



FULFILLING THE PROMISE

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago 2011-2012



Shaping Our Future

FULLFILLING THE PROMISE

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago 2011-2012

C O N T E N T S



The Government
of the Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago

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MESSAGE

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

Fellow Citizens,

On May 24 2012, we shall complete two years in office as the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. You gave us a mandate to govern in your interest and wellbeing, a mandate which we have attempted to fulfil to the best of our collective abilities. We believe in open and transparent government and above all the right of citizens to scrutinize our performance. In this regard, this magazine is a compilation of a range of projects and programmes undertaken as well as goods and services delivered over the last year. It is intended to give you an opportunity to examine some of the major achievements of the Government you elected to serve you. We are proud of our achievements since we believe that these have affected the quality of life in Trinidad and Tobago.

We promised that this year will be the year of delivery. Throughout the pages of this magazine you will see and read of tangible evidence which supports our promise to deliver. Whether it is by way of new and refurbished schools, or the building of new pre-schools as part of our desire to achieve universal pre-school education, or whether it is the 300 kilometres of agricultural access roads that have eased the burdens of our farmers in accessing their lands and transporting their crops, or whether it is the package of legislation passed by us to combat crime, the reality is that your government has been working in your interest.

This publication also represents your Government's commitment to the principle of accountability. We believe that government works in partnership with the people who elected it to office. We believe that government must be responsive to the needs of people. It is with all of this in mind that the magazine has also been produced.

Please celebrate with us our successes and achievements of the past year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'K. Persad-Bissessar'. The signature is fluid and includes a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kamla Persad-Bissessar
Prime Minister



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1. Distribution of keys to homes by the Housing Development Corporation.
2. Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar opens The University of the West Indies' Medical Teaching and Student Facilities at the San Fernando General Hospital.
3. At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2011 in Perth, Australia, from right, Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Queen Elizabeth II and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
4. Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communications, Surujrattan Rambachan meet with US Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton.
5. Legislation will be drafted with the intention of making the Caribbean Court of Justice the final court of appeal in all criminal matters, replacing the London-based Privy Council.
6. The opening of the Rio Claro Social Services Centre to bring social services closer to the people in underserved areas.

FULFILLING THE PROMISE



Shaping Our Future

As Trinidad and Tobago stands at the golden horizon of our 50th Anniversary of Independence, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago reflects with gratitude on the indomitable spirit and courage of all our mothers and fathers who built this land, pillar by pillar.

In this year of our Golden Jubilee, we look to our future with a sense of renewed hope, forged by a strong faith in our people and a firm resolve to build the nation of our dreams. In this nation, “no one will be left behind”. This is the all-embracing vision of our Prime Minister, the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, who defined the way forward for her Government with the injunction to “serve the people, serve the people, serve the people”.

After being swept into office on a powerful wave of change, the People’s Partnership Government’s first 365 days bore the signature of a new, heart-warming approach to governance. No longer would sick children suffer while weary parents made heart-wrenching pleas for funding for medical treatment abroad. Following the Prime Minister’s lead, all Government Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries dipped into their monthly salaries to provide continuous funding for the revolutionary Children’s Life Fund.

No longer would school children be at a disadvantage in an increasingly technological world as the continuous distribution of laptops to all Form One students helped to decrease the digital divide. No longer would the poor and disadvantaged be forgotten as the Honourable Prime Minister mandated the creation of the Ministry of the People, ensuring that the long-neglected, basic needs of people and communities would be met with vigour and focus.

The People’s Partnership Government has carried this legacy of people-centred performance into its second year in office, fulfilling promise after promise as it shapes a pathway of meaningful social and economic transformation for our nation.

In this second year, the Government continues to re-design and re-engineer its systems of governance, delivery and service to the people. Despite the economic turmoil being experienced in other parts of the world, we have managed to stabilize the economy and position it for sustainable growth through an emphasis on fiscal prudence.

Your Government has also engaged the local private sector giving it a place of importance at the centre of economic development. Already, we have seen a return to economic growth and increasing investor confidence.

The Seven Interconnected Pillars of Sustainable Development have reset the nation’s strategic compass in the right direction, giving birth to the Medium-Term Policy Framework 2011-2014, which articulates the Government’s policy for action and, in particular, the imperative to build an innovation-driven economy. This framework recognises the need to engineer policy shifts that decisively depart from past failures at managing the nation’s development. It effectively addresses and prioritises our citizens’ major concerns which have largely gone unheeded in the past. These five strategic imperatives, which weigh upon our collective mind, include crime and law and order; agriculture and food security; health care services and hospitals; economic growth, job creation, competitiveness and innovation and very significantly, poverty reduction and human capital development. Upon this solid foundation, innovation for lasting prosperity is firmly supported and the sustainable economic and social advancement of all citizens may be built.



National Vision

Our Vision is that through creativity, innovation and collaboration, we shall prosper together.

National Mission

The mission is to achieve economic inclusiveness in an innovation-driven growth economy with greater equity, more meaningful participation and a rising tide of prosperity for all in Trinidad and Tobago.

Building a people, Shaping a nation

PEOPLE-CENTRED DEVELOPMENT

We Need Everyone and All Can Contribute



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, at left, and Ms. Khadijah Ameen, Chairman of the Piarco/Tunapuna Regional Corporation, with students at the opening of the Malabar Government Early Childhood Care Centre.

**“Remember the words...
‘Hope springs eternal from the human breast’. I am often guided in life by the words of that well-known poem because I believe that no matter the circumstances, people generally should always have hope. No matter how bad things have been, there is always the hope that they will get better.”**

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

The People’s Partnership Government recognises that each one of the 1.3 million citizens who lives in our beautiful land plays an instrumental and dynamic role in our country’s development. This first and most significant Pillar of Development underscores this administration’s recognition that People are at the centre of all economic and social transformation. Indeed, both must walk hand in hand as we continue to place people-centred development at the heart of our national strategy.

This Government’s overall strategy seeks to create more wealth-gaining opportunities for each citizen, to include all in the nation-building process and to strengthen the culture and spirit of entrepreneurship and self-reliance in order to usher in a new era of prosperity for all.

Central to the nation’s development strategy are citizens’ development aspirations and opportunity for growth through meaningful engagement in education, employment, arts and culture, sport and community activities.

The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago intoned the key vision for her Government from its inception: “Service to the people”. Over the past year she has again underlined “service delivery” as the watchwords of her administration. These are words that have been well heeded by Ministries, which have strived in every sphere to ensure that people are the *raison d’etre* of policies and decisions.

MAJOR MILESTONES



The Spiritual Shouter Baptist community was elated at the opening of its first primary school, the St. Barbara's Spiritual Shouter Baptist Primary School, after land was first granted by the United National Congress Government 15 years ago.

Education – Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary

- Under the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme, 29 ECCE centres were constructed, moving our country towards the goal of universal pre-school education. In 2012, ECCE centres were opened in Retrench, Golconda, Wellington Road, Harmony Hall, Carlsen Field and Maraval.
- 24 ECCE centres are being constructed with Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) support and the construction of another 80 ECCE centres will begin shortly.
- 520 infrastructural projects for repair and refurbishment were conducted in ECCE centres, primary and secondary schools in 2011.
- Training of 600 persons in ECCE education has commenced by the various tertiary providers to expand the cadre of teachers required in this field.
- The Spiritual Shouter Baptist community was elated at the opening of its first primary school, the St. Barbara's Spiritual Shouter Baptist Primary School, after land was first granted by the United National Congress Government 15 years ago.
- Implementation of the curriculum for holistic development of students at all levels of the primary school is in progress.
- A complete review of the primary school curriculum was conducted and recommendations implemented.
- Held a 2-day, stakeholders' consultation for inclusion of Visual and Performing Arts and Physical Education to be taught to Standard 5 students.
- The date of the SEA examination has now been changed to May 10, 2012, in the initial year.
- Over 34,000 laptops, with 14 Microsoft packages, security and monitoring features, have been distributed to Form One students since the laptop distribution programme's inception, and distribution of some 17,000 more expected in 2012.
- 3,000 teachers received laptops for the academic year 2011 with ICT training provided for 3,500 teachers.
- Reading workshops were held for 300 teachers and 100 principals.
- The eConnect and Learn programme is being expanded to include provision of a digital portal, teacher training, wireless connectivity in primary and secondary schools, educational content software and infusion of technology.



- Distribution of 467 laptops with instructional materials and digital information to primary school principals in fulfilment of a promise made during a workshop.
- Hosted a Principals' Leadership Conference on "The Leader in Me" for principals, teachers and school supervisors.
- Hosted a Special Needs Forum for stakeholders to address the educational problems facing the nation's Special Needs Children, given that some 30% of the student population are diagnosed with special needs issues annually.
- Progress was advanced towards the construction of the Tobago School for Special Needs Children.
- A consultancy was initiated for full neuro-developmental and related screening, assessment and treatment of all students in eight ECCE centres and eight primary schools, which will determine the incidence and prevalence of the various special needs.
- The reopening of the Biche Secondary School, abandoned by the previous administration, reduced the inconvenience to parents and children who previously travelled long distances to school.
- Four secondary schools have been completed with an additional four schools to be finished by year's end.
- Completion of training of approximately 80 teachers in the 2-year Masters degree programme aimed at improving reading skills among new secondary school entrants.
- For the first time, World Teachers Day was celebrated by the Ministry of Education by honouring the nation's teachers. Additionally, 240 retirees were honoured and 158 top-performance SEA students were recognised.
- Outfitted approximately 50 schools with mobile technology labs.
- A National Student Hotline was activated – 800-4321.
- 60% of secondary school students participated in the Education Ministry's first Career Guidance Programme to assist students in determining their careers.
- There was a 55.6% increase in open scholarship awards.
- A Programme and Projects Planning Management Unit was established to lead and manage the Ministry's transformation.

The reopening of the Biche Secondary School, abandoned by the previous administration, reduced the inconvenience to parents and children who previously travelled long distances to school.

Minister of Arts and Multiculturalism, Winston "Gypsy" Peters accompanies Education Minister, Dr. Tim Gopeesingh on a tour of the Biche Secondary School.



Tertiary Education and Skills Development

- The Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education (MSTTE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine to develop a Centre for Workforce Research and Development (CWRD) to focus on tracking, monitoring and forecasting labour market trends, skills gaps and training needs.
- Students can now transfer accumulated credits across various educational institutions following the signing of a MoU to adopt the "Guidelines for the Framing of Articulation Agreements".
- MSTTE appointed a St. Augustine Education City Committee to develop a University Town, which will serve as an Integrated Centre for Academic Excellence.
- Commencement of works on the MSTTE Headquarters in Chaguana.
- The Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses (GATE) programme was expanded to include Technical Vocational Education and Training. From May 2010 to March 2012, 71,441 persons received GATE funding at an expenditure of \$1.1 billion. A Standing Committee was also established at public tertiary institutions requiring students to maintain the minimum GPA.
- The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) launched the first student caravan, which visited secondary schools in rural communities across the country to better offer career guidance services to students and the wider public.
- ACTT granted institutional accreditation to UWI, the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT) and the Arthur Lock Jack Graduate School of Business.
- ACTT opened its South Outreach Office in San Fernando.
- College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAAT) opened the nation's first school of journalism, the Ken Gordon School of Journalism and Communication Studies.
- A COSTAATT Campus was opened in Sangre Grande to meet the needs of underserved populations.
- Metal Industries Company Limited (MIC) established three Workforce Assessment Centres in Macoya, Pleasantville and Tobago; opened the O'Meara Hype and Administration Facility and launched Solar Energy/Photovoltaic Training.
- The National Energy Skills Centre (NESC) launched an apprenticeship programme to support auto mechanics training and also commenced refurbishment of the Debe Technology Centre.
- National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST) staged Sci-Teckno Fest, "Create, Innovate, Sustain"; 35,000 visitors participated - the largest to date.
- NIHERST launched the "Caribbean Women in Science and Their Careers" - the 5th publication in the icons in science technology and innovation series and also collaborated with training institutions to produce a publication on Trinidad and Tobago Icons in STI (Volume 2), featuring 29 outstanding local scientists, engineers and innovators.

- NIHERST launched the Caribbean Science and Agriculture Film and Video Competition and conducted a training workshop for sixty entrants with support from key stakeholders inclusive of UWI and the Trinidad & Tobago Film Company (TTFC).
- NIHERST launched the Indian Travelling Science Museum at the Divali Nagar compound.



(L-R) Mr. Jwala Rambarran, Chairman of NIHERST, Mr. K. G. Kumar, Director of the National Council of Science Museums (India), Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education, Mr. Deokinanan Sharma, President of the National Council for Indian Culture and Mr. Joe Ramkissoo, First Vice President, National Council for Indian Culture

- The National Training Agency (NTA) managed the implementation of Workforce Assessment Centres that allows qualified, but uncertified, citizens to acquire the relevant credentials; hosted a National Career Fair for over 10,000 persons and launched the National Labour Market Report, a joint initiative with CNMG, for information on opportunities in the labour market.
- NTA also opened eight new On-the-Job-Training sub-offices throughout the country.
- UTT opened the Professional Education Unit and the UTT Charleville Campus in Chaguana.
- UTT launched the Biosciences, Agriculture and Food Technology (BAFT) programme and commissioned the New Animal Science building; launched the Advanced Centre for Coastal and Ocean Research and Development (ACCORD) and the Student Social Responsibility Centre.
- UTT signed an MoU with Caribbean Airlines and National Helicopters Services Limited for the start of Aircraft Maintenance Training.



continued...

- UWI, St. Augustine began construction of its South Campus at Penal /Debe, which will accommodate a Faculty of Law, Campus Library, General Academic/Administrative Building, Student Union Building and Halls of Residence.
- UWI also commenced construction of the Signal Hill UWI Open Campus Site and will facilitate the expansion of enrolment in the Open Campus Programmes in Tobago.
- Construction also began on The UWI Centre for Research and Workforce Development.
- The Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute (TTHTI) entered into an agreement with the Australian Institute of Business to introduce its first transnational programme – the Bachelor of Business Administration in Hospitality and Tourism Management.
- Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programmes Limited (YTEPP) opened the Bethel Empowerment Centre, Bethel Tobago to provide opportunities for Skills Training and Worker Certificates.
- A Memorandum of Understanding signed between YTEPP and USAID provides mobile computer bus services to rural communities in Tobago.
- YTEPP revised the age of entry to accept trainees up to age 35.
- YTEPP also opened the new Point Lisas Training Facility, the Waterloo Training Facility and implemented three new Workforce Assessment Centres (WAC) at Maloney Vocational Centre, Valencia Training & Enterprise Academy and Chaguanas Training & Enterprise Academy.

Gender and Youth Issues

- Implementation of the Gatekeepers Project, “Empowering Young Males in Communities”.
- In commemoration of International Women’s Day, nationwide workshops were held on domestic violence, agriculture, sex health and education, life skills, employment and employability and health and safety; training was provided to Government Ministries on gender-responsive budgeting.
- Development of the National Strategic Plan for Child Development, based on stakeholder consultations.
- Implementation of the National Youth Volunteerism Project, an integrated approach to develop and nurture a sense of caring, giving and pride in young people through involvement in meaningful volunteer projects.
- Review of the National Youth Policy, the National Youth Council and the National Gender Policy.
- 320 women graduated from the Women in Harmony Programme for single head of households with low or no skills and low or no income.



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar hosts reception for Caribbean Regional Colloquium on Women Leaders as Agents of Change.



The San Fernando General Hospital's new eye theatre and ward are formally opened by Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar with South-West Regional Health Authority Chairman, Dr. Lackram Bodoie.



Surgeons use state-of-the-art equipment to perform eye surgery.

Healthcare

- Commissioning of Phase 1 services at the new Scarborough General Hospital, a state-of-the-art, 100-bed hospital including outpatient clinics, radiology and pharmacy services – the first real addition to Tobago's hospital services in 50 years.
- Launched the Children's Life Fund Authority in November 2011 to provide life-saving surgery or treatment overseas for children in need.
- The new Arima Hospital, envisaged to be a modern, 150-bed hospital, has been approved.
- The sod-turning ceremony was held for a Children's Hospital and Multi-Training Facility, which will contain 150 adult beds and 80 beds for children, a burns care unit, casualty clinic for children and adults, a multi-training facility and a school for medicine and nursing.
- The San Fernando General Hospital and The University of the West Indies constructed accommodation and training facilities for medical interns on the southern hospital's compound.
- Adaptation of Chancery Lane Administration Complex to Chancery Lane Hospital Complex, an extension of the San Fernando General Hospital to hold 234 beds with a paediatric ward, outpatient clinic, pharmacy, labs, lecture hall.
- Sod-turning ceremony for the construction of a US\$4M medical laboratory to provide free blood testing for over 162,000 residents for Couva and environs.
- The National Oncology Centre will become the one-stop-shop for cancer care from diagnosis to treatment to cure under the central control of a specialist care team.
- A National Centre for Non-Communicable Diseases will be constructed to provide specialist treatment for chronic non-communicable diseases (CNCDs) in Penal.
- Designs are being developed for the Sangre Grande Enhanced Health Centre as well as an upgrade of the Eric Williams Medical Sciences' Women's Hospital.
- Launched a new state-of-the-art eye theatre and ward at the San Fernando General Hospital, a new breast surgery theatre at the St. James Medical Complex and installed 23 new beds at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex.
- Established a Cardiology Unit and Oncology Department at the San Fernando General Hospital; X-ray and ultrasound services at the Siparia District Health Facility; upgraded dental clinics at the Dental Hospital and completed refurbishment works and sanitization of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Diagnostic Laboratory and Births Department at the Mt. Hope Women's Hospital.
- Fight the Fat "T&T Wellness Revolution" campaign, a sustained wellness programme, which targets the national population to achieve a healthy weight in order to lower the risk for CNCDs.
- Provision of free hearing aids and related services to students and financial assistance for the purchase of spectacles to children in need who have been diagnosed with vision problems.
- The Aides to Nursing Programme received Cabinet approval, which will provide support services to the Registered Nurses and Enrolled Nursing Assistants in their delivery of health care. 350 Aides to Nursing will support various health institutions every three years.
- Opening of Ministry of Health's Gym and Wellness Centre to promote healthy lifestyles.
- Signed a US\$2M agreement with the United States of America to assist in the fight against HIV/AIDS and conducted free HIV testing and counselling for over 32,000 persons.
- Increased the breastfeeding subvention from \$5,000 to \$100,000 and commenced initiative to provide free milk to at-risk mothers and children.

children's Life Fund

The Children's Life Fund: Saving Our Children

The Children's Life Fund was envisioned by the Honourable Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar to provide funding and critical support for children in need of life-saving, tertiary level health care services not available locally. At the 2010 launch of the Fund, she stated, "It is our belief that children must not die in the dawn of life in my country - or in any other country - because they cannot afford health care."



The Children's Life Fund has made a world of difference in the lives of Chanka Mangroo, a single parent, and his six-year-old son, Justin Chanka. The Mangroos were the first clients to walk through the doors of the newly established Children's Life Fund Authority in November 2011. Their journey to those doors had been an ordeal of impromptu hospital visits as Mangroo dealt with the trauma of his son's cyanotic spells – periods in which he would pass out and remain unconscious for lengthy periods.

Diagnosed with pulmonary atresia, a form of heart disease that occurs from birth, Justin underwent his first major surgery locally at the tender age of seven months. However, in October 2011, he became very ill once again, remaining unconscious for three days at a local hospital. It was then that he was referred to the Children's Life Fund by a local doctor. Mangroo was thrilled to learn that his formal application for his son's surgery abroad had been approved. Justin received the first phase of life-saving heart surgery at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Canada in January 2012.

An emotional Mangroo was high in praise of the Children's Life Fund and the staff of the Children's Life Fund Authority. "They went above and beyond the call of duty. They helped us over every obstacle and called often while we were in Canada to check on Justin's progress. There are hundreds of parents like me who need that kind of support – not everyone can afford hundreds of thousands of dollars to pay for their children's surgery abroad."

The journeys between Trinidad and Canada were made possible through the kind donation of Caribbean Airlines, which provided free air transport for the family and the attending doctor who accompanied them to Canada.



Justin Chanka received funding from the Children's Life Fund for life-saving surgery abroad.

The Children's Life Fund has assisted some 43 children in acquiring life-saving medical treatment abroad from its inception to the end of April 2012 at a cost of \$11,398,614.86.



Building Prosperity For All

POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Preference for the Poor and Disadvantaged

PILLAR

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Minister of Housing and the Environment, Dr. Roodal Moonilal, at the Housing Development Corporation's presentation of keys ceremony.

Trinidad and Tobago has long been blessed with the resources of the earth – oil and gas – which have fuelled great prosperity for our nation over the years. Yet there are those citizens among us who have never been touched by any of the windfalls with which this nation has been blessed. For the poor, the indigent and the dispossessed, life involves eking out a minimal subsistence for survival. It is a heartbreaking statistic that some 200,000 citizens fall into this category and it is a statistic that this Government is determined to change.

Designated as the second pillar of development and intricately linked to the first pillar of people-centred development, poverty eradication is being vigorously addressed by the People's Partnership Government through a multi-pronged approach.

The social safety net is being continuously widened and deepened to ensure that the basic needs of the most vulnerable in our society are adequately met. At the same time, we continue to empower our people through the provision of educational and training opportunities across the spectrum of academic, technical and vocational skills. Our efforts are clearly focused on building a society of self-reliant, productive individuals and communities.

Your Government holds firm in the belief that each and every one of us matters. Every citizen has a significant role to play in our country's development but they can only take their place at the national table if they are empowered to rise out of the ashes of poverty and are enabled to transform their lives with dignity.

"We firmly believe that the success of our Nation rests on the well-being of our communities, our families and on each individual in Trinidad and Tobago. We remain committed to providing a life of dignity to each citizen of Trinidad and Tobago and we acknowledge that housing is an integral component of this goal. Without decent and affordable housing, families may encounter difficulties in managing their daily lives which often negatively impact their children's safety, health and development."

-The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

MAJOR MILESTONES

“At its core, the Ministry of the People and Social Development will interface with every other Ministry to focus on people, specifically those citizens of our society who are most vulnerable. We are committed to doing our part in creating sustainable opportunities that foster greater self-reliance, productivity and inclusion.”

- The Honourable
Dr. Glenn Ramadharsingh,
Minister of the People and
Social Development



Developing Our Society

- Introduction of the RISE UP (Rights of Individuals to Social and Economic Security, Universal Prosperity) component of the Food Card, which provides developmental support to those most in need in terms of health, income, housing, education, safety and security, family dynamics, employment and personal identity. The RISE UP Secretariat is partnering with other private, public and non-governmental organisations to secure employment and skills training for over 800 clients. Many RISE UP participants have been returning their People’s Cards as they become self-reliant citizens.
- The Temporary Food Card, valid for three months, will now be made available through Members of Parliament’s offices, ensuring that persons living in dire poverty can enjoy immediate relief.
- Some 6,000 hampers were distributed over the Christmas period to families across the country to ensure that the underprivileged were provided with immediate relief.
- The Direct Impact Outreach programme provided social services to over 50,000 citizens as compared to an average 3,000 per year under the previous administration.
- The Direct Effect (DE) programme takes social intervention into the East/West Corridor and at-risk communities. DE visits have led to the building of 52 starter homes and several community projects by unemployed youth who receive construction training for this initiative.
- Social Outreach in Coastal Areas (SOCA) programme takes all services of the Direct Impact Outreach to coastal areas with Ministry staff also engaging in clean-up activities.
- The Direct Deposit Initiative will allow the elderly to access their pension cheques directly from their accounts using their debit cards.
- The minimum National Insurance Retirement Pension was increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per month with effect from February 1, 2012.
- All grants were increased through the Ministry of the People & Social Development.
- Introduction of the URP (Unemployment Relief Programme) Social Programme, where citizens work as teams to produce crops, which are distributed to homes for children and senior citizens.
- **URP Social has also employed over 200 mothers of children with cerebral palsy to work in social centres. This allows them to earn an income and provide care for children with special needs so that, in turn, other parents of children with special needs may seek employment.**
- The URP’s Ray of Hope programme targeted groups within distressed communities, providing support through clean-ups and general maintenance of property. More than 200 persons with disabilities, 43 convalescent homes and 26 homes and centres for persons with disabilities were assisted by this venture.
- Through the Positive Transformation programme, former gang members are prepared to put down their weapons and instead take up tools to give back to their community by way of cleaning up their environment.
- To alleviate the street dwelling challenge, a Task Force was appointed to formulate a plan for street dwellers to move from the streets voluntarily. Additionally, persons at the Assessment Centre at Riverside Plaza are rehabilitated with the assistance of Vision on a Mission so that they may once again live a productive life.
- Land has been acquired towards the construction of a National Collaborative Development Centre for Persons with Disabilities.
- Day Activity Centres are being established for persons with disabilities so that they may enjoy a range of activities in a comfortable environment.
- All persons with disabilities will now receive a People’s Card to enhance their food security. In advancing this process, an updated Disability Register is being built.

Developing Communities

- Under the Community Education Skills Programme (CEP), which is designed to increase the level of skilled persons in communities so that employment opportunities may be created, 327 skills training classes were introduced for which approximately 9,040 people registered throughout the 8 administrative districts; 189 leadership development/management courses were held in which 4,000 persons participated; 7,000 persons benefited from the implementation of 265 projects under the Community Awareness and Sensitization Programme and 119 Handicraft Development Courses were conducted.
- In engaging communities through environmental and cultural projects, the Prime Minister's Clean and Beautify Trinidad and Tobago 2012 edition was launched; Prime Minister's Best Village Competition "Traditions of Carnival" was held at Macoya and the Food and Folk Fair at the Queen's Park Savannah.
- Through the Geriatric and Adolescent Partnership Programme, Level II training for the programme commenced in April 2012 at Mayaro Sporting Complex, Valleyline Islamic Centre, Chaguanas Community Centre, Ste. Madeleine Regional Complex and St. Joseph Community Centre.
- Meals are provided to some 100 persons daily through the Transformation Development Centres, which provide societal support for poor and needy persons.
- The National Commission for Self Help Limited (NCSH) completed four bridges, with seven more in progress, which benefited 277 persons; 200 persons benefited from the refurbishment of community centres; 28 drain projects were completed, with 40 more in progress, which benefited 3,485 persons; 10 retaining walls were completed, with 30 more underway, which benefited 4,082 persons; 15 roads were completed, with 21 more ongoing, which benefited 10,968 persons and 1 school was completed, with 3 more underway, which benefited 2,850 persons.
- Through the NCSH's Minor Repairs/Reconstruction Grant, 5,166 persons benefited while the Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Grant assisted 1,425 persons.
- A Volunteer Community Facility Management Committee is now appointed by the Minister of Community Development for a period of two years, in the first instance, for each newly constructed/refurbished community centre to promote equitable use of the facility in areas that are of relevance to the various groups in the community.
- Commissioned 12 community centres at Gulf View, Marac, Waterloo, Union Claxton Bay, Malabar Phase IV, La Gloria, Hindustan, Bon Air West, Ste. Madeleine, Sisters' Road, Second Caledonia, Duranta Gardens and a home work centre at Mango Rose.
- Construction of community centres is in progress in 21 areas: Ortoire, Palo Seco/Los Charros, St. John's Village, Palo Seco Settlement, Roystonia, 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.
- Currently, refurbishment works are being undertaken on community centres at Mount Hope/ Mount Lambert Community Centre, Barataria Community Centre and Talparo Community Centre. These centres are approximately 60 to 70% completed.



Minister of Community Development, Nizam Baksh, takes a hands-on approach to developing communities.

- By year's end, refurbishment works will be undertaken on nine community centres at La Lune, Rampanalgas, Guaico/Tamana, Golconda, Mendez Village, Grande Riviere, Hermitage, Coryal, Tunapuna, Hermitage and Manahambre.
- Through the Community Development Fund (CDF), outreach programmes were conducted at Guapo, Siparia, Arima, Bonasse, Couva, Diego Martin, the Brian Lara Promenade and for International Women's Day; 21 Community Volunteers were recruited for Trinidad and Tobago; 100 persons benefited under the Basket of Funding Programme; 52 groups benefited under the Organisational Development Programme; vehicles were purchased and handed over to Living Waters, Raffa House and Barrackpore Islamic Centre; funding continues to be disbursed to the Best Centre and Parlatuvier projects in Tobago and the CDF partnered with The University of the West Indies in hosting the Poverty Alleviation Conference. Additionally, the CDF's presence was re-established in Tobago.
- The Export Centres Company Limited, designed to increase the employment level in Trinidad and Tobago through its Skills Training Programme aimed at the revitalization of the handicraft industry, assisted 736 persons.





Housing and Shelter

- Distribution of over 1,000 Certificates of Comfort to squatter families with another 2,000 currently being processed.
- The Land and Settlement Agency (LSA) commenced preparation of plans and designs for 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.
- LSA completed a master plan with key stakeholders to address squatting and relocation in over 20 sites.
- Disbursement of millions in housing grants to eligible citizens whose homes were in need of repair or improvement – over 600 homeowners benefited from the provision of emergency financial relief as well as for repairs to homes damaged by fire and natural disasters.
- Some 150 families received a Christmas gift of a home from the Housing Development Corporation (HDC), some of whom have been waiting for decades for adequate living quarters.
- Distribution of 1,241 home improvement subsidies, totalling over \$22 million.
- The Home Improvement Grant (HIG) team conducted a drive that specifically targeted the differently-abled with over 100 persons benefiting. 1,624 persons benefited from the HIG programme at a cost of some \$24 million, with funding up to \$15,000 per beneficiary.
- The Colour Me Orange programme presented young people with opportunities to harness their skills through their refurbishment of HDC rental units.
- Launch of Clifton Street Towers Housing Project, Sea Lots.
- CEPEP launched an OSH Training Programme, training some 6,300 workers.
- As envisioned by the Honourable Prime Minister, Kamla Persad-Bissessar, the CEPEP Santa programme undertook more than 200 Christmas projects to assist needy citizens.
- CEPEP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with COSTAAT to provide academic training to CEPEP contractors' employees as well as a MOU with NEDCO to provide financial assistance and financial literacy training to contractors.
- The Tobago office of CEPEP was opened.



Shaping a safe society

NATIONAL AND PERSONAL SECURITY

Human Security for Peace and Prosperity

PILLAR

3

"We have looked hard into the heart of the social challenges we face and we see that heart to be a young heart - the heart of our youth. We see it pulsating with a potent mixture of anxiety, energy, confusion and uncertainty. We see it at one moment capable of being loving and kind and, at another, being cold, careless and reckless. In a moment our youth could be laughing out; in a heartbeat they could be striking out viciously. As a consequence, we see this, the heart of our nation, to be in dire need of attention from all of us."

- Senator the Honourable Brigadier
John Sandy, Minister of National Security



When the People's Partnership Government assumed office, it was confronted with a wounded land, defaced by crime and scarred by fear. This was a fear that was justified by an unacceptable 509 murders in the year 2009. With great determination and resolve, this Government began unrolling its strategies and programmes to restore law and order to this land and return a sense of peace and a feeling of security to our citizens.

We recognised that reining in runaway crime must involve a concerted assault from every angle. This multi-pronged approach to national security involves crime suppression but also focuses on more cognitive, preventative and human development aspects of crime fighting. In order to stem the red tide of crime among those most vulnerable to its lure, the Government began its work through the implementation of innovative programmes targeting the youth. With this holistic approach, intervention and prevention will work hand in hand with pro-social initiatives. Positive law enforcement will be buttressed by the rehabilitation of offenders and reinforced by the attending legislative support.

We understand that any reduction in criminal activity is inherently linked to citizen co-operation. It is the Government's intent to return law enforcement agencies to the communities with a view to creating a more harmonious, respectful and co-operative relationship between officers and residents. This is a main thrust of the 21st Century Policing Initiative which seeks to rebuild trust and collaboration between the nation's law enforcement officers and the communities and citizens they serve.

Your Government has demonstrated its commitment to eradicating the scourge of criminality by redirecting funds into the Ministry of National Security away from large scale mega construction projects. These funds have been redeployed into the recruitment of more law enforcement officers who are better equipped and trained, the implementation of modern crime fighting techniques and technology and improved efficiency and communication within the Police Service.

In a bold move, your Government took the courageous decision to declare a state of emergency and limited curfew to wage war against those amongst us determined to undermine this nation's peace and security. In the aftermath of this concerted effort to wrest control from the lawless, the results were tangible: hundreds of firearms were confiscated and removed from our streets, over \$1 billion of illegal drugs were removed from the reach of our youth and destroyed, important intelligence was gathered on illegal gangs, a billion dollar illegal diesel bunkering racket was uncovered and there was an immediate decrease in the number of homicide and other serious crimes.

In addition to garnering the support of our citizenry at home, the Government fully recognises that crime occurs in a larger context, often spreading its tentacles across our region and beyond. We continue to forge external links with our Caribbean and North and South American neighbours and international crime-fighting organisations to assail the plague of criminality from every strategic front and with every mechanism and resource available.

MAJOR MILESTONES

“The majority of crimes committed with guns, lethal or not, are committed by offenders using handguns obtained illegally through illicit underground purchasing, renting, leasing or theft. Reducing the illegal supply of handguns to criminals is crucial to reducing gun violence and this Government remains committed to addressing this concern by taking decisive action to reduce the illegal and all too accessible supply of guns to criminals.”

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



- The limited State of Emergency produced tangible results in the fight against crime including: the seizure of 190 firearms, 13,550 rounds of ammunition and 39 magazines, 1,261.9 kgs of marijuana and 17.2 kg of cocaine. Additional outcomes included the dismantling of gang-related activities; the expansion of police intelligence gathering; the removal of criminal threats through collaborative efforts within communities and providing residents with an opportunity to partner with law enforcement.
- In fiscal 2011, 15,877 incidents of serious crimes were reported, as compared to 20,771 in fiscal year 2010. There was also an increase in the rate of detection from 16.5% to 18.8%.
- In 2011, murders decreased by 25.6%; woundings and shootings by 13.1%; kidnapping for ransom by 57.1%; robberies by 27.4%; motor vehicle theft by 34.4%; house larceny by 22.8%; burglaries and break-ins by 19.7% and narcotic offences by 6.4%.
- Introduction of the 21st Century Model of Policing pilot initiative to fight crime, based on deployment methods, increased patrols and heightened police visibility.
- The police service strengthened its fleet with the acquisition of 229 new vehicles, while an additional 1,479 were refurbished.
- The Trinidad and Tobago Air Guard benefited from the acquisition and commissioning into service of two new AW 139 helicopters in June 2011 and two more new AW 139 helicopters in 2012. These helicopters will complement the existing fleet, assisting in the interdiction efforts against drug, arms and human trafficking.
- Cabinet has approved the acquisition of four diesel interceptors and agreed to the refurbishment of two existing outboard offshore interceptors to add to the fleet of the Coast Guard.
- Ten Cadet Units were formally commissioned including units at the Diego Martin North, Waterloo and Couva West Secondary Schools.





The sod was turned for the construction of the Mayaro Fire Station – one of five fire stations and nine police stations scheduled to be built.

- Upgrades in the Prison Service system included the installation of CCTV, walk-through scanners and baggage scanners as well as an upgrade of alarm systems and outdoor lighting.
- Rehabilitation programmes at the Prison Service included: Healing Through Hair, Inmates' Poetry Competition, Inmates' Art Exhibition, Carnival Competition, Caring for Ex-Offenders and Angel Tree.
- The Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service Youth Clubs resumed their youth-based training programmes with 83 youth, comprising 59 males and 24 females.
- The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management's (ODPM) Early Warning System (EWS) now comprises an Emergency SMS Service as well as an Emergency Broadcast Service and a Community Based Flood Early Warning System.
- In January 2012, Machine Readable Passport renewal was processed within three days, down from six working days in 2010.
- Several communities are benefiting from Citizen Security Programme (CSP) projects, which include the Beetham RIP Parenting Programme; refurbishment of two walls and design of mural for the Cocorite community; implementation of recreational facilities in La Romaine and launch of the Pinto Road Community Centre; the Pinto Resource Centre; Youth Development through Sports project at St Barbs and Percussive Harmonic Instrument (PHI) training at Enterprise; an after-school programme at Farm Road, Diego Martin and Quashie Trace, Laventille; establishment of an Information Technology Centre at Mt D'or Road, Champ Fleurs; rehabilitation of a recreational facility at Sogren Trace, Laventille. There has been a reduction in homicide rates in all CSP communities.
- In the National Mentorship Programme: 29 facilities have been approved for use as mentoring centres throughout Trinidad and Tobago; a Mentorship Unit was established within the Ministry of National Security; formal matching of mentees and mentors took place in February 2012.
- The PANyard Initiative, which was conceptualized as a nexus between the panyard and youths to help young people develop life/social skills through mentoring via the steel pan, continues in eight communities.
- The National Adopt a School Programme (NASPRO) is geared towards providing avenues for young people within several schools to participate in constructive, developmental activities and focused on initiatives to be implemented during regular and after-school hours, including motivational talks and guidance counselling sessions.
- Launched the new Making Life Important (MLI) Project in September 2011, which is a model for creating crime-free, peaceful and sustainable communities across Trinidad and Tobago. An MLI Unit has operationalised projects in Beetham and Gonzales.
- Concerts of Hope, which were held in communities across Trinidad and Tobago, featured the music bands of the divisions of the Ministry of National Security. In 2011, the Ministry hosted "Pan in De Rosa", showcasing nine steelband groups as well as concerts in Tunapuna and Biche.
- The inaugural Fatherhood Fair entitled "Fathers bring yuh son and come" was held in June 2011.
- The sod was turned for the construction of the Mayaro Fire Station – one of five fire stations and nine police stations scheduled to be built.
- Signed agreements with the Organisation of American States (OAS) for the Execution of a Project to Strengthen Information on Public Security and Co-operation Agreement for the Execution of a Project entitled, Promoting Firearms Marking in Latin America and the Caribbean, which allow for proper identification of firearms and improved exchange of information and experiences among OAS member states as an essential tool in combating illicit activities. OAS provided a laser-marking machine for the police service's use.

Transforming the Criminal Justice System

The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2010 as a demonstration of this Government's firm commitment to re-engineering and modernising the criminal justice and penal systems, through consultation with all stakeholders, with a view to ensuring swift justice from the point of arrest to the final determination.

- In an effort to advance criminal justice reform, Minister of Justice, the Honourable Herbert Volney has led fact-finding delegations to Jamaica, The Bahamas, Florida, USA and Canada with a view to acquiring first-hand, practical knowledge on critical issues, including electronic monitoring, home confinement, penal reform, parole, probation and work release, community corrections and criminal case management.
- The Justice Ministry has made great progress in the area of legislative reform:
 - The Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) Bill 2011 will change the criminal justice system as we know it, abolishing the system of preliminary enquiries and replacing it with a "sufficiency hearing". This system is expected to ensure greater efficiency and expediency and so eliminate the backlog currently plaguing the criminal justice system.
 - The Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Bill 2011 establishes a legal framework within which DNA evidence can be used in the investigation and prosecution of criminal matters. The Bill establishes an electronic national Forensic DNA Databank of Trinidad and Tobago containing DNA profiles attributed to criminals or crime scenes. It also simplifies the process for obtaining DNA samples.
 - The Legal Aid and Advice (Amendment) Bill 2011 widens access to legal aid and advice services by those who would not otherwise be able to afford legal representation.
- The Ministry has developed a policy to guide the establishment of a parole system as an essential component of restorative justice. Integral to the successful introduction of parole is the implementation of new prison rules to replace the outmoded 1838 Rules. The new draft of the Prison Rules Policy reflects a movement away from a retributive style of punishing offenders to an emphasis on the reduction of crime through the successful reintegration of the offender back into society.
- To strengthen and refine the functioning of the Police Complaints Authority, the Justice Ministry has formulated a policy aimed at streamlining its operations and better facilitating the execution of its functions.
- The public will benefit from the construction of four court complexes at Sangre Grande, Trincity, Carlsen Field and Siparia respectively. The San Fernando District Office of the Legal Aid and Advisory Authority has also been opened at Harris Street, San Fernando to make justice more accessible to the population. Additionally, the Tobago District Office has also been relocated.

Public Administration Minister, Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan, Justice Minister Herbert Volney and Mr. Chateram Sinanan, Director/Chairman of the Legal Aid and Advisory Authority at the opening of the Advisory's south office.





Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar (from right) with United States Attorney General Eric Holder Jr., Attorney General Anand Ramlogan and United States Ambassador Beatrice W. Welters.

Significant Legislation

- The Anti-Gang Bill 2010: This Act will enable the suppression of association established for unlawful purposes and will advance the greater preservation of public safety and order.
- The Anti-Terrorism Bill 2011: This Act criminalises terrorism and provides for the detection, prevention, prosecution, conviction and punishment of terrorist activities and the confiscation, forfeiture and seizure of terrorists' assets. It brings Trinidad and Tobago into further compliance with international standards on the financing of terrorism.
- The Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons (No.2) Bill, 2010: This Act will give effect to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction.
- The Bail (Amendment) Bill, 2010: This Act seeks to amend the Bail Act to confer on a Court the jurisdiction to deny bail to a person who is a gang member.
- The Evidence (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2010: This Bill has improved the previous Act by making allowance for the admissibility of audio and video recordings as evidence in criminal proceedings.
- The Firearms (Amendment) Bill, 2010: The Act amends the Firearms Act to increase the penalties for certain offences involving a firearm or any prohibited weapon, as defined by the Act, by an average of fifty percent.
- The Interception of Communications Bill, 2010: An Act to provide for and about the interception of communications, the acquisition and disclosure of data relating to communications, the acquisition of the means by which electronic data protected by encryption or passwords may be decrypted or accessed and other related matters.
- The Miscellaneous Provisions (Kidnapping and Bail) Bill, 2010: This Bill seeks to amend the Bail Act and the Kidnapping Act by increasing the amount of time a person can be held with no evidence for the charge of kidnapping and by changing the existing penalty for the offence of kidnapping respectively.
- The Miscellaneous Provisions (Ministry of Justice) Bill, 2011: This is an Act to amend certain enactments to provide for the vesting of functions and powers in the Minister of Justice.
- The Miscellaneous Provisions (Remand) Bill, 2010: This Act amended the Summary Courts Act, Chap. 4:20 and the Indictable Offences (Preliminary Enquiry) Act, Chap. 12:01. It increased the period in which a Magistrate can remand an accused person with regard to both summary and indictable matters.
- The Trafficking in Persons Bill, 2011: This Act gives effect to preventing, suppressing and punishing persons who may engage in trafficking in persons, especially women and children. It supplements the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.
- The Children's Life Fund Bill, 2010: An Act to establish the Children's Life Fund as a charity and for related matters.
- The Children Bill, 2012: An Act relating to the protection of children and for related matters.
- The Data Protection Bill, 2011: This Act seeks to protect the privacy of personal and private information of individuals that is entered into electronic format.
- The Electronic Transactions Bill, 2011: This Act gives legal effect to electronic documents, electronic records, electronic signatures and electronic transactions.
- The Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (Amendment) Bill, 2011: This Act amends the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of Trinidad and Tobago Act, 2009.
- The Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2011: The Act expanded remit of the FIU to include combating terrorist financing.
- The Purchase of Certain Rights and Validation Bill, 2011: An Act to provide for the purchase by Government of certain rights belonging to holders of Short-Term Investment Products with Colonial Life Insurance Company (Trinidad) Limited and British American Insurance Company (Trinidad) Limited; to empower the Minister of Finance to make payments and issue bonds for the purchase of those rights; to validate funding provided by Government to Colonial Life Insurance Company (Trinidad) Limited and British American Insurance Company (Trinidad) Limited; and for related matters.
- The Senior Citizens' Grant (Amendment) Bill, 2010: This Act seeks to amend the Senior Citizens' Grant Act, Chap. 32:02 to change the name of the Act to the Senior Citizens' Pension Act and to make the necessary changes from senior citizens' pension within the Act. The Act would also increase the ceiling for monthly pensions to three thousand dollars and set out the various income ranges as the eligibility criteria for receipt of the monthly pension.
- The Land Tenants (Security of Tenure)(Amendment) Bill, 2010: The Bill seeks to amend section 4(3) of the Land Tenants (Security of Tenure) Act, Chap. 59:54, to change the time by which a tenant under a statutory lease is required to serve on his landlord written notice of the exercise of the tenant's right to renew the lease from at least six months before the expiration of the lease to on or before the expiration of the lease.
- The Statutory Authorities (Amendment) Bill, 2010: The Act amends the Statutory Authorities Act, Chap. 24:01, in order to empower the Minister to grant one month's salary to the family of a deceased employee of a Statutory Authority in accordance with the priorities set out in the Bill.



Trade and Investment Minister Stephen Cadiz (front, third from right) with Government agencies partnering to execute TTBizLink.

“As this island takes a more active role in determining its present and future developments, these agencies have undoubtedly demonstrated commitment through the introduction of this Technology Centre that will furnish citizens, students and residents of Tobago with the means to improve their personal, professional and socio-economic circumstances.”

- The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, on the opening of the Tobago Technology Centre.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is fundamental to the development of our nation as a modern, progressive society. The People's Partnership Government's ICT plan is focused on creating opportunities for our people and enhancing the quality of their lives.

During its second year of service to our country, this administration has taken significant strides in fulfilling its promise of ensuring that every citizen will be able to have access and conduct business for a wide range of

governmental services. The ICT backbone, linked to the competencies of a well-educated population, will provide the required support for effective communication, information sharing and knowledge management.

The laptop-distribution in schools initiative has taken our beloved nation closer to a future where information technology-based learning will be infused in education at the primary and secondary school levels to support and complement traditional forms of teaching and research. In keeping with the Medium-Term Policy Framework 2011-2014, the National Information and Communication Technology Company Limited (iGovTT) - the central ICT agency of the Government - will continue the implementation of a National ICT Strategy. Already the eCAL project has begun rolling out, which aims to integrate internet-enabled education throughout the school system.

TT Biz Link, the first phase of the Single Electronic Window (SEW), overseen by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, already allows parties to lodge standardised information and documents at a single entry point, in order to fulfil all import, export and transit regulatory requirements.

In the sphere of telecommunications, efforts are underway for customers to be connected to a fibre network and the resulting expansion of telecommunication-driven security services to consumers nationwide.

MAJOR MILESTONES



“The focus of the Ministry this year must be on the pursuit of a knowledge-driven society in Trinidad and Tobago through technological applications to support learning and development.”

- The Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Science, Technology & Tertiary Education



Information Technology Infrastructure

- Purchase of over 100 computers and upgrades to network infrastructure at the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.
- At the Judiciary, cabling and network infrastructure upgrade and case management information system and video conferencing expansion to Siparia, Rio Claro and Chaguanas Magistrate's Courts and the Coroner's Court.
- Computerization of the Defence Force with an updated network and PBX system and works for the installation of a fibre optic backbone for Tetrion Barracks, upgrade of video conferencing facilities and upgrade of the NATO codification system.
- The Computerization Programme continued in Tobago on the Secondary School Computerization Programme, networking of various Tobago House of Assembly Divisions and the computerization and networking of the Ministry of Tobago Affairs.
- Under the IDB assisted E-Government and Knowledge Brokering Programme, several contracts were awarded for the provision of technical support to various Ministries including:
 - Creation of a Transformation Secretariat under the Ministry of Public Administration's Public Sector Transformation Agenda to support its advancement.
 - Providing technical support to Ministries and Departments in preparation of the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) management systems.
 - Installation of an Information System to provide efficient and effective management of information related to the administration of scholarships.
 - Preparation for modernization of the Public Procurement System at the Central Tenders Board.
 - Expansion of E-Services Delivery System to consolidate the Registrar General's Department's online service delivery platform and strengthen the vault management system; modernize the Registry System and provide support for the expansion of the population and companies registries.
 - Establishment of a Document Management System to improve the efficiency of operations of the Service Commissions Department.
 - Transitioning of the Central Statistical Office in accordance with the recommendations of Statistics Sweden Consultancy firm.
- With the Implementation of the ICT Plan, six service centres and five citizen self-service kiosks are operational under the e-Government portal tconnect online, the single point of entry for end-user access to government information and services.
- St. Lucia's Education, Human Resource and Labour Minister, the Honourable Dr. Robert Lewis led a team of education officials to observe and understand our Ministry of Education's Laptop Initiative e-Connect and Learn Programme (eCAL), which has infused ICT in education.
- Completion of the key processes and procedures to support use of the technology for the Tender Notices Online.
- Drafting and implementation of supporting legislation and regulation for EPayments.
- Linkages developed between the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education and the National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT) of India, a leading global talent development corporation that is building a skilled manpower pool for the global IT industry with a view to assisting UTT and iGovTT to develop policy and enhance delivery platforms for Government services.
- Launch of the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago's (ACTT) online edition of its 2011-2012 Compendium of Registered, Accredited and Recognised Institutions, Awarding Bodies and Programmes. The publication will provide students with accurate information to make informed decisions when selecting quality assured institutions and programmers in pursuit of higher education.
- Launch of Tobago Technology Centre to facilitate training programmes delivered by both the Metal Industries Company Limited (MIC) and the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP).
- Launched the m-Fisheries application and involved the Distance Learning Secretariat, The University of the West Indies, the Caribbean Fisheries Training Development and 50 fisherfolk.
- Held National Consultations on the National ICT Plan in April-May 2012 to develop an agenda for ICT Implementation across Government Ministries and provide Services to the public using a Technology-Based Framework.
- Launched the "Closing the Digital Gap Initiative" in Bangladesh, St. Joseph to narrow the Computer Literacy and Usage of Technology by Disadvantaged At-Risk Communities.

Legal Affairs

- Establishment of 14 Electronic Registration Centres in Trinidad and Tobago, considerably reducing the wait-time for obtaining birth and death certificates from between three and six months after registration, to mere minutes after registration.
- Previously, electronic registration of births was available only at the Port-of-Spain General Hospital and therefore available only to parents whose children were born within that district. This service was expanded, within three weeks, to the San Fernando General Hospital and has since been expanded to cover the entire country so that hand-written registration (with its attendant problems) has been eliminated.
- Current laws mandate that births and deaths MUST be registered at the District Registrar nearest where the birth occurred. Introduction of electronic registration services across the entire country required provision of computers with internet connection to all District Registrars.
- All District Registrars are accessible seven days per week to perform registrations.
- Legislation has already been drafted and approved by the Law Review Committee and will soon come before the Parliament to amend the Births, Deaths and Marriage Act, which will enable electronic registration of marriages and the issuance of computer-generated Marriage Certificates. They will also give citizens whose Birth Certificates do not now include a 'First Name', the right to have his/her name inserted. Some 30,000 citizens will benefit from this amendment.
- Among the initiatives currently being undertaken is the development of a complete database of information held by the Registrar General's Department, with a view to making relevant information available to the public via the internet. The Ministry of Legal Affairs' (MLA) website will eventually facilitate online applications, online payments and limited online delivery of some services/documents.
- The MLA is ready to accept on-line payment for its services, via Credit Card transactions. The lack of such a facility has been particularly severe on nationals living abroad who attempt to obtain services available at the Registrar General's Department. Passage of the Data Protection Bill will enable Credit Card transactions.
- Upgrading of offices at San Fernando and Arima, both of which currently provide services associated with the Civil Registry only, which will permit them to perform limited Companies and Land transactions, in addition to services at the Civil Registry.



Legal Affairs Minister, Prakash Ramadhar with staff of the Registrar General's Department of the Ministry, which has launched new District Electronic Registration Centres for the public's convenience.



Legal Affairs Minister, Prakash Ramadhar with baby Keisha Shannon whose birth was e-registered at the Pt. Fortin District Registrar's Office

Postal Services

- The Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation continued in furtherance of its goal of improving postal services to all clients throughout Trinidad and Tobago. Work advanced on various projects including:
 - Refurbishment of the Santa Cruz Facility and preparations for refurbishment at other facilities.
 - Completion of system design phase of the Postal Code.

FULFILLING THE PROMISE



Shaping Our Future



1. Caribbean Presidents and Prime Ministers at the Fourth CARICOM-Cuba Summit in Trinidad and Tobago.
2. Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar speaks at the launch of the National Integrated Business Incubator System (IBIS). At right is Minister of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development, Errol McLeod.
3. Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan attend a signing ceremony for an intergovernmental agreement between our two countries.

4. Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and Dr. Gregory Bissessar (at left) with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Mrs. Gursharan Kaur at the Presidential House in New Delhi.
5. Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar with, from left, Trinidad and Tobago Air Guard Commanding Officer, Captain Tyrone Rodulfo, Retired Justice Ulric Cross, Minister of National Security, Brigadier John Sandy and Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier Kenrick Maharaj at the renaming of the Piarco Air Station to the Ulric Cross Air Station.





1. Winning pieces in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Communications' 2nd Bridging Borders through Art Competition, themed "A Reflection of People of African Descent" in recognition of the United Nations' International Year for People of African Descent.
2. The recently renovated and re-opened Magdalena Grand Beach Resort, Tobago.
3. Caribbean Airlines received its first of nine ATR 72-600 aircraft in November 2011, which will increase inter-island flights between Trinidad and Tobago.



Building on the genius of our people

A More Diversified, Knowledge Intensive Economy

PILLAR

5



“Knowledge must be applied, innovation must be encouraged and welcomed, if as individuals and as a Nation we are to grow and prosper. We are a talented and creative people. We only have to consider the evolution of the steelpan or witness our successes in the areas of music, sport and fashion to realize that we have the potential for developing sustainable business from these and other initiatives.”

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

While Trinidad and Tobago continues to optimise its opportunities from the bedrock of our economy, oil and gas, this Government recognises that these initiatives must be bolstered by a parallel strategy of economic and social transformation that is steeped in the development of our precious human capital along with strategies that foster investment, diversification, competitiveness and innovation. Indeed, the overarching theme of the People Partnership Government's Medium-Term Policy Framework 2011-2014 is “Innovation for Lasting Prosperity”.

In order to secure our future, our agenda for economic transformation entails a policy shift from competing largely on the basis of production processes and investment in plants towards a knowledge-based, technology-driven, innovative and globally connected economy. This is based on a foundation of providing products and services that are differentiated in the world marketplace on the basis of quality, value and innovation. It is rooted in the improvement of the skills base of our workforce, the expansion of our imports and a significant growth in our productivity.

Innovation is the key to the door of success in the Government's determined thrust to move the economy to a higher growth plane. It underpins the creation of new and sustainable high value-added industries. It is the driving force behind the expansion and development of cultural industries, the performing and visual arts, literary and fashion industries, architectural design and the software industries, among others.

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

Working together, across Ministries and in fruitful collaboration with the private sector, we will nurture a society that is constructed on the values of ingenuity, creativity and adaptability to the benefit of our national sustainable progress.

MAJOR MILESTONES

Trade and Investment

- Considerable advancement was made towards the implementation of the Single Electronic Window, TTBizLinK, which will revolutionize the way we do business in Trinidad and Tobago.
- Through eTeck, major renovations have been completed at the Magdalena Grand Beach Resort in Tobago.
- The Ministry of Trade and Industry in collaboration with the major private sector bodies initiated trade missions including: INDUEXPO 2011 in Guatemala - June 2011; Meeting on Opportunities for Business, Trade and Investment between Central America and the Caribbean in El Salvador - August 2011; 5th Competitiveness Forum in Dominican Republic - October 2011; WTO Ministerial in Geneva - December 2011; Expo Jamaica – April 2012 and 13th Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development – April 2012 (Honourable Minister Stephen Cadiz serves as one of the Vice Presidents.)
- In partnership with the Commonwealth Business Council an annual Caribbean Investment Forum was hosted in Trinidad in 2011 and 2012 with wide representation from the region and internationally.
- Co-hosted with the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association (TTMA), the Annual Trade and Investment Convention (TIC). In 2011, over 8,000 persons attended the 2011 TIC with an estimated generation of over US\$50 million in business for TTMA members.
- The Governments of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the People's Republic of China hosted the 3rd China – Caribbean Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum. Over 400 local and international business persons attended this event, resulting in millions of dollars in development assistance and loans for Trinidad and Tobago and the rest of the Caribbean region.



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar visits an international booth at the Trade and Investment Convention 2012 with Trade and Investment Minister, Stephen Cadiz.

Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs

- Launch of the National Food Production Action Plan, developed in consultation with the national farmers' associations and other interest groups, which outlines the strategic goals in creating a food secure nation.
- Refurbishment and rebuilding of 11 fish landing sites, with basic amenities provided. An additional 11 fish landing sites will be upgraded by year's end.
- Developed and launched Revised Incentives Programme for the agricultural sector for the first time in almost 20 years.
- Record construction of 300 on-farm irrigation ponds to address the issue of water for agriculture with the intention of repeating this accomplishment by the end of 2012.



Minister of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs, Vasant Bharath, demonstrates his cabbage trimming skills to members of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago.



- Record construction of approximately 200 km of agricultural access roads with another 200 km carded for construction by year's end.
- Commencement of lease distribution to over 7,000 ex Caroni workers: Agricultural Leases delivered: 1200, Residential Leases delivered: 480, both of which were promised by the previous administration since 2003.
- Commissioning of four large farm sites: Edinburgh Farms, Two Brothers Corporation, Technology Farms and Evergreen Ranch Limited.
- Distribution of 4,223 acres of productive agriculture lands to farmers - the single largest issue in the last 50 years.
- Decreased rates of interest on Agricultural Development Bank loans to farmers.
- Launch of the Agriculture Now Initiative, which sees URP employees productively working in agriculture with a 3-month training session.
- 50 university graduates to come on board annually for a one-year Internship Programme promoting the agriculture sector as a viable career option.

“This Government is 100% committed to creating food security in Trinidad and Tobago, ensuring that we bring the cost of living down through reducing inflation, to putting more people back to productive work.”

*- The Honourable Vasant Bharath,
Minister of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs*

- For the first time in almost 100 years, revised Fisheries Management legislation will be up for Legislative Review.
- In March 2012, onions were harvested for the first time in Trinidad and Tobago, which represents a real possibility for a reduction in our food import bill.
- Four storage facilities will be constructed for farmers, the first of which will be opened in Ste. Madeleine, now making possible the development of a policy of guaranteed prices to farmers.



Tourism

- Opening of the Valencia Visitor Information Centre in collaboration with the Turtle Village Trust.
- Cultural tourism development - establishment of an Advisory Committee on Heritage Tourism, an important step in strengthening our capacity to safeguard our heritage.
- Conduct of Trinidad & Tobago Tourism Industry Certification Awareness (TTTIC) awareness sessions and certification of over 100 tourism service operators in Trinidad and Tobago.
- Completion of lighthouse tower and boundary safety barrier at the Toco Lighthouse Project.
- World Tourism Day 2011, "Tourism: Linking Cultures" was celebrated with a two-day exhibition and lecture to showcase our cultural heritage on "The East Indian Legacy" and "Oral Traditions and Folklore" held at the National Library and Information Service.
- Establishment of a Junior Lifeguard Club involved training for students of Forms 3-5 of the Mayaro Composite School.
- The Sugar Heritage Museum at Couva will capture and preserve the history of our sugar legacy.
- T&T was formally announced as a Heritage Tourism destination in 2011.
- Assisted Brasso Seco/Paria with the development of agro tourism, a cocoa and coffee house, introduction of "The Donkey Cart Tour" to Paria Bay for turtle watching and development of a parang band.
- There has been substantial completion of the Improvement and Expansion Works at the Emperor Valley Zoo project, including the construction of accommodation for the flamingos, humming birds, turtles and Giant River Otter and completion of new planted horticulture.

Energy & Renewable Energy Alternatives

- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Panama to boost co-operation in the areas of energy and trade, following which Petrotrin will be pursuing the prospect of using bunkering facilities at the Panama Canal.
- Consultations have begun with a consortium of Saudi Arabian and Chinese companies to construct two petrochemical complexes - methanol to petrochemicals and methanol to olefins - at Pt. Lisas.
- Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean will benefit from natural gas exported from Trinidad and Tobago due to the impending construction of the Eastern Caribbean Pipeline.
- The National Gas Company and the Tanzania Petroleum Development Company have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, so creating considerable opportunities for our energy sector.
- Hosted international roadshows in Houston, Texas and London, England to aggressively promote the local energy sector and garner interest in the bid rounds for marine acreage.
- The 2012 deepwater bid round was held for six oil and gas blocks in the northeast and eastern coasts where there is major potential for hydrocarbon discoveries.



Energy & Energy Affairs Minister Kevin Ramnarine chats with students at the opening of CARICOM Energy Week in San Fernando.

- Petrotrin's aggressive drilling campaign to locate sources of oil to boost production has resulted in an offshore find estimated at 48 million barrels of light and heavy crude oil. A Canadian energy company also made a recent oil and gas find in its Galeota licence off the southeast coast of Trinidad.
- National Petroleum Marketing Company (NP) and the Public Transport Service Corporation have collaborated to make the Priority Bus Route "greener" with the construction of a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) service station at the Corporation's City Gate hub. The current and incoming fleet of buses are expected to be CNG-powered, thus reducing the fuel subsidy, increasing the foreign exchange trade with excess diesel now exported and ensuring a cleaner environment.
- NP also partnered with the Vehicle Management Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago to open a CNG station at Beetham Gardens.
- Establishment of an Energy Service Company Certification Committee to certify companies who wish to provide energy audits to the energy sector. This is a critical intervention in the thrust to increase energy efficiency nationally.
- Launch of a national public awareness campaign to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- Over 100 teachers were trained to deliver Renewable Energy lessons at UTT and UWI.
- Plans initiated towards the construction of a green-build community centre using renewable energy technology for lighting.
- 15 community centres will be externally lit using photovoltaic technology.
- A pilot project has commenced whereby 25 schools will be outfitted with solar water stills.
- A wind resource assessment programme has been advanced for the development of a wind farm on the East coast.



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar unveils the new Chaguaramas Development Authority's (CDA) Boardwalk with (from left) Minister of Planning and the Economy, Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie and CDA Chairman Daniel Solomon.

Environment

- Approval of the National Climate Change, Forest and Protected Areas Policies.
- Approval has been granted by the Global Environment Facility Secretariat to enable our country to access over US\$2.7 million in grant funding to execute a four-year project geared towards improving forest and protected areas management.
- Phase-out of ozone-depleting substances, hydrochlorofluorocarbon and methyl bromide usage for non-quarantine and pre-shipment usage in compliance with the Montreal Protocol.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Tobago House of Assembly, which provides for the operationalisation of the Green Fund in Tobago, inclusive of an office.
- An Aquaculture Workshop was held, which dealt with the re-circulating aquaculture systems for culturing fish.
- Commenced collaborative turtle protection activities on prohibited beaches in collaboration with several community-based organisations.
- Launched replanting of trees in the Maraval Watershed in collaboration with the Diego Martin Regional Corporation and the La Seiva Community.
- CEPEP Marine Pilot Project was officially launched to clean and maintain our marine spaces, wetlands and inland waterways; over 11,870 bags of garbage have been collected to date.
- The scope of CEPEP was expanded with an increase of contracting companies from 106 to 188 and a subsequent increase in employees from 6,800 to over 10,000.
- Under the National Reforestation and Watershed Rehabilitation Programme: some 1,400 acres of denuded lands have been reforested; 14 acres of ex-quarry lands were replanted at the National Quarries site at Turure; 550 acres of new land were identified for reforestation; 600 miles of fire trails were cleared and maintained and 300,000 mixed forest seedlings were produced for replanting
- EMA held its 1st Youth Ambassadors Eco-Concert entitled "O.M.G. – Orient My Generation".
- Quarries of all sizes are now placed under the jurisdiction of the EMA.
- EMA is managing the Green Fund-supported Police Surveillance Bays Solar Lighting Project.
- Completion of Phase 1 of the Chaguaramas Board Walk, which is partly built from recycled plastic and is lit by solar-powered lamps, is expected to generate economic activity in the area.

Sport and Recreation

- Three national sporting facilities are scheduled for construction: the National Aquatic Centre and National Cycling Centre at Couva and a National Tennis Centre at Tacarigua.
- Local recreation grounds were upgraded at 13 locations nationwide. Works will be completed in May 2012 at recreation grounds at a further seven locations. The infrastructural needs of an additional 25 recreation grounds will be addressed by November 2012 and 37 more locations will be determined by January 2013.
- Works on seven regional and sub-regional facilities have been scheduled for completion by 2013 – the Brian Lara Recreation Ground in Santa Cruz, Irwin Park at Siparia, Eddie Hart Grounds at Tacarigua, Cumana Recreation Ground, Ojoe Road Ground in Sangre Grande and Penal Clarke Road, Penal; the Northern Regional Facility (Phase 1) has already been completed.
- Held the Women & Girls in Sport Festival 2012 and the National Aerobics Programme from February – June.
- Community Sport Caravans were conducted in Toco, Cumana and Mayaro.
- The Ability through Disability Awareness Programme was conducted in collaboration with the T&T Paralympic Committee with respect to physical activities for persons with disabilities in Tacarigua and Petit Valley.
- Tennis Academy Table was held at SWAHA Hindu College for the communities of Sangre Grande.
- Established a Sea Lots Development Programme: Karate coaching programme and homework centres targeted at primary school children.
- Held a Four-Star Coaching Development Programme and Academy for Higher Learning: Coaching Education Courses for football, basketball, cricket and development programme targeted at children and teenagers.
- Ball on d Sand: Beach Football Tournament held on Maracas Beach for North Coast communities
- St. Andrew/St. David Badminton Academy: Badminton development programme for children and teenagers in the communities of Sangre Grande and Manzanilla.
- Martial Arts & Kick Boxing Development Programme: A collaboration with the T&T Kick Boxing Council for the coaching of basic martial arts and kick boxing techniques and skills targeted to children and teenagers in the Chaguanas district.
- Morris Marshall Freedom Cup: Football tournament that brings together the communities of Laventille, Morvant, Beetham and Sea Lots.
- 2nd Conference on Football Development was held after the consultation, "Taking the Lead in Football Development," in November, 2011.



Sport and Youth Affairs Minister Anil Roberts (back row, third from right) with young tennis players at the sod turning of the National Tennis Centre in Tacarigua.

Arts and Multiculturalism

- Efforts to protect the rich artistic and historical value of our institutions continued with refurbishment works at the nation's museums such as the construction of the Virtual Museum including the launch of the official website; renovation and refurbishment of the Old Magistrate's Quarters at La Brea to accommodate the La Brea Community Museum; complete restoration of the main entrance of the museum at the Royal Victoria Institute building; launch of Sugar Heritage Village and Museum and restoration and preservation of military artefacts and renovations to the Military Museum.
- The National Museum featured 10 exhibitions and 2 quarterly concerts, including a major exhibition entitled "The Enemy Within", a photographic exhibition featuring reflections of the 1970s revolt.
- The project for the Establishment of a Heritage Site at Nelson Island was initiated.
- Extensive refurbishment and upgrade of Queen's Hall was continued.
- A Carnival Village was recreated and served as a major feature attraction during Carnival.



Minister of Arts and Multiculturalism, Winston "Gypsy" Peters opens a mobile library in Blanchisseuse with Executive Director of National Library and Information System Authority, Annette Wallace.





Minister of Arts and Multiculturalism, Winston "Gypsy" Peters turns the sod for the new Chaguanas Library. Looking on are Minister in the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development, Ramona Ramdial, Chaguanas Mayor, Orlando Nagessar, Minister of Works and Infrastructure, Jack Warner, officials of NALIS and Minister of Trade and Investment Stephen Cadiz.

- Distribution of \$2.68M in grants to unsponsored steelbands and \$1.34M in grants to various groups to assist in their Carnival 2012 preparations.
- Amerindian Heritage Celebrations were held in October 2011 with representatives of indigenous people from Suriname, Miami, Guyana and Dominica in attendance. Notably, 25 acres of land were also allocated to the First Peoples of Trinidad and Tobago.
- Sunday Library Services were initiated at selected libraries and specifically targeted students during their examination period.
- National Library Information Systems Authority (NALIS) acquired a well-stocked mobile library that will service underserved communities along the North Coast.
- The sod was turned for the construction of three public libraries at Rio Claro, Chaguanas and Mayaro.
- NALIS commenced a Youth Literacy Project, providing instruction for young adults, 12 to 15 years old, with reading challenges. It also continued its E-Cal Project which entails the purchase of e-resources for the school population in keeping with the e-connect and Learn laptop programmes.
- The Culture Division digitised over 2,009 items into either CD or DVD; they also scanned over 500 best village photographs, which will be available on the Ministry's website.
- Launched the National Registry for Artist and Cultural Workers towards the growth of the cultural sector and will facilitate free movement within the Caribbean and Europe.
- Decades of Dance Festival, in collaboration with the National Dance Association, took place in October 2011 at selected venues throughout the country.



Water Security

- Replacement of the 29 km Navet Trunk Main and completion of critical segments of the transmission and distribution networks - promised by the previous administration since 2005.
- Under the Water Sector Modernization Programme, works were performed at the Cumuto Water Treatment Plant and the San Fernando and South Oropouche Booster Pumping Stations.
- Water supplies were improved through the completion of 82 pipeline projects and 1 booster station.
- Potable water treatment plants were installed at Penal, Pt. Fortin, Talparo, Matura and Fyzabad with the aim of ensuring a more adequate water supply service to customers in these areas.
- The Talparo Water Treatment Plant was commissioned and made fully operational. The plants situated at Penal and Pt Fortin were tested for performance prior to commissioning while civil and mechanical works continued at Water Treatment Plants in Matura and Fyzabad.
- In Tobago, work progressed to allow greater redistribution of water to Signal Hill and Cove.
- The Utilities Assistance Programme, which provides financial assistance to eligible citizens to ensure their continued access to basic utilities, has benefited over 10,600 beneficiaries to date.
- 42 projects have been initiated with a further three in progress with respect to the construction and rehabilitation of water treatment plant facilities.
- 13 projects have commenced for the construction and rehabilitation of wells.
- 9 projects have commenced towards the construction and rehabilitation of service reservoirs.
- 25 projects are in progress towards building and refurbishing transmission and distribution pipelines and replacement of high leakage mains, with a further 20 planned.

Electricity

- Over the past fiscal year, 1,886 lights were installed, 131 lights were upgraded and 473 poles were installed.
- Installation of lights was completed at over 14 recreation grounds across Trinidad and Tobago with surveys carried out for installations to be done at other parks and recreational grounds.
- Upgrade and expansion of transmission and subtransmission infrastructure to meet the demands of economic development.
- 513 houses were wired and 123 households received materials assistance; 32 police grounds were also illuminated over the past year.
- Works are underway on tower lines at three substations at Pinto Road, St. James and Gateway.

Meteorological Services

- Work has commenced on the installation of an Automated Weather Observing System at Piarco.
- The process has begun towards constructing a specialised meteorological complex.



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar commissions the Digity Trace, Clarke Road, Penal WASA Water Project with Public Utilities Minister, Emmanuel George.



Public Utilities Minister Emmanuel George (from left) switches on the lights at Princess Royal Recreation Ground, Arima with Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister and Member of Parliament for Arima, Rodger Samuel, Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission Chairman Susilla Ramkissoon-Mark and Arima Mayor Ghassan Youseph.



Infrastructure

- **Completion of the Couva/Preysal Interchange, considerably reducing traffic congestion on both sides of the Solomon Hochoy Highway.**
- Completion of a bypass road to the airport in St. Helena, linking Piarco to Kelly Village, so considerably reducing the time it takes to reach the airport.
- Replacement of the Marianne Bridge, Blanchisseuse.
- Opening of the Grand Bazaar to Chaguanas Interchange, the Aranguez Overpass on the Churchill Roosevelt Highway and the associated roadways linking El Socorro north and south and Aranguez north and south. The works also involved the rehabilitation of various roads in the Aranguez and El Socorro areas.
- Continued installation of cable barriers along highways, including New Jersey type barriers.
- Commissioned the National Traffic Management Centre.
- Increased traffic wardens on the streets.
- Implementation of new traffic schemes in Port of Spain, San Fernando, Princes Town, East-West Corridor, Curepe, Tacarigua and St Joseph.
- Commissioning of 50 zebra crossings located throughout Trinidad.
- Opening up of the Priority Bus Route to the general public during specified times.
- Opening of Tarouba Link Road and retaining wall at Vistabella Road.
- Restructured National Roads Rehabilitation Programme, involving 166 projects, will make an appreciable difference to the quality of life of commuters as well as boost the construction sector and employment opportunities.
- Rehabilitation of major roads in south Trinidad: Pond Street and Pond Street Extension, La Romaine; Seepersad Trace East/West (Bailey bridge implemented to connect two communities in San Francique); Pointe-a-Pierre Road, Vistabella; Rock Road network in Penal including Lachoos Rd, Goodman Rd; Point Fortin, Alfred Street; Retaining Walls Forbes Park Trace – Tabaquite; La Paille Road, Naparima; School Hill Slope Stabilization; Thomas Ross Road and paving of the Southbound lane of the Solomon Hochoy Highway from Tarouba.
- Rehabilitation of major roads in central Trinidad: Chaguanas Main Road, Edinburgh Road, Sampson Road and Extension, Rock River Road and network, Asaraff Road Bridge and widening of the Uriah Butler Highway from Chaguanas to the Bird Sanctuary.
- Rehabilitation of major roads in north Trinidad: Laventille, Piccadilly road paving; rehabilitation of the Blanchisseuse Road; rehabilitation works on the North Coast following heavy rains; rehabilitation of Macqueripe Road and the median of the Churchill Roosevelt Highway between Trincity and Golden Grove Road intersection.
- Major drainage works included: detention ponds in South Quay and Bamboo Village; commissioned new water pump at the Cremation Site, Cacandee Road, Felicity, to ease flooding in the surrounding areas; dredging of rivers including Sea Lots River, Maraval River and East Dry River; clearing of many rivers in south Trinidad including Teemul Channel, Trinidad River and Bhagmania River; reconstruction of box drains countrywide and cleaning of underground drains in Port of Spain to alleviate flooding.
- Commencement of the extension of the highway to Point Fortin.



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar formally opens the Couva/Preysal Interchange with Works and Infrastructure Minister, Jack Warner, Minister of State in the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure, Stacy Roopnarine and Member of Parliament for Couva South, Rudranath Indarsingh, Chaguanas Mayor, Orlando Nagessar and other officials.



Repaving of Macqueripe Road



Marianne Bridge, Blanchisseuse



Transportation

- The North Aviation Business Park of the Piarco International Airport is being developed, which will facilitate business development in and around the airport.
- Continued upgrade of Piarco International Airport's airfield lighting infrastructure and control and monitoring system for better guidance and directions for aircraft.
- Improved infrastructure at ANR Robinson International Airport, Tobago.
- Caribbean Airlines (CAL) won the prestigious World Travel Award for a second year as the Caribbean's leading airline.
- Signed official purchase agreement for 9 ATR 72-600 aircraft.
- Welcomed a new addition Boeing 737-800 Next Generation aircraft from Seattle, Washington.
- Introduced self-service check-in kiosks at major airports.
- Launched flight-tracking application for smart phones.
- Agreement for CAL to commence non-stop flights between Trinidad and Gatwick, United Kingdom.
- Completed negotiations for establishment of an inter-island fast ferry service.
- Introduction of Public Transport Service Corporation buses in areas, particularly rural, previously not served.
- Introduction of transport for children in underserved rural areas.
- Ordering of 24 specially outfitted buses for differently abled persons.
- Introduction of a Rapid Bus Transit System on the East/West Corridor (PBR) providing a bus every 15 minutes.
- Introduction of Curepe-San Fernando service with 46 daily trips and a capacity of 2,070.
- Construction of 25 new bus shelters.
- The Greening of the Priority Bus Route Initiative will utilise renewable solar energy-powered streetlights and traffic lights and cleaner fuels for buses.
- Introduction of traffic wardens to address traffic congestion and help restore order on the roads.
- Engaged with the Province of Nova Scotia, Canada to implement a transformation initiative to convert the Licensing Division into a modernised Motor Vehicle Authority.
- Construction of a state-of-the-art water taxi facility at San Fernando.

Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise

- Launch of National Business Incubator System (IBIS) to provide a unique mix of business development support, infrastructure, operational and financial assistance that will assist in the growth and success of new and existing micro and small enterprises.
- Stakeholder consultation to inform new legislation to replace the Workmen's Compensation Act, Chapter 88:05.
- Repeal of the Masters and Servants Act and an increase in maternity leave from 13 to 14 weeks.
- Launch of FairShare Programme, establishing set and preferential arrangement for public sector opportunities up to \$1 million for qualifying micro and small enterprises and co-operatives.
- Establishment of a Working Committee for a Heroes Park and Museum in Fyzabad to honour great leaders of the labour movement. The first public consultation was held in April 2012.
- Establishment of a Steering Committee for Action against Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, which will oversee the conduct of a National Study on Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace.
- Reconstitution of the National Productivity Council which will focus on all matters pertaining to productivity, quality and competitiveness.
- Establishment of a Standing National Labour Market Council which will advise on matters relevant to the efficient collection, processing, dissemination and utilisation of Labour Market Information.



- Establishment of an Industrial Relations Advisory Committee to advise the Minister on matters relating to industrial relations.
- Hosted a National Youth Employment Forum, "My work...my future...my life", which focused on increasing access of youth to decent work opportunities.
- Hosted the Distinguished Lecture Series for the International Year of Co-operatives 2012; a seminar was held on "Rebuilding Economies: Strengthening Credit Unions for this Responsibility".



“Our commitment is in response to your demand for change, your demand for a different kind of governance, one that puts the people first every time and all the time.”

- The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

The People's Partnership Government recognises that the people are sovereign, that their voices must be heard and their calls heeded. As the people's servant, this Government has committed itself to the ideals of transparency, accountability, people participation and effective representation of our citizens as the foundation principles of good governance.

Shape and form will be fleshed on to these principles through strong institutions responsive to the needs of the citizenry, enhancement of our democracy and the strengthening of our capacity to execute and deliver our services.

Driving policy design and decision making is a data-driven and evidence-based national statistics and information system that accurately gauges the population's requirements. In service to this objective, is the comprehensive re-organisation and reform of the Central Statistical Office as well as various national surveys that seek to collect up-to-date data on areas that will inform poverty reduction and better healthcare.

With a view to maintaining the fundamental democratic rights of our citizens, this Government held Local Government Elections, which were postponed year

after year since 2006 by the previous administration and immediately co-ordinated training for induction and orientation of newly elected councillors and Local Government representatives.

Strengthening the operations of public institutions remains fundamental to improving the effectiveness of the Public Service and uplifting the nation's developmental status. Already, Ministries and state agencies have been preparing and implementing Strategic Plans in alignment with the Medium-Term Policy Framework 2011-2014 and in accordance with the seven interconnected pillars of sustainable development.

The Government's policies have already begun to impact positively upon the nation's economic and social wellbeing. The latest report on the Trinidad and Tobago economy by the International Monetary Fund has concluded that our economy is "turning the corner" and growth is expected in 2012.

Contrasting the local economic developments highlighted in this report with the current bleak economic development occurring in major economies across the developed world, the report confirms that confidence has returned significantly to the Trinidad and Tobago economy.

MAJOR MILESTONES

Local Government

- In the promotion of good governance through consultation and listening to the people and their needs, a workshop on transformation and modernization of Local Government was held with 39 past and present Local Government practitioners.
- In an effort to improve service delivery, terms of references for the development of local government policies on Markets and Abattoirs, Play Parks, Public Baths and Conveniences, Cemeteries and Crematoria and Recreation Facilities, were completed.
- A Draft Policy framework was established for Local Government transformation and modernization with a view to improving the quality of life of citizens.
- Community Improvement Programme was implemented to address basic infrastructure works in all municipalities, including 5 play parks, 19 drainage projects, 12 bridges and 2 markets.

- Temporary accommodation was secured for Diego Martin Regional Corporation.
- Adopting a proactive approach to emergencies resulting from collapsed, aged bridges, five bailey bridges were installed in the past fiscal year, all within two days.
- Construction of a berm north of the highway to SERVOL Life centre inclusive of construction of roadway, sidewalk, drains, curbs and grassing by the East Port of Spain Development Company.
- Palo Seco Agricultural Enterprises Limited (PSAEL) has completed 3 recreational facilities and 6 drainage projects in the past fiscal year.
- The Regional Development Corporations completed 38 box drains, 29 road rehabilitation and reconstruction works, 50 driveway reconstructions, 20 slipper drains, 15 sidewalks, 25 box culverts, 1 outfall drain, 6 culverts and 24 curbs.

Public Administration Minister Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan with Mr. Ooh Koon Tian of Singapore at the hosting of a Caribbean Regional Workshop on Public Sector Reform in conjunction with the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration.



Acting Permanent Secretary, Gillian McIntyre (from left), Minister of Public Administration, Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan, Leif Norman and Per Cronholm of Statistics Sweden meet on the transformation of the Central Statistical Office.

Administration

- Publication of the Green Paper on “Transforming the Civil Service through Renewal and Modernisation” to enhance structures, build competencies and modernise governance frameworks in order to become a 21st Century Public Service.
- Consultations have begun with Ministries to review and operationalise the governance framework of the public service.
- Work has commenced on the redesign and building of the Human Resource Management architecture for a 21st century public service.
- The provision of suitable accommodation and safe and healthy OSHA-compliant working environments in Ministries and Department continued to receive priority attention.
- Refurbishment and re-tooling of constituency offices also focused on making them more OSH compliant and better equipped to serve members of the public.
- Major renovation works were carried out at several departments and public facilities including the Tax Appeal Board, with a focus on providing security for judges and support staff.
- Upgrading and expansion works at East Side Plaza continued in an attempt to benefit over 150 small business owners and their customers, inclusive of an electrical and plumbing systems upgrade to meet Fire Services requirements. Renovations to New City Mall (formerly Tent City) also continued with the implementation of a comprehensive extension and renovation of which the targeted beneficiaries include 121 small business tenants and their clientele.
- Completion of the Chaguanas Regional Administrative Complex by UDECOTT to house the new Chaguanas Borough Corporation Administrative Complex.

“We shall strengthen Governance and Human Resource Management in the Civil Service. This will require a sustained effort at developing a culture of efficiency in customer service in all Ministries, Departments and Agencies.”

- The Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Finance

- Completion of the temporary location of Parliament to Tower D, International Waterfront Centre.
- Completion of the National Academy for the Performing Arts South.
- Allocation of office accommodation for five Government Ministries and other Agencies at Tower D, International Waterfront Complex.
- Commencement of decentralisation of Government agencies with the relocation of Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme’s (YTEPP) headquarters to Chaguanas.
- During the period December 2011 – April 2012, over \$896,606,747 was paid to CLICO and British American (Trinidad) Limited policyholders whose policies amounted to \$75,000 and over, representing some 60% of policyholders.
- Deposit insurance coverage was increased from \$75,000 to \$125,000 for deposit holders of commercial banks and non-banks licensed under the Financial Institutions Act 2008.
- Received \$50 million loan from Inter-American Development Bank to strengthen the supervisory and regulatory framework in the financial sector.

Legal Affairs

- A comprehensive package of regulations currently being developed by the Consumer Affairs Division (CAD) of the Ministry of Legal Affairs promises to be among the most far-reaching in existence anywhere in the world and offers more protection to consumers than anything available to date. The proposed Consumer Protection Legislation draws from some of the most comprehensive packages available anywhere including the Caribbean, the United States and Europe and includes issues surrounding warranties; exchanges and refunds; maintenance and spare parts. This proposed legislation will give power to consumers to file complaints against suppliers/retailers and accompanying quasi-judicial power which will be given to the CAD to investigate such complaints and to make orders which will be binding on all parties.
- Completion of five public consultations on Rent Reform with a view to developing a new National Policy on Rent. The legislation which previously governed rent and related matters expired in 2002 and the then Government, in 2006, took a policy decision not to renew, so that there was no legislation to specifically guide the relationship between landlords and tenants.

Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education, Fazal Karim (third from left) congratulates Chairman of the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP), Chandar Gupta Supersad, in front of YTEPP’s newly relocated headquarters in Chaguanas. Second from left is Chaguanas Mayor, Orlando Nagessar.

Sister Isles, Side By Side



The new Scarborough General Hospital.

Trinidad and Tobago, progressing as one nation, side by side. This is the vision of the People's Partnership Government. It is a vision that embraces the strengths and uniqueness of each island, with a clear commitment to inclusion and equity. This translates into a reality where Tobago plays a major role in determining its present and future development and where the Government partners with the Tobago House of Assembly in matters affecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our nation.

From inception, the significance of Tobago in the process of governance rang clear with the institution of the Ministry of Tobago Affairs, ensuring that the voice of the Tobagonian people will be represented in the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

This Government strives towards achieving sustainable development that will benefit every last citizen and community in our beloved twin-island state. No longer will the people of Tobago feel like a lesser partner.

Our emphasis continues to be on nurturing competitive industries, inclusion of the people, partnership through participation in governance, higher paying and more sustainable jobs, human development and social support for the people, families and communities at the centre



of the development process. These principles will guide national sustainable development for Tobago as well as Trinidad.

Together, hand in hand, we will forge a path of prosperity and progress for all.

MAJOR MILESTONES

- After many years of waiting the people of Tobago welcomed the opening of the Scarborough General Hospital, which included state-of-the-art facilities.
- Continuation of construction at Scarborough R.C. and Scarborough Methodist Schools.
- Primary schools benefited from the improvement of security, computerisation, establishment of a School Health Programme and visual arts and performance theatres.
- Scores of Tobagonians benefited from Food Cards, hampers and wheelchairs as well as enrolment in the self-empowerment programme, Rise Up.
- Advancement towards an Integrated Campus, which will house COSTAATT, UTT and UWI.
- Opening of a Workforce Assessment Centre.
- The Construction and Upgrade of Community Facilities programme was advanced with the completion of the Buccoo Integrated Community Facility, Buccoo Community Centre, Pembroke Heritage Park and the Glen Road Community Centres.
- Launch of Tobago Technology Centre to facilitate training programmes delivered by both the Metal Industries Company Limited (MIC) and the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP).
- CEPEP and Green Fund offices opened in Tobago.
- The Computerization Programme continued in Tobago on the Secondary School Computerization Programme, networking of various THA Divisions and the computerization and networking of the Ministry of Tobago Affairs.
- Efforts advanced towards the rehabilitation of Hall of Justice, Tobago.
- A variety of activities promoted environmental sustainability, including improvement to reefs at Buccoo and Speyside and Water Quality Monitoring; Oil Management Feasibility Study and Oil Spill Contingency Management; Wet Land Assessment and development of Bon Accord Lagoon Nature Area; implementation of the Pilot Project for Waste Characterisation; upgrading of the Scarborough Waste Disposal Project and the facilities at Signal Hill and Studley Park.
- The Registrar General's (RG) Office (Tobago) was the first unit to commence printing of computer-generated death certificates and thus reduce the waiting period from three working days to 15 minutes from application to receipt of certificate.
- Commenced the collection of cash at RG office for services rendered, thereby removing an inconvenience to members of the general public who previously, were required to effect payment elsewhere.
- RG's office also commenced accepting applications to bring lands situated either in Tobago or Trinidad under the Real Property Act (RPA) to ensure the faster processing of applications as they no longer have to be sent to Trinidad.
- The Committee on the Regularization of Land Titles was established by the Minister of Legal Affairs under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Tobago Development, the Honourable Vernella Alleyne-Toppin to identify problems in obtaining proper legal title for lands and make appropriate recommendations for solving this issue.
- Preparation of designs for the construction of a high- tech, "state of the art" Meteorological Services Division (MSD), Tobago facility, which will facilitate the much needed expansion of the A.N.R Robinson International Airport.
- Ministry of Tobago Development has provided computer equipment to the MSD, Tobago office, to facilitate utilization of Smart-Met, an improved forecasting model system, which is also utilized by the Piarco office.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar shakes hands with Tobago House of Assembly's Chief Secretary, Orville London at the opening of the Scarborough General Hospital. At right are Health Minister, Dr. Fuad Khan and Tobago Development Minister, Vernella Alleyne-Toppin.





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- With CLIDATA, the climate data computer software and equipment, newly acquired by the MSD, Piarco, the MSD, Tobago, is now able to access, store and retrieve climate data for analytical purposes and in response to queries from the public on patterns of weather phenomenon.
- The Government Payroll System (GPS) utilized in the Ministry of Tobago Development was updated to meet new security requirements thereby eliminating various problems which previously existed.
- Some 200 weighing and measuring instruments were checked and verified by the Ministry's Prices, Weights and Measures Inspectorate to ensure greater public confidence when purchasing goods.
- Tobagonians now have access to scholarships offered by the Ministry of Public Administration without having to travel to Trinidad. It is anticipated that the number of scholarship recipients for 2012 will increase from the high of 26 in 2011, following two in 2010.
- The Minister of Tobago Development lobbied successfully for The UWI Bachelor of Arts (Education) Degree and the Pre Engineering Degree programmes to be commenced at the Tobago Technology Centre.
- The Masters of Science (M.Sc.) Project Management post-graduate degree offered by The UWI commenced in Tobago for the first time.
- Sites for four tele-centres have been identified to facilitate access to government online services in Tobago.
- Two employees at the Ministry of Tobago Development were awarded scholarships to pursue in India, short term Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) courses in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Promotion and Tourism and Hospitality Management offered by the Government of India to Government employees of Trinidad and Tobago.
- In commemoration of International Year for People of African Descent, the Ministry staged a production, "Emancipation: the Anxiety, Emancipation: The Celebration, Emancipation: Freedom Come" and also provided financial assistance in the sum of \$495,500 to the Tobago Cultural Committee for the successful staging of an International Commemorative Run, Cultural Rally and Caravan.
- Hosted the "Goenchim Noketram Folk and Musical Troupe in concert" Troupe, a multi-talented group of artistes from Goa, India in collaboration with Arts and Multiculturalism and the High Commission of India.
- Successfully revived the Prime Minister's Best Village Trophy Competition in Tobago. Prior to this, the competition had been dormant in Tobago for over four years.
- Hosted a Carnival event entitled "Uptown Carnival Chiller" which was free to the public, and showcased various calypso and soca artistes and different elements of the traditional 'Ole Time Mas'.
- Vulnerable persons in Tobago were identified by Ministry liaison personnel and the Ministry collaborated with the Ministry of the People and Social Development, the National Commission for Self Help Limited and the Community Development Fund to ensure the provision of necessary assistance including funds for home improvement/repairs and access to wheelchairs.
- Assisted Tobago residents in accessing necessary health care in Trinidad, in particular, paediatric services. Six young persons between the ages of 1 and 13 years obtained treatment/surgery both at the North West Regional Health Authority and abroad. Assistance included arrangements for helicopter and airplane transportation at no cost to the patient.
- Facilitated an improvement in the air ambulance services between Tobago and Trinidad through liaising with the Air Guard Unit, Ministry of National Security.
- Establishment of the North East Tobago Growth Pole, which will trigger business activity in Tobago's North East region in crop production, livestock production, agro-processing, light manufacturing and tourism.
- Through the Ministry's temporary Trinidad office, services are available to over 300,000 Tobagonians residing in Trinidad.
- Facilitated early access by 372 Tobago fishermen to smart phones, which will operate, as a Global Positioning System (GPS) to ensure fishermen can be located in the event of any difficulty and as a direct means of contact with customers.
- Introduction of URP Social Programme in Tobago, with the oversight of an initial 17 projects including the construction of retaining walls, home repairs and upgrade.
- Tobagonian businesses can now access Government Guarantee Loans for Tourism.
- Initiation of temporary prisons in Tobago.
- Recommended to Tobago contractors the advantages of the formation of a Contractors Association to leverage their resources in an effort to access larger State infrastructural projects and further facilitated the engagement of the Association in refurbishment work at the Magdalena Grand Beach Resort, Lowlands, Tobago.

Building bridges to the world

FOREIGN POLICY: SECURING OUR PLACE IN THIS WORLD

PILLAR

7



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar with Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex and Princess Sophie, Countess of Wessex, British High Commissioner, Arthur Snell and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communications, Dr. Surujrattan Rambachan.

“Although our nation may be small, we certainly have much to offer the world.”

With these words, our Prime Minister, the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, directed the compass of our geographically small nation towards a global context where there is abundant opportunity to build partnerships, leverage resources and influence the direction of decision-making regionally, hemispherically and internationally.

As promised in our manifesto, the Peoples' Partnership Government has already made enormous strides towards our aim of securing our place in this world. We recognise that in an increasingly connected and interdependent world, our approach to foreign policy will support and advance our goals for sustainable national development, progress, peace and security for our people. We believe that both one-on-one discussions with specific countries as well as purposeful participation and dialogue at international fora are necessary for our country's advancement.

Through our initiatives, we have already commenced on a journey of striking the right balance between bilateral and multilateral objectives. We continue to work assiduously with our CARICOM family towards the attainment of security, prosperity and progress for all our members. We have placed great significance on deepening South-South co-operation with our South and Central American

“Our nation now stands ready to re-define itself and to deepen its influence and contribution to the regional and world economies.”

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

neighbours and we continue to cultivate the decades of goodwill we have built with our North American partners and the rest of the globe. Indeed, as Trinidad and Tobago stretches its tendrils across the world, leaving its imprints in the foreign hearts and minds with which we share a common cause, we simultaneously build a better world for our citizenry.

As we continue to eradicate poverty through education, fight the crime scourge to ensure our continued stability, open doors to innovation and creativity in all spheres of life and rise to meet our highest national aspirations, our partnerships with the world at large strengthen our knowledge, our experience and our competencies. As well, we have before us an unprecedented opportunity to share our abundance of talent, ingenuity and cultural and natural wealth with an appreciative world audience.

Together we will continue to reach out, claim and secure our place in this world.

MAJOR MILESTONES

- Prime Minister the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar led a trade mission to India, one of the fastest growing economies in the world, where she was invited as Chief Guest of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2012, an annual event that marks the contribution of the overseas Indian community in the development of India. The mission conducted some 200 meetings, signed over 15 Memoranda of Understanding and hosted and co-hosted over 15 joint venture trade conferences, which provided abundant opportunities for further investment in our country.
- Prime Minister the Honourable Kamla Persad- Bissessar joined world leaders for the VI Summit of the Americas where she discussed the significance of "Education and Development". She also held bilateral talks with Brazil's first female President, Her Excellency Dilma Rousseff, on areas for partnering between both Governments.
- 503 talented students from 75 secondary schools participated in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Communications' 2nd "Bridging Borders through Art" Competition 2012, which aimed at exposing to the world the work of young talented local artistes while simultaneously bolstering the Ministry's efforts to market our culture. The Ministry also conducted the 2nd Future Diplomats Secondary Schools' Essay Competition in observance of the International Year for People of African Descent.
- Their Royal Highnesses, the Prince Edward and Princess Sophie, Earl and Countess of Wessex visited our country on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee year of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Their visit further strengthens ties with the United Kingdom, one of our key collaborators in a number of areas pivotal to the development of our country.
- At Commonwealth Heads of Government 2011, Prime Minister the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar handed over the Chairmanship of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2011 to incoming Chair-in-Office, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, The Honourable Julia Gillard. The Government took full advantage of the invaluable opportunity CHOGM to form and strengthen strategic alliances with other member states including: the proposal for further co-operation in the energy sector with Nigeria and Papua New Guinea; the establishment of a Civil Society Board and the proposed collaboration on local and regional consultations in preparation for the establishment of a Commonwealth Charter; the establishment of a diplomatic mission by the Republic of Singapore in our country to service

"It is acknowledged that global dynamics necessitate strengthened alliances with regional and traditional partners while simultaneously developing new ties and playing a proactive role in hemispheric and international undertakings. As a small state, Trinidad and Tobago has not let size be a deterrent but has consistently over the last five decades 'punched above our weight' in the international arena."

- The Honourable Dr. Surujrattan Rambachan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communications



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communication, Dr. Surujrattan Rambachan, and school supervisor Shastri Maharaj, view the painting, "The Red House" by Kajal Madho of Lakshmi Girls' High School in the Ministry's 2nd art competition, "Bridging Borders Through Art".



the entire CARICOM region and the strengthening of co-operative ties between CARICOM and Australia with further commitments for both countries to work together in key areas such as Women's Participation in Leadership, the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty and the United Nations Outcomes on Non-Communicable Diseases.

- Engagement with emerging markets of Latin America, including the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Panama to export propane, bitumen, natural gas, cement, ceramic and clay tiles, steel products and other goods to Panama under preferential tariff arrangements as well as the establishment of a Partial Scope Trade Agreement.
- Commenced the first round of negotiations for a Partial Scope Agreement with Guatemala, the largest economy in the Central American Common Market, on issues such as market access, trade facilitation and customs procedures, services and investment and legal issues.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Communications met with the Ambassador-designate of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago, reaffirming our nation's commitment to strengthening relations with the European Union and discussing development co-operation, opportunities under the CARIFORUM –European Community Economic Partnership

Agreement and support to the sectors of agriculture, education and the environment.

- Signed the Instrument of Ratification of the Agreement establishing the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network Agency, which will assist member states in boosting their competitiveness through greater collaboration and connectivity of tertiary education institutions throughout the region. It will also facilitate increased international recognition of tertiary education programmes, assist with the development of region-wide e-learning programmes and enhance knowledge-sharing.
- Agreement on Mutual Visa Exemption for holders of Diplomatic, Official or Service Passports with the Swiss Federal Council to assist in the pursuit of initiatives in the areas of trade, investment, tourism and culture; exploring educational exchanges and technical co-operation opportunities in science and technology. In the previous year both countries were signatories to an Agreement on the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments.
- The Government of Japan approved US\$80,000 in funding for the Project for Promotion of Greenhouse Farming at five primary and secondary schools in Trinidad and Tobago to sensitise students to dynamic aspects of agriculture entailing the use of extensive technology.



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the VI Summit of the Americas.





Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and President of Corporacion Andina de Fomento (CAF) Development Bank of Latin America, Enrique Garcia, sign an agreement for our country to become a special member country of the CAF in Columbia.

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- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. The Honourable Surujrattan Rambachan held discussions with High Commissioner of Pakistan, His Excellency Miangul Akbar Zeb, on deepening cultural ties between both countries, sport exchanges in cricket and field hockey, training for Foreign Service Officers, participation of our businessmen at trade expositions in Pakistan and consideration for the appointment of an Honorary Consul in Pakistan to represent our nation's interest.
- His Excellency Raul Modesto Castro Ruz, President of the Republic of Cuba visited our nation during the IV CARICOM-Cuba Summit in Port of Spain during which he held bilateral talks with Prime Minister the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar.
- In collaboration with the High Commission of India and their Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH) conducted a two-day workshop and seminar on Ayurvedic medicine and the role of traditional healing in combating diseases.
- The Peace Ark, a ship of the People's Liberation Army Naval Hospital, visited our nation for seven days as a goodwill mission to render humanitarian medical services to our country and develop joint medical care with local medical practitioners.
- A loan agreement has been signed with the Andean Development Bank and our country is now a special member country of the Andean Development Corporation, which expands access to financing and to opportunities to expand business and investment relations throughout Latin America.
- Trinidad and Tobago shared its knowledge and experience in the management of port and port operations as they relate to the oil and gas industry with a high-level delegation from Ghana. This knowledge will be used to guide the technical development of the energy sector in Ghana.
- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. the Honourable Surujrattan Rambachan was appointed Chairman of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group, where he led a fact-finding mission to the Maldives.
- CARICOM has agreed to allow the model farm offered by Brazil to be placed in Trinidad and Tobago. It will be located in Central Trinidad and will serve as a stimulus to agricultural transformation.
- Visit by Governor General of Canada, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, to mark 50 years of bilateral relations with Canada, an important business partner and our 10th largest export market.

Your Government recognizes the importance of multilateral initiatives at the United Nations, and other global bodies, in promoting good governance as well as human and sustainable development for the benefit of our people. This has been achieved through initiatives such as:

- Securing our marine resources, especially those of the extended continental shelf within and beyond national jurisdiction and ensuring future access to resources of the deep sea-bed, through active support of the work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and the International Seabed Authority.
- Enhanced participation in global negotiations aimed at establishing new international rules to address the impact on climate change while safeguarding our interests as a relatively high per capita carbon emitter.
- Promotion and enforcement of the rule of law as a fundamental pillar for national and global development through enhanced support for the work of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the International Criminal Court.
- Partnering in the fight against crime with agencies such as the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, which witnessed the signing of agreements with the Government and that agency for the donation of equipment and the training of nationals in the destruction of illegal firearms, stockpile management and border control as it relates to the illicit arms trade.
- Appointment as the Lead Negotiator of CARICOM for negotiations on the conclusion of an Arms Trade Treaty at the United Nations.
- Insertion of a gender perspective in matters relating to disarmament through the pioneering efforts of the Honourable Prime Minister who piloted, in her first few months in office, a United Nations General Assembly Resolution entitled: *Women, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control*.
- Promoting the successful candidatures of nationals to international bodies as a means of developing our human resources to meet global standards in a highly competitive international environment.

“For us in the Government, we continue to abide by our very strong position that Press Freedom and a responsible and sophisticated Media represent the very thread that holds any strong democracy together. Press Freedom is one of the pillars upon which a growing nation must root its stability.

As a Government, the responsibility falls to us to ensure that even as we preside over the fervent defence of all aspects of freedom, we must ensure that the exercise of one’s freedom at no time represents an impingement on the freedom of another. We must ensure that the demonstration of freedom shows our deep reverence for our unique ethnic and religious diversity, our desires to grow and build and our will to develop our people and our nation.”

*Senator the Honourable Nicole Dyer Griffith,
Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Communications
on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day 2012*



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES

1. Over 17,000 Form One students and teachers benefited from the laptop distribution programme for a second year.
2. The Children’s Life Fund has assisted some 43 children in acquiring life-saving medical treatment abroad from its inception to the end of April 2012 at a cost of \$11,398,614.86.
3. Opened the long-awaited Scarborough General Hospital, a state-of-the-art 100-bed hospital including outpatient clinics, radiology and pharmacy services.
4. Opened the first primary school for the Spiritual Shouter Baptist Community.
5. Record construction of 300 on-farm irrigation ponds to address the issue of water for agriculture.
6. Commencement of construction of The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine South Campus at Penal/Debe.
7. The Direct Impact Outreach Programme provided social services to over 50,000 citizens.
8. The URP Social Programme employed over 200 mothers of children with cerebral palsy to work in social centres, which allows them to earn an income and provide care for children with special needs so that, in turn, other parents of children with special needs may seek employment.
9. Distributed over 1,000 Certificates of Comfort to squatter families with another 2,000 currently being processed and also distributed 1,241 home improvement subsidies, totalling over \$22 million.
10. In 2011, murders decreased by 25.6% from 2010; woundings and shootings by 13.1%; kidnapping for ransom by 57.1%; robberies by 27.4%; motor vehicle theft by 34.4%; house larceny by 22.8%; burglaries and break-ins by 19.7% and narcotic offences by 6.4%.
11. Launched the Tobago Technology Centre to facilitate training programmes delivered by both the Metal Industries Company Limited (MIC) and the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP).
12. Established 14 Electronic Registration Centres in Trinidad and Tobago, considerably reducing the wait-time for obtaining birth and death certificates from between three and six months after registration, to mere minutes after registration.
13. In partnership with the Commonwealth Business Council, an annual Caribbean Investment Forum was hosted in Trinidad in 2011 and 2012 with wide representation from the region and internationally.
14. Record construction of approximately 200 km of agricultural access roads with another 200km carded for construction by year’s end.
15. Distributed 4,223 acres of productive agriculture lands to farmers - the single largest issue in the last 50 years.
16. Opening of the Valencia Visitor Information Centre in collaboration with the Turtle Village Trust.
17. CEPEP Marine Pilot Project was officially launched to clean and maintain our marine spaces, wetlands and inland waterways; over 11, 870 bags of garbage have been collected to date.
18. Three national sporting facilities are scheduled for construction at the National Aquatic Centre and National Cycling Centre at Couva and a National Tennis Centre at Tacarigua.
19. The sod was turned for the construction of three public libraries at Rio Claro, Chaguanas and Mayaro.
20. Potable water treatment plants were installed at Penal, Pt Fortin, Talparo, Matura and Fyzabad with the aim of ensuring a more adequate water supply service to customers in these areas.
21. Completion of the Couva/Preysal Interchange, considerably reducing traffic congestion on both sides of the Solomon Hochoy Highway.
22. The trade and investment mission to India conducted some 200 meetings, signed over 15 Memoranda of Understanding and hosted over 15 joint venture trade conferences, which provided abundant opportunities for further investment in our country.
23. Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Panama to boost co-operation in the areas of energy and trade, as well as the prospect of using bunkering facilities at the Panama Canal.
24. Commenced the first round of negotiations for a Partial Scope Agreement with Guatemala, the largest economy in the Central American Common Market, on issues such as market access, trade facilitation and customs procedures, services and investment and legal issues.



50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago 2011-2012



FULFILLING THE PROMISE Shaping Our Future

"We must heal old wounds and build our resilience. We must diffuse the present pressures and agree on a new foundation of mutual engagement, acceptance and trust. We must convert disappointments and errors into a pool of knowledge that will educate our future and we must fashion a future not just of prosperity for all but one in which dignity and equity are the natural deliverables of every policy. We are already off to a great start with more and more indicators everyday which tell us that the resolve to hold firm to our policy direction is delivering results."

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