draft National Consumer Policy*
- *Green Paper on Internal Self-Government for Tobago was prepared by the Law Reform Commission in consultation with key stakeholders*
- *Draft paper "Transformation of Consumer Protection in Trinidad and Tobago"*
- *A review of the Draft Mentoring Policy undertaken through public consultations;*
- *A review of the National Youth Mentorship Policy by Cabinet;*
- *Joint Select Committee to review a Legislative Proposal on the Prevention of Corruption Act Chap. 11:11 is pending*
- *Development of Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Legislation*
- *Approval of Offender Management Policy*

- Launch of Prison Radio Programme, Rise Maximum Radio, with respect to offender rehabilitation operating alongside academic training for inmates, anger management training and other skill development and social intervention strategies.
- Legislation is being developed towards the establishment of a parole system.
- Code for prosecutors has been developed by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution in collaboration with the UK.





# Celebrating Our Achievements in Legal Affairs

## National Consultations on Constitutional Reform

Unlike past efforts at constitutional reform, views are being obtained from as wide a cross-section of the public as possible. A series of 17 public meetings has been mounted across Trinidad and Tobago.

When these public meetings are over, several sessions are to be held with special-interest groups such as civil society/NGOs, business, youth, the Judiciary, the Law Association and the disabled community.



## Removal of VAT on 3,000 Grocery Items

In conjunction with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment, the Legal Affairs Ministry, through its Consumer Affairs Division, oversaw the removal of VAT on over 3,000 grocery items. The Consumer Affairs Division of the Ministry of Legal Affairs continues to monitor prices to ensure adherence to the new pricing regime.

## World Intellectual Property Day

The Intellectual Property Office mounted an exhibition at their offices in commemoration of World Intellectual Property Day. The exhibition covered all aspects of intellectual property as overseen by the IPO.



### WIPO Regional Ministerial-Level Meeting on Intellectual Property

Organised by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in co-operation with the Intellectual Property Office, Ministry of Legal Affairs, this meeting was held on November 27 and 28, 2012. The Director General of WIPO presented on the relation of intellectual property to sports, agriculture, creative industries and other areas of interest.

### Delivery of Land Titles in Tobago

In just under two years, the Ministry of Legal Affairs has managed to resolve the decades-long problem of Land Titles in Tobago. The long-held Tobago tradition of handing down real estate property to family by word-of-mouth had resulted in many, if not most, landowners in Tobago not having actual Deeds of Title to their properties. While successive administrations were aware of the massive problem, none made any real headway in solving the problem until this administration when new and improved systems and infrastructure in the Registrar's Department made possible the delivery of land titles in far less time than ever before.

### World Consumer Rights Day

Through its Consumer Affairs Division, World Consumer Rights Day was commemorated on March 15, 2013. The CAD ran daily tips for consumers in the newspapers and mounted a consumer outreach exercise at City Gate on the day itself.

### Launch of Go GREEN Campaign

The Go Green Campaign was launched on Earth Day, Monday April 22nd, 2013. The Go GREEN Programme is an initiative to reduce the environmental impact of the Ministry's activities while building a better future for country and the world. The first phase of the initiative is a plastic, paper, ink and toner cartridge recycling programme. Ministry staff will be educated on ways to recycle both at work and at home, while the public will also be encouraged to participate and learn.





# 2

## Agriculture & Food Security

### Celebrating Our Achievements in Food Production

The People's Partnership Government recognises that food security is fundamental to people-centred development. This overarching goal for our agricultural sector is set against a global backdrop of food price volatility and declining production levels due to climate change.

#### New Land Leases

- To increase security of land tenancy, 562 new land leases were extended to farmers to provide opportunities for land ownership, thereby creating access to greater financing possibilities, improving their socio-economic status and raising the profile of the profession
- 2,000 former Caroni workers received leases to lands to which they were entitled and also provided with the necessary infrastructure such as roads, drainage and irrigation ponds for continued agricultural activity.

#### Improving Access Roads

- Significant efforts were made towards providing an efficient access road network to allow food producers to get into their fields and to transport their produce out of the fields with less effort, lower costs and more quickly so that they can offer cheaper prices to consumers, increase production and increase their income.
- In fiscal 2012, 40 km of agricultural access roads were rehabilitated successfully (19 roads) and 107 km of access roads (35 roads) were maintained.
- 23.4 km (11 roads) of new agriculture access road networks were constructed in Esmeralda, Exchange No 1, Waterloo, Warren and Caroni.



#### Push for Locally Produced Foods

- "Put T&T on Your Table" initiative resulted in nine flagship outlets adopting locally grown sweet potatoes into their meal options (sweet potato fries).
- The School Feeding Programme, which serves 150,000 meals daily, used more local content in their meals.
- To encourage citizens to grow their own food, four training programmes were conducted on home gardening and 12 home gardening videos produced and uploaded onto "YouTube".

#### Commercial Farms

- **Three commercial farms commenced in various commodity groups: The Edinburgh Farms, Two Brothers Corporation and Technology Farms commenced on-farm production of rice, citrus and root crops. The Evergreen Ranch is completing land preparation for cattle farming.**



**YAPA**

- The Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture (YAPA), which targets persons aged 18 to 25, saw 615 trainees graduating from Phase 1 and 57 trainees moving into Phase 2 training in agricultural careers.
- YAPA targeted nine areas: Curepe, Wallerfield, Point Fortin, Penal, Chase Village, Princes Town, Sangre Grande, Ecclesville and Tobago.

## Celebrating Our Achievements in Housing, Land and Marine Affairs

- In fiscal 2012, 1,037 grants were distributed totalling over \$15m.
- Draw of 500 lots of land under the Land for the Landless Residential Lots Programme.
- Commenced preparation of eight plans and 19 sites, which will yield over 2,000 regularised lots and open spaces for community use and over 1,000 new residential lots for the Land for the Landless programme.
- Additional provisions will be made for persons earning under \$3,000 monthly to purchase starter homes, comprising a lot of land, a foundation and sanitary infrastructure.
- Persons earning less than \$8,000 a month will be able to buy their first home with zero down payment at a 2% interest rate for homes up to \$450,000.
- The Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme provides subsidies to assist with construction costs; financial assistance was granted to 1,241 persons for home repairs and 735 Home Improvement Subsidies were disbursed.
- Site profiling of all squatter settlements were conducted with 331 mapped by the Land Settlement Agency (LSA) in 2012 and 31,836 residential structures mapped using GPS.
- From May 2012-April 2013, 420 certificates of comfort were issued to squatters.
- LSA aggressively patrolled over 200 sites to prevent further squatting; over 300 patrols were conducted.
- A review of the State Lands Act No. 32 of 1918 was conducted and recommendations for its amendment were developed and the introduction of containment provisions in the State Lands (Regularisation of Tenure) Act No. 25 of 1908 was completed.
- 2,500 persons were employed to undertake maintenance, landscaping and environmental clean-up works on Housing Development Corporation compounds and buildings at Beetham, Laventille, Morvant, Maloney and San Fernando in 2012.
- Design and implementation works commenced on the Land Information System database.
- Approval of Office Outfitting Policy aimed at addressing working conditions of public sector employees.
- Primary Schools' Essay Writing Competition targeted Standard 3 students with 34 schools participating.





# 3 Healthcare Services & Hospitals



## Celebrating Our Achievements in Healthcare

### San Fernando Teaching Hospital

On December 28, 2012, the Honourable Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, SC, formally opened the San Fernando Teaching Hospital on Chancery Lane. The country's second teaching hospital, this modern facility is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment. The hospital will provide beds for 216 inpatients as well as parking for 400 vehicles. A variety of services will be offered at the new hospital, including radiology services, urology testing, paediatric and gynaecological care.



### Strengthening Policies, Systems and Legislation

- New legislation and policies were developed or completed: Draft Mental Health Bill, Workplace Mental Health Policy, National Cancer Policy, Health Services Accreditation Bill, Draft Optometry Policy, Adverse Events Policy, Amendments to the Regional Health Authority (RHA) Act, 2012, The Policy Framework for the National Health Insurance System, Infection Prevention and Control Policies and Guidelines Manual, adoption of the World Health Organisation's Safe Surgical Checklist, Obstetric and Midwifery Standard Operating Protocol and Health Information System Strategic Plan.
- Hosted Health Seminar on the Future of Herbal Medicine in Trinidad and Tobago in October 2012.

### Construction of New Hospitals

- Couva Children's Hospital - User Briefs and Request For Proposal were approved with construction commencing in 2013.
- Arima Hospital - User Brief was completed and project was tendered.
- Point Fortin Hospital - User Brief and Feasibility Study were completed and submitted to Ministry of Finance to inform negotiations for Government to Government concessional loan financing.
- Sangre Grande Hospital - Preliminary User Brief was completed and is being developed further.
- Construction of the new Insect Vector Control Division head office and warehouse in Cunupia in 2012.



### HPV Vaccination Launched

Some 20,000 girls between the ages of 11 and 12 were targeted to receive vaccinations in the first phase of its voluntary HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccination programme.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the cervical cancer rate is two times higher than worldwide.



### New Patient Services and Equipment

- Opened Oncology Department at San Fernando General Hospital.
- Launched first Specialized Multidisciplinary Cardiac Clinic in Pregnancy at the Mt. Hope Maternity Hospital.
- Cell Saver equipment was installed and commissioned at various RHAs.
- Dental equipment and accessories were ordered for various health centres.
- Health care facilities were outfitted with 21 electrocardiogram (ECG) machines, six cardiac monitoring systems, an argon laser machine, seven portable X-ray machines, three ultrasound machines and urology equipment.



### Other Major Achievements

- The final report of the Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases (CNCD) Risk Factor (STEPS) Survey was released in December 2012, which will shape the Ministry's initiatives as it seeks to promote wellness initiatives.
- Fight the Fat – T&T Wellness Revolution, was implemented in order to increase the level of physical activity in the national population and to empower citizens to achieve a healthy weight.



## Improving Human Resources

- Approval for 135 new foreign nurses and doctors to address existing vacancies within the public health sector.
- The Aides to Nursing Programme was implemented, which will provide support services to the Registered Nurses and Enrolled Nursing Assistants.
- Government scholarships were awarded in specialised areas such as Master of Medicine in Radiation Oncology; a Clinical Fellowship programme and a fellowship in Neonatology at the Centre for Newborn Care.
- Officers were also trained in Cardiac Catheterization Lab activities, Echo Sonography, Bio-Risk Management and Infectious Substance Shipping.



Two persons with end-stage renal disease benefited from the donation of two kidneys, which were successfully transplanted on December 11-12, 2012 at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex.

## HIV/AIDS Agency Launched

- The HIV/AIDS Agency was launched to monitor, co-ordinate and evaluate initiatives in the fight against HIV/AIDS nationwide. A National Strategic Plan 2013-2018 directs the expanded national HIV response, focusing on a future without new HIV infections in an environment which promotes respect, education, prevention, care and support for all.
- The agency provides leadership in building and deepening multi-sectoral partnership (public, private, non-governmental) to achieve national commitment and support and ownership of the response of HIV and AIDS; it also co-ordinates and supports activities towards the reduction of the population's susceptibility to HIV and AIDS.
- The agency also establishes national goals and targets for the priority strategic areas and will define a National HIV Policy.



# 4 Economic Growth, Job Creation, Competitiveness and Innovation



Our nation has been blessed with bountiful resources. After fifty years as an independent nation, we have continued to optimise the opportunities that spring from the bedrock of our economy, our oil and natural gas.

While we strengthen our advances in this area, our Government recognises that we must also harness the energy of our most precious resource – our people.

We have engineered a parallel strategy of social and economic transformation, steeped in the development of our human resource and strategies that foster investment, entrepreneurship, job creation, innovation and diversification. Our agenda for economic transformation entails a policy shift towards the nurturing of a knowledge-based, technology-driven, innovative and globally connected economy. This is rooted in the enhancement of the skills base of our workforce, the expansion of our exports and growth in our productivity.

On our path to move the economy to a higher growth plane, innovation is the key to the door of success.

It underpins the creation of new and sustainable high value-added industries. It also drives the expansion and development of cultural industries, the performing and visual arts, literary and fashion industries, architectural design and the software industries.

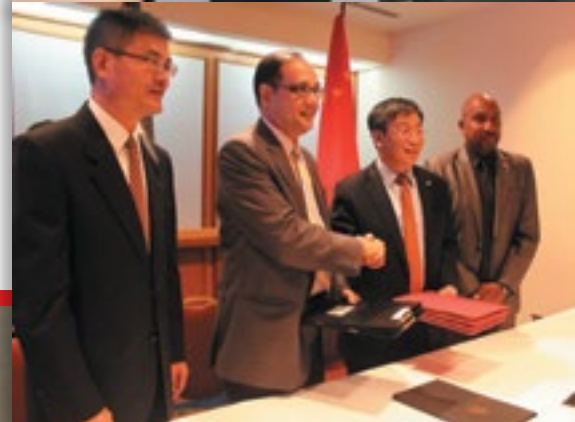
Our Government will also capitalise on the rising global interest in green products and technology through the development of alternative energy sources. We recognise that our nation can transition to a low-carbon society while also increasing our competitiveness in the changing global energy industry by promoting solar and wind energy industries. Inherent in this strategy is our commitment to balancing the protection and conservation of our natural resources with social and economic transformation to ensure environmental security for future generations.

Together we will nurture a society that is firmly built on the foundation of ingenuity, creativity and adaptability as we work towards maintaining a resilient, competitive and sustainable economy.



## Celebrating Our Achievements in Finance and the Economy

- Focused in the short term on growth stimulation to bolster economic activity following a period of negative or negligible growth in 2009-2011, resulting in growth of just over 1% in 2012.
- Improved performance in the non-energy sector with growth reflected in the services sector, mainly finance, insurance and real estate services, electricity, water and personal services with a moderate gain in food, beverages and tobacco and a relatively robust increase in wood and other related products.
- The economic and financial buffers of the country remain strong and resilient as the current account surplus increased, foreign exchange reserves remain healthy and the Heritage and Stabilization Fund continues to grow, ending 2012 at US\$4.7bn.
- Unemployment remains reasonably controlled at just over 5% with a marginal increase in the labour force.
- The year on year growth in private sector credit at the end of October 2012 was good, measuring 7.1%.
- At the end of 2012, both Standard and Poor's and Moody's reaffirmed the country's international credit ratings.
- While seeking to establish an enabling environment to support growth, competitiveness and innovation, \$7.5bn or 4.5% of GDP has been committed to the Public Sector Investment Programme.
- The thrust continues towards establishing Public Private Partnerships aimed at redefining the way in which public services are delivered and managed and key stakeholders such as the Chambers of Commerce have been engaged.





## Celebrating Our Achievements in Foreign Affairs

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with Canada for public sector modernisation as well as a Framework Arrangement for co-operation in the health sector and a MOU for the sharing of correctional information and expertise with regard to prisons.
- Agreed that Canada would co-host a CARICOM Public-Private Partnerships Seminar and business-to-business meetings in Trinidad and Tobago later this year.
- An Air Services Agreement has been signed with India for the provision of air services; a Technical Co-operation Agreement was also entered into for co-operation and information exchange.
- A framework Agreement was completed with Grenada for co-operation in energy sector development.
- The High Commission in South Africa has reduced the waiting time for South Africans wishing to secure a visa for our country from 10 working days to 2.
- Acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction.
- Ratified the Second Revision of the African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) –European Community (EC) Partnership Agreement.
- Ratified the amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which expand the war crimes related to other serious violations of laws and customs applicable in international armed conflicts.
- The 3rd Future Diplomats Essay Competition was held with the theme, “50 years of Foreign Affairs in T&T”.
- The Nigerian President paid a State Visit and held bilateral talks on the energy sector and possible air links.
- Trinidad and Tobago participated in the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty which took place from 2nd to 27th July, 2012 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Trinidad and Tobago delegation comprised of representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and National Security, led by Ambassador Gerald Thompson, Director Treaties, International Agreements and Legal Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Thompson also assisted Ambassador Eden Charles who was elected as lead negotiator for CARICOM at the Conference by the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of CARICOM Member States.







## Celebrating Our Achievements in Arts and Multiculturalism

- Evolution of the Steel Pan Exhibition, a main focus of the 50th Anniversary Exhibition at the Piarco International Airport and at the NALIS atrium.
- Mentoring of the Masters Programme, an outreach activity of the National Registry and an "Art of Success" project, which is a mentorship series to facilitate knowledge transfer from established professionals to emerging practitioners in music, film, Ramleela, Indian dance and theatre culminating in an awards ceremony.
- Music School in the Panyard contributed to the holistic professional development of musicians by establishing six panyards in music schools across the country.
- Pan Camps was geared towards providing meaningful, developmental activity for young people using the national instrument with 451 children participating.
- The Southern Academy for the Performing Arts officially opened in September 2012, with shows hosted almost weekly.
- Cultural exchange with the Chongqing Arts Troupe from China, which gave free public performances and conducted workshops at the Keylemanjahro School of Arts and Culture and The UWI.
- Hosted a team of senior Culture officials from Nigeria to gather information for the development of Nigeria Carnival.
- Production of the 50th Anniversary Arts Showcase, comprising a series of events and technical/financial support or full production management of the following events: Visit of the National Symphony Orchestra of the USA, National Steel Symphony Season 2012, "Pan on a Higher Note" in collaboration with Colombia's Tambores de Cabildo, WASAFOLI Trinidad and Tobago's "SUUMBA" - an African Dance Ballet, an evening of spoken word and related artforms - "Colours of Consciousness", "Eric the Musical" produced by Iere Theatre Productions, the National Song Competition, Lord Brynner National Independence Monarch Competition, staging of the "Red, White & Black Parade".
- Partnered with the TT Film Company to execute the T&T Community Film Project 2012 with five community-based artistic groups who received extensive training and produced a five-minute short film.

## Celebrating Our Achievements in Energy

### New Agreements, Licences and Discoveries

- Signed an agreement with Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company and Mitsubishi International Corp for the construction of a US\$850m petrochemical complex.
- Signed an Exploration and Production Licence with State-owned Petrotrin and Trinity Exploration and Production PLC, which 6,390 hectares in an oil-prone block in the Gulf of Paria.
- Signed two Exploration and Production Licences with Petrotrin for the TNA (Trinmar) and North Marine Blocks.
- BP Trinidad & Tobago (bpTT) announced its discovery of an estimated one trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gas offshore Trinidad, doubling the estimated gas in place of the Savonette gas field, to two tcf.
- Four blocks were awarded for the Deep Water Bid Round, which has the potential to generate some half a billion US dollars in investment in the first phase, to see the drilling of at least six deep water exploration wells and the acquisition of over 5,330 square kilometres of seismic data.



### Diesel and Premium Gasoline Subsidies

- With the clampdown on the illegal export of diesel, the volume of diesel for which subsidy was claimed by the wholesale marketing companies decreased by 14% in 2012 or TT\$101 million.
- With the establishment of the Subsidy Verification Unit, the monitoring of purchases of diesel fuel by 35 marine and 53 fishing vessels resulted in a reduction by 13.6 million litres from March 2012 to November 2012 – compared with the same period in 2011 with a reduction in subsidy of TT\$57.9 million.
- Effective October 2, 2012, the price of premium gasoline 95 RON was increased from TT\$4.00 per litre to TT\$5.75 per litre for an estimated annual savings in subsidy of TT\$167.6 million.

### Moving on Illegal Quarrying

In 2012 the Minerals Division increased its monitoring activities of the 43 licensed quarries operating in Trinidad, and moved aggressively to enforce the Minerals Act and Regulations. The Division conducted investigations into 16 illegal quarrying complaints, as well as complaints against licensed operators. There are currently over 31 persons before the courts on charges related to illegal quarrying.





### LNG Activity in 2012

- The Atlantic LNG facility performed quite well in 2012 as compared to 2011 in spite of the higher downtime experienced in 2012. As of November 2012, the average Natural Gas processed by all LNG trains was 2,309,772 MMBtu per calendar day.
- TTLNG entered into a new marketing arrangement for some of its Train 4 LNG cargoes. In August 2012, one cargo was sold at an FOB (Free on Board) price that was 4.5 times higher (US\$24.5 m) than under the previous marketing arrangement.



### Strides in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

- Awarded a contract for the conduct of a Wind Resource Assessment Programme (WRAP) on the east coast of Trinidad and Tobago to inform the siting of large wind turbines, which will contribute renewable energy from wind power to the national electricity grid.
- Installed solar photovoltaic lighting externally at nine community centres.
- Launched the National Energy Communication Campaign, which revolved around an interactive website, [www.myenergytt.com](http://www.myenergytt.com), providing comprehensive information about the energy sector. This campaign won the Gold and Silver awards for Best Interactive Website and Overall Campaign respectively at the Caribbean Advertising Federation awards.
- Approval has been granted to install solar photovoltaic lighting and solar-powered distilled water stills in 25 schools across the country. Coupled with this initiative is a wide-scale training of 100 schoolteachers to deliver specific lessons on renewable energy and energy efficiency.



- Outfitted three buildings with solar and wind power, the University of Trinidad and Tobago's O'Meara campus, the Mt. Hope T&TEC building and the Islamic Home for Children, which are connected to the national electricity grid.
- Acquired a hybrid vehicle for its fleet, which runs on both gasoline and power generated by the vehicle's motion and stored in special battery compartments. The Ministry is developing incentives that will make energy-hybrid and energy efficient vehicles more affordable.

## Celebrating Our Achievements in Local Government

Over the past year, the Ministry of Local Government has made significant progress in achieving its goals for better quality services, better communities and stronger councils.



### Regional Corporations

For the first time in the history of local government, Corporations were able to receive draw downs of allocations from the Ministry of Finance within the first month of the Budget being passed in September 2012. It is also the first time that all budgetary allocations have

been spent within the first nine months of the fiscal year. This is an improvement on past performance where much of the funds released in the second quarter would remain unspent by the end of the fiscal year.

Corporation / City Council	Arima B.C.	Chaguanas B.C.	Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo R.C.	Diego Martin R.C.	Mayaro / Rio Claro R.C.	Sangre Grande R.C.	Siparia R.C.
<b>Roads</b>	10,000m	4,052m	24,707m	5,627m	7,103m	11 paved roads	4,755m of roadways
<b>Bridges</b>	1,400m	2,783m			8.1m		
<b>Drains</b>	1,900m	127m	2,300m	1,891m	6,395m	1,895m of drain and 2,420m of box drain	4,134m of box drain, 491m of kerbwall and slipper drains
<b>Water Connections</b>	90						
<b>Upgrades</b>	Open market	3 cemeteries; 9 recreation grounds	Identification of 327 road names and caution signs		4 recreation grounds; Mafeking Cremation Site		
<b>Other Construction</b>		Construction of sanitary block at Cunupia market	Reconstruction of 4 wooden bridges; 8 box culverts	12 retaining walls	248m of retaining wall		






**Other Major Achievements**

- Launch of Litter Prevention Wardens Programme: 145 litter wardens trained and assigned to the 14 Corporations.
- Completion of the Policy on Local Government Transformation and Modernisation.
- Cabinet approval of 14 municipal development plans to improve the aesthetics and economic vitality to regional districts.
- Special State Purpose Enterprises and Programmes: Cabinet approval was granted for state enterprises, Palo Seco Agricultural Enterprises Ltd, (PSAEL), Community Improvement Services Ltd (CISL) and

Rural Development Company (RDC) to implement the following works: 44 pavilions, 800 roads and 114 bridges and landslips.

- National Commission for Self Help Limited (NCSHL): 1,090 elderly and underprivileged persons benefited from assistance with refurbishing their homes.
- Unemployment Relief Programme (URP): Employment was provided for some 27,000 persons.



Point Fortin R.C.	Penal / Debe R.C.	Port of Spain C.C.	Princes Town R. C.	San Fernando C.C.	San Juan / Laventille R.C.	Tunapuna / Piarco R.C.
Paved 1858 m of roads	8,261m	1,808m	5,304m	1,163m	3,230m	6,343m
			7			
815 m of box drains	5,146m	2,936m	6,713m	3, 160.5m	3,094m	4,726m
	15 recreation grounds; 8 cemeteries	Installation of 12-unit exercise equipment at 2 parks	Developed 2 cemeteries; 2 recreation grounds; Development of Devil's Woodyard	11 recreation grounds; Start of repurposing of San Fernando Abattoir and Fish Marketing	14 recreational facilities; San Juan Market	4 recreation grounds; Mafeking Cremation Site
	60m of retaining wall; 98m of stabilising embankment	2,707m of footpath; 30m of retaining wall		2,314m of pavement	198m of retaining wall; 90m of footpath; 20m of steps	552m of footpath; 8m of causeway



## Celebrating Our Achievements in Planning & Sustainable Development

- **Evaluating the Government's Performance:**

The National Performance Framework 2012-2015 and the Annual Report on Performance 2012, launched in February 2013, are the first in a series of reports on performance in relation to the Government's five priority areas of development within the Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2014.

- **2011 Census Demographic Report:** This report presents the results of the 2011 Population and Housing Census, which was conducted by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) of Trinidad and Tobago in the record time of 18 months after the completion of fieldwork.

- **Human Development Atlas:** The Central Statistical Office launched the first Human Development Atlas for Trinidad and Tobago, developed in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme. The Atlas allows for analysis of specific aspects of human development using spatial representations that will better determine resource allocation and enhance decision making at a national level.

- **Restructuring the CSO:** The International Consulting Office of Statistics Sweden conducted three missions to our country with regard to the restructuring of the CSO in 2012 in three phases. The CSO continues to work on the poverty index, revision of the retail price index, business surveys, labour force surveys and collaborations with national, regional and international bodies.

- **National Innovation Competition:** Through the "idea 2 innovation (i2i) Competition" led by the Council for Competitiveness and Innovation, 50 grants and awards of over \$200,000 were distributed to local inventors in 2012.

- **Centre for Enterprise Development (CED):** Work on the CED commenced in June 2012 and is scheduled for opening in June 2013. The CED forms an integral part of the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute's (CARIRI) new strategic focus on building capacity and capability for enterprise creation and the development of new economic spaces across the country.





## Celebrating Our Achievements in Sport

- **'Tobago Leg' Sport Caravan**

**2012:** The philosophy behind this project is to foster better collaboration between Trinidad and Tobago coaches and create a game field for talent identification. Some 900 potential young athletes participated in this event.

- **Taking Sport to Rural Areas:**

"Taking Sport to Rural Areas" was developed to facilitate persons in rural communities with similar sporting opportunities as those in urban areas

- **Introduction to Start Line**

**Seminar:** Hosted, in collaboration with the National Association of Athletics Administration of Trinidad (NAAA) and the IAAF Regional Development Centre, an Introductory to Start Line Seminar for Technical Officials. Some 42 new starters for track and field received IAAF Certificates.



**Celebrating Keshorn Walcott- Olympic Gold Medallist Javelin - 2012**

- **LIFE-sport:** Designed to utilise the power of sport in improving the lives of young people from communities affected by crime and criminal activities; more than 2,000 participants from 33 different communities have benefited.

### Other Major Achievements

- Approval was granted for construction of six state-of-the-art sporting facilities, including the National Aquatic Centre, National Tennis Centre and National Cycle Centre.
- The Vern-Gambetta Optimal Athletic Develop Programme was implemented to development elite athletes.
- The Cedros Sport Caravan was held in November 2012 to encourage total participation in sport by citizens in the rural communities.
- Spirit of Sport Awards was hosted in December 2012 to recognise top performers in sport for 2012.
- A top-class javelin was presented to Olympic gold medallist, Keshorn Walcott, before the 2012 Olympics.

### Youth Sport Festival in June 2012.

- 2,175 young athletes attended the annual Women and Girls in Sport Festival in March 2013.
- Ten sportswomen were honoured at the annual Women and Girls in Sport Festival in March 2013.
- Over 50 community projects were completed throughout Trinidad and Tobago by the Sport Ministry's 33 Sport Development Officers.
- Over 150 athletes were facilitated at the Residential Sport School Training Programme in June 2012.
- Some 3,200 young athletes between the 4-14 age group attended the Sport Enhancement and Training Programme (STEP) held in 40 venues throughout the country in August 2012.



## Celebrating Our Achievements in Trade, Industry & Investment

- Developed Investment Policy to support the growth of local and foreign direct investment in the non-energy sector, a revised Trade Policy and a National Export Strategy.
- Led the creation of sector policies and strategic action plans for culture and creative industries, maritime and food sustainability.
- The Single Electronic Window, TTBizLink, now offers 21 e-services for businesses, resulting in improvement in the ease of doing business; further upgrades include new modules for e-Maritime and the Central Tenders Board.
- exporTT commenced the first phase of the “Intensive Programme to prepare companies to export to the EU” project and completed a fact-finding mission to the French Caribbean and two market survey missions to Guatemala and the Dominican Republic (DR) resulting in numerous leads.
- eTECK started commissioning the gas to protein pilot plant at Pt. Lisas in January 2013; Phase 1- 21 lots in Tamana Inteck Park were completed in March 2013 and upgrade works are being executed in the following industrial parks: Pt. Lisas – 100% completed; Trincity – 77% completed; Morvant- 60% completed and Frederick Settlement – 35% completed.
- Identified legislative changes to improve the investment climate with changes to the Free Zones Act , Income Tax (in Aid of Industry) Act, the Fiscal Incentives Act and the Companies Act.
- Partial Scope Trade Agreement was negotiated with Panama.
- Four rounds of negotiations were held with Guatemala for the Partial Scope Agreement in 2012.
- A Trade & Development Agreement is being negotiated with Canada to replace CARIBCAN.



### investTT

- **Twenty-one investment leads were generated through investor targeting initiatives with over seven site visits conducted.**
- **Critical after-care service has resulted in a contractual agreement negotiated with Oldendorff Carriers Trinidad Ltd, a 72- year-old German family-owned transshipment company, which should result in approximately US\$100 million in purchases of fuel and other key services. The initial foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow amounted to US\$45 million.**
- **A US\$500,000 transaction was secured for a local company, CME Industries, which expanded into a new business of manufacturing bio-diesel from cooking oils.**
- **A US\$5 million investment contract was finalised in the setting up of a St. Lucian manufacturing food plant, Baron Foods Agro-processing.**
- **The purchase of Trinidad Tissue by a locally run Canadian Company, Grand Bay Paper with an initial capital investment of US\$20 million.**





## Celebrating Our Achievements in Tourism



- Continuation of the physical upgrade of the Emperor Valley Zoo, which will cater for chimpanzees, lions and tigers.
- Unveiled the Olympic Wall at the Waterfront Complex on March, 2013.
- Commencement of Sugar Heritage Museum, Couva, to preserve and showcase our preserve and showcase our sugar legacy in Trinidad and Tobago as part of heritage tourism.
- A partnership was formed with the Santa Rosa First Peoples' Community to recreate an authentic Amerindian Village.
- Knolly's Tunnel has been refurbished and outfitted with new interpretive signs and a carat shed.
- Lifeguard towers were repaired at Las Cuevas (3), Vessigny (3) and Manzanilla Bay (2); completion of permanent lifeguard quarters at Toco and construction commenced on permanent quarters at Los Iros.
- Expansion of the cadre of lifeguards through Lifesaving Training and recruitment of 59 new lifeguards; 18 lifeguards successfully completed examinations for the Licence for Motor Launch Captain.
- The Caribbean Tourism Organization's 14th Annual Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development (STC-14) was hosted by Trinidad and Tobago, entitled "Keeping the Right Balance: Enhancing Destination Sustainability through Products, Partnerships, and Profitability" and included a cultural extravaganza.
- The Tourism Development Company has provided incentives to increase and upgrade hotel and guesthouse room stock or eligible hotels and guesthouses through the Hotel Room Upgrade Incentive Programme with nine properties and 374 rooms contracted in 2012.
- The National Tourism Quality Service Improvement Programme was expanded from three to six programmes to foster high quality service delivery through the delivery of attitudinal and behavioural training and development; some 60 stakeholder organisations were trained.
- A draft policy for ecotourism was completed.
- Trinidad and Tobago participated in the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty which took place from 2nd to 27th July, 2012 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Trinidad and Tobago delegation comprised of representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and National Security, led by Ambassador Gerald Thompson, Director Treaties, International Agreements and Legal Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Thompson also assisted Ambassador Eden Charles who was elected as lead negotiator for CARICOM at the Conference by the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of CARICOM Member States.





## Celebrating Our Achievements in Tobago Development

- Co-ordinated a handing-over ceremony for self-help cheques of \$10,000 each to some 40 recipients to repair their homes.
- Approval was given for Government-Assisted School Status in January 2013 to the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) High School with provision of financial support of \$10m.
- In April 2013, over 70 cheques were distributed to faith-based and non-governmental organisations.
- A contribution of \$1m was commended at the rededication ceremony of the Scarborough Methodist Church in April 2013.
- The NES/PTSC Trade School was officially opened and ten trainees are currently enrolled.
- UDECOTT commenced the procurement of the design-build services for police stations at Roxborough and Old Grange with construction commencing in 2013.
- The Government Loan Guarantee (GLG) Programme for hoteliers and the business community was officially launched in August 2012 with the Trinidad & Tobago Hotel Facilitation Company Limited as the established subsidiary of EXIMBANK.
- The Roxborough gas station was opened in January 2013, serving the people of east Tobago.
- The Tourism Support Programme, valued at \$250m, was launched in August 2012 for hoteliers and the business community.
- Renovations were conducted at the old prison facilities and 50 acres of land have been earmarked in Hope for the construction of the new prison in 2013.
- Continues to deliver land titles to deserving landowners.
- Much progress made towards the construction of the Meteorological Office with construction beginning in 2013.
- In December 2012 the first set of 146 security CCTV cameras were deployed at the airport and seaport.
- Facilitated the resumption of classes and started CXC classes at The Best Centre by hiring or rehiring tutors to conduct these lessons.
- Facilitated commencement of Unemployment Relief Programme in Tobago, identifying 17 projects including the construction of retaining walls, home repairs and upgrades.
- 50 persons were honoured for their outstanding contributions to Tobago's development hosted in collaboration with the Bethel Empowerment and Skills Training Centre.
- A tree-planting ceremony was conducted during 50th Independence Anniversary celebrations where persons born on August 31, 1962 were honoured.



# Celebrating Our Achievements in Works and Infrastructure

From improvements to the nation’s highway network, to river courses being cleared, to landslides being repaired after years of disrepair, to traffic wardens on our streets, to cable barriers along the nation’s highway, to mass road repair, we continue to deliver to the people of this country.

## Programme for Upgrading Road Efficiency (PURE)

- In the past year, more than 400 roads and bridges combined have been built or rehabilitated.
- Works on the Valencia Bypass Road.
- Construction of the Maloney Overpass.
- Rehabilitation of S.S. Erin Road, Penal Rock Road, Lower Piparo Road, Southern Main Road Bridge and Road Network in downtown Port of Spain.
- Widening of the Solomon Hochoy Highway.
- Rehabilitation of Pandemonium Panyard, Antilles Trace in San Francique, Anthony Branch Trace in Siparia, Camden Link Road in Calcutta # 2, Morne La Croix in Blanchisseuse and Brasso Tabaqueite Bridge among others.



## Major Highway Projects

- Work progressed on the extension of the Solomon Hochoy Highway Interchange and the extension of the Solomon Hochoy Highway from Golconda to Pt. Fortin.



## Celebrating Our Achievements in Transport

- Partnered with the Province of Nova Scotia, Canada, to transform the existing model for the issuance of driver's licences, registration of motor vehicles and other functions of the Transport Division.
- Construction commenced at the Frederick Settlement Office of the Motor Vehicles Authority.
- Public Transport Services Corporation (PTSC) continues to expand its services to rural communities and vulnerable groups with the launch of 24 buses catering for the elderly and differently abled.
- Major refurbishment works has begun on the main terminal building of the ANR Robinson International Airport, Tobago.
- Infrastructure work has been completed for the North Aviation Business Park, Piarco.
- Airport concessionaires are being pursued to operate, manage and develop the Piarco and ANR Robinson International Airports.
- Facilities upgrades have continued at the Ports of Port of Spain and Point Lisas to take advantage of expected increased container traffic due to the expansion of the Panama Canal.
- Scarborough Port Terminal is scheduled for completion in 2013.
- Port of Point Lisas commenced replacement of ageing port infrastructure to ensure equipment liability and productivity.





## Celebrating Our Achievements in National Diversity & Social Integration

- Launch of Patriotism month, August 26th – September 28th, 2012 where 98,000 flags were distributed.
- Patriotism Week: March 19-23, 2013 with the theme: “I am, You are, We are....Trinbago” with events such as: Patriotism in the Workplace and a Heritage Walk around the Savannah.
- The National Flag Draw on May 2, 2013 at the Ministry’s Office: 1,000 flags (size 3ft x 5ft) were given to citizens.
- The Ministry provided 58 Divali and 112 Christmas grants to organisations across the nation.
- Cabinet approval was granted for the reservation of 25 acres of state lands in Blanchisseuse for the establishment of an Amerindian village.
- Opening of the expansion project of the Subrattee Trace Mosque, Barrackpore.
- Through the National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago a book entitled: “Built Heritage of Trinidad and Tobago” was published.
- Held the 50th Anniversary of Independence Art Exhibition: 1962 and 2012.
- Launch of the newly restored 1962 maquette for the Piarco mural titled “The Inherent Nobility of Man”.



**Re-enactment of Indian Arrival at Nelson Island**



## Celebrating Our Achievements in Public Administration

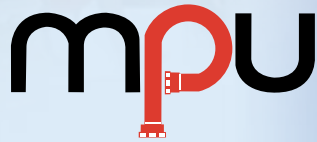


- Hosted a Gala event in December 2012 to show appreciation for the contribution of 50 public officers to national development, during the first fifty years of the nation's Independence.
- Celebrated the efforts of public agencies to improve their service delivery. Awardees were chosen following an extensive "Mystery Shopping" exercise, which evaluated over 200 Government agencies on criteria designed to measure excellence in service delivery.
- Launched its "Gold to Diamond" Transformation Journey, which is focused on creating a citizen-centric public service. The focus of this initiative involves restructuring public service organisations from a pyramid to a diamond-shaped structure. The intention is to increase capacity at the middle management level of the Public Service and incorporate new professional streams. Jobs are also being redesigned to allow for greater delegation of decision-making. The other aspect of moving to the diamond level is for public service agencies to better define service standards in those operations with direct customer interface. The MPA has been working with several agencies to detail their Service Charters - written statements outlining an organisation's commitment to high quality customer service. The Service Charter initiative has been supplemented by Business Process Re-engineering (BPR) training across the Public Service.



- Pursued building human resource capacity at a national level by awarding and administering 374 scholarships in various disciplines to nationals. Additionally, evaluation frameworks for all scholarships advertised have been developed and posted on the Ministry's website. These frameworks provide information on the selection process and help to ensure transparency of the process.





## Celebrating Our Achievements in Public Utilities

- By the end of 2012, the Utilities Assistance Programme added 470 more beneficiaries to its current 10,616 persons, many of whom will now receive grants of up to \$200 and \$684 towards their respective water and electricity bills in 2013.
- The National Social Development Programme successfully completed 1,129 house wirings, 25 electrification projects, illumination of two recreation grounds; provided 72 persons with house wiring materials and 261 persons with sanitary plumbing assistance.
- The Electrical Inspectorate Division conducted 40,158 inspections, exceeding its original target of 36,000; provided electrical advice to 41,100 members of the public and collected over \$5 million in inspection fees.
- The Meteorological Services Division acquired an Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS), a device which will provide critical, real-time information about airport weather conditions, so enhancing the safety and efficiency of any air-traffic operation.
- The Government Printery completed 3,229 jobs and is set to relocate to Frederick Settlement, Caroni, which is expected to improve overall efficiency.
- TSTT offered 46 free broadband wireless internet access zones, the B-zones, and continued its progression towards the upgrade of the broadband wireless system.
- T&TEC illuminated 26 recreation grounds and parks, three regional health facilities, 32 police stations and installed over 2,500 streetlights. Bulk power projects near completion such as the Cove-Milford Bay cable section of the Tobago network and the acquisition of 42,000m of overhead line hoses, 22,400 insulators, 20,000 long-stalk pins and 36,000 polymeric insulators.
- TPOST endured we are the first Caribbean country to introduce our own postal code and S42 addressing standard, the adoption of an international best practice that has only been implemented in some 29 countries globally.





## Celebrating Our Achievements in Environment and Water Resources

- Northern Range Watershed Protection Research Project (Forest Protection), which was undertaken to carry out watershed studies and preparation of management plans and programmes of selected watersheds.
- Major river improvement works at Honda River, Caroni River, Soledad River, Marabella River, Dunder Hill River, Tunapuna River, Blackman Ravine, Tacarigua River, San Juan River and many other nationwide waterways. These projects helped developed economic growth, job creation, competitiveness, diversification & innovation.
- Refurbishment and upgrade of major water treatment plants including Granville Water Works, Biche Water Treatment Plant, Acono Water Treatment Plant, El Socorro Water Works, Valsayn Water Works, Edinburgh 500 Water Works. This increased the plants' reliability and water quality improvement.
- Improvement of Trinidad and Tobago's wastewater system improved effluent quality activities are identified to take place for private wastewater treatment plants in the Maloney, San Fernando, Couva and Chaguanas Catchment; this included rehabilitation/expansion of wastewater treatment plants, integration and expansion of the wastewater collection system, the construction of lift stations and the decommissioning of existing wastewater treatment plants.
- WASA staff received specialised training in Wastewater Management Organizational Efficiency.





## Celebrating Our Achievements in Labour, Small & Micro Enterprise Development



- The establishment of a register for domestic workers was a priority project to provide vital labour market information of domestic workers as it formulates policy.
- Developing a revised Micro and Small Business Enterprise Policy with consultations ongoing.
- IBIS, the National Integrated Business Incubator System, trained over 100 candidates in 2012.
- FairShare, a programme which gives access to Government contracts up to \$1 million to qualifying MSEs and Co-operatives, allows MSEs to market themselves through an online web portal, [www.fairshare.gov.tt](http://www.fairshare.gov.tt).
- CONNEX, an exposition which showcased the Ministry's and its agencies' services was held in July 2012 and centred around the theme, "Meeting Our Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Demands"; it showcased some 150 co-operatives and businesses from various sectors.
- Celebrated International Year of Co-operatives 2012 with an inter-faith service, a distinguished lecture series themes, "Rebuilding Economies: Strengthening Credit Unions for this responsibility", a primary schools' essay-writing competition and the production of 20 co-operative educational radio programmes called "Hand in Hand". A theme song, music video and short film were also developed.
- A Memorandum of Understanding to address AIDS in the workplace was signed with 13 organisations ranging from trade unions to private sector organisations and the informal economy; a training and technical support centre was also established – one of only two such centres in the world.
- Successfully completed in excess of 40 wage negotiations within the State sector in last 30 months. Most of these were unresolved wage issues that date as far back as 2008. Government has also completed negotiations with several state bodies for periods extending past 2014.
- \$90 million settlement between the Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC) and the Transport Workers Trade Union.
- Negotiations to increase by 25% in 2013 and 2014 grants for Maternity and NIS benefits.

# 5 Poverty Reduction & Human Capital Development



## Celebrating Our Achievements in People and Social Development

### Poverty Alleviation

- Initiatives have been geared towards reducing the number of persons living below the poverty line by 2% per annum.
- From October 2011 to July 2012, 25,002 persons were already in receipt of a Public Assistance Grant worth over \$273m with 4,830 new persons at a cost of over \$10m; 1,554 of these recipients also received free bus passes.
- 1,850 persons benefited from the General Assistance Grants worth over \$14m, which included housing assistance, household items, medical equipment, domestic help, dietary, clothing, funeral, education, special child, pharmaceutical, house rent and school supplies.
- By July 2012, 23,797 persons were in receipt of the Disability Assistance Grant worth some \$318m with 2,119 new persons benefiting at a cost of \$14m; 1,121 of these recipients also received free bus passes.
- During fiscal 2012, the Direct Effect Initiative was conducted in the following areas: Edinburgh 500, Sea Lots (on two occasions), Bagatelle/Diego Martin, Maloney, Beetham Estate, John John, Laventille, Carlsen Field, Cashew Gardens, Windsor Park, Rivulet Road, Calcutta Settlement, Dow Village, Rivulet Road, Indian Trail, Basta Hall Village, Beaucarro Village, Uquire Road, Milton Village and Mc Bean, Moruga/Tableland.



- In September 2012, the Poverty Reduction through Social Strategies (PRESS ON) Initiative was launched, which involves a collaborative effort among Government ministries and the private sector to improve access to a number of Government services. The People's Issues Resolution Unit collected 121 issues at this event.
- Approximately 100 youth in Cocorite were screened for the Special Youth and No Crime Initiative for admission in sound engineering, radio broadcasting, deejaying and computer literacy courses.
- In an effort to assist street dwellers, 26 public reports were received and investigated; 404 clients were assisted with fulfilling appointments for medical diagnostic screening and assessment; 422 street interviews were conducted by field officers and 39 clients were persuaded to relocate to the Centre for Socially Displaced Persons.
- An Inter-Agency Unit on Street Dwellers was established to oversee the removal, assessment, rehabilitation and reintegration of Street Dwellers.
- Under the Deportee Support Programme, 53 clients were received at Piarco International Airport; 20 clients were referred to Vision on a Mission and 50 clients were successfully reintegrated with their families.
- Under the Elderly Relocation Programme, three clients were relocated to homes for the elderly and there are currently 35 persons housed in elderly care facilities.
- Under Social Work Services and Intervention programmes, 136 clients were referred to the Centre for Socially Displaced Persons; 349 clients received social work services and six clients were referred to social programmes.
- At the New Horizons Centre, a residential life and employment skills development facility for adults, clients benefited from 898 social work intervention exercises; 40 clients were enrolled in vocational training programmes; 48 clients were employed and 16 clients were successfully reintegrated.
- Completed the User Brief for the Centre for Persons with Disabilities to be established at Carlsen Field, including services, and the tendering process has commenced.





## Direct Deposit

- The Direct Deposit service was launched whereby cheques are deposited directly to the bank accounts of clients on a phased basis, beginning with the senior citizens' Pension, and ultimately benefiting 65,000 Senior Citizens.
- This initiative will also be extended to facilitate recipients of Disability Grants and Public Assistance Grants for fiscal 2013.

## Senior Citizens' Services

- Replacing the Senior Citizens' Grant, the Senior Citizens' Pension was increased to a maximum of \$3,000 monthly.
- The minimum National Insurance Retirement pension was increased to \$3,000 per month and the minimum Public Servants' Pension was increased to \$3,000, so that retired public servants will be receiving a minimum total benefit of \$6,000 per month.
- Reconstruction of La Brea Home for Senior Citizens.
- Launch of Third Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Launch of the Woodbrook Senior Activities Centre and financial assistance provided by Tobago House of Assembly at two centres in Tobago.





## Celebrating Our Achievements in Community Development



- Built, renovated and upgraded 15 community centres throughout the country with auditoriums, audiovisual rooms, training kitchens, computer rooms, gyms, classrooms and bathrooms accessible for the differently abled at Malabar Phase IV, Sisters' Road, Upper Malabar, Second Caledonia, Duranta Gardens, Roystonia, Tumpuna, Golconda, Talparo, Carapichaima, Quarry Drive, Patna River Estate, Jerningham Junction - Caroni and Cumana - Toco and a Homework Centre at Mango Rose.
- Construction of community centres in progress in 21 areas: Ortoire, Palo Seco/ Los Charros, St John's Village, Palo Seco Settlement, El Dorado, Samaroo Village, St. Augustine (South), Calvary, North Manzanilla, Carapo, Cocorite, Vessigny, St Helena, Matelot, L'Anse Noir, Chatham, Gasparillo, Santa Cruz, Point Fortin Civic Centre, San Fernando (North) and Harmony Hall.
- More than 16,000 persons were trained in over 60 courses through the Community Education Skills Programme.
- Over 5,000 persons benefited from implementation of 150 projects under the Community Awareness and Sensitization Programme.
- Hosted a series of SHINE: Spotighting Community concerts to showcase and honour talented groups and individuals.
- Launched the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Prime Minister's Best Village Trophy Competition, "Celebrating Achievements – Shaping the Future".
- A total of 60 persons have been trained in Peritoneal Dialysis through the Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme (GAPP).
- Launch of the first Biennial Community Development Partnership Forum and Exhibition and Inaugural Community Heroes Award 2013.
- Community Development Fund (CDF) formally handed over 20-seater vehicles to the YMCA and the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities.
- The CDF launched the Community Volunteer Programme and trained 21 volunteers in Poverty Alleviation and Community-based Programmes and Services.
- Export Centres Company Limited distributed starter kits to 35 graduates of its 2012 Craft Training Programmes; over 500 persons graduated from these programmes.
- Export Centres Company Limited distributed starter kits to 35 graduates of its 2012 Craft Training Programmes; over 500 persons graduated from these programmes.
- Nine mediation centres have been established and some 35,000 individuals have received services.
- Approximately 900 persons received training in conflict resolution skills, leadership skills and anger management.
- NADAPP hosted 2 workshops for pre-school managers & teachers from about 12 private pre-schools; 40 persons received drug education tools and were trained to utilise materials.



## Celebrating Our Achievements in Gender, Youth and Child Development



### Gender

- Hosted the Women in Harmony Programme for women, 26 to 45 years, trained with employable skills.
- Commenced the Defining Masculine Excellence Programme, to equip males with the knowledge and skills to help improve social relationships.
- Graduated 175 women from the 6-month Non-Traditional Skills for Women Programme.
- Introduced the Food Preparation and Home Management Programme for men and boys.
- Commenced training at Government ministries on gender-based budgeting.

### Youth

- Hosted the National Youth Volunteerism Launch/Competition.
- For 50th anniversary celebrations, the Ministry launched the Leaving Our Mark: Vacation Camp Experience programme called "Camp Footprints" and "Camp Vibe", themed "Our Culture, Our Heritage" totalling 52 camps and 2,785 children and youth.
- Hosted the 5th Annual National Youth Awards.
- The Cabinet approved the "National Youth Policy" and implementation has begun.

### Child Development

- Launched the Safeguarding our Children, Families, Communities: Gatekeepers Programme with the Toco Foundation.
- Delivered and officially opened a refurbished building for the St Michael School For Boys.
- Removed children at St. Mary's Children's Home into a temporary, safe structure with plans for a permanent structure.
- Consultative forum for 140 social workers to build a platform for a national integrated social service delivery system.
- Phased implementation commenced on the "National Strategic Plan for Child Development".
- The Children's Act, 2012, introduced a more stringent regime to punish sexual offences against children.

### Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago

- Completed a GAP analysis of 50 community residences, which will contribute to the development of Standards and Regulations for community residences.
- Developed and currently operationalizing a "Child Protection Registry".
- Established a "Child Protection Library" in collaboration with NALIS.



## Celebrating Our Achievements in Education

### Integrating Information Communication Technology: The Educational Laptop Initiative

- 17,362 laptops were distributed to Form 1 students in 152 secondary schools for the academic year 2012/2013 with 29 software programmes.
- Distributed 467 laptops to primary school principals.
- Conducted training for 7,734 teachers in a series of ICT courses.
- Collaborated with Microsoft Inc. to host three eCAL ICT in Education Innovative Award competitions.



### Improving Infrastructure in Schools

- Works were completed at 350 primary and secondary schools, of which, 77 schools were repaired during the July-August 2012 vacation period.
- Commissioned and opened 13 fully functional, state-of-the-art ECCECs.
- Commenced preparation for the establishment of Public-Private Partnerships in the provision of Early Childhood Care and Education by hosting district consultations to secure stakeholder buy-in.
- Over the past two years, 13 primary schools have been constructed with the construction of 42 replacement primary schools scheduled. Fifteen schools will be constructed in fiscal 2013.
- Over the past two years, four secondary schools have been completed and formally opened, namely: Marabella South, Aranguez North, Couva West Government and Five Rivers Secondary. Construction work is ongoing at eight secondary schools.



### Improving Students' Overall Academic Performance

- In 2012, 18,542 students in Standard 1 and 19,948 students in Standard 3 wrote the National Test in Mathematics and Language Arts. In Mathematics, there was some 40% improvement in Standards 1 and 3, while literacy levels improved by about 50%.
- The Academic Performance Index (API) indicated that the number of schools under Academic Watch decreased from 120 in 2011, to 28 in 2012.
- There was an increase in the number of schools in the "Excelling" band from 15 in 2011 to 121 in 2012 while no schools fell into the "Academic Emergency" category.

### Teacher Development:

- Commenced the conduct of a baseline study of teachers' performance in May 2012, which will inform a model for the professional development of teachers.
- Conducted professional development training for 35 curriculum officers to support teachers in the delivery of the Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) curriculum.
- Improved teacher skills in all eight core subjects by training 160 teachers.
- Held a leadership conference for principals and administrators: "The Leader in Me".
- Commenced the reclassification process for secondary level teachers.
- Conducted workshops on Discipline for Principals of Secondary and Primary Schools.
- Completed review meetings with TTUTA dealing with the review of the Performance Management Appraisal Process Manual with approval obtained.



### Continuous Assessment Component

- The Continuous Assessment Component (CAC) of the Secondary Entrance Assessment was introduced and will contribute 20% of the final mark.
- Implemented an intensive training programme to support the implementation of CAC.
- Trained 72 facilitators, 828 Standard Five teachers, 609 Standards Four teachers.
- Developed 11,000 training manuals and 3,000 CDs for distribution as teaching aids.
- Scaled up the resources at 557 primary schools to support the delivery of the expanded curriculum.
- Training for 34 curriculum officers, 41 school supervisors and a group of 121 persons as CAC monitors.



## Celebrating Our Achievements in Science and Technology



- The 2012 Awards for Excellence in Science, Technology and Innovation recognised 17 outstanding Trinidad and Tobago scientists for their contribution in their respective fields. The categories of awards were for engineering, medicine, natural science, applied science and technology, innovation in arts and culture. Awards were also offered for Junior Scientist and Junior Engineer.
- Staging of the visiting exhibition, India: A Culture of Science. Over 51,000 visitors (60% of whom were students representing over 300 educational institutions) were given a snapshot of India's and humanity's progress in science and technology, from ancient to modern times and an understanding through India's example of the central role that science & technology plays in driving growth and development and economic diversification.
- The Environmental Solutions for Rural Communities programme was piloted in Toco, Moruga and Barrackpore. Public education sessions on water conservation impacted over 2500 students from 11 schools. The initiative also trained 75 people in these communities to install special rainwater harvesters, which was completed in nine schools.
- The 11th Annual Caribbean Youth Science Forum (CYSF) brought together 200 sixth form science students from Trinidad and Tobago and six countries in the region, with a key aim of inspiring them to pursue STEM careers. They met leading local and international scientists; developed their critical thinking and design skills and saw "science in action" at research labs or applied in the field and industry.





The 2012 Awards for Excellence in Science, Technology and Innovation

### NIHERST

- NIHERST's Science & Technology statistical research supports capacity building in knowledge management for the knowledge-based economy. In 2012, work focused on reporting on or publishing the results of: Survey of Innovation in the Tourism Sector, 2009; Innovation in the Publishing, Printing and Paper Converter Industry, 2010; Survey of Science in Secondary Schools, 2011 and Energy Consumption by Households, 2011. New surveys undertaken were on: Innovation in the ICT sector for 2012; the Public Perception of Science, 2012 and Science and Technology (S&T) Indicators, 2011.
- NIHERST's extensive non-formal education programmes, offered through the NIHERST-NGC National Science Centre (NSC) and the institute's Innovation Unit, focus on science, creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. The highly interactive and entertaining approach makes learning easier and more enjoyable. In 2012, over 77,100 adults and children took part in initiatives and activities including: Robotics and electronics workshops for teacher and students; Science & Technology Vacation Camps, Innovation Camps, the launch of Sci-Eng Club, Science Whizz competition and the Community-centred Design & Innovation programme.
- A key outreach activity of the NSC is its Community Science Week programme that takes science to the people in rural communities. Two science weeks were held in Preysal and in Tabaquite, attracting 9,000 students from pre-school to secondary as well as adults. The programme featured interactive exhibits, workshops, science shows, lectures/discussions, a career day and telescope viewings.
- The Science Music Video Competition was launched with the aim of encouraging young people between the ages of 14 and 28 to promote scientific knowledge and communicate on issues related to science in development, using a medium that is very popular with them. 150 persons received training in music video production to help them improve the quality of their entries.
- In terms of educational resources, a DVD on climate change was completed and distributed to schools. It is a unique resource with games, simulations, quizzes and information designed to educate Caribbean students on the causes and impacts of climate on Caribbean SIDS and measures for mitigation and adaptation. An animation video on oil spills was also completed.



## Celebrating Our Achievements in Tertiary Education and Skills Training

- Thirty acres of land were dedicated to building the future main campus facility of the College of Science, Technology and the Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT). Construction of the campus began in September 2012.
- Work commenced on the Academy of Nursing and Allied Health in El Dorado.
- Members of the St. Augustine Education City committee have been appointed.
- Sod turned on the site for the Centre for Workforce Research and Development on the St. Augustine campus of The University of the West Indies.
- Hosted a one-day symposium on workforce research and development.
- Launched Jobs and Career Coaches to give counselling and advice on job placement, career enhancement and interviewing techniques.
- Launch of the Trinidad and Tobago Research and Education Network (TTRENT) to allow students and researchers to engage with international and regional e-learning content.
- The Metal Industries Company Limited (MIC) unveiled two VRTEX 360Machines, educational training tools that are designed to accelerate welding training through the utilization of virtual reality.
- Participated in the International World Skills Competition, hosted by the National Training Agency (NTA), which provides hundreds of young students and apprentices from around the world with the opportunity to compete before government officials, the industry, sponsors, various training providers and the media in some 40 skill areas that are assessed against demanding international standards.
- The Masters of Arts in Leadership in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Workforce Development was launched at The UWI, St. Augustine.



### National Energy Skills Centre

- The Vehicle Management Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (VMCOTT) and the National Energy Skills Centre (NESC) launched a Workforce Assessment Centre and Trade School to provide opportunities for advanced level training to residents of Port of Spain.
- Graduation of the first group of Nigerian trainees from (NESC) in automotive services maintenance, crane operations, shielded metal arc welding and industrial mechanical maintenance.
- The Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC)/NESC Trade School and Workforce Assessment Centre is formally opened at PTSC headquarters. Sixteen students have been enrolled in its Heavy Equipment Technician Apprenticeship Programme.

### University of Trinidad and Tobago

- The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) awarded a scholarship to Olympic gold medallist Keshorn Walcott and the first graduate of UTT's Artist Diploma in Music Performance programme, Stephan Hernandez.
- Launched its Scarborough campus, expanding its educational reach in Tobago.
- Launched The Energy Institute of Trinidad and Tobago (EIT), a collaboration between UTT and NESC, as a one-stop-shop for energy training and tuition within Trinidad and Tobago.

### Aviation Training

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed among key stakeholders to enhance the supply of training and education offerings within the aviation sector.
- First programme of the Aviation Institute of Trinidad and Tobago was formally launched at the National Helicopter Services Limited (NHSL) at Camden Field, Couva with 16 students training for the Aircraft Maintenance Engineer's Licence.



### Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP)

- Launched its Public Access Learning System (PALS) at its Valencia Training and Enterprise Academy and unveiled this country's very first free "hole in the wall" computer, which is located in the wall of the Academy on the Valencia Main Road.
- Hosted its Funding and Business Ownership Seminar to link trainees of its Small Business Management programme to experts in the area of Micro Entrepreneurship.
- Launched Signature Creations, an income-generating Business Incubator designed to encourage micro entrepreneurship in the cosmetology industry.











The Government  
of the Republic of  
Trinidad and Tobago



50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE  
**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

# CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS

"True to our word and our election promise, this administration has been actively involved in developing our country on the basis of consensus and consultation. We are cognisant of the importance of engaging with all of the citizenry when making decisions that affect us; we are committed to letting the will of the people be the driving force of government."

**The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar**  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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