

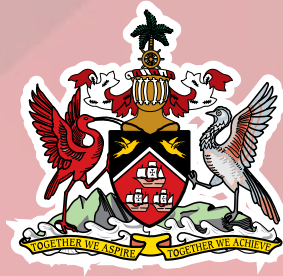


GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development

ANNUAL REPORT ON PERFORMANCE | **2012**

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR RESULTS



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CONTENTS

PREFACE BY THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	4
STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.....	6
ACRONYMS.....	8
LIST OF BOXES, FIGURES AND TABLES	15
 SECTION ONE:	
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION.....	22
SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY PRIORITY.....	25
 SECTION TWO: IMPLEMENTATION OF MEDIUM TERM PRIORITIES	
CHAPTER 2: <i>CRIME AND LAW & ORDER</i>	44
CHAPTER 3: <i>AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY</i>	61
CHAPTER 4: <i>HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND HOSPITALS</i>	79
CHAPTER 5: <i>ECONOMIC GROWTH, JOB CREATION, COMPETITIVENESS & INNOVATION</i>	106
CHAPTER 6: <i>POVERTY REDUCTION AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT</i>	148
 SECTION THREE:	
CHAPTER 7: THE WAY FORWARD.....	197

PREFACE

THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



On May 24th 2010, the People's Partnership formed a new Government in Trinidad and Tobago, and chartered a new course towards sustainable development with a vision of *Prosperity for All*. In 2011, the Government articulated a Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2014 premised on *Innovation, Creativity and Collaboration*, to facilitate socio-economic transformation necessary to achieve our vision of *Innovation for Lasting Prosperity*. As Government continues its work, we are now delighted to share with the citizens the Annual Report on Performance 2012 which represents a comprehensive account of the very real achievements of this Government over the last fiscal year. Not everything that we set out to do has been done; but on the five (5) priorities that we identified for focused attention, much has been achieved.

This Annual Report is the first in a series of reports on performance and results in relation to the five (5) priority areas of development within the Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2014. It is a reflection of the many programmes and projects implemented over the period 2011-2012 that has brought us several steps closer to achieving our medium term objectives and targets.

The Report underscores the tremendous work undertaken by Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments in the implementation of developmental programmes and projects in pursuit of People Centered Development; Food Security; Economic Transformation; and Healthy, Sustainable Communities. However, despite the many accomplishments thus far, Government remains committed to building on

the foundation already established, and pressing forward to a future that is sustainable for generations to come. My Government is unequivocally committed to development in every part of our country.

While much has been done, much still needs to be done. I am of the firm belief that given the dedication and commitment of all Ministers and Ministries, the nation can expect to see an unprecedented level of development over the medium to long term.

I would therefore like to thank all Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments for their tireless work and contribution over the period and their continued commitment to national development.

Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I commend this Report to all citizens, for your information and scrutiny. You will no doubt have your views of how we have done or on how we can do better. Please let us know.

Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, S.C.
Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTER'S STATEMENT

THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



This *Report on Performance, 2012: Building the Foundation for Results* represents the first published annual report of the Government on the implementation of the Medium Term Policy Framework (MTPF) 2011-2014. It provides essential information on and an account of the progress that has been made towards the achievement of specific targets and national outcomes, identified in both the MTPF and the National Performance Framework (NPF) 2012-2015 respectively.

Given the fact that the approach adopted by this Government is one of accountability, transparency and engagement with the citizens through consultation, this Report represents a departure from reporting on activities, to one that is more focused on results of initiatives. The approach is quite different, in that it incorporates measurement into the overall policy direction for the country. As we move forward, our ability to deliver goods and services to the public in an efficient and effective manner will depend primarily on our ability to measure Ministries' performance in the implementation process.

The achievements of Government over the last year have been clearly articulated in this document and can now be shared with the wider citizenry. All citizens therefore, can now have an appreciation of the dedication and commitment of this Government to people-centred development and the achievement of the vision of '*Prosperity for All*' as a nation.

Our intent and purpose is to highlight the impact that is being made on the lives of all citizens by virtue of our development interventions. This applies primarily, but not exclusively to, the five (5) priority areas identified in the Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2014: Crime and Law and Order; Agriculture and Food Security; Health Care Services and Hospitals; Economic Growth, Job Creation, Competitiveness and Innovation; and Poverty Eradication and Human Capital Development.

Building the Foundation for Results also represents the continuation of our efforts to build a culture of performance monitoring and evaluation within the public service. At present, there already exists a structure, system and process for monitoring, evaluation and feedback through the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development. This structure and system have been further strengthened with the development and implementation of the National Performance Framework (NPF) 2012-2015.

This Report is testimony to our untiring commitment to achieving meaningful results that impact positively on the lives of our citizens. Clear goals and targets have been set for the medium term and a robust measurement, results-focused strategy has been developed. Our main focus now will be on execution and implementation, with a greater sense of clarity and an attention to accuracy.

This document would not have been possible without the support and contribution of many. I therefore wish to thank specifically, all Government Ministers and Parliamentarians, Permanent Secretaries and the senior management of the Public Service for their tremendous effort in this initiative. I also wish to give special thanks to those members of staff of the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development who worked tirelessly on the production of this Report, for their dedication and commitment.

In order for us to move forward as a nation, it is important that we recognize that we must work together with a collective will, clarity of purpose and a shared sense of determination. Achieving significant milestones in development will only be possible if we strive together in unison, which will ultimately redound to the benefit of each and every citizen in our country.

Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie

Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development

ACRONYMS

AATT	Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago
ADB	Agricultural Development Bank
APDP	Agriculture Professional Development Programme
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AE	Alternative Energy
AIP	Agricultural Incentive Programme
AML/CFT	Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism
ARP	Agricultural Ranger Squad
ARV	Antiretroviral
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data
AUM	Ammonia, Urea, Melamine
AWOS	Aviation Weather Observing Systems
BA	Bachelor of Arts
BCIs	Background Check Investigators
BDC	Business Development Company
BOFP	Basket of Funding Programme
CAC	Continuous Assessment Component
CAP	Continuous Assessment Programme
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Community and Dominican Republic
CARIRI	Caribbean Industrial Research Institute
CBBIs	Community-Based Business Incubators
CBC	Commonwealth Business Council
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CCC	Civilian Conservation Corps
CCI	Council for Competitiveness and Innovation
CDA	Chaguaramas Development Authority
CDAP	Chronic Disease Assistance Programme
CDF	Community Development Fund
CDM	Comprehensive Disaster Management
CEP	Community Education Programme

CEPEP	Community-based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme
CERP	Community Enhancement and Regeneration Programme
CERTs	Community Emergency Response Teams
CETL	Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
CHTA	Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association
CIF	Caribbean Investment Forum
CMS	Clinical Management System
CNCDs	Chronic Non Communicable Diseases
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas
COSTAATT	College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad & Tobago
COTT	Copyright Music Organisation of Trinidad and Tobago
CSB	Civil Society Board
CSDP	Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate
CSEC	Centre for Socially Displaced Persons
CSO	Central Statistical Office
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSP	Citizen Security Programme
CSSD	Central Sterilization and Storage Department
CT	Computed Tomography
CTO	Caribbean Tourism Organisation
CVAP	Community Volunteer and Apprenticeship Programme
CWRD	Centre for Workforce Research and Development
CXC	Caribbean Examination Council
EC	European Community
eCAL	eConnect and Learn Programme
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
ECG	Electrocardiogram
EDB	Economic Development Board
EE	Energy Efficiency
EITI	Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative
EMA	Environmental Management Agency
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EPI	Expanded Programme for Immunization

ERRAG	Emergency Repair/Reconstruction Assistance Grant
ET	Embryo Transfer
EWMSC	Eric Williams Medical Science Complex
FA-HUM	Fuerzas Aliadas Humanitarias
FBOs	Faith-Based Organisations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
FMIS	Fuel Management Information System
FTO	Field Training Officer
GAPP	Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme
GCR	Global Competitiveness Report
GATE	Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GII	Global Innovation Index
GIS	Geographic Information System
GovNeTT	Government Backbone Communication Network
GPS	Global Positioning System
HDC	Housing Development Corporation
HDI	Human Development Index
HELP	Higher Education Loan Programme
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus / Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
HPV	Human Papillomavirus
HYPE	Helping Youth Prepare for Employment
IBIS	Integrated Business Incubator System
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IEC	Information Educational Communication
IFF	Innovation Financing Facility
iGovTT	National Information and Communication Technology Company Limited
IHR	International Health Regulations
ILO	International Labour Organization
IP	Intellectual Property
IPPA	Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement

IYC	International Year of Co-operatives
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
KRAs	Key Results Areas
LISTT	Land Information System of Trinidad and Tobago
LMIS	Labour Market Information System
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
LSA	Land Settlement Agency
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MDTs	Mobile Data Terminals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIC	Metal Industries Company Limited
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MEG	Micro Enterprise Grant
MEL	Micro Enterprise Loan
MLI	Making Life Important
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPU	Ministry of Public Utilities
MRRG	Minor Repairs/Reconstruction Grant
MSD	Meteorological Services Division
MTPF	Medium Term Policy Framework
MuST	Multi- Sector Skills Training Programme
NADAPP	National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme
NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
NCDR	National Care Centre for Dispute Resolution
NCRHA	North Central Regional Health
NCSE	National Certificate of Secondary Education
NCSHL	National Commission for Self Help Limited
NDRRC	National Disaster Risk Reduction Committee
NDS	National Diversification Strategy
NEDCO	National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited
NEOC	National Emergency Operation Centre
NEP	National Energy Policy
NESC	National Energy Skills Centre
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHIS	National Health Insurance System

NHIMS	National Health Information Management System
NIHERST	National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology
NICA	National Institutional Capacity Assessment
NIPDEC	National Insurance Property Development Company Limited
NIS	National Innovation System
NMP	National Mentorship Programme
NPDP	National Physical Development Plan
NPF	National Performance Framework
NPS/CVT	National Peer Support/Community Volunteer Training
NPTA	National Parent Teachers Association
NQI	National Quality Infrastructure
NQP	National Quality Policy
NSDP	National Social Development Programme
NTA	National Training Agency
NTI	New to Industry
NTU	National Transformation Unit
NWRHA	North West Regional Health Authority
ODPM	Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management
PADL	Planning and Development of Land
PAHO	Pan American Health Organisation
PAN	Positive Adolescent Network
PLCC	Permanent Local Content Committee
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
POSGH	Port of Spain General Hospital
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PSIP	Public Sector Investment Programme
PSTA	Partial Scope Trade Agreement
PTSC	Public Service Transportation Service
QEMS	Quality and Environment Management System
RAPP	Retired Adolescent Partnership Programme
RBM	Results Based Management
R&D	Research and Development
RE	Renewable Energy
RFP	Request for Proposal

RHAs	Regional Health Authorities
RISE UP	Rights to Individuals to Social and Economic Security, Universal Prosperity
RMPF	Regional Micro-Project Fund
ROL	Reaping Opportunities Loan
SDMS	Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha
SEA	Secondary Entrance Assessment
SES	Seamless Education System
SEW	Single Electronic Window
SICS	Small Incision Cataract Surgery
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
SILWC	Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Committee
SIYC	Start and Improve Your Co-operative
SME	Small and Medium Sized Enterprises
STOW-TT	Safe To Work in Trinidad and Tobago
SUATT	Special Anti-Crime Unit of Trinidad and Tobago
SWRHA	South West Regional Health Authority
TB-DOTS	Tuberculosis-Directly Observed Treatment Short Course
TCCTP	Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme
TCPD	Town and Country Planning Division
TDC	Tourism Development Company
TEDU	Trade and Economic Development Unit
THA	Tobago House of Assembly
THACCS	Tobago HIV & AIDS Coordinating Committee Secretariat
TIC	Trade and Investment Convention
TIDCO	Tourism and Industrial Development Company
TRHA	Tobago Regional Health Authority
TSTT	Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago
T&T	Trinidad and Tobago
TTABA	Trinidad and Tobago Agri-Business Association
TTBS	Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards
T&TEC	Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission
TT ENT	Trinidad and Tobago Entertainment Company
TTFC	Trinidad and Tobago Film Company
TTHTC	Trinidad and Tobago Health Training Centre

TTIFC	Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre
TTMA	Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association
TTPost	Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation
TTPrS	Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service
TTPS	Trinidad and Tobago Police Service
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training Programme
UDeCOTT	Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
URP	Unemployment Relief Programme
USDOE	United States Department of Energy
UTT	University of Trinidad and Tobago
UWI	University of the West Indies
VAPA	Visual And Performing Arts
VFR	Visiting, Friends and Relatives
VMCOTT	Vehicle Management Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited
WASA	Water and Sewerage Authority
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organisation
WTTC	World Travel and Tourism Council
YAPA	Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture
YMCA	Young Men's Christians Association
YTEPP	Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programmes

LIST OF BOXES

Box 2.I	Achievement of the Steering Committee for the National Risk Assessment Project
Box 2.II	Acquisition of Equipment
Box 2.III	Building Human Capacity
Box 2.IV	Improving Infrastructure
Box 3.I	Key Agricultural Incentives Accessed
Box 3.II	ADB Interest Rate 2012
Box 3.III	Four Commercial Large Farms
Box 3.IV	Agriculture Professional Development Programme
Box 3.V	Training for Farmers 2011-2012
Box 3.VI	Farmers Benefit from Extension Training June 2012
Box 4.I	Hospital Beds per 10,000 Persons
Box 4.II	Equipment Upgrade and Acquisition
Box 4.III	Regional Recreation Grounds, Community Recreation Grounds, Children's Play Parks and Various Sporting Facilities
Box 4.IV	Emergency Management Capabilities Strengthened
Box 4.V	Non-Communicable Disease Mortality Rate
Box 4.VI	Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes Adult Mortality Rate
Box 4.VII	Renal Dialysis Sessions
Box 4.VIII	Risk of Developing Chronic Diseases
Box 4.IX	Diabetes Prevalence Rate Among adults
Box 4.X	Cataract Surgeries Performed
Box 4.XI	Cancer Mortality Rate
Box 4.XII	Dengue Management
Box 4.XIII	Additional Houses Visited Annually
Box 4.XIV	Immunization Coverage
Box 4.XV	Vaccinations Offered
Box 4.XVI	Communicable Diseases Mortality Rate
Box 4.XVII	Achievement Towards the Millennium Development Goals
Box 4.XVIII	Pneumococcal Vaccines Administered
Box 4.XIX	Health Promotion Target
Box 4.XX	Total Expenditure on Health Care as a Percentage of 2009 GDP

Box 5.I	Achievements in the National Physical Planning
Box 5.II	National Tourism Quality Service Improvement Programme
Box 5.III	Initiatives in Sport Tourism
Box 5.IV	The Global Competitiveness Index 2012 – 2013 for Trinidad and Tobago
Box 6.I	Serviced Lots
Box 6.II	Housing Settlement Areas
Box 6.III	Home Grants
Box 6.IV	Squatter Settlements to be relocated
Box 6.V	NSDP Assistance
Box 6.VI	Boys Enrolled at the Resource Centre for Men and Boys
Box 6.VII	Defining Masculine Excellence Programme
Box 6.VIII	Female Training Programme
Box 6.IX	Direct Effect Initiatives
Box 6.X	Social Assistance and Grants
Box 6.XI	Food Grants Disbursed
Box 6.XII	RISE UP
Box 6.XIII	GAPP and RAPP
Box 6.XIV	Assistance Provided
Box 6.XV	The Social Norms and Values Report Findings in Trinidad and Tobago
Box 6.XVI	New Community Centres
Box 6.XVII	Community Development Achievements
Box 6.XVIII	MRRG and ERRAG Grants
Box 6.XIX	Disbursement of Grants
Box 6.XX	GATE Approved Institutes
Box 6.XXI	GATE – approved TVET Programmes
Box 6. XXII	Target – Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)
Box 6.XXIII	Administrative Scholarship Policies Drafted
Box 6.XXIV	New Programmes Offered by COSTAATT in 2012
Box 6.XXV	Programmes Offered by the Ken Gordon School of Journalism and Communication Studies
Box 6.XXVI	Curriculum Target - Secondary Schools
Box 6.XXVII	Curriculum Target - Primary Schools
Box 6.XXVIII	CAC SEA Curriculum

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.I	Summary of Key Achievements by Priority
Figure 3.I	Mandate of the National Food Production Action Plan
Figure 3.II	Listing of New Agricultural Road Networks
Figure 3.III	Major Highlights from the ADB's 2011 Annual Report
Figure 3.IV	List of Upgraded Fish Landing Sites
Figure 3.V	List of Communities with On-Farm Irrigation Ponds
Figure 3.VI	Education Opportunities for Young Persons
Figure 3.VII	Achievements of the Rancho Quemado Agro-Eco Tourism Park
Figure 3.VIII	Major Customers and Types of Local Products
Figure 3.IX	Strategies to Boost the Agri-Business Sector
Figure 4.I	Life Expectancies at Birth in 2009
Figure 4.II	Health Policy and Legislative Initiatives Achievements
Figure 4.III	Ratio of Healthcare Professionals to Populace
Figure 4.IV	Healthcare Professional Training
Figure 4.V	Cardiac Procedures Performed
Figure 4.VI	Tuberculosis Rates for 2010
Figure 4.VII	Reported Dengue Cases 2011 and 2012
Figure 4.VIII	HIV/AIDS Rates
Figure 4.IX	Mortality Rates for 2010
Figure 5.I	GDP at Market Prices – TT\$ Million
Figure 5.II	GDP at Market Prices - % Contribution
Figure 5.III	GDP at Constant (2000) Prices – TT\$ Million
Figure 5.IV	GDP at Constant (2000) Prices - % Contribution
Figure 5.V	Trinidad and Tobago's ICT Network Readiness Rank and Score
Figure 5.VI	Foreign Direct Investment for the Period 2009-2011
Figure 5.VII	Energy Export and Non – Energy Exports for Trinidad and Tobago
Figure 6.I	Strategies to Increase Access to Adequate and Affordable Housing
Figure 6.II	Reduced Mortgage Rates
Figure 6.III	Construction Works completed in Picton, Orange Field and Tarouba
Figure 6.IV	Basket of funding Programme Elements
Figure 6.V	Trend Data and Targeted Rates on Tertiary Education Participation Rates
Figure 6.VI	Targeted Percentage of Gate-Funded Programmes Aligned to National Economic Priority Areas

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.I	Current Progress of Priority Targets for Crime and Law & Order
Table 2.II	Comparative Serious Crimes Reported for October to August for 2010/2011 and 2011/2012
Table 2.III	Comparative Persons Reported Missing for the period October to August for 2010/2011 and 2011/2012
Table 2.IV	Prison Recidivism Rates 2009 to June 2012
Table 3.I	Current Progress of Priority Targets for Agriculture and Food Security
Table 4.I	Current Progress of Priority Targets for Health Care Services and Hospitals
Table 5.I	Current Progress of Priority Targets for Economic Growth, Job Creation, Competitiveness and Innovation
Table 5.II	Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index 2011 for Trinidad and Tobago
Table 5.III	Trinidad and Tobago's Global Innovation Index Rankings
Table 5.IV	Trinidad and Tobago's Doing Business Ranking for 2008-2013
Table 6.I	Current Progress of Priority Targets for Poverty Reduction
Table 6.II	Enrolment in Educational Institutions for Fiscal Year 2012
Table 6.III	Current Progress of Priority Targets for Human Capital Development

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK			
GOVERNMENT'S VISION: 'INNOVATION FOR LASTING PROSPERITY'			
MEDIUM TERM PRIORITIES	PRIORITIES	KEY RESULT AREAS	NATIONAL OUTCOMES
	Crime and Law and Order	A Safe and Secure Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Effective Law Enforcement • Reduction in Crime Against Property and Person • Efficient and Effective Judicial System
	Agriculture & Food Security	A Food Secure Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate and Affordable Food • Agriculture will be a Viable Sector of the Economy
	Health Care Services and Hospitals	First Class Health Care A Fit and Healthy Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal Access to Healthcare Facilities Across T&T • Efficient and Quality Healthcare System • Greater Participation in Sport and Recreational Activities towards Healthy Lifestyles • Reduced Prevalence of Diseases • Healthier Choices in Diet and Nutrition
	Economic Growth, Job Creation, Competitiveness & Innovation	A Resilient, Competitive, Stable and Sustainable Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Growth and Job Creation • Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Partnership • A Diversified Economy
	Poverty Reduction and Human Capital Development	A Society Free From Poverty A Quality Education System that caters to the diverse needs of 21st century learners A Knowledge Driven and Skilled Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Adequate and Affordable Housing • Self-Reliant and Sustainable Communities • An Efficient and Effective Social System for the Poor and Vulnerable • Improved Learning Environment • Improved Students' Overall Performance • Improved Alignment of Students to their Prospective Best-Fit Jobs and Promote Career Establishment • Improved Institutional Strength and Capacity of the Ministry • Quality Graduates in Tertiary Education and Technical Vocational Programmes in Sufficient Numbers and Capabilities to Drive a Knowledge Intensive Economy • Synchronisation of Labour Market Requirements with Skills and Tertiary Education • Improved System of Entrepreneurship, Apprenticeship and Internship for Young Persons

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
MEDIUM TERM PRIORITIES

Crime and Law & Order	Agriculture & Food Security	Health Care Services and Hospitals	Economic Growth, Job Creation, Competitiveness & Innovation	Poverty Reduction and Human Capital Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime Rate • Recidivism Rate • Crime Solvency Rate • Homicide Detection Rate • Time taken for Cases from Start to Determination • No. of Backlog Cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Inflation Rate • % Contribution of Agriculture to Non-Energy GDP • % Employment in Agriculture • Food Import Bill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % Population with Chronic Illnesses • Cancer Mortality Rate • Tuberculosis Mortality Rate • Non-Communicable Disease Mortality Rate • No. of New Infectious Disease Cases • Registered Patients at St. Ann's Psychiatric Hospital • Adult HIV Prevalence • Diabetes Mortality Rate • Obesity Rate • No. of Persons Participating in Sport • Physicians Professionals per 10,000 persons • Nursing Professionals per 10,000 persons • Client Satisfaction Rate • % of Population Living within 1 Hour Travelling Time to a Health Facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross Domestic Product (TT\$ million) • Sector Contribution to GDP (%) • Export Expansion • Foreign Direct Investment • Unemployment Rate • Global Competitiveness Index • Global Innovation Index • New Business Creation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % Families Owning Homes • % Small Business Start-ups • % Population Living in Poverty • % Socially Displaced Persons • Differently-abled Unemployment Rate • % Students Attaining 5 or more Subjects at CXC • % Students Passing SEA • Employment Rates in the 15-24 Age Group • Tertiary Institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enrolment Rate - Participation Rate - Graduation Rate • Response Time-Centre to Districts • % Enrolment Technical Vocational Institutions • % of Programmes listed on the National Development List offered by Tertiary Level Institutions • % Persons Graduating from Apprenticeship Programmes

SECTION ONE

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

In 2011, Government set the foundation for the socio-economic transformation of Trinidad and Tobago by charting its development agenda based on five (5) development Priorities to be achieved over the period 2011-2014. Specifically, the **Medium Term Policy Framework – Innovation for Lasting Prosperity** outlines the following priorities:

- Crime and Law & Order
- Agriculture and Food Security
- Health Care Services and Hospitals
- Economic Growth, Job Creation, Competitiveness and Innovation
- Poverty Reduction and Human Capital Development

In 2012, the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development (MPL&SD) collaborated with Ministries, Departments and Agencies to commence the development of the **National Performance Framework 2012-2015** which establishes performance measures that would inform progress and results against these five (5) Priorities. This resulted in the development of Key Result Areas¹ (KRAs) and National Outcomes² for each of the priorities. This Performance Framework is the basis of a well-developed and well managed monitoring and evaluation system that is being institutionalised across the public sector.

The adoption of agreed upon national outcomes, key performance indicators and targets, is critical in the development of a system of accountability, transparency and good governance. The value of the National Performance Framework rests on the information that will be gathered through the on-going process of data collection and analysis of interventions undertaken. Through this Framework the assessment of Government's performance will no longer be based primarily on patterns and levels of expenditure or the activities undertaken, but rather on the impact and outcomes of Government interventions on the lives of the people of Trinidad and Tobago. It is anticipated that by 2014 the NPF would be fully instituted and serve as an effective integrated platform for measuring performance.

¹ Key Result Area - The long-term impact expected to be produced by a development intervention

² National Outcome - The likely or achieved short-term and medium-term effects that are expected of an intervention's outputs

This *Performance Report 2012 – Building the Foundation for Results* is a first report using the NPF within the reporting framework. The transition to a fully operational NPF, requires the full supply of data and therefore this document represents a hybrid. It is a blend of traditional forms of reporting on outputs and activities and that of analysis of data against outcomes. It is also the first implementation report against the Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2014. The information contained within the Report was collected from Quarterly Reports submitted by Ministries, Departments and Agencies as part of the process of monitoring of their Strategic Implementation Plans.

The reader will be given insight into the policy initiatives under each of the priorities and the progress achieved. The Report does not focus on the work of individual Ministries, Departments and Agencies but addresses the various activities undertaken by these entities towards achievement of national outcomes. Ministries, Departments and Agencies have been clustered into development groupings that are collectively responsible for a Priority or a Key Result Area. The value of inter-agency collaboration cannot be underscored sufficiently; it speaks to the importance of shared ownership and shared responsibility, as well as the value of sharing resources and serving the citizenry in a cohesive and structured manner.

The importance of building a robust data collection system at line Ministries, Departments and Agencies is critical for the success of this new type of reporting. Whilst the Central Statistical Office remains the main repository for macro – socio-economic data, Ministries, Departments and Agencies must also undertake data collection, both qualitative and quantitative, to assess the impacts of their projects and programmes. This information is important for the MPL&SD to assess impact through their collective initiatives across the public sector. The Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development is also exploring mechanisms to strengthen this capability across the public sector, so that data driven decision-making would become the order of the day.

In each of the five (5) Priorities, success is recorded, but due recognition is given to the challenges being experienced by Ministries, Department and Agencies. This new approach to reporting is a good opportunity for the Government to constantly improve on its performance, as the data results will drive more informed decision making that opens the space for evaluation towards greater and more equitable and meaningful development.

The National Transformation Unit (NTU) of the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable

Development is mandated to serve as the Monitoring and Evaluation Centre for the public sector. This Unit will continue to work closely with Monitoring and Evaluation Units across Ministries, Departments and Agencies to realise the development outcomes of the Government. At present the emphasis is on effective monitoring, however, in the short term, evaluations will be undertaken and results would be used to improve the effectiveness of projects and programmes for Trinidad and Tobago. The Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development has completed the National Policy for Monitoring and Evaluation and this will serve as a guide for the practices, systems and operations in this area.

The Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development is pleased to present this first *Performance Report 2012: Building the Foundation for Results* as the benchmark for future reporting. It is anticipated that as we work towards improving accountability and strengthening overall governance, this Report will become one of the hallmarks of assessing progress.

SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY PRIORITY

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

- Organisational structures and systems improved by establishing:
 - A National Disaster Risk Reduction Committee (NDRRC);
 - An Electronic Monitoring Unit;
 - A Firearms Database;
 - A Digital Photography System; and
 - An Exhibit Management System.
- Building Human Capacity:
 - 85 trainees graduated from the Police Academy between April to July 2012;
 - Entry of 389 new officers for the Enhanced Induction Training Programme to the Police Service during the period October 2010 to June 2012; and
 - 427 additional persons recruited by the Prison Service.
- Acquisition of Equipment:
 - Procurement of 190 police vehicles;
 - 200 police vehicles equipped with GPS; and
 - Commissioning of two (2) helicopters for surveillance.

CRIME AND LAW & ORDER

IMPROVEMENTS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT FACILITIES

- Construction or refurbishment of eight (8) police stations;
- Upgrade of Prison Services:
 - Emergency Response Unit at Golden Grove; and
- Commencement of the Remand Prison Extension.

SOCIAL PROGRAMMES TO PREVENT CRIME

- Targeting at-risk youths:
 - LIFESport Programme (training in boxing athletics, basketball, football);
 - Hoops of Life initiative (basketball competitions) launched in Beetham Gardens; and
 - National Mentorship Programmes;
- National Adopt-a-School Programme (training in netball, football and singing);
- Concerts of Hope initiative in Arima;
- 2nd annual Fatherhood Fair; and
- Making Life Important Initiative (MLI) in Morvant/Laventille.

IMPROVING EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

- Sites for the construction of new courts were identified at Trincity, Sangre Grande, Penal/Siparia and Carlsen Field
- Improvements to legislation through:
 - Administration of Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Act, 2012;
 - Amendments to the Legal Aid and Advice (Amendment) Act, 2012; and
 - Joint Select Committee reported on Policy to inform Public Procurement Legislation.

AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION AND ACCESS

- 40 km (19 roads) rehabilitated, 107km (35 roads) maintained and 23.4 km (11 roads) new road networks constructed;
- Interest rates reduced from 8-11% range to 3-5% range with Agricultural Development Bank (ADB);
- 3,071 persons accessed ADB Loans in 2012;
- Draft Fisheries Policy (2007) and Draft Fisheries Management Bill and Regulations (2007) updated; and
- Eleven (11) Fish Landing Sites upgraded.

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

- 242 on-farm irrigation ponds constructed;
- 120km of water channels de-silted; and
- 10 farm plots used for demonstrations.

LAND MANAGEMENT AND TENURE OF FARMERS

- Three (3) commercial large farms established, with one (1) farm in land preparation for cattle farming;
- 562 new leases of land extended to farmers for land ownership;
- 2,000 ex-workers of Caroni Limited received leases to lands; and
- Land Information System of Trinidad and Tobago (LISTT) developed.

AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY

ENCOURAGE YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

- Rancho Quemado Estates Limited Agro-Eco Tourism Park opened with visits from over 50 primary schools and 2,000 young persons; and
- 44 University Graduates trained in agriculture under the Agriculture Professional Development Programme.

HIGHER LEVELS OF PRODUCTIVITY FOR LOCALLY PRODUCED GOODS

- 70 tonnes of dairy goat production achieved;
- 300-400 acres of land allocated for forage farms;
- 11 new varieties of Trinidad Selected Hybrid varieties of cocoa registered and 250,000 cocoa planting materials supplied to farmers;
- 80 large farms identified for growing cocoa and 165 CEPEP workers trained in harvesting cocoa;
- Agricultural Ranger Squad re-established to combat Praedial Larceny; and
- 839 persons trained in crop and livestock production, agro-processing and agribusiness management.

CONSUMPTION OF HEALTHY, LOCALLY PRODUCED FOOD

- 'Put T&T On Your Table' initiative launched;
- Flagship outlets adopt 'Sweet Potato Fries' made from local produce; and
- 67 persons trained in Home Gardening.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND HOSPITALS

STRENGTHENING POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- National Cancer Policy developed;
- Amendment to the Nurses and Midwives Act approved;
- Health Services Accreditation Bill Drafted;
- Draft Optometry Policy completed;
- Draft Mental Health Bill completed;
- Adverse Events Policy Completed; and
- Amendments to the Regional Health Authority (RHA) Act, 2012 approved.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Workplace Mental Health Policy launched; and
- Draft National Mental Health Policy completed.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN HEALTH CARE SERVICE DELIVERY AND MANAGEMENT

- The Health Information System Strategic Plan developed and approved.

STRENGTHEN HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Five (5) Fuerzas Aliadas Humanitarias (FA-HUM) Emergency Preparedness Simulation Exercises conducted; and
- 115 persons trained by T&T Red Cross Society in Basic First Aid and CPR.

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- Rehabilitation works continued with the:
 - Renovation of the Port of Spain General Hospital, and renovation work on the Central Sterilization and Storage Department (CSSD) completed; and
 - Upgrade of the Nurse Call System at Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex is 92% completed with 26 Nurse Call Systems installed.
- Construction of new health infrastructure:
 - The Cardiac Ward of the San Fernando General Hospital constructed, equipped and opened to the public.
- Government focused on outfitting healthcare facilities with:
 - 21 Electrocardiogram (ECG) Machines;
 - Point of Care Testing Laboratory Equipment;
 - Dental Equipment;
 - Six (6) Cardiac Monitoring Systems;
 - Argon Laser Machine;
 - Seven (7) Portable X-Ray Machines;
 - Three (3) Ultra Sound Machines; and
 - Urology Equipment.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND HOSPITALS

PREVENTION, CARE AND TREATMENT OF NON COMMUNICABLE AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

- The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine introduced;
- Over 800 cardiac procedures successfully performed;
- 17,529 dialysis sessions were for 210 patients;
- Eight (8) renal transplant procedures undertaken;
- Dengue management continued with:
 - A total of 498,478 houses treated with perifocal work;
 - 75,522 houses sprayed with dyna fogging;
 - 87,597 houses sprayed with ultra-low ultra-low volume (ULV) machines; and
 - 22,285 houses sprayed residually (indoors);
- Access to medication under the Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (CDAP) expanded through the MY TT CARD to include more services; and
- Awareness and treatment strategies to reduce the number of persons affected and succumbing to HIV/AIDS progressed with:
 - The Ministry of Tourism conducted training for persons within the tourism sector;
 - The National Workplace Policy on HIV/AIDS completed; and
 - Antiretroviral Treatment coverage increased to 82.4 percent while infant exposure testing increased to 98.3 percent coverage in 2012.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND HOSPITALS

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

- Initiatives implemented towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals:
 - Revised Growth Monitoring charts;
 - Screening mothers for diabetes;
 - Introduction of STEPS/SURVEY;
 - Maternal & Child Health Manual (draft);
 - The Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) Programme implemented;
 - Data Collected on the MICS currently being analysed; and
 - 38,188 children were administered the pneumococcal vaccine.

STRENGTHENING HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION

- The “Know Your Numbers” Campaign launched;
- A “Fight the Fat” media campaign launched; and
- Health Education Material to facilitate learning about health and nutrition, targeting 1st and 2nd Year primary students designed.

HEALTH SECTOR FINANCING

- The Policy Framework for the National Health Insurance System developed; and
- Work towards implementing health sector financing, continued with preliminary National Health Insurance System costing analysis, inclusive of institutions within South West, North Central and Tobago Regional Health.

HUMAN RESOURCE PLANNING, MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

- Government Scholarships were awarded in specialized areas such as; Master of Medicine (MMed) in radiation Oncology; a Clinical Fellowship Programme; and a fellowship in Neonatology at the Centre for Newborn Care;
- Six (6) officers at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex (EWMSC) trained in Cardiac Catherization Lab activities;
- Ten (10) officers from the RHAs trained in Echo Sonography via the Ministry of Science and Technology Cardiovascular Services Initiative; and
- Lab personnel at the national level, RHAs, County Medical Officers and private laboratories trained in Bio-Risk Management and infectious Substance Shipping.

ECONOMIC GROWTH, JOB CREATION COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION

MACROECONOMIC STABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH DIVERSIFICATION

- Hosting of a Diversification Conference themed “Building Competitive Advantage” in July 2012; and
- Publication of the “Working for Sustainable Development in Trinidad and Tobago” in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012.

PROMOTE NEW STRATEGIC SECTORS

- Establishment of the Sugar Heritage Village and Museum at Brechin Castle, Couva;
- Acquisition of over 2,500 Caribbean literary print and non-print resources for heritage public schools and special public libraries; and
- Approval received for the construction of seven (7) New to Industry (NTI) service stations for the dispensing of both liquid fuels and CNG in Tacarigua, Orange Grove, Tunapuna, El Socorro, Brentwood, Preysal and South Trunk Road.

MOVE UP THE VALUE CHAIN IN ENERGY

- Completion and presentation of the Natural Gas Reserves Audit for year-end 2011 in August 2012 and initiation of the Oil Reserve Audit in July 2012.

ECONOMIC GROWTH, JOB CREATION COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION

DEVELOP NEW GROWTH CENTRES ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND INDUSTRY

- Completion of Phase 1 comprising 1125 feet of the Boardwalk at Williams Bay, Chaguaramas; and
- Initiation of technical studies to promote sustainable communities for the five (5) growth poles particularly in the areas of Toco, Moruga and Barrackpore.

REVITALISE THE TRADITIONAL SECTORS AND PROMOTE VIABLE CLUSTERS

- A draft strategic plan for the printing and packaging industry was completed and a draft strategic plan for the yachting industry was also developed; and
- The Medical Tourism Sub-Policy was drafted and the Issues Paper completed.

SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

- National Integrated Business Incubator System launched.

STRATEGICALLY MANAGE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

- CARIFORUM –EU Economic Partnership Agreement Bill 2011 finalised; and
- Negotiation of a Partial Scope Trade Agreement with the Republic of Panama.

ECONOMIC GROWTH, JOB CREATION COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION

CREATE A MODERN AND EFFICIENT ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE BASE

- Commissioning of the TTBizLink Portal/ Single Electronic Window (SEW);
- Continuation of the Churchill Roosevelt Highway from Tumpuna Road to Demerara Road; Diego Martin Highway North Bound Lane from Western Main Road to Victoria Gardens; and an additional lane on the Churchill Roosevelt Highway West Bound;
- Finalisation of tender documents for the construction of the Princes Town to Mayaro Highway, San Fernando to Princes Town Highway, San Fernando to Point Fortin Highway and Churchill Roosevelt Highway Extension from Wallerfield to Manzanilla;
- Enactment of the TT Post Act to Vest Properties, an amendment to the TTPost Act; and
- Completion of one (1) Water treatment Plant at Penal and continuation of seven (7) plants.

ECONOMIC GROWTH, JOB CREATION COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION

PROMOTE INNOVATION AND ENTREP- RENEURSHIP

- Continued development of a National Innovation Policy and National Innovation System to foster innovation as key driver of a diversified knowledge based economy;
- Financial support for 50 innovators/inventors through Innovation Facility; and
- Commenced construction at (Freeport) of Incubation Facility for Enterprise Development.

INCREASE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC INVESTMENT

- Trinidad and Tobago Investment Policy (2012-2016) progressed to the White Paper stage;
- New Investments in Financial Sector;
- Financial Sector Contributions to GDP grows to 11%;
- Services sector growth supporting diversification; and
- Successful bid round completed in Petroleum Sector.

POVERTY REDUCTION AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

RESTRUCTURE THE ECONOMY TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL INCOME GENERATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION THAT HAVE TRADITIONALLY OPERATED ON THE MARGINS OF THE ECONOMY

- Export centres trained 375 persons in wood burning, balloon craft, tie dye, basketry, jewelry and confectionery; and
- First phase of Boardwalk provided opportunities for seven (7) entrepreneurs in business booths, creating commercial opportunities.

INCREASE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- 1165 housing units completed;
- 3 SILWC housing developments upgraded;
- 1,200 certificates of comfort issued over last 2 years;
- 57 subsidies for new home construction disbursed; and
- 1,162 home improvement subsidies, home improvement and emergency grants disbursed.

STRENGTHEN SOCIAL CAPITAL AT THE COMMUNITY

- 8 Senior Activity Centres established;
- 206 Micro Enterprise Grants and Loans disbursed;
- 1,106 Minor Repairs/Reconstruction Grant (MRRG) Projects approved and 827 projects in progress; and
- 421 Emergency Repair/Reconstruction Assistance Grant (ERRAG) Projects approved and 205 projects in progress.

POVERTY REDUCTION AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

EMPOWER THE POOR AND TARGET THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS IN SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL SUPPORT WITH DIRECT IMPACT ON A FAMILY BY FAMILY BASIS

- 1408 NSDP grants disbursed;
- 79,942 persons received Senior Citizens Pension;
- 24,798 received Public Assistance Grants;
- 23,797 received Disability Assistance Grants;
- 1,850 received General Assistance Grants;
- Over 35,000 persons benefitted from the TT Card;
- Over 7,000 vulnerable households received assistance through the Temporary Food Card
- Over 5,200 persons have enhanced their income earning capacity, are no longer deemed indigent and have graduated from the programme;
- 900 clients received RISE UP support;
- 4,100 vulnerable families received Christmas hampers; and
- 5,500 victims of flooding received hampers as well as other support.

POVERTY REDUCTION AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

IMPROVED ACCESS TO EDUCATION

- Approximately 50,000 students accessed GATE funding;
- COSTAATT Sangre Grande Campus has been completed;
- Completed construction of the Building for the Health Economic Unit, UWI;
- Completed construction of 4 secondary schools;
- Completed construction of 29 ECCE Centres;
- Completed construction of 8 new primary schools; and
- 350 schools repaired.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) INFRA-STRUCTURE

- 16,849 Form 1 students received laptops; and
- 467 primary school principals received laptops.

ALIGNMENT OF TERTIARY EDUCATION PROGRAMMES TO DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

- Introduced 15 new programmes that are relevant to national development.

IMPROVING STUDENTS' OVERALL PERFORMANCE

- 21,551 students benefitted from direct guidance services at 138 primary schools;
- 16,725 students benefitted from guidance services at 58 secondary Schools;
- 2,600 secondary school students received counseling services; and
- 1,162 primary school students benefitted from social work services.

SECTION TWO:

IMPLEMENTATION OF MEDIUM TERM PRIORITIES

CRIME AND LAW & ORDER

A SAFE & SECURE SOCIETY

*More Effective
Law
Enforcement*

*Reduction in
Crime Against
Property and
Person*

*Efficient and
Effective
Judicial
System*

Crime reduction and detection remain high on the action agenda as Government seeks to create a safe and secure nation for all citizens. In order for meaningful socio-economic development to occur, law and order must be maintained. Government therefore remains committed to achieving the national outcomes of more effective law enforcement, reducing crime against property and person and facilitating an efficient and effective judicial system. However, these will only be achieved through improvements in our national security structures and systems; rigorous implementation of infrastructural development and human capacity strengthening; engagement of the public through consultation; dissemination of information; meaningful social programmes, as well as a strong legal framework.

In order to track and measure our efforts in this Priority, several critical targets have been outlined over the medium term. One of the most significant Priorities will be to reduce the crime rate by 25% per annum. Other significant targets identified are to increase the crime solvency rate and homicide detection rate to 25% by 2014. As it relates to the reform of the penal system, it is anticipated that the recidivism rate would be reduced by 10% per annum.

TABLE 2.I**CURRENT PROGRESS OF PRIORITY TARGETS FOR CRIME AND LAW & ORDER**

PRIORITY AREA	TARGETS TO 2015	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	BASELINE 2010	ACTUAL 2012
CRIME AND LAW & ORDER	Reduce Crime Rate by 15% per annum	Crime Rate	1597.8 per 100,000	1166.9 per 100,000*
	Reduce Recidivism Rate by 10% per annum	Recidivism Rate	53.4%	50.0%**
	Increase the Crime Solvency (Detection) Rate to 25%	Crime Solvency (Detection) Rate	16.8%	14.8%
	Increase Homicide detection Rate to 25%	Homicide Detection Rate	24.8%	15.4%
	Reduce Time Taken for Cases by 60% (approx.. 4yrs)	Time taken for cases from start to determination	7yrs.	7yrs.

*As of August 2012

**As of June 2012

The Government also remains steadfast in reducing the number of backlog cases in the judicial system. In the law term 2011-2012, there were 5,228 new civil matters filed and 5,169 civil matters determined. For the same period, the number of Criminal Matters filed in the High Court decreased by 59 per cent (from 279 to 116) compared to the previous law term 2010-2011. Of the 116 Criminal Matters filed, 64 were disposed. Overall, a total of 80 per cent of all Criminal Matters were determined within three (3) years of filing in the Criminal Registry whilst 20 per cent were determined within three (3) or more years after filing.

The Ministry of Justice, along with the Judiciary, is still in the process of compiling the present number of backlog cases in the judicial system.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

One of the key requirements for strengthening Trinidad and Tobago's law enforcement capabilities is to improve organisational structures and systems to ensure a streamlined, well-coordinated and precise approach to crime detection and prevention, and prosecution.

Through its various Ministries and Agencies, Government has proposed the establishment of new and modified units to increase its capacity to treat with law enforcement. In this regard, significant progress has been made towards the establishment of key Units:

- A fully functional Intelligence Unit integrating elements of the former Special Anti-Crime Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (SAUTT) into a more effective capability;
- An Electronic Monitoring Unit to implement the Electronic Monitoring Legislation which would reduce overcrowding in prisons, positively impact on family life and reduce costs to the state usually associated with imprisonment. In addition, it can be beneficial to persons deemed more vulnerable in prison- such as those with poor health, juveniles, and pregnant women or women with dependent children;
- A fully-functional Compliance Unit under the Registrar General's Department-Companies' Registry to monitor and take action on contraventions of disclosure obligations under the law. This will ensure that there is greater compliance of companies with the Companies Act; and
- A National Centre for Dispute Resolution (NCDR) under the Ministry of Legal Affairs, which has assumed portfolio for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). This Centre would provide an efficient and effective method of resolving disputes outside of Court and would gather statistics on ADR; organise training for public servants in ADR; and facilitate the ADR functions of other Government bodies.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Given our vulnerabilities to natural and man-made hazards which can directly and indirectly lead to civil disorder if a major event occurs, the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) has continued its efforts to establish a National Disaster Risk Reduction Committee (NDRRC) to engage the support of stakeholders who can contribute to initiatives related to this priority. To date, 80% of stakeholders have been engaged in disaster preparedness strategies.

Disaster management plans with other key disaster agencies and municipalities have also been developed, a Chief Disaster Management Coordinator was appointed and a Disaster Management Policy completed.

Additionally, through the Ministry of Local Government, vehicles and equipment have been procured as part of the Disaster Management System, while five (5) warehouses in the Municipal Corporations of Couva/Tabaquite Talparo; Princes Town; Mayaro/ Rio Claro;

Tunupuna/Piarco and Arima were established in collaboration with the business community and stocked with relief supplies (mattresses, food hampers, etc.) in the event of a disaster. Moreover, in order to deal with the severe instances of flooding, the Ministry has begun the purchase of essential pieces of equipment such as skid steer loaders and multipurpose portable shelters.

BOX 2.1

ACHIEVEMENT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE NATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT PROJECT

- 10% of the Country Risk Profile completed;
- 5% of the National Institutional Capacity Assessment (NICA) completed;
- 25% Implementation of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) in 3 'high risk' communities; and
- 25% of the Disaster Risk Management procurement completed

In order to build capacity in the area of disaster preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery, the ODPM secured funding from the IADB for a National Risk Assessment Project and a Project Steering Committee was established.

Additionally, the ODPM's National Preparedness Survey, which is a comprehensive baseline assessment of the citizens' knowledge of hazards, knowledge of damage and losses, and awareness of preparedness measures, has been completed. The ODPM's Public Information Unit has submitted its final draft of the Survey Report which is currently under review for implementation.

Simultaneously, the ODPM's National Public Awareness and Education Programme on Disaster

Preparedness and Emergency Planning engaged the private sector; communities and public sector in disaster preparedness, and response. During this year, seven (7) presentations on preparedness were made to the private sector, while four (4) presentations were made to communities.

IMPROVING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

The key Ministries and Agencies involved in reducing crime and maintaining law and order have also sought to establish new systems and acquire additional equipment to facilitate the sharing of information and improve response capabilities.

During this year, the Police Service has implemented:

- The Firearms Database,
- A Digital Photography System and
- An Exhibit Management System.

BOX 2.II

ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT

- Procurement of 190 police vehicles;
- 200 police vehicles equipped with GPS; and
- Commissioning of two (2) helicopters for surveillance

In addition, 200 police vehicles were equipped with Global Positioning System (GPS) to facilitate Computer Aided Dispatch, while all patrols were equipped with Mobile Data Terminals (MDT). Also, the Police Service continued to develop its Enhanced Induction Facility recruiting and training persons in Ethics and Integrity; Policing for People; and Practical Based Learning, all components of the Enhanced Induction Training Programme.

Other projects aimed at improving the competencies of law enforcement agencies included the computerisation of 75 police charge rooms; the implementation of a video conference solution and the creation of an Operations Command Centre in the Western Division. The Government also signed a security contract with HARRIS Corporation RF, a United States based firm, to provide the latest digital communications technology service to enhance the capability of the Police Service to provide comprehensive communications throughout the country. This new security system will be operational by the end of 2013. Additionally, contracts have been awarded for the supply of 190 new vehicles for the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) to enhance its response capabilities.

Additionally, two (2) helicopters were recently commissioned and will be used by the Air Guard in maritime surveillance, search and rescue, law enforcement support, as well as national/regional disaster relief and protection.

DEVELOPING TRAINED PROFESSIONALS

BOX 2.III

BUILDING HUMAN CAPACITY

- 55 trainees graduated from the Police Academy in April 2012, while an additional 30 trainees graduated in July 2012;
- Entry of 389 new officers to the Service during the period October 2010 to June 2012 under the Enhanced Induction Training Programme; and
- Recruitment of 427 additional persons by the Prison Service

Improving the capabilities of personnel involved in reducing crime and maintaining law and order is another critical dimension to establishing a safe and secure society. To this end, the Police Service proposed the redoubling of the training capacity of the Police Academy.

In this regard, over the last fiscal year, 85 trainees have graduated from the Academy. These recruits were required to undergo training in Criminal Law, Police duties, Community Policing, First Aid, Traffic Law, Firearms, Drill and Evidence and Procedures. In addition, seventy-eight (78) officers were enrolled to be trained as instructors.

To enhance police visibility and responsiveness, an accelerated recruitment drive continued during 2012 under the Enhanced Induction Training Programme with a total of 389 new officers having entered the Service during the period October 2010 to June 2012. This training was followed by an 8-week Field Training Officer (FTO) Programme to support the transition from the induction and training environment to that of front line policing.

To further improve the quality and competencies of law enforcement, 20 positions for Recruit Background Check Investigators (BCIs) were created. To date, 18 of these positions have been filled.



The Prison Service has also sought to increase staffing by a proposed 554 officers. To this end, between August 2011 and January 2012, the Prison Service, which already has 2,227 officers, successfully recruited 427 persons of the proposed amount. However, while new recruits continue to be sourced, it must be noted that the Prison Service is still challenged by inadequate staffing.

The Prison Service also continued to train and re-train staff to develop competencies, improve service delivery and to meet the organisations' strategic objectives, reporting that 483 staff members have now been retrained.

The Immigration Division, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, also contributed to the security of the citizenry through its training of officers in International Protection policies to guide the management of refugees, asylum seekers and victims of human trafficking. During this fiscal year, the Division met its target of training 15 officers in the identification of victims of human trafficking.

Other capacity building efforts in the area of crime reduction and the maintenance of law and order include a proposed accelerated recruitment drive for Probation and Parole Officers. In addition, Government is seeking to enhance the capacity of the Justice System with respect to Intellectual Property (IP) Enforcement by the training of the Magistracy and Judiciary to deal with IP infringement and Offences. To achieve this, it has been proposed that Trinidad and Tobago hosts the Judges Colloquium with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in 2013.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also been collaborating with the Ministry of National Security and international and regional intelligence agencies to increase the knowledge in best-practices in the area of national security through the provision of workshops/training. These collaborations also ensure that any new security risks, internal or external to the region, are detected and responded to immediately and collaboratively.

IMPROVEMENTS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT FACILITIES

Improved physical infrastructure capable of meeting the demands of law enforcement personnel, and the various essential services, and supporting the needs of the citizenry are also necessary for meeting the objectives of crime reduction and prevention.

BOX 2.IV

IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE

- Construction/refurbishment of eight (8) police stations at Arima, Brasso, Cumuto, La Brea, Maloney, Moruga, Piarco Oropouche will soon commence;
- Upgrade of Prison Services:
 - Emergency Response Unit at Golden Grove - 69 per cent completed; and
- Commencement of the Remand Prison Extension project in March 2012

In order to improve law enforcement facilities, eight (8) police stations were scheduled for construction or refurbishment at Arima, Brasso, Cumuto, La Brea, Maloney, Moruga, Piarco and Oropouche. To date, the sites for the Arima, Piarco, Maloney and Cumuto police stations have been prepared with construction scheduled to begin by the end of 2012. In addition, the construction of the La Brea station would begin by the end of fiscal 2012, while a site for the Moruga station is currently being sourced by the Ministry of National Security. Additionally, the Police Training Academy at St. James is in the process of expanding its infrastructure.

The Prison Service continued to upgrade its Emergency Response Unit at Golden Grove as part of its aim to expand its response capabilities. To date, 69 per cent of the work has been completed with the estimated completion date set for the end of 2012.

Other upgrades of prison facilities were undertaken to improve the conditions for humane treatment and provide accommodations of offenders. These include the upgrade of the Port of Spain Prison which has been behind schedule for several years, but has now recorded that 95 per cent of the roofing upgrade has been completed. In addition, the upgrade of the water storage facility at the Tobago Prison commenced in February 2012; and perimeter lighting upgrade to Golden Grove Prison compound commenced in March 2012, with both projects scheduled for completion by the end of the fiscal year. Further, the Remand Prison Extension project which involves the construction of two (2) storey additions to the North and South Sides of the Prison commenced in March 2012 and is also scheduled for completion by the end of this fiscal year.

The Government also continued to expand key services through the construction and outfitting of additional office accommodation throughout the country to improve citizens' access to critical services. Refurbishment to the Ministry of the Attorney General- South Office is currently on-going with all consultants having been retained and demolition work on the old structure completed. At present, the architects continue to develop the preliminary design for the building based on the Ministry's requirements. This facility will house the South Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Civil Law Department and support services.

Furthermore, construction of an Office Complex on five (5) parcels of land at Camden Road and Couva Main Road, Couva is in the initiation phase since the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry and NIPDEC was signed in July 2012. This Complex will house several entities as either permanent offices or sub-offices, including:

- Equal Opportunity Commission
- Equal Opportunity Tribunal
- Industrial Court
- Environmental Commission
- Tax Appeal Board
- Legal Aid and Advisory Authority

At present, user requirements have been compiled and a design brief has been prepared. NIPDEC has already drafted a Request for Proposal (RFP) for consultants on the project, which will be issued shortly. The Ministry is also awaiting approval of the survey plan for the property.

The Ministry of Legal Affairs will be relocating to the Government Campus Plaza in closer proximity to other key Ministries involved in maintaining law and order. At present, the outfitting of these new offices is being undertaken by the Property and Real Estate Division of the Ministry of Housing, Land and Marine Resources.

SOCIAL PROGRAMMES TO PREVENT CRIME

Social Programmes to prevent crime must be multi-faceted. A key measure undertaken by Government is the implementation of programmes to aid in the rehabilitation of prisoners. This includes training, counselling and mentorship programmes, and the provision of support for state witnesses through the Witness Protection Programme.

At present, only 11 per cent of all convicted male inmates, 59 per cent of convicted females and 51 per cent of convicted males (youths) participate in rehabilitation programmes. The Prison Service aims to increase the participation rate to between 40-60 per cent by 2014. These rehabilitation measures aim at reducing the number of repeat offenders by providing inmates with skills training and psychological support to assist in their transition into society upon release.

The Government has also placed emphasis on implementing new social programmes which will target at-risk youths at the community level in order to reduce criminal activity. The first of these is the LIFESport Programme which was launched in June, 2012. This pilot project will be implemented in several communities including, Laventille, Diego Martin, Chaguanas, Marabella, the East/West Corridor, Sangre Grande and Tobago.

The programme will run over a five (5) day period with 100 contact hours each, with sporting and life skills components which are geared towards providing alternative lifestyle choices to youths. LIFESport trainees will be engaged in sport training in four (4) disciplines (boxing, athletics, basketball, football) as well as coach education, facility/grounds management, life and vocational skills training. Approximately 120 young men from at-risk communities will soon benefit from this initiative, while the overall LIFESport programme will target 1,800 youths over a two-year period.

The second initiative, the Hoop of Life project, was launched in June, 2012 at Beetham Gardens. This initiative, which is estimated to cost \$12 million, will span between five (5) to six (6) months per year over three (3) years. It will involve approximately 58-60 communities with teams comprising of twelve registered community players, with free uniforms granted by Government as well as travel and insurance benefits. The winning team will have the opportunity to use the prize money for the development of their community, personal growth and development, as well as future development.

The first prize will be \$1 million, half of which will go towards a community building project of the winners' choice. The rest of the money will be paid to the members of the winning team in parts over a six-month period. The second prize will be \$500,000 and the third will be \$250,000 with special prizes to be awarded to the most disciplined team and the team with the most community support.

Other social intervention programmes targeting at-risk youths were implemented over the last fiscal year. Under the National Mentorship Programme, 23 Mentors were identified throughout Trinidad and Tobago and Mentoring Sessions commenced on February 27, 2012. As at the end of June 2012, 126 mentors have completed training in Trinidad and Tobago, following which they were paired with appropriate mentees.



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL
SECURITY STAFF AT AN OUT-
REACH EVENT

The Citizen Security Programme (CSP) also continued with the following projects during 2012:

- Disbursement of grants (\$50,000 each) to 35 Community-based Organisations for crime and violence prevention micro projects under the Inspiring Confidence in our Neighbourhoods (ICON) sub-component.
- Completion of after- school projects for conflict management at 3 primary Schools and 3 Secondary Schools;
- Establishment of Information Technology Centre at Mt D'or Road, Champ Fleurs;
- Rehabilitation of a recreational facility at Sogren Trace, Laventille and La Romain;
- Completion of three (3) Street Education projects in Tobago; and
- A Lyrical Caravan, launched in March 2012, which is a competition to encourage artistic expression among residents of CSP Partner communities.

The pilot stage of the Positive Adolescent Network (PAN) Yard Initiative was implemented in eight (8) at-risk communities- seven (7) in Trinidad and one (1) in Tobago. This programme was conceptualised by using the Birdsong Steel Orchestra's Academy model to develop and channel the musical competencies of youths, also serving as a positive alternative for youth involvement.

The National Adopt-a School Programme, which aims to facilitate the participation of children in age-appropriate activities such as netball, football, and singing, was also piloted in April 2012, with the involvement of seven (7) Divisions within the Ministry of National Security agreeing to adopt 17 schools in the East Port of Spain District.

Moreover, during this fiscal year, seven (7) Cadet Units, which encourage discipline, training and the development of camaraderie among youths, were introduced in the following Secondary Schools:

- Diego Martin North
- Couva West
- Carapichaima
- Preysal
- Success/Laventille
- St. James
- Waterloo

Social programmes aimed at reducing the level of crime and maintaining civil order, as well as to strengthen the relationship between communities and law enforcement also continued. The Concerts of Hope initiative involved the staging of 'Pan in De Rosa' concert in Arima, showcasing nine (9) steelband groups. Additionally, concerts were held in Tunapuna and Biche in December 2011. Seven (7) concerts are scheduled until the end of 2012.

In addition, the 2nd annual Fatherhood Fair's entitled *"Celebrating the Bond between Fathers and Children"*, was held in June 2012, and showed support for fathers in their parental responsibility, encouraged their commitment and promoted greater understanding for the mentorship role played by men in society and by extension the family unit.

Making Life Important Initiative (MLI) also continued during the year in the Morvant/Laventille area, providing relief and comfort to residents through policing and social programmes with activities in healthcare, sport and cultural activities. It is anticipated that this initiative will soon be extended to the Beetham Gardens.

Public Awareness

Public sensitization is also essential in gaining consensus and encouraging collective action toward crime reduction and to ensure the preservation of law and order. Accordingly, a campaign on raising public awareness on the roles and functions of the Police Complaints Authority to empower citizens on their fundamental rights will be rolled-out.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Legal Affairs, through its Intellectual Property Office is presently liaising with the Ministry of Education, and other relevant Ministries to integrate Intellectual Property (IP) into school curricula. Other public awareness activities include seminars, workshops and developing a 'Roving IPO'. Other soft-projects undertaken by this Ministry include Campaign Land Registry Online; IPO Anti-Piracy Campaign; Campaign for Computer Generated Marriage and Birth Certificates and World Consumer Rights Day Campaign.

IMPROVING EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

The Government continues to take strategic steps in expanding, modernising and decentralising the Judiciary to expedite the delivery of justice. Work on the construction of new court facilities were confirmed and suitable sites for the construction of new courts at Trincity, Sangre Grande, Penal/Siparia and Carlsen Field have been identified. NIPDEC has been contracted to provide Project Management Services, and relevant approvals from Environmental Management Authority (EMA) and Town and Country Planning Division (TCPD) have been sought. These projects are still in the primary stages of implementation, achieving 25 per cent completion for this fiscal year. Additionally, the construction of a state of the art Forensic facility will soon commence.

In addition, Government has implemented a pilot Drug Court in San Fernando. The drug court is the first formal effort at creating a programme that promotes the idea of restorative justice as a central premise in a court of law in Trinidad and Tobago. This initiative will move nonviolent drug crimes out of the overcrowded court system to one in which there is court supervised rehabilitation. Also, Government is assisting the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in sourcing and implementing a computerized Case Management System, which is intended to facilitate case preparation and building in an expeditious manner.

The legislative and policy agenda over the past fiscal year reflect Government's thrust towards strengthening its framework for delivering its objectives. The following outlines the main accomplishments:

- Joint Select Committee established to review the Legislative Proposal on Public Procurement produced its Final Report which was adopted by Parliament;
- The following were assented to:
 - Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act, 2012
 - Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons Act, 2012
 - Administration of Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Act, 2012
 - Amendments to the Legal Aid and Advice (Amendment) Act, 2012;
- The Report on the National Consultation on Rent was finalized after public consultations. A Policy on Rent will be developed to guide the formulation of legislation for the protection of both landlords and tenants;
- Development of a draft policy and legislation and new prison rules;
- Revised Draft National Consumer Policy has been completed;
- Green Paper on Internal Self-Government for Tobago was prepared by the Law Reform Commission in consultation with key stakeholders from Tobago, as well as Trinidad and would soon be reviewed by Cabinet.
- Draft paper "Transformation of Consumer Protection in Trinidad and Tobago" has been completed;
- A review of the Draft Mentoring Policy undertaken through public consultations;
- A Review of the National Youth Mentorship Policy by Cabinet;
- Joint Select Committee to review a Legislative Proposal on the Prevention of Corruption Act Chap. 11:11 is pending; and
- Development of Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Legislation – awaiting approval at the Ministry of National Security before being sent to Cabinet.

CRIME AND LAW & ORDER INDICATORS

The persistent efforts of Government in fostering a safe and secure nation are reflected in its incremental reduction in reported serious crimes and its reduction in the recidivism rate.

For the period 1st October, 2011 to August 31st, 2012, the Ministry of National Security has reported a 7.5 per cent reduction in serious crimes when compared to the similar period for 2010-2011. Based on the analysis of the crime statistics provided, several areas have shown progress. Most notable were the decreases in:

- Narcotic Offences by 22.8 per cent
- Larceny of Motor Vehicles by 21.6 per cent
- Woundings and Shootings by 9.6 per cent
- Burglaries and Break-ins by 9.3 per cent and
- Murders by 9.2 per cent.

There was also a marked decrease in the incidence of Other Serious Crimes by 8.3%. However, some areas of concern continue to be Larceny of Dwelling House and Kidnapping. However, it was noted that while there was an 8.2 per cent increase in Kidnappings between the comparative periods, it was reported that all kidnapped victims for the period 1st October, 2011 to August 31st, 2012 were found. In this regard, Government, in collaboration with several agencies, continues to employ various strategies to further reduce the incidence of serious crimes.

TABLE 2.II

COMPARATIVE SERIOUS CRIMES REPORTED FOR OCTOBER TO AUGUST
FOR 2010/2011 AND 2011/2012

COMPARATIVE SERIOUS CRIMES REPORTED FOR THE PERIODS 1ST OCTOBER 2010 - 31ST AUGUST 2011 & 1ST OCTOBER 2011 – 31ST AUGUST 2012			
CRIMES	OCT 1ST 2010 - AUG 31ST 2011	OCT 1ST 2011 - AUG 31ST 2012	% DIFF
Murders	379	344	9.2
Woundings & Shootings	540	488	9.6
Serious Indecency	66	66	0.0
Kidnapping	122	132	8.2
Kidnapping for Ransom	3	3	0.0
Burglaries & Break-ins	4247	3854	9.3
Robberies	3979	3887	2.3
Fraud Offences	206	165	19.9
General Larceny	3269	3093	5.4
Larceny Motor Vehicles	1057	829	21.6
Larceny Dwelling House	469	481	2.6
Narcotic Offences	482	372	22.8
Other Serious Crimes	957	878	8.3
Total Serious Crimes	15776	14592	7.5

Key: increase % decrease %

Source: Ministry of National Security (2012)

TABLE 2.III

COMPARATIVE PERSONS REPORTED MISSING FOR OCTOBER TO AUGUST FOR
2010/2011 AND 2011/2012

COMPARATIVE PERSONS REPORTED MISSING FOR THE PERIODS 1ST OCTOBER 2010 - 31ST AUGUST 2011 & 1ST OCTOBER 2011 – 31ST AUGUST 2012		
PERSONS RETURNED /OUTSTANDING	1 ST OCTOBER 2010 - 31 ST AUGUST 2011	1 ST OCTOBER 2011 - 31 ST AUGUST 2012
No. of Persons Accounted for*	945	732
No. Outstanding	24	82
Total No. of Reports	969	814

*This figure also includes persons who were found dead.

The Total Number of Persons Reported Missing has declined between the comparative periods October to August 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 by 16.0%. For the period 1st October, 2010 to 31st August, 2011, 2.5 per cent (24 persons) remained unaccounted for, while for the period 1st October, 2011 to 31st August, 2012 10.1 per cent (84 persons) remained unaccounted for. The Ministry of National Security however, noted that the majority of persons who are still missing for the period 1st October, 2011 to 31st August, 2012 were reported missing in the last three (3) months. This would account for the high number of persons who are still unaccounted for which usually declines as time passes.

TABLE 2.IV
PRISON RECIDIVISM RATE 2009 TO JUNE 2012

PRISON RECIDIVISM RATE 2009 TO JUNE 2012	
Years	Recidivism Rate %
2009	65%
2010	47%
2011	61%
*2012	50%

* Represents figure as at June 2012
Source: TTPrS Research Department (2012)

The recidivism rate³ for Trinidad and Tobago has declined marginally over the last four (4) years 2009-2012. According to the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service (TTPrS), between 2009 and 2010 there was a decline in the rate of recidivism from 65 per cent to 47 per cent. However, in the year 2011 there was a sharp rise to 61 per cent attributed to the rise in the inmate population for the period September to November 2011 coinciding with the State of Emergency. As at June 2012, the rate of recidivism stood at 50 per cent.

³ Rate of recidivism is a measure of the number of times offenders have been re-convicted to serve sentences. Ideally it should be a measure of offenders who have returned to prison to serve sentences within a three (3)/five (5) years after being released from prison (TTPrS Research Department 2012)

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

A FOOD SECURE NATION

*Greater Access
to Adequate
and
Affordable
Locally
Produced Food*

*Agriculture will
be a Viable
Sector of the
Economy*

The Global crisis between 2005 and 2008 created a critical and immediate need for the implementation of measures, policies and programmes to arrest the effect of the overall increase in global food prices and weather-induced failures of major crops. It is within this dynamic global environment of growing food insecurity, that the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) established Agriculture and Food Security as a key priority on the development agenda. It is the intent that T&T will become a food secure nation by 2015, steering our agricultural development toward a path of becoming more self-sufficient.

Several key initiatives were undertaken by Government, not only to address the grave concern of increasing self-sufficiency, but to strengthen and transform the sector into becoming an efficient, vibrant, innovative and competitive sector, capable of attracting local and foreign investment.

The impact of these initiatives undertaken during the last year resulted in T&T being strategically positioned to achieve growth within the sector over the medium term. These initiatives will result in lower food prices; increased productivity levels; reduction in the food import bill; creation of a culture for consuming local food as the preferred choice; and increased contribution of the agriculture sector to GDP.

Despite global economic challenges, initiatives undertaken by Government for the period 2011-2012 resulted in positive strides toward the achievement of several key targets (Table 3.1). To date, achievements were reflected in the reduction of the food inflation rate by 6.9% from 29.5% in 2010 to 22.6% as of July 2012. Towards the achievement of the target of reducing the food import bill to \$2 billion by 2015, Government recorded a reduction of \$18.8M in 2012.

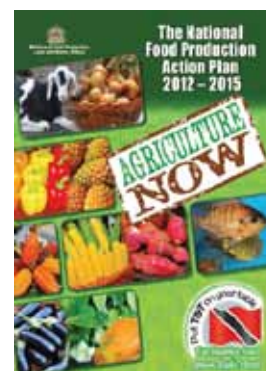
TABLE 3.1
CURRENT PROGRESS OF PRIORITY TARGETS
FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

PRIORITY AREA	TARGETS TO 2015	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	BASELINE 2010	ACTUAL 2012
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY	Reduce food inflation to 25%	Food Inflation Rate	29.5%	22.6% (as of July 2012)
	Increase contribution of agriculture to GDP by 3%	% contribution of agriculture to non-energy manufacturing GDP	0.5%	0.6% (*)
	Increase employment in agriculture by 5%	% employment in agriculture	3.698%	3.07%
	Reduce Food Import Bill to \$3 billion	Food Import Bill	\$4 billion	\$3.9812 billion (estimated)

Source: Central Statistical Office. * market prices

In 2012, Government, through the Ministry of Food Production (MFP), developed a national plan for the revitalization of the agriculture sector entitled the *National Food Production Action Plan (2012-2015)*. This Action Plan formed the foundation for a refocused approach to agriculture through a five (5) pronged mandate:

- To reduce the food import bill;
- To further reduce inflation, primarily driven by food prices;
- To create sustainable, long term productive employment;
- To contribute to the diversification of the economy, and;
- To increase the country's food security



COVER OF THE NATIONAL FOOD PRODUCTION ACTION PLAN 2012-2015

FIGURE 3.I
MANDATE OF THE NATIONAL FOOD PRODUCTION
ACTION PLAN (2012-2015)



SOURCE:
 THE NATIONAL FOOD PRODUCTION ACTION PLAN (2012-2015)

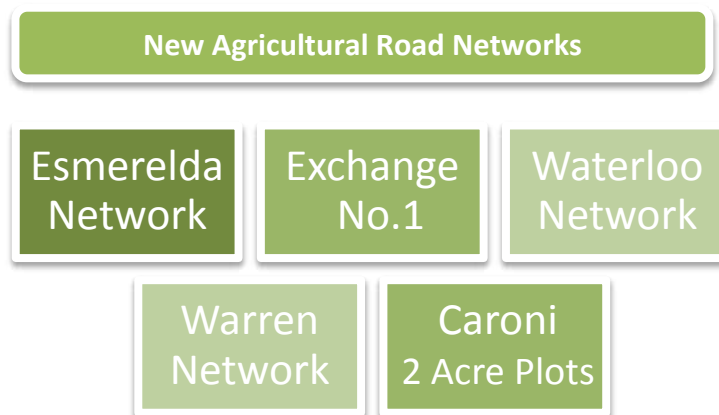
In essence, over the period, through the implementation of the National Food Action Plan (2012-2015) and other key initiatives, T&T is now on a strategic path towards achieving food security and ensuring the sustainability of agriculture for generations to come, representing a turning point in the agriculture industry.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION AND ACCESS

The nation's agricultural access road network is an important factor to facilitating agricultural production. To enable agricultural entrepreneurs to get to and from their agricultural produce, and ultimately to the consumer, an efficient access roads programme is required to support agricultural activity in the food basket areas throughout the country. As a result, Government has been engaged in the rehabilitation and maintenance of an agriculture road network that will provide farmers with unrestricted access to their lands in all stages of the production cycle; boost agricultural settlement; increase the income of farmers; and ultimately, increase food production.

In 2011-2012, Government successfully rehabilitated 40 km (19 roads) and maintained 107 km (35 roads) of agriculture access roads. In addition, 23.4 km (11 roads) of new road networks were also constructed.

FIGURE 3.II
LISTING OF NEW AGRICULTURAL
ROAD NETWORKS



In 2011-2012, there was the provision of several financing and agricultural incentives to farmers and other key stakeholders for agricultural production. These incentives were provided to encourage new entrants into the sector, expand farm production and

encourage agricultural development in non-traditional sectors e.g. aquaculture.

The provision of support to all agricultural subsectors with the aim of boosting overall efficiency and productivity within the agricultural sector is a priority of Government. Through the revision of the Agricultural Incentive Programme (AIP), farmers and fisherfolk

BOX 3.I
KEY AGRICULTURAL
INCENTIVES ACCESSED

- Equipment and Machinery
- Land Preparation
- Water Irrigation Equipment
- Water Ponds
- Equipment/Machinery for Beekeeping
- Water Pumps
- Security System/Fencing Pasture
- Guaranteed Milk Price
- Land Preparation
- Vehicles New Wheel Tractor and
- New 2WD/4WD Pickups

were provided with a range of incentives including the purchasing of farm equipment and machinery, on-farm security, and on-land fish farming. The revision of the AIP resulted in 3,390 claims being received.

It has been noted that projects and business start-ups are quite costly and can exclude youth that are just entering into their careers paths. To alleviate this cost, Government through the revised AIP provided qualified youths in agriculture with 50% of start-up costs to a maximum of \$30,000 in order to provide more equal opportunities to youth already in the sector to advance their individual agricultural careers.

Additionally, the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) of T&T continued to provide a loan credit portfolio to farmers to assist with low-cost financing to undertake activities for sustained development of the agri-business sector. Financial support provided from the ADB was accessed through the ADB's *New Reality Loan* (a new initiative) which offers flexible financing to meet the needs of borrowers.

In 2011, the ADB expanded and launched two (2) of its newest products:

- The *Reaping Opportunities Loan (ROL)*. This loan product provided financing to the economically challenged farmer, with 51 loans approved by July 2012, and
- *Mobile Banking Units*. This initiative represented a new thrust towards delivering financial services directly to farmers and fisherfolk in the industry.

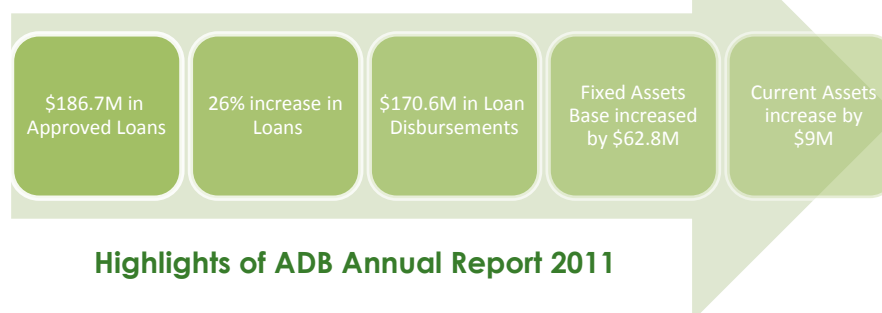
BOX 3.II
ADB INTEREST RATE 2012

8-11%
↓
3-5%

In an attempt to facilitate the increase of agricultural production, generate agriculture project expansions, and provide an attractive environment for new entrants into the sector, Government also introduced several measures that resulted in the reduction of the Bank's interest rates from 8% to 11 %, to 3%, and finally to 5%. With the implementation of this reduced interest rate, 3,071 persons accessed loans, and 1,005 new borrowers

were added to the portfolio valued at \$146M. As a result of Government intervention, the ADB for the first time generated a net profit of \$0.76M, setting a new standard for success in 43 years.

FIGURE 3.III
MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
ADB'S 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



A key element in the development of the agriculture sector is having an efficient, productive and viable fishing sub-sector. To develop the fishing industry, Government sought to update policy and fisheries management legislation, and provide modern infrastructure. Both the Draft Fisheries Policy (2007) and the Draft Fisheries Management Bill and Regulations (2007) were updated to enable T&T to implement innovative, modern fisheries management measures to bring about long-term sustainability of fish stocks for future generations.

FIGURE 3.IV
LIST OF UPGRADED FISH LANDING SITES



Critical to the survival of the fishing industry is the presence of adequate infrastructure and facilities that meet the international standards. Therefore, to address this necessity, Government undertook major upgrade works and strategically focused on the construction of landing facilities, locker-rooms, engine repairs, cold storage, vending facilities and car-parks. These upgrade works resulted in fisherfolk being able to conduct business under healthier, safer and more hygienic conditions, while at the same time improving upon their practice to meet

international standards and become more competitive in the global market.

In addition, infrastructure works for several other areas inclusive of Toco, Grand Riviere, Balandra, Pt. Radix, La Rufin, Salybia, Brickfield, Fullerton II, and Otaheite II are targeted for completion at the end of September 2012.

As an island state, piracy on the nation's seas is a major concern. In 2011, to address matters of surveillance and enforcement, Government established a committee for the Acquisition of Naval Vessels with the mandate of acquiring new naval assets for operations in territorial waters, exclusive to the economic zone around Trinidad and Tobago, and for regional operation in the southern Caribbean.

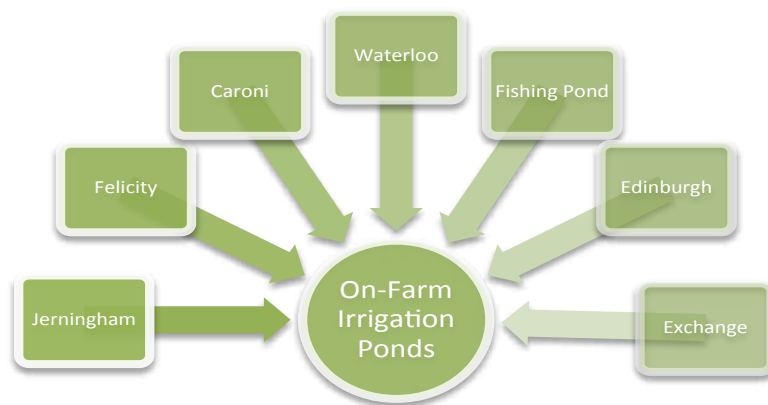
Moreover, a study on a Piracy Mitigation Fund was conducted, and discussions were also held with key stakeholders on the establishment of a National Communication Network to develop a mechanism for disseminating information on stolen vessels and retrieval of vessels if sighted in a particular geographical area.

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Ultimately connected to increasing agricultural production, distribution and access is the sustainable management of interconnected water resources. Agriculture in the past has been plagued with issues surrounding seasonal rainfall, flooding and improper water management, which have threatened the existence of both crop and livestock industries. Consequently, Government undertook several projects, programmes, and measures to protect agricultural interests and ensure that there is a sustainable supply of water for agriculture.

Initiatives of Government over the last two (2) years to ensure a sustainable supply of water to agriculture included a shift from practices which relied on rain-fed supplies, to water-conservation agriculture and water harvesting. The Irrigation and Water Management Flood Control Programme was embarked on, which included the expansion of the number of On-Farm Irrigation Ponds.

FIGURE 3.V
LIST OF COMMUNITIES WITH ON-FARM
IRRIGATION PONDS



To boost agricultural production particularly in times of water shortages and droughts, Government undertook the construction of 242 On-Farm Irrigation Ponds to harvest and provide water for individual farmers. As a result of such an initiative, opportunities now exist for farmers to shift production from seasonal crops to all year-round crops and engage in higher value crop production. These ponds have also increased the likelihood of reducing crop failure.



**On-Farm Irrigation Pond
Caroni 2 Acre Project**

During the rainy season there is a great risk of flooding on agricultural lands and the destruction of crops and livestock. To mitigate against flooding, Government instructed the clearing of drainage systems, rehabilitation of rivers, and the development of irrigation systems with water retention and water capture capabilities, utilizing flood waters. In

an effort to alleviate the loss of crops and livestock through flooding, 120km of water channels were de-silted in Esmeralda, Exchange/Waterloo, Warren, Carlson Field, Jerningham, Wallerfield, Aranguetz, Bamboo, Orange Grove, Fishing Pond, Vega de Oropouche, Caroni and Felicity. Furthermore, to circumvent disaster risk associated with flooding and reduced water, two (2) mobile pumps were commissioned to assist where needed.

To promote the more efficient use of water for agriculture, the Demonstration Irrigation System project was continued. This project involves the use of Drip Irrigation technology and was introduced to ten (10) farm plots for demonstration over the last two (2) years. The plots used as demonstration areas for farmers encouraged the use of this technology to sustainably manage water supplies; and in the long-term, optimize agricultural production and improve efficiency of water usage at the farm level. However, apart from improved crop quality, the



Jerningham (Drip Irrigation System)

Drip Irrigation System was introduced primarily for water efficiency, and environmental sensitivity in contrast to open channels and sprinkler systems, which are more indiscriminate in water use - particularly during the dry season.

BOX 3.III FOUR (4) COMMERCIAL LARGE FARMS

1. Edinburg Farms
2. Two Brothers Corporation
3. Technology Farms
4. Evergreen Ranch Limited

In 2011/2012, three (3) commercial farms commenced in order to increase food production in various commodity groups. Government sought to increase the overall acreage of crop cultivation and livestock rearing by making available lands to potential investors in the sector. A key initiative of Government to make lands available for agricultural production was the establishment of Commercial Large Farm. Through the Commercial Large Farms Programme, it is anticipated that the levels of domestic food production would be increased.

In 2011/12, three (3) commercial farms commenced on-farm production in rice, citrus, and root crops, and one (1) is currently undergoing land preparation for cattle farming. Government also invited proposals from the private sector to undertake investment in the development and operation of commercial farms ranging from 50 to 300 acres. Of the proposals received, ten (10) recommendations for the creation of ten (10) additional commercial farms are currently under consideration to commence agricultural production by 2013.

In addition, in 2012, 4,223 acres of lands was made available for increased food production through a Special Land Delivery Programme. To date, 78 Probationary Tenancy Agreements (PTAs) were prepared for 924 acres of these lands, with the cultivation of root-crops, legumes, vegetables and citrus to commence shortly.

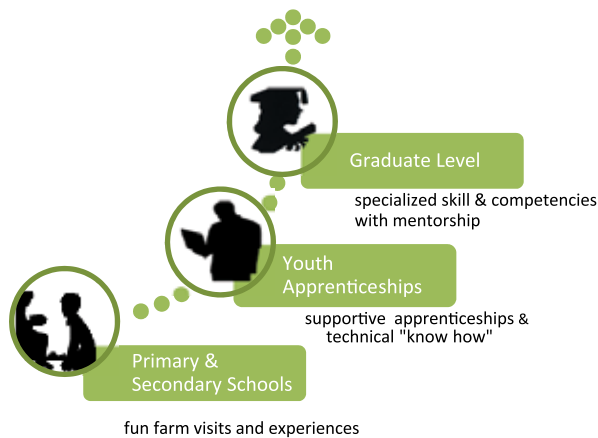
Security of Land Tenure continues to be a priority of Government, and in 2012, 562 new leases of land were extended to farmers to provide opportunities for land ownership, thereby creating access to greater financing possibilities, improving their socio-economic status and raising the profile of the profession.

As part of the agreement of the closure of Caroni 1975 Ltd., ex-workers were entitled to two (2) acre parcels of land inclusive of a housing plot. In 2011-2012, 2,000 ex-workers received leases to lands, and they were also provided with the necessary infrastructure such as roads, draining and irrigation ponds for continued agricultural activity.

In addition, the management of agriculture at the State level metamorphosed through the development and implementation of information technology systems designed to address issues of land management, and contribute towards more informed and quickened decision making. As a result, the Land Information System of Trinidad and Tobago (LISTT) was developed to provide reliable data and information on all state lands, and to accurately record all lease and rental information on individual land parcels.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

FIGURE. 3.VI
EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR
YOUNG PERSONS



Food security extends beyond increased production and import substitution. The sector's sustainability lies in attracting and retaining young persons in agriculture. Through the Ministry of Food Production, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government initiated several strategies that targeted primary, vocational and tertiary level learners to generate interest to participate in the sector; and encourage the consideration of agriculture as a viable career path.

This strategy places youth as essential building blocks for the future of agriculture directing efforts to stimulate, reward and retain youth at every tier, and at the same time address the issue of an ageing farming population.

FIGURE 3.VII
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE RANCHO QUEMADO
AGRO-ECO TOURISM PARK



A key strategy to stimulate interest in young persons to enter the agriculture sector is to learn about the sector through practical, fun experiences. As a result, the Rancho Quemado Estates Limited's Agro-Eco Tourism Park was established and officially opened in March 2012 with over 2,000 visitors since then. The Park promoted the agriculture sector by providing valuable opportunities for the youth population to both learn about and enjoy the sector. Over 50 different primary and secondary

schools visited the Park and participated in the many activities the Park offers. The Marilissa Farms in South Trinidad was also a popular site for visits by neighbouring schools for students to learn about the rearing and care of local animals; including macaws, rabbits, ducks and peacocks.

Another aspect of the enabling environment that promoted the intergenerational progress of agriculture was the Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture (YAPA). Its main purpose is to provide youth from 18 – 25 years with the opportunity to become involved in farming and adopt agriculture as a career path. In YAPA Phase I, 615 trainees graduated from the programme and 57 trainees enrolled for YAPA Phase II. The YAPA programme targeted nine (9) areas, namely: Curepe, Wallerfield, Pt. Fortin, Penal, Chase Village, Princes Town, Sangre Grande, and Ecclesville; and Tobago.

BOX 3.IV
**AGRICULTURE PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (APDP)**

- Agribusiness Management
- Agricultural Journalism
- Agricultural Science
- Microbiology and Plant Pathology
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Horticulture
- Forestry, Food Science and Technology
- Fisheries/Wildlife
- Soil Sciences

Additionally, under the internship Agriculture Professional Development Programme (APDP) for university graduates, 44 persons were recruited to develop a variety of skills and competencies to be used within agriculture. This programme has positioned youth to contribute to an increased level of innovation of the agricultural workforce within a modernizing sector.

To increase agricultural employment, Unemployment Relief Programme (URP) workers were also encouraged to enter

productive agricultural enterprises. Forty (40) workers from the URP were trained in growing pakchoi, lettuce, melongene, peppers, cassava, hydroponics cultivation and landscaping.

HIGHER LEVELS OF PRODUCTIVITY FOR LOCALLY PRODUCED GOODS

Stimulating productivity in the agriculture sector and improving competitiveness for both domestic and foreign markets remains a priority. To stimulate the sector and increase production levels, new areas are being addressed such as Aquaculture; Livestock and Strategic Crops (Cocoa and Honey); Praedial Larceny; and Training. It is this renewed focus that has led to an increase in the production of locally produced goods, reduction in the food import bill and the lowering of food prices.

The development of the Aquaculture industry will directly influence the supply of fish and fish products. As a result emphasis was placed on developing the fisheries sector, particularly as it relates to Tilapia farming. The target for the aquaculture programme is to increase the production of fish to 90 tonnes by 2013 and to 270 tonnes by 2015. To achieve this target a model station for practical aquaculture was designed and established, and will be tested in 2013.

The Livestock Industry continues to be a very important sub-sector towards ensuring food security due to high quantities of meats (such as beef, goat, sheep and pork) being imported

yearly. Therefore, to strengthen and expand the production of livestock, Government focused on the areas of disease control and eradication, and breeding stock multiplication.

Government also engaged in an initiative to improve the productivity and increase the output of by-products in the Livestock sub-sector through the allocation of 300-400 acres of land for the establishment of forage farms; the acquisition and dissemination of genetic material to the farming community for sheep and goat; and the improvement of the national health status with respect to diseases of economic importance. As a result of these initiatives, Government has already achieved 70 tonnes of dairy goat production toward the realisation of its target of 80 tonnes by 2015.

Additionally, research and development continued in the genetic potential of studs for the reproduction of quality cattle through Embryo Transfer (ET). This research resulted in the reproduction of an ET bull calf, fostering great potential for the future for increasing the quantity and quality of stock for consumption.

Further to those commodities that contribute to food security, Government is also committed to developing those commodities that have a natural competitive advantage on the world market, such as Cocoa. In 2011-2012, through continued research, 11 new varieties of the newly improved Trinidad Selected Hybrid varieties of cocoa for Plant Breeders Rights were registered. Within the same period, 250,000 planting materials were supplied to farmers for development of the cocoa industry.

In addition, two (2) projects were designed to restore and revive old plantations into cocoa cultivation. These projects were the Special Product Project and the Identification of Large Abandoned Estates. To date, eighty (80) large farms have been identified as key areas for growing cocoa.

A key challenge to the revitalization of the sector is the shortage of labour. To alleviate this problem, a system was designed and implemented to induce unemployed persons in the sector. Government strategies included, the recruitment and training of 165 Community-Based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (CEPEP) workers in the harvesting of cocoa, and entering into public-private partnership agreements with farmers.

Additionally, it is noted that Praedial Larceny is a deterrent to agricultural production in all communities of the country. In order to combat the scourge of praedial larceny for agricultural goods, two (2) key initiatives were implemented. Under the Revised Agricultural Incentive Programme (AIP), farmers were given access to financing for perimeter fencing and installation of cameras on farms; and secondly, the Agricultural Ranger Squad (ARS) was re-established to address theft of agricultural crops. Officers of the squad are equipped with vehicles, ammunition, weight scales and the necessary equipment to survey, detect, deter and arrest persons caught in the act. It is expected that the size of the Unit will be expanded to 200 officers.

BOX 3.V TRAINING FOR FARMERS 2011-2012

- Agro-processing
- Land Management
- Cassava Production
- Duck Production
- Citrus Production
- Cocoa Production
- Home Gardening
- Sharp Sand Hydroponics
- Ornamental Horticulture
- Principles of Agri-Business Management
- Marketing of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for the Foreign Market
- Marketing of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for the Local Market
- Banana and Plantain Production
- Dasheen and Dasheen Leaf Production
- Pest and Disease Management
- Seasoning Herbs
- Pineapple Production
- Agro-forestry
- Seedling Production on Mobile Unit
- Budding and Grafting on Mobile Unit
- Seasoning Herbs on Mobile Unit
- Ornamentals on Mobile Unit

In addition, to build and strengthen capacity among farmers and institutions, a series of training sessions were conducted. In June 2012, 26 persons were trained in the programme 'Strengthening and Building Farmers Organization,' with an emphasis on increasing the competencies of farmers groups in the production of selected commodities.

Furthermore, to increase the competencies of farmers in areas of crop production, livestock production, agro-processing and agribusiness management, 41 training courses were conducted, with 839 persons trained. Training was conducted in numerous areas of agriculture ranging from vegetable production to agro-forestry, and duck production, to principles of agribusiness management.

One hundred and forty six (146) training courses were also conducted for farmers throughout the country, in areas of agro-forestry, agro-processing, budding and grafting, compost making, cocoa, coconut, home gardening and livestock.

BOX 3.VI
FARMERS BENEFIT FROM
EXTENSION TRAINING
JUNE 2012

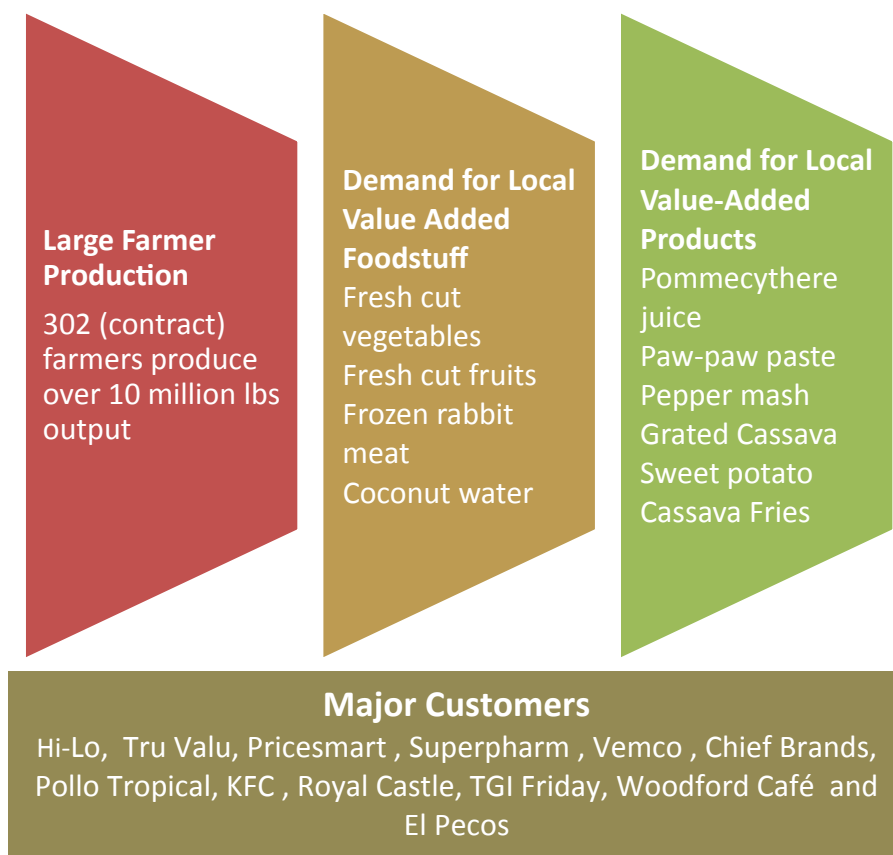
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CONSUMPTION OF HEALTHY, LOCALLY PRODUCED FOOD

With the challenge of high food prices and a high food import bill (averaging \$4 billion (2010) Government adopted an approach to encourage increased consumption of locally produced food. Through the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Food Production, several initiatives were implemented to promote healthy eating habits and lifestyles.

FIGURE 3.VIII

MAJOR CUSTOMERS AND TYPES OF LOCAL PRODUCTS



A programme titled “Put T&T on your Table Initiative” was launched in 2011 to increase the production of locally grown food and encourage the consumption of locally grown fruits and vegetables.

In addition, through the Buying Local Produce Initiative, nine (9) flagship outlets have adopted locally grown sweet potatoes into their meal options (sweet potato fries). Also, world renowned Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) successfully incorporated the option of locally grown sweet potato fries as a side order option, in addition to its regular potato fries at four (4) of its outlets in Trinidad. The School Feeding Programme which serves 150,000 meals per day also incorporated more local content in their meals.

Additionally, over 165 suppliers (local farmers), benefitted from initiatives in the agri-business sector facilitated by Government, through the Ministry of Food Production and the Trinidad and Tobago Agri-Business Association (TTABA) in the increased demand for locally produced goods.

A strategic initiative of Government for encouraging the consumption of locally produced food is Home Gardening. Home gardening is an activity that can be enjoyed by all members of the family, serve as a time of relaxation, facilitate financial savings, and ensure that persons have more quality control of what they consume. For the fiscal year 2011-2012, four (4) training courses were conducted on Home Gardening, with 67 persons trained, and 12 home gardening videos were also produced and uploaded onto ‘YouTube’ to encourage the consumption of healthy, locally produced food.

CREATING THE LINKAGES BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND OTHER PRODUCTIVE SECTORS

The agriculture sector is a valuable resource base for many other sectors of the economy. Comprehensive incentive programmes were developed to encourage collaboration among relevant stakeholders to foster a multi-sectoral approach (such as agriculture and tourism, agriculture and culture and agriculture and manufacturing).

FIGURE 3.IX
STRATEGIES TO BOOST THE AGRI-BUSINESS SECTOR



In order to boost innovation, competitiveness and create a more sustainable and expanding agri-business sector, Government, funded the TTABA to develop nine (9) commodities. Several commodities have been launched for public consumption in 2012, inclusive of plantain whole-wheat bread; sweet potatoes multigrain bread; coconut water and cassava fries.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND HOSPITALS

FIRST CLASS HEALTH CARE

*Universal Access to
Accredited and
Sustainable Health
Care Facilities
across T&T*

*Efficient and Quality
Healthcare System*

A FIT AND HEALTHY NATION

*Greater Participation
in Sports and
Recreational Activities
Towards A Healthy
Lifestyle*

*Reduced Prevalence
of Diseases*

*Healthier Choices in
Diet and Nutrition*

Quality healthcare is critical towards the attainment of a first class health care system, as well as a fit and healthy nation. The provision of quality healthcare for the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago falls within the purview of several Ministries and Agencies. A coordinated approach among all parties is necessary towards the attainment of national priorities.

For this to be achieved a comprehensive programme of interventions has been rolled out to address institutional reform, disease management and healthcare financing. These programmes will ensure the delivery of a wide range of services such as affordable health care; reduced wait time; sufficient human resource capacity; improved delivery of services; healthy lifestyle behaviours; increased access to, as well as improved physical and institutional infrastructure.

Chronic Non-Communicable and Communicable Diseases, infant and maternal mortality, and mental health are challenges that were also addressed in this fiscal year as part of meeting the goals of the health sector. The Government does not only aim for longevity of life but also for a population that is healthy, happy and able to contribute to the development of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Ministry of Health understands the need to collect relevant, up-to-date data. Efforts are being undertaken to gather information that will enhance the Ministry's ability to make informed decisions as well as to accurately track sectoral and national progress. In this regard, the Ministry of Health has developed a Terms of Reference for the conduct of a National Health Survey 2012. To date, proposals received by the Ministry have been evaluated and the survey is expected to be conducted in fiscal 2013. The survey will be undertaken in partnership with the Central Statistical Office (CSO). It is anticipated, that this survey will assist in providing more up-to-date statistics related to health care.

It must be noted that the Mortality Rates for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) decreased within the period 2004-2008 from 751 to 673 per 100,000 persons as a result of increased awareness interventions, access to care and the provision of affordable medicine. Although the data shows positive overall change, other NCDs such as Heart Disease, Cancers and Diabetes have shown varied changes. Government's commitment to the sixth Millennium Development Goal of Combating HIV/AIDS paid off through extensive programmes from a wide range of Ministries and Agencies. This resulted in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS reducing significantly from 3.2% in 2003 to 1.5% in 2009.

Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5; Child Health and Maternal Health were negatively and positively affected respectively over a two (2) year period. Maternal Mortality was reduced from 55.3 in 2008 to 46 in 2010 per 100,000 live births. Increased antenatal care and funding towards maternal health has contributed to this reduction. On the Other hand, Under Five Mortality rate has increased from 16.0 per 1000 live births in 2008 to 27 per 1000 live births in 2010. This signals the need for increased immunization coverage, which has been steady at 90% for the past few years, education and awareness to lead to a reduction in children's deaths in this age group (Table 4.1).

TABLE 4.1
CURRENT PROGRESS OF PRIORITY TARGETS FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND HOSPITALS

PRIORITY AREA	TARGETS TO 2015	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	BASELINE	ACTUAL
HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND HOSPITALS	Reduce the Mortality Rates of Non Communicable Diseases per 100,000 Population by 20% in 2015	Mortality Rates of Non Communicable Diseases per 100,000 Persons	751 per 100,000* persons <u>(2004)</u>	673 per 100,000 persons ** <u>(2008)</u>
	Reduce the Mortality Rates from Cancers per 100,000 Population by 20% by 2015	Cancer Mortality Rate per 100,000	105.2 per 100,000 persons *** <u>(2004)</u>	108.7 per 100,000 persons * <u>(2008)</u>
	By 2015, Reduction of Morbidity and Mortality Rates for tuberculosis diseases by 50%	Tuberculosis Mortality Rate per 10,000 Persons	1.6 per 10,000 persons* <u>(2008)</u>	2.8 per 10,000 persons ** <u>(2010)</u>
	Reduce the Mortality Rates from Diabetes per 100,000 Population by 20% by 2015	Mortality Rates from Diabetes per 100,000 Persons	106.3 per 100,000 persons*** <u>(2004)</u>	108.5 per 100,000 persons * <u>(2008)</u>
	By 2015, Reduction in the number of new HIV Infections to 0.5% of the Adult Prevalence Rate	HIV/AIDS Adult Prevalence Rate	<u>(2010)</u> 89.69 per 100,000 persons***	<u>(2011)</u> 84.14 per 100,000 persons***

*World Health Statistics 2010

**World Health Statistics 2012

***Ministry of Health Annual Statistics Report 2004-2005

•Central Statistical Office

••UN AIDS 2009

•••Ministry of Health

oFindings of public tele-survey conducted as part of the strategic planning exercise 2010

PRIORITY AREA	TARGETS TO 2015	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	BASELINE	ACTUAL
	By 2015, Increase the Physician Professionals to 18 Doctors per 10,000 Persons	Physician Professionals per 10,000 persons.	12 per 10,000 persons* <u>(2000-2009)</u>	11.8 per 10,000 persons** <u>(2010)</u>
	By 2015, Increase the Nursing Professionals to 25 nurses per 10,000 Persons	Nursing Professionals per 10,000 persons.	36 per 10,000 persons* <u>(2000-2009)</u>	33.4 per 10,000 persons*** <u>(2010)</u>
	By 2015, Increase Client Satisfaction with the System to 85%	Client Satisfaction Rate		44% ^o <u>(2010)</u>
	95% Immunization Coverage by 2015	Immunization Coverage	90%* <u>(2008)</u>	90%*** <u>(2011)</u>
	Reduce Maternal Mortality rate to 14 per 100,000 live births by 2015	Maternal Mortality Rate per 100,000 Live Births	55.3 per 100,000 live births* <u>(2008)</u>	46 per 100,000 live births** <u>(2010)</u>
	Reduce Under Five Mortality Rate to 5 per 1000 live births by 2015	Under Five Mortality Rate per 1000 live births	16.0 per 1000 live births <u>(2008)</u>	27 per 1000 live births** <u>(2010)</u>

*World Health Statistics 2010

**World Health Statistics 2012

***Ministry of Health Annual Statistics Report 2004-2005

•Central Statistical Office

••UN AIDS 2009

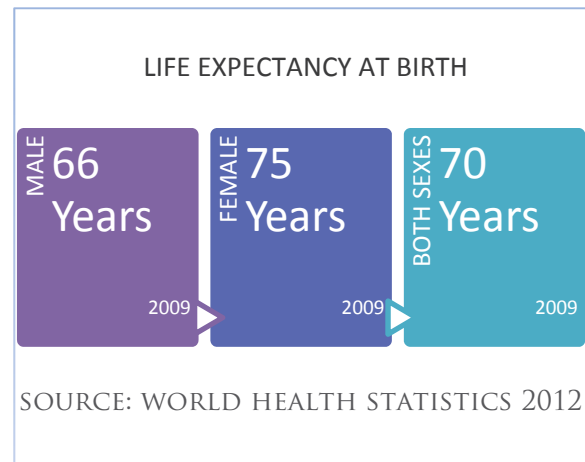
•••Ministry of Health

oFindings of public tele-survey conducted as part of the strategic planning exercise 2010

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Sport have instituted strategic directions that will ensure people are healthy and that proper systems are introduced. “Prevention is better than cure” is at the centre of all that is being undertaken nationally towards the protection of life and by extension sustainable development.

In 2012, Government introduced a number of initiatives to improve the health of citizens. The development of hospitals and other health facilities along with the continued repair and upgrade of existing infrastructure contributed to the improvement in the quality of healthcare. The implementation of new systems to ensure rapid transmission of patient information, while preserving confidentiality was also addressed.

FIGURE 4.I
LIFE EXPECTANCIES AT BIRTH IN 2009



Patient care remained a priority particularly for vulnerable patients whose socio-economic condition requires that they be supported under the Adult Cardiac Surgery Programme, Chronic Disease Assistance Programme and the Tissue Transplant Programme. Government continued its focus on improving the service and the quality of care with the implementation of the Waiting List for Surgeries Programme and Community Outreach Family Medicine.

A healthy population is achieved not only through medical interventions. Preventative action through the adoption of healthy lifestyle habits such as good diet and sport must be pursued. In this regard, the Ministry of Sport has commenced discussions on the conduct of a national survey to determine the level of participation in exercise by the citizenry. This is consistent with the Ministry’s development thrust for ‘total participation in sport’. In addition, to increase engagement in sport and recreational activities, the Ministry of Sport continues its programme of refurbishment and upgrading works to its Community Swimming Pools, Indoor Sporting arenas, Multipurpose Stadia and Recreation facilities. The Ministry has also implemented several community and national sporting programmes designed to engage the citizenry in activities promoting healthy lifestyles, and has granted financial assistance to several National Governing Bodies, sporting groups and individuals in this regard.

STRENGTHENING POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

A strong legal and regulatory framework for the health sector facilitates the enforcement of laws that protect the population from health hazards and allow improvements in the national health care system. Through a number of key legislative amendments a strengthened healthcare will be realized in the medium to long-term.



Value for money, efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of health care were major areas being addressed in fiscal 2012. A number of pressing legislation received attention including the Bill to amend the Regional Health Authority (RHA) Act 2012. The amendment to the Act allowed for the five (5) RHAs to procure goods and services, reducing the overall timeframe for procurement and thereby improving efficiency in the delivery of goods and services.

To strengthen the role of the Nursing Council of Trinidad and Tobago, amendments to the Nurses and Midwives (Registration) Act 2012 were also approved. This focused on the composition of, as well as strengthening, changing and reconfiguring the Nursing Council of Trinidad and Tobago⁴.

Ensuring that the rights of the patient are upheld is an emerging issue in Trinidad and Tobago. Infringements to Patients' Rights will be addressed at two levels, the personal experience and service delivery experience which are expected from health sector institutions. Issues such as respect, dignity, confidentiality, responsiveness, timely attention to needs, access to proper facilities, provision of services and adequate healthcare are being addressed. Research is being undertaken to inform the development of a Patient Bill of Rights which will play a critical role in restoring the dignity and respect to patients.

⁴ Some of the new functions include the capability to remove the need for licensing examination for students who have graduated out of training institutions accredited by ACTT; allow the Nursing Council of Trinidad and Tobago to register all persons holding a Diploma or Degree in Nursing, who satisfies the Nursing Council requirements, to practice in the field; provide a new cadre of nursing professionals called the Advance Nursing Practitioners; and provide for mandatory continuing education.

Preliminary discussions have also been held to establish a Health Services Accreditation Programme towards the creation of a Patient's Charter of Rights and Obligations Framework. This Framework will provide the structure for health care quality and accountability, and provide a framework of common standards that facilitates the shared services and portability of healthcare professionals across the Caribbean.

Building a healthcare service that embodies high standards at all levels in both public and private institutions is crucial. Through the Accreditation Standards for the Health Sector the regulation, monitoring, improvement and adequate maintenance of the healthcare delivered to the nationals of Trinidad and Tobago will be realized. As such, the Health Services Accreditation Bill was passed by Cabinet. International experience has shown a correlation between participation in health services accreditation and improved quality of life, economic growth and development. Health services accreditation also results in improved patient safety and a decreased incidence of risks. Therefore, to ensure the creation of a modern, responsive, high-quality healthcare system, work continued towards the establishment of a Health Services Accreditation Council, which will set the standards and conduct evaluations of all healthcare systems and services at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

The provision of appropriate, safe and effective care in accordance with international best practice standards will also result from the implementation of the completed Adverse Events Policy. The Policy is currently being implemented and intends to define the systems and processes for identifying, preventing, investigating, reporting, managing, monitoring and evaluating adverse events that occur in both public and private healthcare facilities.

Furthermore, an efficient Blood Banking System will ensure there is a steady supply of blood to meet the needs of on-going patient care and provide a sufficient supply in times of emergencies. In an effort to increase the Blood Bank's supply, Government promoted initiatives such as encouraging voluntary donation, building a vibrant blood donation community, and the provision of the necessary infrastructure and environment for blood donation and storage. The National Blood Policy created the basis for the National Blood Transfusion Bill which will provide the legislation to regulate the national infrastructure for an effective national blood transfusion service. This Bill seeks to create a modernised legal framework for Blood Banking in Trinidad and Tobago. In an effort to reach the donor and the national community and better facilitate blood donation, six (6) Mobile Blood Units were acquired by the National Blood Transfusion Unit.

The health status of the youth population signals the condition that will be experienced at the adult level. It is necessary to promote policies that will address the health of the youth population aged 0-17 years. The National Breast Feeding Policy, the National School Health Policy and the Youth Health Policy focus on critical areas of attention. Improving child nutrition through a culture of breast feeding will be inculcated with the implementation of the National Breast Feeding Policy which is currently being drafted. The National School Health Policy, an on-going collaboration among the Ministries of Education, Health, and Sport, targets pre-school to secondary level and links dietary practices and sport involvement to the treatment of Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines mental health as “a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community”. The enjoyment of optimal well-being by all individuals through holistic development in a supportive environment which provides a wide range of high quality, integrated and sustainable services which are free from discrimination, is a commitment of Government. The Ministry of Health is the major facilitator of care and recognises that mental illness is a serious and growing problem in this country, with 3,363 persons being registered as patients at the St. Ann’s Hospital⁵.

At present 20-25% of the population is at risk of developing mental health illnesses.⁶ The National Mental Health Educational Campaign and the Mental Health Awareness Campaign were both launched in 2012 in an effort to help citizens gain a better awareness and understanding of mental health issues. Additionally, the Workplace Mental Health Policy was launched to educate persons about mental health issues in the workplace.

NATIONAL MENTAL
HEALTH AWARENESS
CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

⁵ Ministry of Health

⁶ Ministry of Health

Legislation instrumental to improve responses to Mental Health issues, including the Mental Health Bill are being developed. The Mental Health Committee produced a draft National Mental Health Policy which will improve mental health services, treatment and other issues in the country.

Through the Mental Health Programme, which continued in this fiscal period, more accurate data will soon be collected in a disaggregated form to better assist in the design of future programmes to meet the needs of the patients, the family and by extension the community. In the interim, promotions to bring awareness, understanding and sensitivity on mental health issues continued. Through this programme a series of lectures have been conducted to educate employers within the private sector regarding mentally healthy work environments.

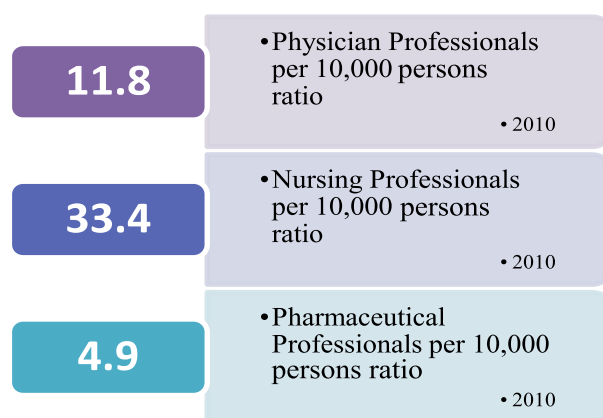
More comprehensive outpatient care is being developed in an effort to strengthen responses to mental health. To better manage the institutionalisation of mental health patients, the Government has advanced with preliminary efforts to decentralise resources to regional centres and improve ministerial cooperation. Discussions were held with the Ministry of the People and Social Development and Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) in preparation for the deinstitutionalisation of levels 1-3 patients from the St Ann's Hospital. More than 60 to 70 percent of inpatients at the Hospital can be deinstitutionalised and managed as outpatients, or transferred to community-based mental healthcare facilities and geriatric homes. Plans are underway for the upgrade and assessment of operations at the Arima Rehabilitation Centre to house patients in need of prolonged care.

HUMAN RESOURCE PLANNING, MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Providing a cadre of professional healthcare workers to meet the demands of the population will ensure that citizens receive prompt and efficient service and care. Through the conduct of a National Health Needs Assessment Survey, comprehensive data will be collected on the capabilities and quantities of healthcare human resources required within the sector; to effectively monitor the health of the population and address the methodology required for attaining national health goals.

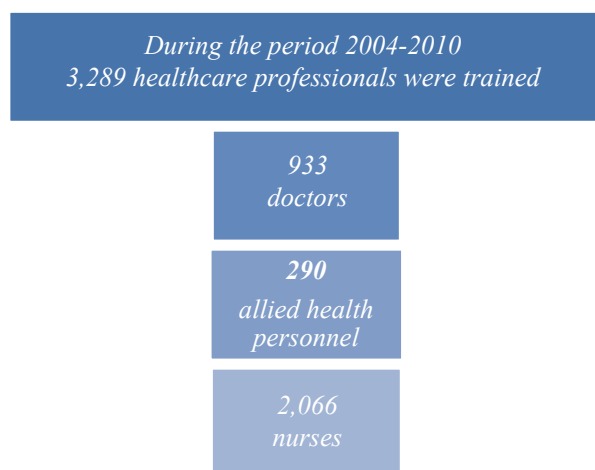
At Present, a ten (10) year Health Sector Human Resource Manpower Plan is being developed to identify and address human resource shortages and strategies. Two (2) study components of the plan were completed namely: Migration of Health Professionals; and Staffing Arrangements at Local Private Health Institutions. The framework for the development of this plan has been produced under the direction of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO). This will allow for the physician professionals per 10,000 persons ratio of 11.8 to improve to the target 18⁷; and the nursing professionals per 10,000 persons ratio of 33.4 to improve to the target of 25 by 2015⁸. To guide the acquisition and development of personnel in the short term, a draft 3-5 year Manpower Plan for the Public Health Sector was developed.

FIGURE 4.III
RATIO OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS TO POPULACE



SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH STATISTICS 2012
AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

FIGURE 4.IV
HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING



SOURCE: MINISTRY OF HEALTH

With the intention of increasing the number of healthcare professionals, other avenues have been explored to decrease the human resource shortfall at the public institutions through regional and international recruitment of doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other auxiliary health personnel. There were 70 Cuban healthcare professionals recruited in 2012, a total of 56 nurses and 14 doctors. Others will be sourced from St. Vincent and the Philippines in the coming year.

In an effort to foster interest among students to pursue professions within the health sector, a

⁷ World Health Statistics 2012

⁸ Ministry of Health

Student Volunteer Programme was implemented in 2012, with 29 participants from various schools such as El Dorado East and West Secondary, Bishop's Anstey High and Belmont Boys Secondary School successfully completing the programme. A competent cadre of qualified health care professionals in the clinical, managerial and technical fields will ensure that all health care systems function effectively at all levels.

Under the Trinidad and Tobago Health Service Initiative, the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) has been working with representatives of the nursing fraternity and other training providers to coordinate a series of programmes and workshops. These programmes and workshops will expose participants to systems, policies and approaches that complement the changing delivery of health services, and the changing roles and expectations of nurses within this context.

Currently, the Ministry of Health, the Nursing Council of Trinidad and Tobago and the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training are reviewing the Nurses Training Programme in an attempt to fill over 3,000 vacancies.⁹ Development of more practical Nurses' Training Programmes are being undertaken through collaborative efforts with tertiary institutions such as COSTATT, NIHERST, the University of the Southern Caribbean and the University of the West Indies, St Augustine¹⁰. Programmes have been expanded to allow for 300 students to be enrolled each year. In doing this, it is expected that uninformed change can be implemented in the approach to and mechanisms for achieving nursing excellence throughout the various health care facilities around the country.

Building the knowledge and skill base of the existing workforce continued through partnerships, training and development to improve the quality of service being delivered. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between representatives of the Tobago Regional Health Authority (TRHA) and John Hopkins University Hospital to train and develop staff, as well as improve the Diabetes Outreach Program. The Government Scholarship Programme benefitted persons pursuing a Master of Medicine (MMed) in radiation Oncology at the University of Cape Town South Africa; a Clinical Fellowship Programme in Nephrology at the University of Toronto; and a fellowship in Neonatology at the Centre for Newborn Care at Westwood Hospital, University of Sydney, Australia. Also to date, six (6) officers at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex (EWMSC) were trained in Cardiac Catheterization Lab activities and ten (10) officers from the RHAs were trained in Echo Sonography

⁹ Ministry of Health

¹⁰ Ministry of Health

via the Ministry Tertiary Education and Skills Training, under the Cardiovascular Services Initiative. In addition, the National Cancer Registry of Trinidad and Tobago trained two officers in the abstraction of information on cancer patients from their medical records in an effort to strengthen Cancer Registration Surveillance and Control.

Towards improving service delivery at our public institutions, information is being gathered from internal and external stakeholders. The RHA Customer Satisfaction Survey is being used to improve the human resource capacity, skills, knowledge and attitudes of those serving in this sector. Currently, Health Services Evaluation Forms are being utilized by RHAs for customers to supply information on their total experience at the health facility from entrance to exit. This will be used to make informed decisions to improve customer care.

Enhancing national, regional and global public health security through the International Health Regulations (IHR) of the World Health Organization (WHO) is meant "to prevent, protect against, control and provide public health response to the international spread of diseases in ways that are commensurate with, and restricted to, public health risks, to avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade." This year, strengthening of elements of the surveillance system to meet the (IHR) core capacity requirements continued with the development of guidelines both for the building of surveillance capacity and the establishment of Regional Surveillance Units.

Over the period October to December 2011, training was conducted with laboratory staff at the national level, RHAs, County Medical Officers of the public health sector and private laboratories, on IHR core capacity requirements in Bio-Risk Management and Infectious Substance Shipping.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN HEALTH CARE SERVICE DELIVERY AND MANAGEMENT

The Health Information Systems Strategic Plan which was developed and approved in this fiscal period will provide the country with guidance on planning, managing and strengthening of health initiatives¹¹. This Plan will bring together a number of related information technology and programmatic initiatives under one umbrella of a single, integrated and coordinated

¹¹ Ministry of Health

structure, and will serve as a platform for the National Health Information Management System (HIMS), and would lead to more timely, efficient and informed management and delivery of health care services.

Initiatives to acquire the hardware and software for the HIMS are currently being implemented. In this regard the Ministry of Health have acquired 100 percent of all its hardware and software requirements, conducted stakeholder meetings, change management workshops as well as drafted application requirements for a design prototype. A Partial Health and Clinical Management System (CMS) is also being implemented within each RHA while technical specifications and requests for proposals for the HIMS are pending approvals.

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

A modern health infrastructure that is responsive to both the current and growing demands of the population remained a priority in fiscal 2012. In an effort to modernize and expand health facilities to cater to the increasing desires and size of the population; rehabilitation, upgrade, enhancement and expansion works continued on health infrastructure in accordance with international standards.

At the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex (EWMSC) the upgrade of the Nurse Call System is 92 percent complete, with 26 Nurse Call Systems installed to improve the overall quantity and functioning of emergency call points in patient bedrooms and bathrooms, lounge rooms and treatment rooms. The Roof Rehabilitation Project is due to be completed in October 2012. Also, at the Port of Spain General Hospital (POSGH), renovation work on the Central Sterilization and Storage Department (CSSD) was completed. The South West

Regional Health Authority (SWRHA) has engaged an architect to complete designs for the expansion of the Pharmacy, Clinics and Patient Waiting Areas at the Couva District Health Facility. The Cardiac Ward of the San Fernando General Hospital (SFGH) was constructed, equipped and opened to the public with a similar purpose in mind.

The treatment of chronic diabetes through dialysis continued to be a medical concern. Over 210 patients accessed dialysis treatment at the nation's health facilities. Currently, two (2) Renal Dialysis Centres at the EWMSC and the SFGH are being proposed for implementation in 2012. Designs were recently completed for the Centres and construction is expected to

commence in November 2013. This endeavour will reduce the waiting list and the backlog of persons seeking treatment.

New, state of the art medical laboratories that allow speedy analysis and dissemination of patient's results is a focus of Government. Therefore, construction has begun for a new Medical Laboratory at the Couva District Health Facility which will permit the expansion of the range of laboratory investigations into fields such as immunology and virology. Designs for the Insect Vector Control Division Chemical Warehouse and Head Office Building were substantially completed and construction is in progress for both the Warehouse and the Main Office Building, the project is scheduled to be completed by December 2012.



Depiction of the National Oncology Centre

Cancers are of growing concern in Trinidad and Tobago and as part of the larger plan to deal with Chronic Non Communicable Diseases (CNCDs); the Ministry of Health's National Cancer Strategy has positioned the National Oncology Centre at Mt. Hope to serve as the main treatment centre for cancer in the country¹².

Tender for recommencement of work is scheduled for September 2012. To meet the health needs of the people in Arima, a new 150-Bed Hospital will be constructed on the existing Arima District Health Facility site. The Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (UDECOTT) has been appointed as the project developers for constructing and equipping of the facility. To date, requests for proposal were issued for its construction, while NIPDEC was appointed project manager to assess the condition of the existing Arima District Health Facility building.

BOX 4.1

26

Hospital Beds per
10,000 persons

(2005-2011)

Source: World Health Statistics 2012

¹² Ministry of Health

BOX 4.11 EQUIPMENT UPGRADE AND ACQUISITION

- 21 Electrocardiography (ECG),
- Point of Care Testing Laboratory Equipment,
- Dental Equipment
- Six (6) Cardiac Monitoring Systems
- Argon Laser Machine
- Seven (7) Portable X-Ray Machines
- Three (3) Ultra Sound Machines
- Urology Equipment
- Slice Computed Tomography (CT) Scanner and Bone Densitometry Unit

Outfitting of all healthcare facilities with equipment and furnishings continued in 2012 through a number of initiatives geared towards improving health personnel's ability to deliver care. Under the Hospital Enhancement and Development Programme, 21 Electrocardiograph (ECG) machines, point of care testing laboratory equipment, dental equipment and six (6) cardiac monitoring systems were purchased. Also an Argon Laser Machine and seven (7) Portable X-Ray Machines were purchased for the POSGH. In addition, three (3) Ultra Sound Machines and Urology Equipment for Sangre Grande Hospital were installed.

Through exercise and recreational enjoyment, persons will be able to enrich their mind and body. The Ministry of Sport has provided adequate infrastructure through the construction, refurbishment and maintenance of sporting and recreational facilities.

BOX 4.III REGIONAL RECREATION GROUNDS, COMMUNITY RECREATION GROUNDS, CHILDREN'S PLAY PARKS AND VARIOUS SPORTING FACILITIES

- Grassing, fencing, works to the cricket pitch, football field, pavilion and dressing rooms, lighting, drainage and plumbing were undertaken at the regional facilities.
- Rehabilitation and upgrade works to 58 community recreation grounds such as the Biche, Perseverance, Mohess Road, North Eastern, Pelota Happy Hill, Woodland, La Horquetta (Phase 2) and Spring Village recreation grounds are 100 percent completed.

STRENGTHEN HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Health Emergency Preparedness for natural disasters continued to be supported with the implementation of a number of initiatives geared towards strengthening human resource capacity, improving infrastructure, and building greater national awareness. Emergency services and disaster preparedness units have been established in the Ministries of National Security; Health; and Local Government to address these issues.

In the advancement of Trinidad and Tobago's health agenda, a Pandemic Preparedness Plan was developed to treat with strengthening our health information systems; restructuring pharmaceutical procurement procedures; and the provision of vaccines and technical assistance. This Plan serves as the blueprint for response to the treatment of the H1N1 virus and is currently being reviewed and further revised by the Ministry to inform Government's strategy to respond to new and re-emerging diseases of a similar nature in the future.

Development of a comprehensive and coordinated inter-agency and inter-regional disaster preparedness plan for the health sector continued. Ministries and Agencies such as the Ministries of the People and Social Development, National Security, Local Government, Communications, Community Development, and Education as well as regional and international partners are part of a coordinated effort to minimize and mitigate the impact of disasters.

BOX 4.IV

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES STRENGTHENED

- Five (5) Fuerzas Aliadas Humanitarias (FA-HUM) Emergency Preparedness Simulation Exercises completed
- Regionally-oriented command post/field training exercise completed
- Launch of a Volunteer programme
- 115 persons trained through the T&T Red Cross Society in Basic First Aid and CPR

With the aim of strengthening Trinidad and Tobago's emergency preparedness capabilities, five (5) Fuerzas Aliadas Humanitarias (FA-HUM) Emergency Preparedness Simulation Exercises were conducted between December 10th and 18th 2011. This regionally-oriented command post/field training exercise aims to enhance the nation's response capabilities and ability to co-operate with regional and international agencies in instances of emergency. It involved practicing the national and international responses to a simulated earthquake of significant magnitude occurring off the coast of Trinidad and Tobago. The National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC), as well as other Emergency Operation Centres across the country, were activated to coordinate the response and relief efforts of various

local, regional and international participants.

Strengthened emergency disaster preparedness does not only focus on raising awareness and building skills, but also on the implementation of strong and stable systems and infrastructure. Preventing structural collapse of hospitals is critical to the protection of the lives of patients and health workers. To this end, ensuring that physical infrastructure of the health institutions

adhere to code, structural inspection was conducted at the Port of Spain General Hospital. Along with this, initiatives to acquire emergency equipment for all health facilities continued at all RHAs with equipment being delivered and installed.

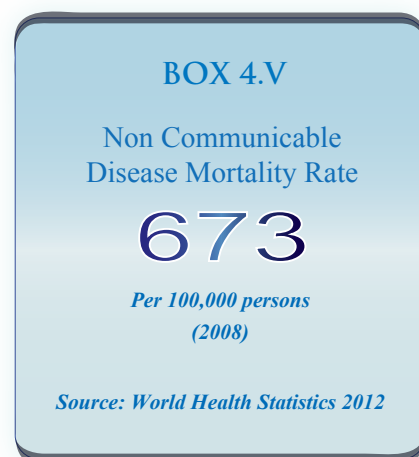
PREVENTION, CARE AND TREATMENT OF NON COMMUNICABLE AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Reducing morbidity and mortality rates both for Communicable and Non Communicable Diseases through prevention, care and treatment continued in 2012 through a number of projects and programmes. Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the Caribbean is the highest in the region of the Americas, mainly with diseases such as, heart disease, stroke, hypertension, diabetes, cancer and asthma. As a result, CARICOM countries have suffered premature loss of life, reduced productivity and experienced spiralling health costs.

Therefore, the Strategic Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases for Countries of the Caribbean Community 2011-2015 was developed to form the basis of a strategy for action and resource mobilization within CARICOM countries.

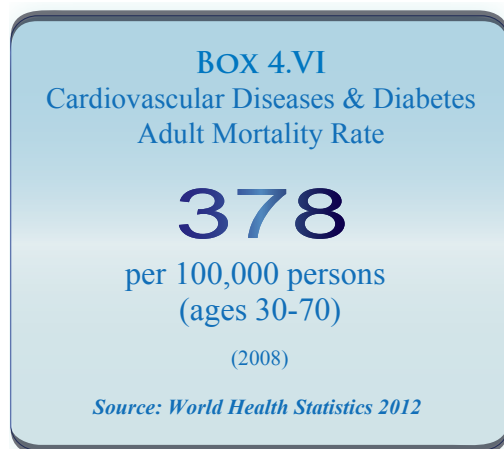
Every year, 60 percent of all deaths in Trinidad and Tobago are caused by chronic diseases¹³. To manage the battle against Chronic Non-Communicable diseases in Trinidad and Tobago, a number of initiatives were implemented such as the 'Put T&T on your Table' initiative, 'Fight the Fat' Campaign, Chronic Disease Assistance

Program (CDAP), Tobacco Control Programme, National Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Programme, the introduction of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, the establishment of a Smoking Cessation Clinic at Chaguanas Primary Health Care Facility and a Special Healthy Lifestyle Clinic at the Wendy Fitzwilliam's Hospital. There is also a renewed emphasis on programmes that focus on non-traditional methods of reducing the number of cases of NCDs. These include awareness campaigns on diet and exercise; construction and



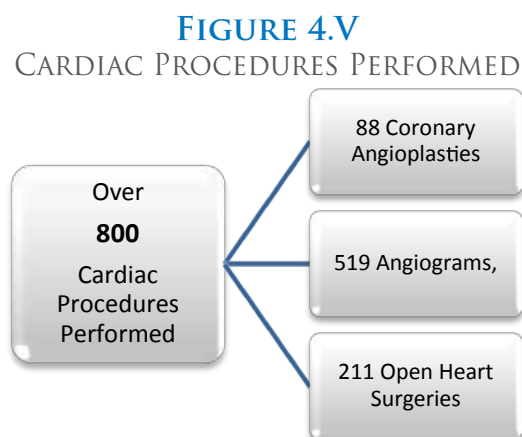
¹³ Ministry of Health

upgrade of sporting and recreational infrastructure; as well as school sport participation exercises. In 2011, actions were taken to collect information on chronic diseases using health measurements for blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, weight and height through the STEPS Risk Factor Survey (Chronic Disease Risk Survey). It is anticipated that the survey findings would be used to inform policies and programmes for prevention, care and treatment of Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases (CNCD).



In Trinidad and Tobago, High Blood Pressure is a CNCD that ranks among the top five causes of death among adults. The screening and treatment of the “at risk” population continued with the guidelines for the treatment of hypertension being completed and launched. This document has been disseminated to all Regional Health Authorities for implementation.

On the other hand, Heart Disease ranks as the number one cause of death. This disease has accounted for 25 percent of deaths in the country over the past decade¹⁴. In an effort to reduce the Cardiovascular Disease Mortality Rate, over 800 cardiac procedures were successfully performed in this fiscal year through the Treatment of Adult Cardiac Disease Programme. To date, more than 519 Angiograms, 88 Coronary Angioplasties and 211 Open Heart Surgeries were completed. As a measure to address cerebrovascular diseases, the Myocardial Infarction and Stroke Registry will be implemented at all the Regional Health Authorities. The registries will bring unprecedented surveillance in this area, allowing for the development of a database that can track the impact of diseases, identify risk groups, evaluate current systems of intervention and prevention, and guide policy makers.



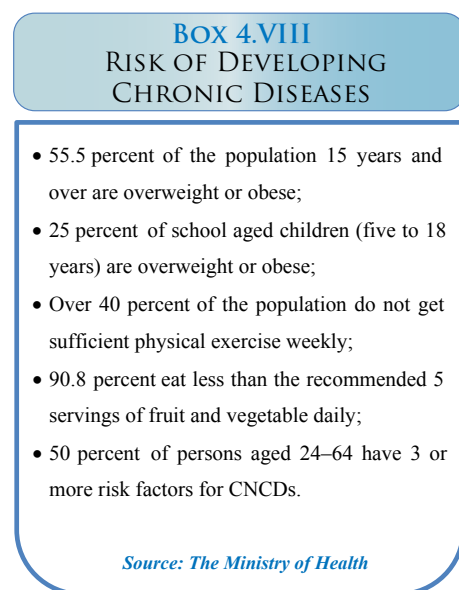
SOURCE: MINISTRY OF HEALTH

¹⁴ Office of the Prime Minister

The care and treatment of persons with kidney function ailments continued through the Renal Dialysis Programme and the Tissue Transplant Programme. In this fiscal year, 17,529 dialysis sessions were provided for 210 patients through a number of health care providers, sponsored by the Ministry of Health. Along with this, eight (8) renal transplant procedures were undertaken.



Globally, Organ Donor Programmes have been invaluable in the treatment of persons with



advanced deterioration to vital organs. Therefore, Trinidad and Tobago launched the National Organ Donor programme to treat with persons who are critically in need of vital organs. The Ministry of Health’s observance of World Kidney Day on March 8th 2012 carried the slogan-“Donate-Kidneys for Life - Receive”. This campaign focused on the positive outcome of kidney transplantation and the life-saving aspect of organ donation. To date, 675 patients are in need of kidney transplants¹⁵ and 83 kidney transplants have been performed since the implementation of the programme.

Good nutritional practices are critical towards ensuring that people achieve healthy lifestyles. The Ministry of Food Production is currently leading in the development of a National Nutrition and Dietary Policy which will address the epidemic of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), particularly Type II Diabetes, Hypertension and Heart Disease. The policy also speaks to physical inactivity and the low fruit and vegetable consumption of the population, which leads to obesity, which is a growing trend in adults and children today.

¹⁵ Ministry of Health

Trinidad and Tobago has the highest rate of diabetes in the Caribbean, with a prevalence rate among adults of approximately 12-13 percent, that is, 1 in every 8 adults¹⁶. Complications associated with diabetes are major causes of admissions to the hospitals. According to World Health Organization reports, after 15 years of living with diabetes, approximately 2 percent of people become blind, and about 10 percent develop severe visual impairment.

12%-13%

BOX 4.IX
Diabetes Prevalence Rate
among adults

Source: Ministry of Health

In an effort to improve the response to the treatment of ophthalmological diseases the Ministry of Health has engaged in public/private health sector partnerships. A Memorandum of



Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Ministry of Health, the South-West Regional Health Authority and the University of Utah, John A. Moran Eye Centre in partnership with the San Fernando General Hospital to provide training and transfer of knowledge on Corneal Transplantation, Small Incision Cataract Surgery (SICS) and Macular/Retina and Paediatric Ophthalmology. This will reduce the number of cases of vision loss due to lack of access to services. Over 70 percent of eye care surgeries accounted for 2,500 cataract surgeries being performed at

our public hospitals, with approximately 3,000 new cases being presented annually.

Cervical cancer is the second most common type of cancer among women. Research has indicated that the vaccination of girls aged 11/12 years with the Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV), Gardasil, can reduce the incidence of this disease. A campaign is being designed to inform parents and the public of the necessity of this vaccination in an effort to gain buy-in. From November 2012, 66,000 doses of the vaccine will be available for administration to this age group. Other programmes to treat the mind and body as well as to prevent cases of

BOX 4.XI
Cancer Mortality Rate

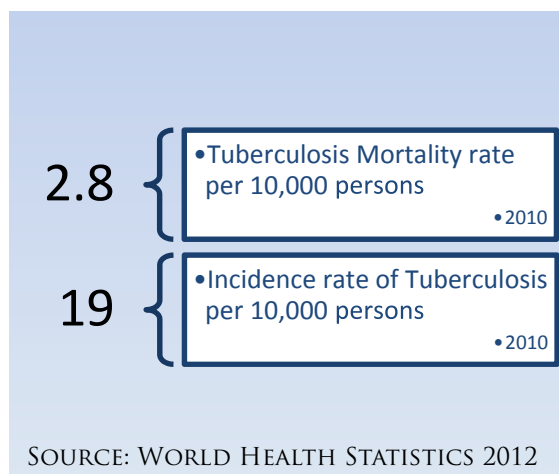
108
per 100,000 persons
(ages 30-70)

(2008)
Source: Central Statistical Office

¹⁶ Ministry of Health

cancer in our nation continued with partnership programmes between the Ministry of Health and the Cancer Society to screen, diagnose and treat cervical cancer through chemotherapy, counselling and pap smears. In particular, the development of colposcopy health facilities will lead to increased detection and treatment.

FIGURE 4.VI
TUBERCULOSIS RATES FOR 2010



Each year there are nine (9) million new cases of Tuberculosis (TB) worldwide that result in two (2) million deaths¹⁷. The TB-DOTS Programme (Tuberculosis-Directly Observed Treatment Short Course Programme) is an internationally recommended strategy for TB control and has been recognized as a highly efficient and cost-effective strategy. TB-DOTS Programme was decentralised and integrated into one county's strategy. The Arima Health Facility was used for TB education and awareness targeting schools, staff and the public. This strategy among other initiatives

will assist in the attainment of the national target of a 50 percent reduction in the morbidity and mortality rates for Tuberculosis and other infectious diseases by 2015.

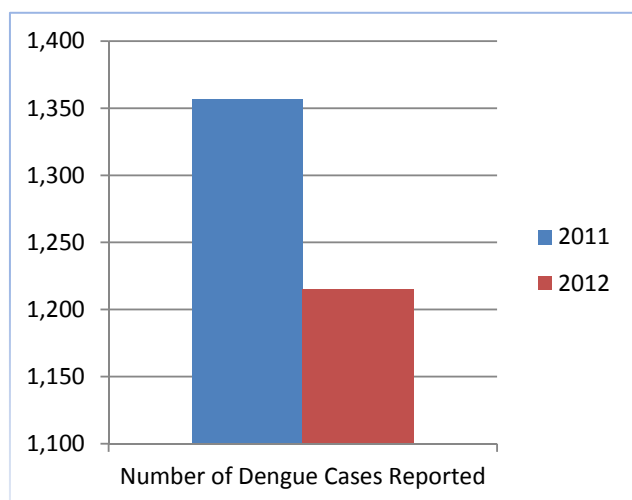
Dengue management continued through the Dengue Integrated Management Strategy as a measure to improve programme management and integration through a multidisciplinary and inter-programmatic approach. National health and environment authorities, communities, and the private sector with technical assistance from PAHO/WHO worked together on promoting six (6) key components for dengue control. These included social communication, integrated vector management, epidemiology, laboratory diagnosis, clinical case management and environment.

BOX 4.XII DENGUE MANAGEMENT from January – June 2012

- A total 498,478 houses treated with perifocal work;
- 75,522 houses sprayed with dyna fogging;
- 87,597 houses sprayed with ultra-low volume (ULV) machines;
- 22,285 houses sprayed residually (indoors);
- Notices served to 16 homes in response to breaches of the yellow fever act of 1979; and
- 1,719 lectures conducted in communities

¹⁷ World Health Organization

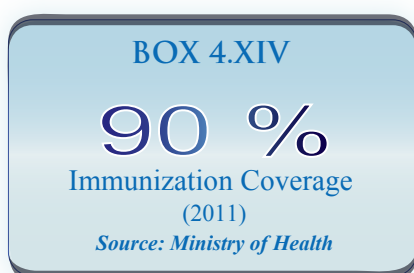
FIGURE 4.VII
REPORTED DENGUE CASES 2011 & 2012



Additionally, Insect Vector Control staff has been visiting homes and communities throughout the year and will continue its focus on a number of services through the Dengue Prevention Programme which is aimed at assisting in the reduction of the number of cases of mosquito borne diseases such as dengue and yellow fever. With all the initiatives being implemented and strengthened over the past year there has been a decrease in the number of cases reported in 2012 compared to 2011.

During the first 22 weeks of 2012, there were 1,215 reported cases of Dengue Fever compared to 1,357 cases reported for the same period in 2011, a decrease of 10 percent¹⁸.

To improve on community management of the disease, twelve (12) new 15-seater minibuses were provided to the Insect Vector Control Division. These buses will significantly strengthen the existing fleet, which increased from 61 to a total of 73 vehicles. It is expected that an average of 5,000 additional houses can now be visited annually.



The spread of Communicable Diseases is significantly contained by vaccinations. As such, the 10th Anniversary of Vaccination's Week was observed by the Ministry of Health along with the rest of the Americas and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in 2012. Free Vaccinations were offered throughout that week at any community

health centre in Trinidad & Tobago and along with health education sessions to encourage nationals to update their immunization status and improve the national immunization coverage from 90 percent to 95 percent.¹⁹ During this week 116 vaccines were administered and a total of 102 persons were vaccinated with all the required antigens.

¹⁸ Ministry of Health

¹⁹ Ministry of Health

BOX 4.XV VACCINATIONS OFFERED

- Yellow fever
- Mumps, Measles and Rubella (MMR)
- Hepatitis B
- Diphtheria / Tetanus (DT)
- Seasonal Influenza
- Poliomyelitis
- Diphtheria Pertussis Tetanus (DPT)
- Pneumococcal
- Rabies
- Meningococcal
- Pentavalent

Easier access to medication under the Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (CDAP) has been guaranteed through the MY TT CARD. The MY TT CARD is a “Smart Card” that allows persons to access Government Services and now it has been expanded to CDAP and includes the provision of Blood Glucose Meters and Testing Strips. The CDAP programme is currently being reviewed and is 50 percent complete with an interim report being submitted.

With a Communicable Diseases Mortality rate of 104 per 100,000 persons for persons

aged 30-70, programmes focused on reducing the rate by the targeted 20 percent by 2015 continued in this fiscal period. Awareness was raised about HIV/AIDS among persons in the tourism sector through the Ministry of Tourism. The Ministry identified needs and formulated strategies for dealing with HIV/AIDS in this sector and educated stakeholders about the disease, on risk reduction measures, the issue of discrimination and the national policies existing. As a result, an interactive presentation was conducted for staff along with the distribution of paraphernalia with information on HIV/AIDS to the wider sector community.

The development of the Draft National Workplace Policy on HIV/AIDS continued under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour, Small, and Micro Enterprise Development. This policy promotes awareness and advocacy, thereby reducing the incidence of HIV/AIDS discrimination in the workplace. Workshops and sensitization sessions on the Policy were also conducted for both private and public sector entities such as; The Carlton Savannah, the Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago, Ansa McCal, the Central Statistical Office and the Ministry of Youth, Gender and Child Development.

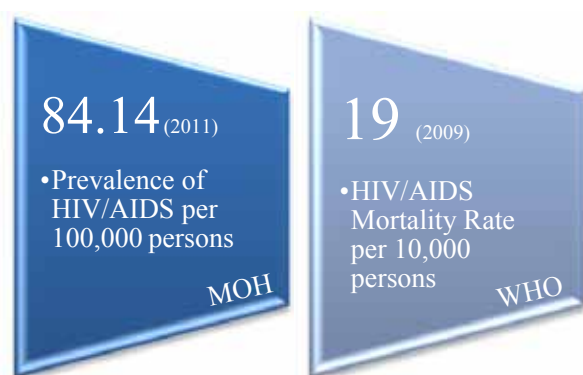
BOX 4.XVI Communicable Diseases Mortality rate

104

Per 100,000 persons
(ages 30-70 years)

(2008)
Source: World Health Statistics 2012

FIGURE 4.VIII
HIV/AIDS RATES



SOURCES:
WORLD HEALTH STATISTICS, MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Reducing the number of new HIV infections to 0.5% of the prevalence rate is the target the Government has committed to achieve by 2015. With the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate per 10,000 persons being 1,085, a number of educational initiatives were implemented to aid in its reduction. In January 2012, a presentation entitled, "Mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS in Rural Communities," reaching 60 persons, was delivered to the Couva Social Services Department of the Ministry of People and

Social Development. Additionally, 150 employers/workers handbooks and Information Educational Communication (IEC) material on HIV/AIDS were distributed between January and March 2012.

Encouraging responsible behaviour with regards to HIV/AIDS and knowing one's health status continued to be addressed through increased testing services in primary care in the Eastern, North Western and South Western Regions of Trinidad. With the Mortality Rate of persons affected by HIV/AIDS per 10,000 populations being 41, total Antiretroviral Treatment coverage was increased to 82.4 percent while infant exposure testing increased to 98.3 percent coverage in 2012. To expand existing services, the North West Regional Health Authority (NWRHA) is pursuing the development of a satellite paediatric HIV/AIDS clinic to complement the paediatric services recently started at the Barataria Wellness Centre. The North Central Regional Health (NCRHA) is also exploring the introduction of an adult HIV/AIDS treatment site. In addition, 10 new rapid test trainers and 74 additional trained healthcare workers are available to expand same day HIV/AIDS testing.

A National Peer Support/Community Volunteer Training (NPS/CVT) programme was initiated for volunteers in testing and counselling. Along with this, 80 volunteers were deployed in a collaborative effort among the Ministry of Health, Tobago HIV & AIDS Coordinating Committee Secretariat (THACCS), the Trinidad and Tobago Health Training Centre (TTHTC), Red Cross, the National AIDS Hotline, and the Ministry of People and Social Development. There are currently 5,476 patients living HIV/AIDS and enrolled at clinics and out of this 3,880 require treatment with the antiretroviral (ARV) drugs.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago acknowledge that health and wellness must be inculcated in individuals from an early age. As such, the Ministry of Sport through its Special Purpose State enterprise, the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited, has conducted annual Youth Sport Camps across the country, to engage children between the ages of seven and seventeen years in various sporting disciplines.

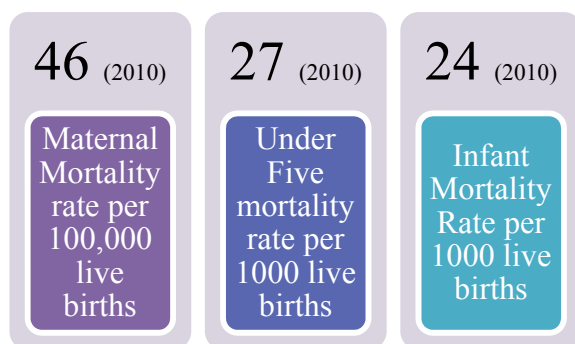
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Comprehensive programmes to attain the Millennium Development Goals of Reducing Child Mortality and Improving Maternal Health continued to be implemented to ensure a society where women and children can enjoy the highest levels of healthcare. The Maternal and Child Health Programme have been introduced to integrate programmes at the primary level that address the transmission and management issues related to both Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases. Antenatal services such as immunisation coverage, family planning, breastfeeding and nutrition counselling, pharmaceutical services, health screening and monitoring, as well as sexual health services are offered through the programme. For children, the programme offers Child Health Services which includes immunization, growth monitoring, social services and nutritional support Milk Feeding Programme.

BOX 4.XVII ACHIEVEMENTS TOWARDS THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Revised Growth Monitoring charts
- Screening mothers for diabetes-
Introduction of STEPS/SURVEY
- Maternal & Child Health Manual
(draft)
- The Prevention of Mother to Child
transmission of HIV (PMTCT)
Programme
- Standards for Nutrition Services
- Data Collected on the MICS
(currently being analysed)

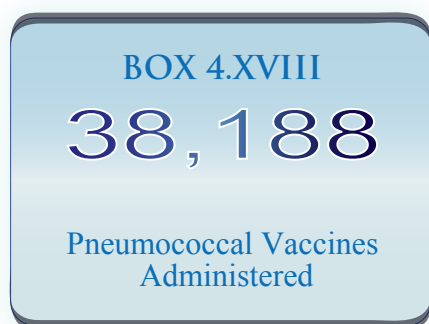
FIGURE 4.IX
MORTALITY RATES PER LIVE BIRTHS 2010



SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH STATISTICS 2012

Other areas were targeted in a continued effort to improve the health and save the lives of women and children and these include intensification of monitoring; revision of the Maternal Health Manual; distribution of the recently developed National Breast Feeding Policy; development of Standard Operating Procedures for Obstetrics and Midwifery;

strengthening Antenatal Care Services through the purchase of equipment; the refurbishment and upgrade of primary facilities as in the case of designs being developed for the upgrade of the Mt. Hope Women's Hospital; training of staff; upgrading of the Family Planning, Population and the Expanded Programme for Immunization (EPI) programmes; expansion of the Milk Feeding Programme to increase access to malnourished and undernourished mothers; and increasing awareness, education and access to resources through campaigns and community-based programmes.



The risk of babies and children for pneumococcal infections from upper respiratory tract infections to severe invasive manifestations such as pneumonia, meningitis and septicaemia remain a concern. In this reporting period, the pneumococcal vaccine continued to be administered to children with 38,188 beneficiaries.

Implementing practices that promote, protect and support breast feeding were allowed through the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative of the World Health Organisation. This programme was implemented in RHAs in 2010/2011. Full Baby-Friendly Status was achieved by the Sangre Grande Hospital of the Eastern Regional Health Authority. The Mt. Hope Hospital and the Port of Spain General Hospital are awaiting audit completion to be Baby-Friendly Certified.

STRENGTHENING HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION

BOX 4.XIX HEALTH PROMOTION TARGET

Health promotion reaches 70% of
the population by 2014

Mass media campaigns and social marketing for promoting wellness and decreasing Communicable and Non Communicable Diseases continued with the introduction of posters on "Check yourself: Know your Numbers". The Know Your Numbers Campaign was launched

in 2011 and is currently being implemented in all RHAs whereby hand-outs on diabetes, hypertension, cancer, physical activity and healthy food choices were distributed to persons. This national campaign will address the growing numbers of Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases in Trinidad and Tobago. It increased the opportunity for citizens to be screened and receive the necessary guidance and education. 5,356 persons were screened in health centres, workplaces, malls, tertiary institutions and in the community. To date, data was analysed for 3,477 persons.

A “Fight the Fat” media campaign was launched, followed by the first “Fight the Fat Campaign Fair” in November 2011. The Fight The Fat – T&T Wellness Revolution was a call to the national community to get active, eat healthy and live healthier lives to lower the risk for Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases (CNCDs) such as heart disease, cancers, diabetes and strokes. To further sensitize the population, electronic and print media were used to raise awareness of screening campaigns and the need to exercise.

In an effort to raise awareness in the younger generation and to inculcate healthy lifestyles into schools Health Education Material was designed to facilitate learning about health and nutrition, targeting 1st and 2nd year primary students.

HEALTH SECTOR FINANCING



The Government is moving towards establishing a National Health Insurance System (NHIS) in Trinidad and Tobago. Over the last 20 years, reports have been developed in this area and a Steering Committee was set up to: review all reports and submit a comprehensive proposal; determine the best method of financing; develop a policy brief for legislative changes and an implementation plan. To date a draft Policy Framework for the implementation

of a National Health Insurance System (NHIS) has been developed. When fully developed and implemented the NHIS would facilitate universal access to health services by residents of Trinidad and Tobago, and provide a sustainable financing system to support the health sector.

A critical element of any health financing system is information on the cost of services. In this regard, the Ministry is scheduled to complete a comprehensive costing of health services in health institutions throughout Trinidad and Tobago. In 2012, the second preliminary NHIS costing analysis inclusive of institutions within South West, North Central and Tobago Regional Health Authorities was 80 percent complete. Consultations regarding scope and functionalities of NHIS continue.

ECONOMIC GROWTH, JOB CREATION, COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION

A RESILIENT, COMPETITIVE, STABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

*Economic
Growth and Job
Creation*

*Innovation,
Entrepreneurship
and Partnership*

*A Diversified
Economy*

In order to maintain macroeconomic stability and foster economic transformation, sustainable growth and competitiveness, there must be continued exploitation of the already existing opportunities in the energy sector complemented by a strategic diversification process. Economic transformation for Trinidad and Tobago requires steady and persistent repositioning from a heavy dependence on hydrocarbon resources to a technology-driven, knowledge-based and globally-connected economy. Trinidad and Tobago remains fervent in its efforts to invest in human capital development, to inculcate a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, and transition the economy beyond exploiting non-renewable fossil fuel which we will continue to do, to harness the natural creative genius of its people.

Therefore future economic development in Trinidad and Tobago will be based on continued investment, increasing value of and diversification in the traditional sectors and development and expansion of the non-traditional sectors. Also, the involvement of both private and public sector institutions is key to successfully compete in the dynamic and evolving global market.

The World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report revealed that, on the Global Competitiveness Index, Trinidad and

Tobago moved from a rank of 81 out of 142 countries in 2012-2013, to 84 out of 144 countries in 2011-2012. On the Global Innovation Index, Trinidad and Tobago ranked 81 out of 125 countries in 2012, representing a decline in performance from the 2010 baseline ranking of 55. In the area of Foreign Direct Investment, the energy sector has seen some buoyancy and investment to support the diversification thrust evidenced by a more than 100 % increase in investment.

TABLE 5.1

CURRENT PROGRESS OF PRIORITY TARGETS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, JOB CREATION, COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION

PRIORITY AREA	TARGETS TO 2015	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	BASELINE 2010	ACTUAL 2012
ECONOMIC GROWTH, JOB CREATION, COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION	Increase Gross Domestic Product by 2.0% by 2012	Gross Domestic Product (TT\$ million)	TT\$89,029.2 million	TT\$87,810.9 million
	Increase Non-Petroleum Sector Contribution to GDP by 3% by 2015	Sector Contribution to GDP (%)	Petroleum Sector - 42.2% Non-Petroleum Sector - 58.9%	Petroleum Sector - 40.2% Non-Petroleum Sector - 59.7%
	Increase in Exports -2% in Energy by 2015 -5% in Non-Energy by 2015	Exports (US\$ million)	Energy - US\$9,314.9 million Non-Energy - US\$1,924.0 million	Energy - US\$10,919.3 million Non-Energy - US\$2,095.9 million (2011)
	Increase Foreign Direct Investment by US \$1 billion by 2015	Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)	US \$549.4 million	US \$1,110 million (2011)
	Reduce to 5.0% by 2015	Unemployment Rate	5.9%	4.9% (2011)
	Improve Ranking on the Global Competitiveness Index by 20 points by 2015	Global Competitiveness Index	84 / 139 (2010-2011)	84 / 144 (2012-2013)
	Improve Ranking on the Global Innovation Index by 10 points by 2015	Global Innovation Index	55 / 132	81 / 141

**Sources: Central Statistical Office, Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, World Economic Forum, INSEAD*

MACROECONOMIC STABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH DIVERSIFICATION

The ultimate goal over the medium-term is to build an economy that is capable of generating endogenous growth based on innovation, the generation and use of knowledge, higher productivity levels and export expansion, in order to create wider opportunities for high paying jobs at all levels. An increase in the gross domestic product (GDP) of Trinidad and Tobago is targeted, as well as an increase in the non-petroleum industry contribution to GDP.

In 2012, the petroleum industry contributed an estimated \$35,274.5 million or 40.2 % to the GDP, representing a decrease of 0.01 % from the previous year. Alternatively, the non-petroleum industry contributed an estimated \$52,444.7 million or 59.7 % to GDP, experiencing an increase by 0.02 % over the previous year. Figures 5.I to 5.IV refer.

FIGURE 5.I

GDP AT MARKET PRICES – TT\$ MILLION

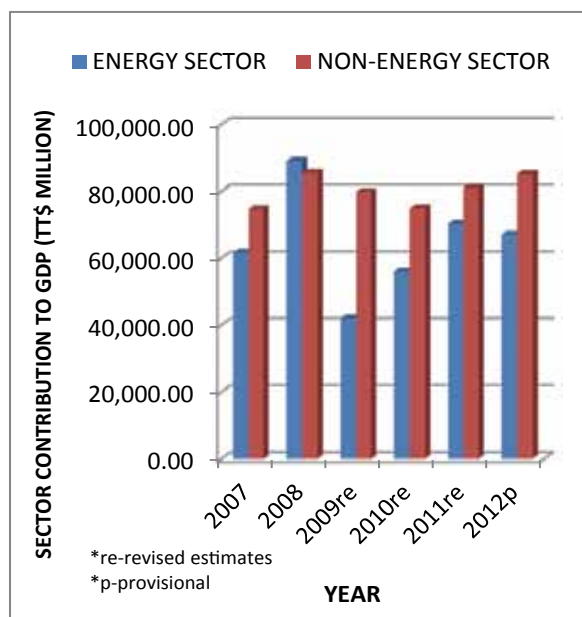
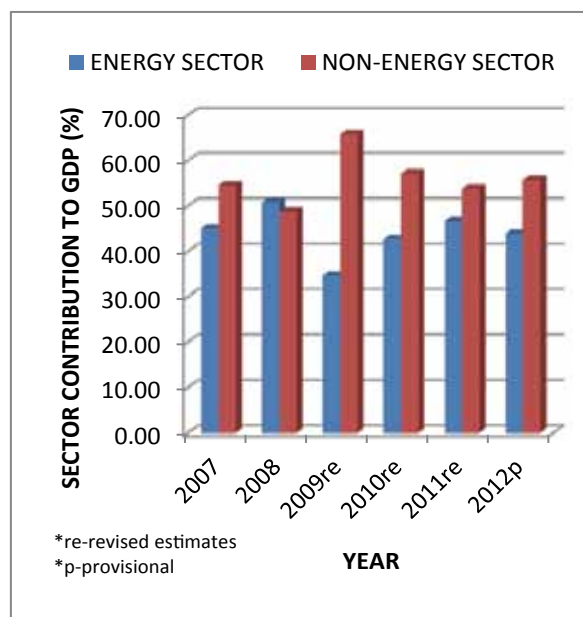


FIGURE 5.II

GDP AT MARKET PRICES – % CONTRIBUTION



*Source: Central Statistical Office

FIGURE 5.III
GDP AT CONSTANT (2000) PRICES
– TT\$ MILLION

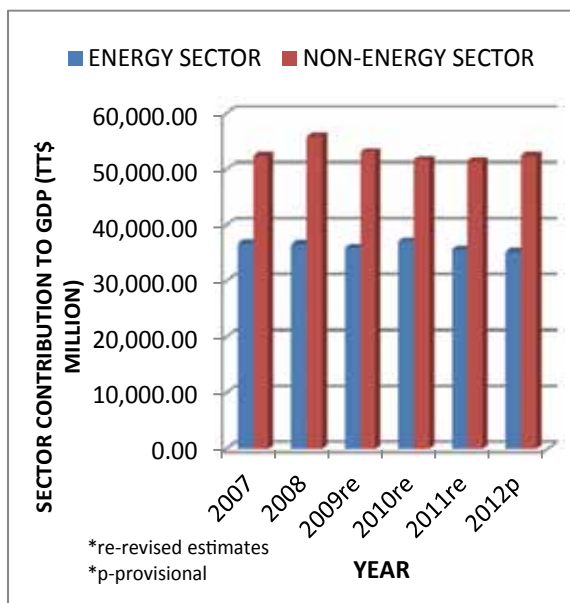
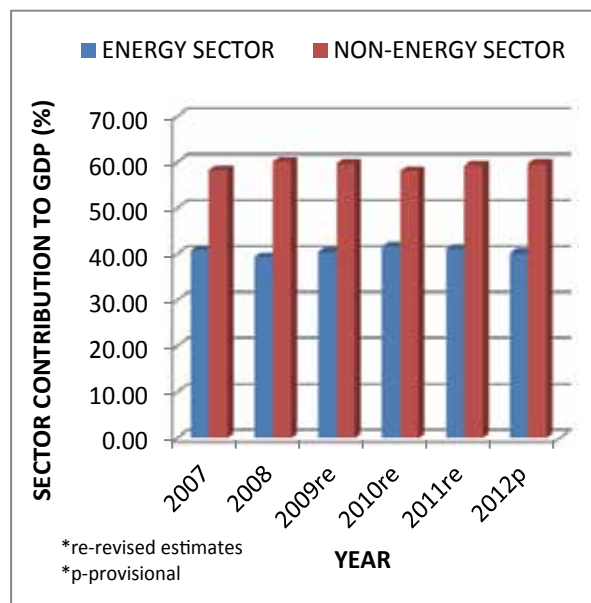


FIGURE 5.IV
GDP AT CONSTANT (2000) PRICES
– % CONTRIBUTION



**Source: Central Statistical Office*

Although, Trinidad and Tobago's economy depends heavily on the oil and gas sector, it is recognised that this dependency for future economic growth would be ill advised. Therefore, integral to the drive toward sustainable development, is the restructuring of the production base to reduce economic vulnerabilities and create a diversified, competitive and resilient economy.

Towards this end, the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development (MPL&SD) convened a Diversification Conference on 'Building Competitive Advantage' in July 2012 to discuss, debate and ultimately build consensus among key stakeholders around a viable economic strategy and plan of action. It is intended that this will support the establishment of linkages within and across clusters, to boost economic growth and facilitate the exploration of new opportunities for collaboration within and across sectors. Key stakeholder representatives from the public sector, private sector, labour unions, civil society, academia and non-Governmental organisations were engaged to garner and disseminate knowledge on existing and proposed initiatives with a view to harmonize and coordinate efforts for maximum effectiveness.

At this Conference, seven (7) strategic business clusters were identified with a view towards the promotion of viable clusters and value chain strengthening to boost economic diversification,

promote increased efficiency, higher productivity levels, generate jobs and facilitate innovation. These clusters: Energy, Food Sustainability, Culture and Creative Industries, Maritime Industries, Tourism; and Financial Services; will be supported by critical enabling inputs including information and communication technology, research and development, education and training and physical infrastructure. Information and Communication Technology is regarded as the seventh cluster because it is an enabler that facilitates other clusters and can facilitate a cluster in its own right.

In June 2012, at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, there was renewed focus on sustainable development, environmental conservation and renewable energy, amongst others. The importance of sustainable development for our small island developing state is increasingly receiving attention and several initiatives were implemented to ensure that future development in the country is sustainable. The progress, gaps and opportunities for action in the pursuit of sustainable development were documented in the 'Working for Sustainable Development in Trinidad and Tobago' policy brief prepared by the MPL&SD and forms the basis of actions in the area.

PROMOTE NEW STRATEGIC SECTORS

Future economic growth depends on the nation's ability to adapt to the continually evolving, dynamic, knowledge-based global environment. This global economic system provides new and expanding opportunities for higher productivity, increased investment in non-traditional sectors in creation of viable niche markets and expansion of exports. The creative industry and environmental goods and services are among the new strategic sectors targeted by the Government to diversify away from our traditional strengths in oil and gas..

Creative Industry

The creative sector is ideal for the establishment and development of entrepreneurial activity as this industry thrives on the human imagination. In the past, there has been continual contribution from the sector towards the development of local innovations which are globally competitive, and supportive of other key industries such as tourism and manufacturing. Therefore continued investment in the development of the creative and cultural sector will provide this country with a competitive advantage in the international market while simultaneously creating employment and preserving cultural traditions, all of which will lend to economic growth.

The music and entertainment, fashion and film industries, continued to be targeted for their importance in promoting economic diversification, creating opportunities for the use of creativity and innovation, facilitating entrepreneurship and competitiveness, generating new job prospects and stimulating employment, and contributing to economic growth through increased production and export expansion. Draft strategic plans were developed to guide the development of, and interventions in, the areas of music and entertainment, and film. It is expected that the Strategic Plan for the Development of the Fashion Industry will be completed in fiscal 2013. To stimulate and facilitate a more focused approach to business development and export activities in the local creative industries, the Trinidad and Tobago Film Company, Trinidad and Tobago Entertainment Company and the Fashion Industry Development Committee are expected to be rationalized, renamed and rebranded as the Trinidad and Tobago Creative Industries Company in the impending fiscal year 2013.

In addition, the innate talent of the people of Trinidad and Tobago was showcased in October 2011 in a series of international fora including the:

- World Music Expo in Copenhagen, Denmark;
- Commonwealth Resounds Youth Forum of the 22nd Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth, Australia; and
- International Festivals Events Association Expo in Houston, Texas.

These exhibitions provided opportunities to promote the genres of music and talent that abound in the local entertainment industry, identify linkages with potential investors and attract new business investment in these sectors.

The tenth anniversary of AnimaeCaribe Animation and Digital Media Festival was celebrated in October-November 2011 with its customary International Competition of Short and Animated Films, as well as specialist workshops, conferences and presentations conducted by international professionals. The annual festival contributes to the development of the local and regional animation industry through raising awareness of animation and technology and providing an outlet for young, innovative animators to expose their talents to a wider audience. In addition, 'Calypso Rose - The Lioness of the Jungle', a documentary feature on the life of the calypso icon McCartha Linda Sandy Lewis, was developed and premiered locally and abroad.



*50th Anniversary of
Independence Logo*

On the recommendation of the High Level Expert Panel on Arts and Culture, which was established to advance arts and cultural initiatives in a holistic manner, a programme for the commemoration and celebration of Trinidad and Tobago's 50th Anniversary of Independence was implemented. Associated events included an Independence Logo Competition, Multicultural Extravaganza and Re-enactment of the 1962 Flag Raising Ceremony, 'Grounding with the Elders' lecture series, National Song Competition, Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving, and a host of cultural activities involving local performers which will continue through to the end of 2012.

The creative industry builds upon the cultural attributes, indigenous skills and talents of our citizens and provides a viable platform for diversification of the economic base and generation of export earnings. In this regard, several initiatives were undertaken to strengthen our national identity, foster a spirit of unity in diversity and preserve the local cultural heritage including:

- Mounting of exhibitions including The Old Yard (formerly Viey La Cou), 50 years of Carnival – the Evolution of Costumes, Local Authors at Carnival Village, and Evolution of the Steelpan;
- Continuation of the first phase and launch of the second phase of the 'Remember When' Institute exhibition, and expansion of capacity and content of the webpage, a virtual repository of the country's heritage;
- Honouring of 58 first time local authors at the third annual 'First Time Author's Appreciation Programme' held in April 2012. This event was designed to encourage writers to publish their works and to elevate public awareness of the issues involved in the protection of intellectual property, as well as the enforcement of copyright laws; and
- Procurement of 181 titles and 2,348 volumes of Caribbean publications, and award of contract for the acquisition of 1,118 titles and 11,864 volumes of print and non-print resources for heritage, public school and special public libraries.



*First Time Authors being honoured with plaques
and certificates*

Complementary to the development of the creative and cultural sector was the appointment of the assessment committee of the National Registry of Artists and Cultural Workers, to evaluate applications for registration and works for certification. Launched in fiscal year 2011, the Registry is a database of artists compiled to facilitate the development of cultural industries and research, and to optimize the benefits to be accrued to nationals from the Caribbean Single Market and Economy and the Economic Partnership Agreement.

Three (3) books were published with Government support for all audiences – ‘Littscapes’ – a book linking Trinidad and Tobago’s literature to the landscape and people; a golden anniversary edition of ‘Terrific and Tranquil’ (the Gold Book) highlighting, history, evolution, people, places and ‘50 years of Independence of Trinidad and Tobago’ which pulls together a number of reflective pieces on areas including local history, culture and heritage, natural environment, business, sports and tourism..

Environmental Services, Renewable Energy, Ecotourism

The natural environment offers both tangible and intangible products such as watershed protection, ecotourism, raw materials for extraction and production and various sources of energy. Therefore, while there is the pursuit of economic growth, the current and future impact on the environment should be closely monitored and environmental degradation and misuse curtailed. Equally important is the preservation of the environment so as to prevent potential losses and negative economic impacts in the long-term. To this end, initiatives to generate renewable and alternative sources of energy as well as to maintain and care for the environment were implemented. Simultaneously developing sectors such as ecotourism which will have a direct contribution to economic growth were pursued.

In 2008, the United Nations Statistics Division ranked Trinidad and Tobago second out of 217 countries with a carbon dioxide emission of 37.3 metric tons of carbon dioxide per capita. This ranking was mainly attributed to the high production levels in the energy sector. While development of the energy sector is continuous Government has recognised the necessity of reducing the country’s carbon footprint and increasing citizen willingness to participate in sustainable energy use. Accordingly, alternative energy (AE) and energy efficiency (EE) initiatives are currently being pursued. Through public education, citizens will be encouraged to adopt energy efficient practices and renewable energy (RE) technologies in order to facilitate the reduction of the country’s carbon footprint. In light of this:

- A service provider was procured for a public awareness campaign which was completed in March 2012;
- Five (5) radio ads, five (5) print ads and one (1) video infomercial are currently being rolled out to the national community, and a renewable energy website, myenergytt.com, is operational and accessible via the social networks Facebook and Twitter; and
- Fiscal incentives are being provided to both the public and private sectors. These incentives are being implemented in accordance with the Finance Act No. 13 of 2010.

As such, seven (7) New to Industry (NTI) service stations for the dispensing of both liquid fuels and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) are soon to be established in Tacarigua, Orange Grove, Tumpuna Road, El Socorro, Brentwood, Preysal and South Trunk Road. CNG will be available for sale to the public at Tacarigua and Brentwood by the end of October 2012. Furthermore, construction of CNG stations at the Public Transportation Service Corporation (PTSC) and the Vehicle Management Company of Trinidad and Tobago (VMCOTT) are scheduled. Tender evaluations commenced for the PTSC station and contracts are expected to be awarded soon.

In fiscal year 2012, significant progress was made with respect to RE initiatives, with particular focus being placed on the development of wind power through the Wind Resource Assessment Programme (WRAP). Standards were developed for solar water heating systems. Award of a contract to conduct this programme is expected soon. With respect to legislative review, a Renewable Energy Policy Framework is being incorporated into the National Energy Policy Green Paper. Additionally, the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) and the Regulated Industries Commission (RIC) Acts are scheduled for review to incorporate RE practices. The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) is currently assisting the Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs (MEEA) with the latter effort.

In addition to national carbon reducing initiatives, several strategies are being pursued to reduce the carbon footprint of the energy industries. To this end, the development of an Energy Efficiency Policy is being undertaken by utilising the findings of the Point Lisas Industrial Estate. Additionally, an Energy Service Company Certification Committee (ESCO) was established to make recommendations for the conduct of EE audits as well as establishing procedures for the implementation of the tax allowance available to companies willing to utilize energy efficient technology. Through the conduct of energy audits, options will be examined to curb energy wastage in the energy grid and allow for optimisation of energy

usage. In this regard, consultations with all relevant stakeholders were conducted and completed.

This EE initiative is not limited to the local energy sector. Collaboration between Trinidad and Tobago and regional partners in RE and EE growth and development is being sought with a long-term objective to develop the Renewable Energy potential of the Caribbean region. The intent is to develop the Caribbean Renewable Energy Research Centre (CRERC) through collaboration with the United States Department of Energy (USDOE). The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for construction of this facility was finalized and arrangements are being made for signing by the MEEA and the USDOE. A joint proposal is being prepared by the University of the West Indies and University of Trinidad and Tobago identifying their respective roles in the facility.

Trinidad and Tobago is heavily dependent on the quarry industry for raw materials to fuel the extensive construction industry on both islands. This industry is a high generator of revenue. In an effort to promote environmental preservation and satisfy international standards, there is an increasing need to regulate the extraction from existing quarries and the establishment of new quarries. Accordingly, the tendering process was initiated for work to be conducted on the identification of Mining Zones and assessment of the impacts of quarrying activities on the environment. To date, bids for the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) were evaluated, the results of which will be used to establish new Mining Zones. To improve efficiency and better accountability in the minerals sector, amendments to the Minerals Act and creation of Mineral Regulations are being pursued. Currently, draft Regulations to accompany the Mineral Act have been reviewed by both the Minerals Advisory Committee and the Quarries Association of Trinidad and Tobago and will be laid in Parliament in October 2012. Efforts to establish monitoring units such as the Minerals Ranger Unit are underway and will be informed by on-going consultations with the Environmental Management Authority (EMA).

Additionally, to respond to concerns of the citizens in areas affected by the quarrying industry, Government launched a campaign to improve the efficiency of the quarry industry through the education of quarry operators and stakeholders on good quarry practices. This education drive is being piloted with the University of the West Indies (UWI) through the provision of a diploma programme in quarrying for the industry to meet international standards.

DEVELOP NEW GROWTH CENTRES ACROSS THE COUNTRY – GEOGRAPHICAL AND INDUSTRY

The establishment of strategically located economic spaces in Trinidad and Tobago as centres of investment is essential to stimulate industry growth in a diverse range of sectors, decentralize economic activity and create jobs in inter-related and inter-dependent industries. In light of this, Government has placed emphasis on five (5) targeted Growth Poles: East Port of Spain, North Coast, Central and South-West Trinidad, and North-East Tobago.

With respect to the East Port of Spain and Central Trinidad Growth Poles, development plans were reviewed, geographical boundaries with respect to municipal and regional areas were identified and data collection to evaluate economic potential commenced. Fiscal year 2012 also saw the commencement of a cluster mapping study for the Central Trinidad Growth Pole to identify and examine potential and existing clusters with a view towards supporting the design of local economic development and cluster deepening strategies for the area. The Growth Poles Project is now under the leadership of the Economic Development Board (EDB) which has begun the process of establishing a technical secretariat and engaging investors and stakeholder to facilitate development of the Growth Poles.

The National Institute of Higher Education Research Science and Technology (NIHERST), engaged in a number of science, technology and innovation studies in the thrust towards diversification of the economy. Business feasibility studies based on completed foresighting studies in prioritised areas, resulted in a draft report on the economic priorities and future jobs for the country. To support the development of the five (5) Growth Poles, technical studies were initiated in order to promote sustainable communities. Communities such as Toco, Moruga and Barrackpore were identified for special treatment.



The Boardwalk, Williams Bay

The potential of the North-West Peninsula for economic and recreational development was explored. In an attempt to provide the ultimate customer experience, the Chaguaramas Development Authority (CDA) pursued several initiatives which form part of a wider developmental plan, designed to bring much needed improvements to the North-Western Peninsula. Phase 1, which comprised the construction of 1,125 feet, of a

proposed 5,125 feet, of the Boardwalk at Williams Bay was completed. The space provides for business investment opportunities, entrepreneurial initiatives, recreation and social engagement. The CDA also initiated discussions with National Infrastructure Development Company Limited (NIDCO) on the establishment of a water taxi service to facilitate enhanced access to the peninsula. To ensure safety and security in the Peninsula, CDA's police capacity was enhanced through the:

- Acquisition of a new security fleet including jet skis, a bicycle patrol unit, rhinos, and twin cab vans;
- Construction and refurbishment of police guard booths at Tembladora and Williams Bay; and
- Installation of an electronic surveillance system to conduct 24 hour monitoring of the Peninsula including Chacachacare, Gaspar Grande, La Tinta and Scotland Bay.



Security in North-Western Peninsula

BOX 5.1

ACHIEVEMENTS IN NATIONAL PHYSICAL PLANNING

- Conducted a Situational Analysis
- Harmonized the 14 Regional Development Plans
- Invited tenders for consultancy services to develop the National Spatial Development Strategy
- Developed Local Area Development Plans, including for Caura Valley, El Socorro, Arima, St. Helena and Rousillac, towards completing a National Land Use Policy
- Established the National Planning Task Force to review the Planning and Development of Land Bill 2001 which has since reported
- Initiated a Seismic Microzonation Studies Project to establish a seismic microzonation database and produce detailed earthquake hazard maps for 10 towns
- Hosted the first Steering Committee meeting of 'ProEcoServ', a project which seeks to better integrate ecosystem assessment and economic valuation of ecosystem services into sustainable national development planning

Development of the North East Tobago Growth Pole also commenced. Short and medium-term goals for development were identified and additionally a draft Strategic Plan was developed. Based on the concluded studies to identify potential business sectors for development of Tobago's North East region, a number of areas were identified for development. These include crop production, livestock production, agro-processing, light manufacturing and tourism.

Trinidad and Tobago, as a Small Island Developing State with fragile ecosystems and limited land space, is extremely vulnerable to external

economic and environmental shocks. This, coupled with the islands' geographical location and geology, makes the islands susceptible to several natural hazards, thereby reaffirming the need for sustainable land use practises. Accordingly, more focused and pertinent physical development planning is essential to effectively respond to emerging vulnerabilities, to use arable lands in a thoughtful manner to yield high agricultural produce, reduce hillside development to protect against flooding and demarcate lands for housing, industrial development and recreation. In this regard, several physical development planning initiatives were advanced. Box 5.I refers.

REVITALISE THE TRADITIONAL SECTORS AND PROMOTE VIABLE CLUSTERS

In keeping with the diversification thrust, Trinidad and Tobago is seeking to revitalise traditional sectors through the development of sector niches and promotion of viable clusters to exploit opportunities to create value and develop businesses that have strong long-term growth prospects. Accordingly, non-energy sector priority areas including the food and beverage, printing and packaging, merchant marine and yachting industries were supported. Draft strategic plans were developed for the printing and packaging industry, the yachting industry and the food and beverage industry. In addition, a consultant was selected for the review of the strategic plan for the maritime industry and the review has commenced. In addition, a consultant was selected for the review of the strategic plan for the maritime industry and the review has commenced. These plans will guide and bring focus to the extensive measures proposed for industry development.

Cluster development initiatives are an important new direction in economic policy, building on earlier efforts in macroeconomic stabilisation, diversification, market accessibility and cost reduction for doing business. Accordingly, upgrade of the physical infrastructure at industrial parks to support industry growth and development continued with the following:

- At the Tamana InTech Park, road and drainage works, installation of water and sewer reticulation systems and installation of electrical infrastructure continued along the Cayman, Saba, St Kitts and West Taxiway Roads, as well as eTecK Boulevard. Construction of the wastewater treatment ponds and water storage remedial works were completed;
- Designs for the Debe Industrial Park were received, tenders were invited and received, and a contract was awarded for civil remedial works;

- A contract was awarded for cadastral surveying services for four excised acres of land at the site earmarked for development of the Factory Road Industrial Park in Chaguanas;
- The survey plan was completed, site inspections were conducted and approvals were received for construction of the Beetham Industrial Park; and
- A contract was awarded for the preparation of schematic designs and provision of construction supervision services for the reconstruction of four (4) factory shells at the eTecK Diamond Vale Industrial Park in Diego Martin.

Tourism development continues to be a priority for the improvement of the business environment in Trinidad and Tobago. In 2011, Trinidad and Tobago was declared the World's Best Tourist Destination for 2012 by the European Council on International Relations. The country was awarded this prestigious award based on a number of factors including:

- Protection and promotion of the cultural patrimony and traditions in offering to tourists a possibility to participate in impressive paraphernalia festivals;
- Protection and promotion of Trinidad and Tobago's natural environment, especially East Coast natural patrimony of wetlands, beaches and ecological and geographical biodiversity that make Trinidad and Tobago unique in the region, offering the tourists not only a cultural experience or relaxation opportunities but also the possibility to explore nature and contribute to ecological preservation; and
- Development and protection of cultural and historical patrimony of Trinidad and Tobago, the transformation of Port of Spain in an historical center offering to the visitor a glimpse into rich culture of Trinidad and Tobago and Caribbean heritage.

Trinidad and Tobago was also declared Favourite Cultural Destination in 2012 in that same year.



Facelift for the Caroni's Sevilla House

The strengthening of the tourism sector continued through the development and enhancement of tourism products that focus on delivering unique, engaging and unforgettable experiences for the tourist. These included the completion of a website that would help in the marketing and establishment of a Sugar Heritage Village and Museum (Sevilla House) at Brechin Castle, Couva. In addition, construction of a model Amerindian Village in Arima is proposed for fiscal year 2013.

Signage was installed at the Anthony Williams and King George V Parks. Additionally, improvement initiatives in Salybia and the Brasso Seco Agro Tourism Project continued with a birding niche being developed to complement this project. Development and promotion of the cruise line industry in Trinidad and Tobago continued by increasing cruise traffic through increased vessel calls. For the period January to May 2012, there was a total of 13,032 cruise ship passenger arrivals. This is a modest beginning in an industry targeted for revitalization.

Furthermore, the services of the lifeguard unit are being enhanced and improved through training of personnel, while plans and approvals are already on track for further refurbishment of lifeguard facilities.

A number of fiscal incentives that would enhance investment in the tourism sector are currently being developed, including creation of additional rooms stock, promotion of unique products related to culture, cuisine and environmental assets as well as strengthening traditional services. Some of these incentives include proposals for bed and breakfast establishments and the establishment of a draft equity participation policy which will provide financial support for operators and partners in the tourism sector. The Tourism Development Company (TDC), in encouraging the expansion and upgrade of the accommodation sector, provided incentives to increase and upgrade hotel and guesthouse room stock or eligible hotels and guesthouses through the Hotel Room Upgrade Incentive Programme. Thus far, nine (9) properties and 374 rooms were contracted.

BOX 5.II

NATIONAL TOURISM QUALITY SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

- Leadership Development Programme
- Supervisory Skills
- Frontline Field Day
- Leading The Promises
- Promises™
- Foundations™

The National Tourism Quality Service Improvement Programme was expanded from three (3) training programmes to six (6). The objective of this Programme is to foster high quality service delivery among a wide section of tourism industry stakeholders through the delivery of attitudinal and behavioural training and development. Approximately 60 stakeholder organisations were trained including Immigration Division, Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago and airport outsourced service providers.

Thirty-two (32) workshops and capacity building programmes were conducted under the Caribbean Small Enterprise Projects with a total of 635 tourism stakeholders from both Trinidad

and Tobago benefitting. This Programme aims to improve the competitiveness, performance and service delivery of small tourism operators, as well as to embrace international standards in both Trinidad and Tobago. There were 192 tourism programme operators certified in Trinidad and Tobago as at June 2012.

It is recognized that the cultural, historic and natural assets of Trinidad and Tobago have tremendous tourism value, and therefore must be preserved and protected. The Ministry of Tourism and the TDC are working with communities to identify the appropriate form and type of tourism niche best suited for an area taking into consideration the available assets of the community. Stakeholder committees were established for all new niche markets to ensure a collaborative and sustainable approach to development. Thus far, a draft policy for ecotourism was completed and is in the final review stage with stakeholders. Consultations and meetings with key stakeholders are on-going for both sports tourism and medical tourism and the respective policies are expected to be completed in the second quarter of fiscal year 2013.

As one of the fastest growing segments of global tourism, medical tourism is viewed as having sound potential as a contributor to economic diversification and foreign investment in Trinidad and Tobago. An issues paper outlining the potential for medical tourism development in Trinidad and Tobago was completed; and a Medical Tourism Advisory Committee comprising stakeholders from the relevant sectors was established to provide input and feedback on the medical tourism policy. A Medical Tourism Workshop is planned for the first quarter of fiscal year 2013 to explore the potential of the sector with a wide stakeholder audience.

Sport tourism is realized as another potential niche market for tourism. A small stakeholder group comprising representatives from the Ministry of Sports, SportTT and TDC commenced the development of a sports tourism policy which is expected to be completed in fiscal year 2013. The production of a long-term comprehensive guide for the development and effective utilization of sport facilities is necessary to successfully manage the use and operations of each facility to ensure their maintenance, optimum usage and marketing regionally and internationally. Currently, a Master Plan for all sport facilities, which involves the mapping of all existing facilities and development of a computerized management system, is in its first phase of development. Several key initiatives were undertaken to promote and strengthen this emerging niche market such as the construction and modernization of sport facilities and building of international relations.

BOX 5.III

INITIATIVES IN SPORT TOURISM

- ‘The Unity Race’, an Independence Cycle Classic, created and strengthened international linkages with cyclists from Jamaica, St. Lucia, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Colombia, New Zealand, United States, Austria, Germany, Canada and the United Kingdom
- A bi-lateral agreement was developed between Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago for the recruitment of 9 Cuban coaches in disciplines such as Volleyball, Judo, Basketball, Boxing and Track and Field
- Commencement of land acquisition and conduct of soil and land surveys for the construction of a National Cycle Track, a National Aquatic Centre and a National Tennis Centre

Through these initiatives, incentives and inter-sector collaboration, Trinidad and Tobago is seeking to improve its ranking in the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index.

TABLE 5.II

TRAVEL AND TOURISM COMPETITIVENESS INDEX 2011 FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index 2011 for Trinidad and Tobago

Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index	Rank/139	Score / 1-7 scale
Overall Rank / 139	79	3.91
Regional Rank (within the Americas)	16	
Sub-Index		
Regulatory Framework	100	4.18
Business Environment and Infrastructure	51	4.13
Human, Cultural and Natural Resources	111	3.42

**Source: The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report 2011, 2011 World Economic Forum*

MOVE UP THE VALUE CHAIN IN ENERGY

Over the past five decades, the oil and gas sector in Trinidad and Tobago has been the primary driver of economic growth. The sector contributes to a large percentage of our GDP. As a result, there has been continued support and investment in the development of the sector to drive and stabilise our economy, as well as expand through moving up the value chain. Such investment included expansion of the sector to attract foreign investment, facilitation of customer satisfaction and increasing profits from the existing sector.

A major initiative in the further development of the energy sector is to encourage oil and gas exploration through the independent validation of the oil reserves, which will enable greater petroleum production. Furthermore, this will stimulate production from currently under-optimized producing fields including Trinmar, marginal fields and small field operators. Additionally, work continued to ensure the downstream demand for gas is met through the development of a programme for continuous sustained exploration of oil and natural gas.

The Natural Gas Reserves Audit for year-ended 2011 was completed, the results of which were presented in August 2012 and the Oil Reserve Audit was initiated on July 23, 2012 and results are expected to be presented in November 2012. The independent validation of hydrocarbon reserves and resources through the conducting of independent audits of the country's energy reserves would result in renewed customer confidence and satisfaction. It is expected that this project would result in an improved investment position for oil and gas through the reassurance of existing energy stakeholders and attraction of new investors.

In addition to the independent validation of the hydrocarbon resources, over the last fiscal year, other activities have been pursued to allow for the continued development and investment into the energy sector. As such, the number of contracts awarded for both the Shallow Water Bid Round and the Deep Water Bid Round were increased.

The validation process also included the quarrying industries. The objective is to prove the available reserves of mineral resources for the quarrying industry, so as to ascertain the national financial security and stability within the industry. This will also allow for continuous resource quantification and allocation of quarry blocks to individuals on a continual basis.

Another critical factor contributing to maintaining macroeconomic stability is to improve operational efficiency of the energy sector through the provision of a framework for the development of our hydrocarbon resources and the establishment of a National Energy Policy (NEP), inclusive of a natural gas utilisation and pricing policy. This will also encourage foreign investment and improve customer satisfaction. The draft Green Paper is currently being finalised by the MEEA and the National Energy Policy Framework was finalised and approved.

Skills transfer and development of a capable workforce are essential to maintaining an efficient energy industry. In this regard, training and capacity building of locals were undertaken to

allow for the transfer of knowledge from expatriates to local employees, ultimately minimizing the need to source foreign labour. During the period April to June 2012, meetings were held with three (3) international companies, 256 work permit applications were processed, training reports were received for 21 understudies and an additional 42 requests for understudy training reports were transmitted to companies. However the efficiency of these agencies can be improved through demand projection studies including power, water and gas.

In order to allow for seamless information sharing generated by the energy sector to relevant stakeholders, ICT continues to be incorporated into the sector. As such, a Geographic Information System (GIS) for the spatial data was completed and input of the critical mass of legacy data into the GIS database commenced. Additionally, the Trinidad and Tobago Upstream Activity Map was completed. As at the third quarter of fiscal 2012, all drilling information received over the period was electronically uploaded.

The MEEA is well advanced in its stated objective of subscribing to international best practice with respect to transparency and accountability for its extractive industries, through the implementation of the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI). Selection of an EITI Administrator firm to conduct the country's first EITI reconciliation report has been completed. Work on the reconciliation report for fiscal year 2011 is projected to commence in the fourth quarter of 2012. Draft EITI enabling legislation and an EITI policy have been completed and are receiving comments from stakeholder agencies. Trinidad and Tobago has been given thirty (30) months, that is, until August of 2013, to complete the requirements for achieving compliance with the EITI and its principles.

In an effort to allow for greater transparency, accountability and elimination of illegal activities across the energy sector, legislative reform has to be undertaken. In this regard, the MEEA has initiated the review, update and implementation of laws, regulations and practices that currently govern the energy sector. Specifically, legislative reform is being conducted with respect to the existing Petroleum Act; Petroleum Production Levy and Subsidy Act; Petroleum Taxes Act and Licences.

Over the last fiscal year, progress was made with respect to legislative reform as follows:

- The Retail Marketing Licence was reviewed and updated and is awaiting approval;
- The Wholesale Marketing Licence was reviewed and updated and is awaiting

approval;

- A draft Transportation (other than by pipeline) Licence was prepared and reviewed incorporating health, safety and the environment standards and the Transportation (other than by pipeline) Licence fee was included in Legal Notice No. 34 of March 5, 2012;
- The Legal Fees on Petroleum Licences were raised with effect from March 05, 2012 – Legal Notice 34 of March 5, 2012;
- The Marketing Licences for retail transactions was completed – Legal Notice No. 34 of March 5, 2012; and
- The Peddling Licence fee was raised – Legal Notice No. 34 of March 5, 2012.

In keeping with the Government's policy of moving up the value chain in energy, proposals were evaluated for the establishment of integrated Methanol to Petrochemicals and Methanol to Olefins projects. This will allow for maximum returns along the full natural gas value chain when the primary product of methanol is utilized further downstream, into the production of second and third derivative products. This also facilitates the creation of spin-off industries in other sectors of the economy, especially the manufacturing sector. A Gas Supply Agreement is currently being negotiated and due diligence on Gas Reserves and Supply-Demand balances was completed and results are under review.

Additionally, efforts to increase the value of energy products are reflected in the ongoing development of a Local Content Database. Through the Permanent Local Content Committee (PLCC), an intermediary between the Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs and local stakeholders for the resolution of local content issues, the MEEA conducted dialogue with both the public and with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment on issues pertaining to local content, international agreements and treaties.

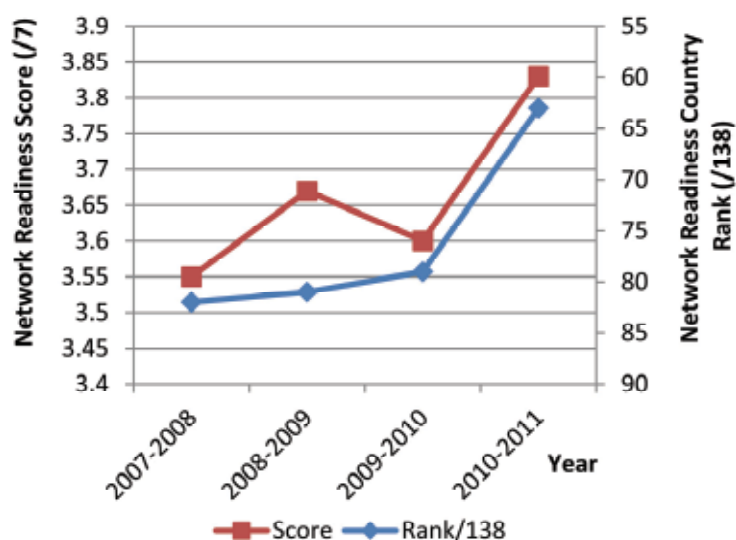
The Government recognises that the crucial element in creating a sustainable economy is to facilitate a diversified platform of production. Also, a diversified economy allows for strengthening of sectors and clusters, marketing different goods and services, developing capacity to create new and innovative products and earning more revenue. The MEEA has contributed significantly to the diversification strategy of the country through diversification within the energy sector and has embarked on the establishment of alternative gas based industries within the Energy Sector. Some of the areas proposed for diversification are LNG expansion, CNG expansion, Pipeline interconnects, further downstream processing of Ammonia, Gas to Petro-Chemicals, Gas to Olefins and Glass manufacture.

CREATE A MODERN AND EFFICIENT ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE BASE

Building and maintaining a robust physical infrastructure is a major thrust of the Government to facilitate the promotion of economic growth in Trinidad and Tobago. The development of an efficient Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Network and development and maintenance of the physical infrastructure system which includes transport, roads and bridges and public utilities in the country are vital.

Information and Communication Technology Network

FIGURE 5.V
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S ICT
NETWORK READINESS RANK AND SCORE



**Source : The Global Information Technology Reports (2007-2011)*

Globally, ICT is a vital component of development and a major lever in improving both productivity levels and competitiveness. In light of this, Trinidad and Tobago has continued its efforts to provide efficient, low-cost ICT to its citizens. In the Networked Readiness Index, Trinidad and Tobago ranked 63 out of 138 with a score of 3.8 in 2010-2011 (Source: Global Information Technology Report, World Economic Forum, 2011). Figure 5.V above shows Trinidad and Tobago's Rank and Score as it

pertains to Information Technology Network Readiness and ICT Development.

From the graph it can be noted that Trinidad and Tobago recorded an improvement in both ICT Network Readiness and ICT Network Score over the period 2007-2011. Out of 138 countries Trinidad and Tobago moved from a rank of 82 in 2007/2008 to a rank of 63 in 2010/2011. IT network readiness also showed a marked improvement from 3.55 in 2007/2008 to 3.83 to 2010/2011. As it relates to ICT development in Trinidad and Tobago, the recorded improvement in IT readiness in the country is a direct result of Government's investment in

infrastructural development and its commitment to increasing the depth and reach of ICT services.

The expansion of the ICT sector as an economic driver and the related network infrastructure for both the public and private sectors will be enhanced with the finalisation of the new National ICT Plan 2012-2016 (*smarTT*) by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

In relation to guiding the direction of and policy formulation for the local telecommunications and broadcasting sector, legislative reform and related research commenced. This is intended to develop a vibrant, high quality and thriving telecommunications and broadcasting sector. Such efforts included:

- Preparation of draft amendments to the Telecommunications Act to address the Telecommunications Sector Competition Portfolio; to allow for a dispute resolution mechanism (the Telecoms Tribunal); and to enable activation of the Universal Service Fund;
- Development of a draft National Broadband Plan with support and input from the World Bank and other agencies; and
- Initiation of research into the size of the telecommunications sector in an effort to provide island-wide customer satisfaction.

In order to fulfil the requirements of the National Universality Policy, which seeks to bridge the digital divide and support the building of an inclusive information society, a Universality Framework for Telecommunications Services was established so all citizens can have access to information and knowledge through ICTs via increased accessibility, service variety, affordability, and widespread availability. The Framework institutes robust regulatory initiatives to facilitate the creation of a knowledge-based economy predicated on widespread access to basic telecommunication services through low-cost, high-quality connections, high computer literacy, comfort in using the Internet, its useful content and innovative Internet applications to create value.

The telephone network, internet services and fibre infrastructure were of primary focus during the fiscal year. The Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT) initiated the process of system upgrade of the broadband and wireless networks to facilitate higher speeds, which included coverage of 25 new zones nationwide.

A milestone success for Trinidad and Tobago was attained with the online administration of the permits and licences, work permits, fiscal incentives, import duty concessions, company registration and certificate of origin electronic service modules of the Single Electronic Window (SEW) by various Government departments, as well as the design, development and testing of, and training for the cargo declaration and manifest declaration modules. The SEW is an integrated information technology trade facilitation platform which serves as a virtual 'one-stop-shop' where private stakeholders and approving Government Agencies can collaborate to process the necessary permits and approvals online. The SEW seeks to improve the international competitiveness of Trinidad and Tobago by improving the trade and business facilitation processes and providing an enabling environment for stakeholders to perform import and export transactions electronically (via www.ttbizlink.gov.tt) in a seamless and efficient manner. The TTBizLinK portal went online in February 2012.

The SEW works in tandem with the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA). The ASYCUDA World platform is being used by the Customs and Excise Division to develop an electronic document management to fully automate its operations and transactions. It is a computerised customs management system which covers most foreign trade procedures and handles manifests and customs declarations, accounting procedures, transit and suspense procedures.

To ensure accountability, transparency and efficiency in operations, a Performance Monitoring System was developed to outline the framework within which the State Enterprises report. Accordingly, the tender process was initiated for acquisition and implementation of an electronic State Agencies Performance Monitoring Information System to be used in the monitoring and performance of the state agencies. This electronic integrated system would provide key stakeholders with real time information and assist with the decision making process. The state enterprise sector comprises 44 wholly owned companies, six (6) majority owned companies, three (3) minority owned companies and 28 companies held directly as subsidiaries.

Roads and Bridges, Drainage and Irrigation

Expansion and rehabilitation of roads and bridges, and improvement in port services and facilities positively impact efficiency of production and distribution through shorter lead times for the transportation of goods and services. A portfolio of road construction and major road rehabilitation projects was undertaken to aid in the reduction of traffic congestion on the

nation's roads and ease mobility of people and products in order to strengthen the economic and social activities of the nation.



Aranjuez/El Socorro Overpass

Significant advances were made under the Port of Spain East/West Corridor Transportation Project. Detailed designs for the final construction package under the Churchill Roosevelt Highway (CRH) / Uriah Butler Highway (UBH) Interchange Project were completed. Construction of two (2) bridges, 62.8 metres span which will support the realigned UBH over the existing CRH, was completed in July 2012. Construction contracts were also awarded for the realignment of the UBH and the CRH together with the associated ramps,

access roads and bridges widening. Preliminary designs, and design and build tender documents for the construction of the overpass at Southern Main Road and the CRH were finalized.

Other key advances included:

- Continuation of the Churchill Roosevelt Highway from Tumpuna Road to Demerra Road; widening of the Diego Martin Main Road north-bound lane from the Western Main Road to Victoria Gardens; and construction of an additional lane on the Churchill Roosevelt Highway west bound;
- Commencement of works on the San Fernando to Point Fortin Highway. Phase 1, from Golconda to Debe and Dumfries Road to Godineau River, was 31% completed and designs for Phases 2 and 3 are in progress. The main objective of this Project is to provide highway network improvement to the south and west of San Fernando and to improve the road access to the communities of La Brea, Point Fortin and Siparia;
- Commencement of work on a Bridges Reconstruction Programme. In March 2012, Phase 1 commenced with the design of 26 structures identified as being in critical need of reconstruction. Also, the preservation and restoration of two (2) iconic structures, the last 2 spring bridges located in Blanchisseuse and Moruga, are to be undertaken; and
- Commencement of work on a Landslip Repair Programme in June 2012 with the award of five (5) design/consultancy contracts for 33 critical landslips.

Designs for two (2) Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS): Red Light Enforcement (RLE) and Average Speed Enforcement (ASE); were finalised. These systems will improve the safety along major highways by capturing and storing information on violations, and will inform the drafting of appropriate legislation. Deployment of the systems is expected to result in speed reduction along highways and ultimately accident reduction.

The Drainage, Irrigation Development and Coastal Management Programme, expected to bring about reduced flooding was embarked upon. Of four (4) proposed Comprehensive National Drainage Development Studies aimed at taking a holistic approach to flood management and coastal erosion, one (1) was completed, two (2) were substantially completed and one (1) being conducted on the Caroni River, commenced.

Under the Flood Mitigation and Erosion Control Programme, coastal zone infrastructure to mitigate erosion and protect the coastal environment is being developed. Improvement works to the Richplain Ravine in Diego Martin, as well as the Honda River are substantially completed. Tender documents for the South East Coastal Protection Cedros/Icacos and Los Iros are currently being prepared, as well as for the Cap de Ville Coastal Protection. Under the Beetham Area Dewatering Project, in-house temporary works were completed and the tender documents are being prepared. The design was completed for the Fairview improvement works and the temporary work is substantially finished. This included the clearing of the main waterway and construction of a retention pond.

Public Utilities

Widening coverage and building proficiency in the delivery of public utilities such as water and electricity contribute to greater access to reliable and cost effective services and is an essential enabler of economic growth. Improvements to our utilities sector continue to be seen through the accomplishments of agencies such as the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC), Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation (TTPost), Government Printery, Electrical Inspectorate Division and the Meteorological Services Division. However the efficiency of these agencies can be improved through demand projection studies including power, water and gas.

One of the major achievements over the last year was reviewing and strengthening the legislative framework of the utilities sector. As such, the TTPost Act was amended to facilitate the Vesting of Properties. In addition, the Regulated Industries Commission is currently

conducting review exercises with respect to the tariff payments for the agencies under the purview of the Ministry of Public Utilities (MPU), which will be followed by public consultations.

The provision of a reliable supply of water, which is deemed safe for consumption and daily activities, has always been a priority by the WASA for the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. Additionally, the proper treatment of sewerage is of utmost importance in ensuring the health and safety of the population. As at July 2012, the following projects were undertaken:

- Replacement of existing pipelines to increase the reliability of water supply and prevent water loss. Of the proposed 46 pipeline replacement projects, two (2) were completed at Coconut Drive and Balmain Road, Couva; 29 are in progress while 15 are in the planning phase;
- Increase in the number of booster stations to 12. One (1) booster station at South Oropouche was completed, another is in progress and ten (10) are in the planning stage;
- Increase in the number of Water Treatment Plant projects to increase the supply of potable water to the consumers. One (1) plant at Penal was completed, eight (8) are underway and 37 are in the planning stage;
- Construction of nine (9) Service Reservoirs. Feasibility studies and designs were completed; and
- Upgrade of wastewater infrastructure. Eleven (11) plants are in the planning stage and two (2) are currently under refurbishment.

Major accomplishments were also made in the electricity sector. This is particularly important as all industrial, business and other activities depend on a constant and efficient supply of electricity, all of which contribute to sustained economic growth. In this regard, T&TEC undertook projects with a view to increasing electricity generation, expanding electrification programmes and strengthening its disaster preparedness capabilities. Infrastructure upgrade to facilitate efficient generation and distribution of bulk power continued at several substations including the Pinto Road 66kV Substation, Gateway 132/33kV Substation, and St. James Substation as well as upgrades to Tower lines and Cable Circuit.

Special emphasis was also given to the National Street Lighting Programme where, for the fiscal year to July 2012, 2,488 new street lights were installed, 201 existing ones were upgraded and 607 new light poles were installed. Additionally, 23 parks and recreation grounds, 32

police stations and eight (8) other public spaces were illuminated. With respect to preparing for recovery of electricity capacity in the event of a disaster, T&TEC procured emergency supplies for approximately 10 % of key public institutions.

An efficient postal service, in addition to promoting national cohesion, provides an essential infrastructure for the expansion of industry and commerce not only for domestic markets but for both regional and international markets. In this regard, TTPost successfully undertook a series of initiatives with the intent of improving their service to the masses. These initiatives included construction and refurbishment of post offices island-wide. As at July 2012, refurbishment works to two (2) facilities were completed at Debe/Penal and La Romaine, and 14 more are at various stages of progress. Additionally, to allow for a more efficient postal system, TTPost embarked on a postal code programme.

The Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service is classified as an essential service by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and plays a vital role in sustainable national and international development by providing Weather Forecasting, including those issued to aviation industries, marine interests and for public/private consumption, in addition to early warning to Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada and its Dependencies.

The Meteorological Service also provides Climate data/information to insurance companies, construction, tourism/hospitality industries, marine exploration, agriculture, water resource sectors and research purposes and contributes to regional and global exchange of data. In this regard to facilitate efficiency in their services, several systems were procured including an Aviation Weather Observing Systems (AWOS), Tidal Gauges and a Polar Orbiting Satellite Receiving System.

Transport

Efficient air, land and sea transportation infrastructure provides us with the platform, necessary for achieving growth and competitiveness. Trinidad and Tobago's Transportation Strategy is informed by a 2006 Transportation Study which covered land, air and sea transport. This Study identifies the requirements for the improvement of transportation nationwide, specific areas targeted for improvement in transportation as well as other factors including roadways for maintenance, safety concerns and traffic management initiatives. However, the additional transport requirements since 2006 signaled the need for more frequently conducted Transportation Studies to ensure relevance to the needs of the population.

Air transportation is vital for trade and attracting business opportunities. In this regard, the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (AATT) embarked on a number of initiatives including the North Aviation Business Park. Phase 1 infrastructure works consisted of the construction of roads, bridges and utility corridors for the acreage of the Airport estate to house the Meteorological Services Office Complex and the Airport Hotel Conference sites. Caribbean Airlines has also expressed interest in developing a state of the art Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility at this location. The development of the infrastructure for these ventures will create opportunities for the development of a Business Park capable of generating a range of private sector investments, and the facilitation of additional economic activity with the potential to generate income and create jobs. Thus far these works have been 55 % completed.

At the ANR Robinson International Airport, the runway 11/29 rehabilitation, air field lighting systems, perimeter road and fence upgrade were completed and the sewage treatment plant was completed and commissioned. Repairs to the roof of the terminal building and the first class lounge and departure hall continued. At the Piarco International Airport, repairs to the perimeter road and fence line were completed. The request for proposals was developed to excavate, install ducts and high and low voltage cabling for the perimeter lighting. A multitask sweeper/de-rubberiser for the maintenance of runway, taxiway and ramp surfaces at the Piarco International Airport was procured.

The security systems (CCTV and Access Control Systems) aim to upgrade the video surveillance system at Piarco International Airport and ANR International Airport to meet the security requirements of the AATT and the National Security Agencies at the Airports. Designs were completed in January 2012 and a contract is to be awarded imminently. There has also been 95 % completion of upgrade of the Airfield Lighting Control and Monitoring System.

The Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago embarked on a number of initiatives to improve the efficiency of the Port operations. There was a 15 % implementation of International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code and the reconstruction of Berths at Caricom Wharves.

With respect to improving customer service, a contract was awarded for the design and construction of an upgraded terminal facility at the Port of Scarborough, to handle cruise and ferry-service passengers.

The establishment of a Vessel Traffic Management Information System allows for the identification and monitoring of ships, strategic planning of vessel movements, provision of navigational information and will assist in the prevention of pollution and coordination of pollution response. Specifications and a cost estimate for the system were developed, as well as potential sites for the operational centre and radar installations were identified.

In the Upgrading and Modernisation of Navigational Aids including lighthouses, buoys, beacons and lights, the National Insurance Property Development Company Limited (NIPDEC) was engaged to provide project and construction management services for the design, construction and rehabilitation of four (4) beacon structures. A beacon tower is typically outfitted with a lantern/lighting fixture which is used by mariners for navigational purposes.

The PTSC will contribute to economic growth through the improvement of their bus service and infrastructure throughout Trinidad and Tobago. In the fiscal year a number of key initiatives were undertaken including:

- Refurbishment works on PTSC compounds in Port of Spain, Administrative Building at King's Wharf in San Fernando, Arima Passenger Facility, and Port of Spain Maxi Taxi Facility; and the Rio Claro Passenger Facility;
- Commencement of upgrade of transit mall facilities at San Juan, Curepe, Tunapuna and Arima, construction of 16 bus shelters in central Trinidad and installation of 12 new bus shelters along the Priority Bus Route;
- Improvements in the operating infrastructure to meet occupational health and safety standards, including installation of emergency exits and fire alarm systems at all facilities;
- Installation of flood control, water recycling and bus washing systems at South Quay, Port of Spain and receipt of proposals for refurbishment of water recycling for Tobago;
- Procurement of 24 new fifteen-seater buses and evaluation of tenders for the purchase of an additional 100 new buses; and
- Acquisition of a Global Positioning /Automatic Vehicle Location System and installation of GPS devices in 425 buses.



PTSC Fleet of Buses

The Vehicle Management Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (VMCOTT) is aggressively pursuing its strategic objectives of becoming the Fleet Management Organisations of choice for the public service. Diversifying its operations and supporting the Governments' initiative of 'going green', VMCOTT collaborated with National Petroleum Marketing Company Limited to widen the CNG service stations network throughout the country. The Beetham Station was designated as the flagship location for the development of this initiative. Thus far, expansion of these facilities at Beetham included the expansion of Workforce Assessment Centre, Trade School and the establishment of a CNG Gas Station which is at the design phase.

Additionally, as VMCOTT expands operation it has become necessary to develop technological infrastructure and a management information system to provide a variety of reports for ease of management with timely and accurate data. The procurement, installation and commissioning of a Financial Management Information System (FMIS) and installation of camera surveillance equipment were advanced.

PROMOTE INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Innovative and entrepreneurial activities are major drivers of competitive and sustainable economic and social advancement in the dynamic, evolving knowledge-based global market. Augmented by strategic alliances and partnerships between public and private sector stakeholders a strengthened support system will be provided to facilitate innovation as well as serve as a catalyst for entrepreneurial activity, economic growth and competitive advantage.

Over the medium term, Trinidad and Tobago has increased emphasis on economic growth, job creation, innovation, entrepreneurship and diversification, through the exploitation of these and additional opportunities, with a view towards attaining a resilient, competitive, stable and sustainable economy.

On the Global Innovation Index (GII) Trinidad and Tobago ranked 81 out of 141 with a score of 32.5.

TABLE 5.III
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX RANKINGS

Global Innovation Index		
	Rank / 141	Score / 0-100
Global Innovation Index Rankings	81	32.5
Innovation Output Sub- Index	84	26.0
Innovation Input Sub - Index	74	39.0
Innovation Efficiency Index	97	0.7
Pillars		
Institutions	66	56.8
Human Capital and Research	63	37.1
Infrastructure	104	24.8
Market Sophistication	67	39.0
Business Sophistication	79	37.1
Knowledge and Technology Outputs	98	21.5
Creative Outputs	74	30.4

**Source: INSEAD, Global Innovation Index 2012 Report*

Work commenced on the development by the EDB of a draft National Innovation Policy for the operationalization of the National Innovation System of Trinidad and Tobago, which would foster innovation as a key driver toward creating a diversified knowledge based economy, and increasing and sustaining global competitiveness.

Through the Ideas to Innovation Competition, the Council on Competitiveness and Innovation (CCI) provided an opportunity for persons to submit new ideas for innovation, and display the creativity, potential and ingenuity of citizens to conceive inventions and innovations. Fifty (50) inventors were awarded small grants which will be further developed through the support of Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI).

A workshop on innovation was held recently involving institutions such as EDB, CCI and CARIRI to deepen the understanding of national requirements for innovation in collaboration with a South African institution dedicated to the specific area of study.

NIHERST has been engaged in a number of initiatives geared towards innovation. These included the re-launching of the Prime Minister's Awards for Innovation and Invention and

the introduction of new competition in technological innovation. As part of the promotional campaign for the Launch, advertisements for television, radio and press were prepared, as well as signage and promotional stationery. Discussions were also held with the National Institute of Science Technology and Development Studies in India on the conduct of joint studies on research and development, competitiveness and innovation.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were advanced to improve efficiency, competitiveness and performance; facilitate implementation of international best practices and certification in international standards; reduce the risks of trade barriers; and increase regional and international recognition. The Business Development Company (BDC), together with the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS), finalized details for the third tranche of the Quality and Environment Management System (QEMS) Programme designed to help SMEs overcome challenges such as nonconformity of standards, lack of quality awareness and methods to improve the quality of goods, services and savings through greater operational efficiency and energy conservation.

The BDC continued implementation of an ISO 9001 Quality Management System. Implementation of the Safe to Work in Trinidad and Tobago (STOW-TT), a certification programme for contractors' health, safety and environmental management systems, was implemented for one business and planned implementation of three additional businesses. Twelve (12) companies participated in an export planning training programme under the Development of Sustainable Exports to the European Union project aimed at developing packaging and labelling requirements for the French markets.

The Government has invested in a programme to foster the development of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) and an entrepreneurial culture while improving their access to business opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago. In 2011, the National Business Incubation Policy was approved and the National Integrated Business Incubator System (IBIS) was established. IBIS, which was launched in October 2011, is designed to provide MSEs with the necessary training, physical infrastructure, financing (both seed capital and equipment financing), operational support and networking to develop them into sustainable and competitive businesses. There are two categories of Incubators: Commercial Incubators (CIs) and Community-Based Business Incubators (CBBIs); with the process comprising three phases: pre-incubation, incubation and post-incubation.

The CIs will provide opportunities for existing MSEs to develop high value, high growth businesses as an impetus for national economic transformation using the public-private partnership model. This approach fosters partnering with private sector entities and non-governmental organizations for the creation of business opportunities. The first of this type of incubator was launched in May 2012. Two (2) other proposals are currently being evaluated.

The CBBIs facilitate the building of a sound institutional framework for greater efficiency of entrepreneurial activities at the community level. Based on the findings of an in-house Feasibility Study for CBBIs conducted in 2011, it was determined that start-up and new businesses particularly in vulnerable communities and communities highly susceptible to poverty, unemployment and underemployment should be the primary focus of this initiative. The first two communities to benefit from the IBIS Programme were Sangre Grande and Siparia. Forty (40) applicants participated in the pre-incubator phase of the programme in these two communities: 24 from Sangre Grande and 16 from Siparia. Incubators in these areas are expected to be operational in the first quarter of fiscal year 2013.

A two (2) year plan for the Fair Share Programme was finalized and approved. This Fair Share Programme will assist persons in showcasing their goods and services to the Public Sector by allowing persons the opportunity to engage in business with Governmental agencies. During the period October 2011 – June 2012, eight (8) information sessions were conducted for all Ministries and to date, ten (10) of the 21 attending Ministries have appointed liaison officers to work with the Fair Share Programme. Over 200 Fair Share Programme applications were received from the public.



Launch of the International Year of Co-Operatives 2012

Over the last fiscal year, the development and promotion of cooperatives as vehicles for socio-economic development continued. The Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development (MLSMED) launched a programme which is expected to bring about wealth creation and reduce poverty. In light of this effort, International Year of Co-operatives (IYC) 2012 was officially launched in November 2011 and a draft Agricultural Business Model was developed after consultations with agricultural co-

operatives. An essay competition was also held and modules were designed for the promotion of junior co-operatives in all primary and secondary schools. Visits to schools are being conducted.

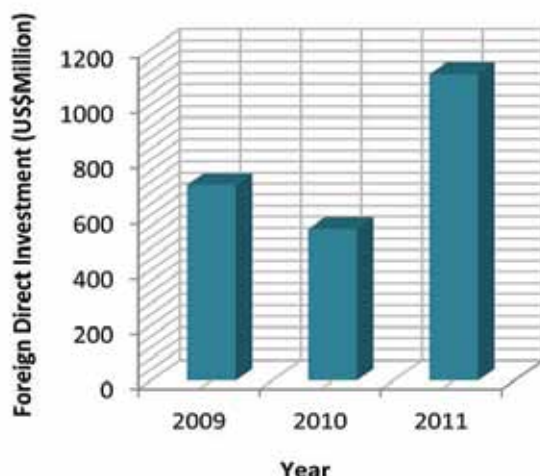
The first in a series of Distinguished Lectures was held at the CLR James Auditorium of the Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies in April 2012 based on the theme 'Rebuilding Economies: Strengthening Credit Unions for this Responsibility'. Additionally, a five-day exposition was held by the MLSMED in July 2012 under the banner of 'MLSMED Connex 2012' which provided opportunities for co-operatives and micro and small enterprises to showcase their products.

In this same vein, draft Prudential Standards for Non-Financial Co-operatives were developed and consultations held with Non-Financial Co-operatives across Trinidad and Tobago. Also, three (3) Start and Improve Your Co-operative (SIYC) Modules were developed and were reviewed by an expert sourced through the International Labour Organisations (ILO).

INCREASE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC INVESTMENT

Strengthening of existing trade relations coupled with the creation of new trade relationships will create new markets and greater access for Trinidad and Tobago's goods and services globally. Additionally, a trade policy will delineate a clear path for Trinidad and Tobago's engagement in trade issues at the regional, hemispheric and multilateral levels. The Government has encouraged export expansion through a national export strategy and trade financing to exporters while foreign investment has been facilitated through increased trade and investment missions and investment promotion initiatives.

FIGURE 5.VI
FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT
FOR THE PERIOD 2009-2011



* Source: Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago
– Economic Bulletin 2012

In 2011 there was a significant increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the country as compared to the 2010 FDI contribution. This trend shows a positive correlation with efforts to increase foreign investment in the country.

A combination of broad-based incentives and more recently sector specific measures, including in the creative, cultural, fashion, music and film industries, continued to be developed and implemented to improve the investment climate to attract higher

value foreign and domestic investments, particularly in relation to downstream energy and the non-energy sectors.

The Investment Policy of Trinidad and Tobago 2012-2016 which prescribes the legislative changes to modernise the institutional and regulatory framework for foreign and domestic investment progressed to the White Paper stage. The Policy seeks to identify the factors that will make Trinidad and Tobago's environment more favourable to potential and existing investors; identify challenges to investment promotion and recommend strategies to targeted investors.

Government undertook the rationalisation and streamlining of investment agencies to better attract new investment into the economy. A new structure for investment policy making and implementation of investment promotion and execution for Trinidad and Tobago was recently approved. The new arrangement will see the Economic Development Board (EDB) being responsible for advising Government on new areas of business development for the non-energy sector, the development of new economic spaces (five (5) Growth Poles) and the investment policy. The Council for Competitiveness and Innovation (CCI) will advise on investment climate reform, promote industry competitiveness and export growth. InvesTT, as the national investment promotion agency, will now implement Government's investment policy and act as the national 'shop window' and point of access for potential investors. The National Energy Corporation (NEC), the Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre Management Company Limited (TTIFC) and the TDC will focus on the development of the energy, financial services and tourism sectors respectively.

Investor targeting was also practised over the period whereby strategic activities that promoted Trinidad and Tobago were undertaken. eTeck participated in Japan and Korea trade missions in November, attended the Trade Show in India and the Caribbean Investment Forum, participated in the Trade and Investment Convention and the launch of UNCTAD World Investment Report 2012.

In the area of investment marketing and public relations a number of new initiatives were undertaken including the; listing of local companies with foreign ownership; upgrade of the InvestTT website; completion of a DVD depicting Trinidad and Tobago as the ideal place for business; attendance of promotional conferences in December; completion of the planning stage for the investment portal; completion of advertorials and editorials for two (2) workshops and two (2) foreign newspapers; and advertising on Caribbean Beat Magazine.

An International Brand and Marketing Strategy was implemented to create an integrated approach to investment promotion to market Trinidad and Tobago to increase investment opportunities. The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment (MTII) led the negotiations for an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA) with Guatemala. Following three (3) rounds of negotiations, agreement was reached in the final round in August 2012 on the textual proposal. Also, the MTII, in partnership with InvesTT, hosted the second annual Caribbean Investment Forum in May 2012. The TIC generally benefits the country as it is an avenue to promote opportunities for business and investment in the non-energy sectors.

In collaboration with the People's Republic of China, Trinidad and Tobago hosted the third China-Caribbean Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum in September 2011. The event was designed to enhance economic exchange and develop cooperation between China and the Caribbean region. Also, the MTII in partnership with InvesTT hosted the second Annual Caribbean Investment Forum (CIF) in May 2012. The main objective underpinning this initiative was to build relationships among various business stakeholders and attract investment into the country.

In November 2011, the World Bank Group conducted a ten-day assessment mission with senior public officials and private sector executives in Port-of-Spain, Scarborough and key industrial sites, to review relevant written and on-line documentation for promoting a marketing strategy for Trinidad and Tobago. The Report will serve as the implementation plan for Investment Promotion and Special Economic Zones for which the MTII will have part responsibility.

The TDC continued to promote Trinidad and Tobago's cultural diversity making the country a first choice destination for regional and international visitors. Expanded markets have been realised in Scandanavia, UK and Canada.

SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

An improvement in the business environment constitutes a reduction in the time and cost to establish and operate a business and it facilitates greater ease of conducting business. In addition to the requisite physical infrastructure and information and communications technology, Government has placed focus on creating an enabling environment to facilitate increased local and foreign investment.

Efforts have also been focused on strengthening competitiveness, enhancing productivity and attracting foreign investors with a view to fuelling economic growth and job creation.

According to the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index, out of a total 185 surveyed economies, Trinidad and Tobago improved in ranking from 76 in 2011 to 69 in 2013. The table below refers.

TABLE 5.IV
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S DOING BUSINESS RANKING FOR 2008-2013

Trinidad and Tobago Doing Business Ranking

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Rank	71	80	81	76	70	69

**Source Doing Business Report 2013*

Initiatives for the modernisation of the trade and business facilitation architecture in Trinidad and Tobago, aimed at reducing the cost and enhancing the efficiency of doing business locally, were pursued. In 2012, the country was ranked 74 amongst 142 nations in the sub pillar: starting a business with a duration of 43 days. Trinidad and Tobago is seeking to improve its performance in the Global Competitiveness Index and the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index sub pillar: reduce the number of days for starting a business to ten (10) days by 2013 and five (5) days by 2015 through the full implementation and operationalisation of 11 modules of the SEW.

BOX 5.IV

THE GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS INDEX 2012 – 2013 FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report revealed that Trinidad and Tobago moved from a rank of 81 out of 142 countries on the Global Competitiveness Index in 2011-2012 to 84 out of 144 countries in 2012-2013. Particularly, Trinidad and Tobago's macroeconomic environment was ranked 19 with a score of 6 out of 7. Trinidad and Tobago's performance is generally consistent with economies in transition from the efficiency driven to innovation driven stage of development

	2012 – 2013	
	Rank / 142	Score (1-7)
Overall Index	84	4.01
Sub – Indexes		
Basic Requirements	41	4.95
Efficiency Enhancers	83	3.85
Innovation & Sophistication Factors	89	3.33

- The basic requirements sub- index includes those pillars most critical for countries in the factor-driven stage such as institutions, infrastructure, macroeconomic environment, health & primary education.
- The efficiency enhancers sub-index includes those pillars critical for countries in the efficiency-driven stage and includes higher education and training; goods market efficiency, labour market efficiency, financial market development, technological readiness & market size.
- The innovation and sophistication factors sub-index includes the pillars critical to countries in the innovation-driven stage such as business sophistication.



**Source: World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2012-2013*

As Trinidad and Tobago seeks to create an enabling environment to facilitate the growth and development of business, trade and investment, a National Trade Policy is currently being developed. In order to adequately develop our Trade and Investment Sector, several policies are being developed and revised. These include:

- An Industrial Policy which will facilitate a fair, transparent and efficient business environment. The Policy will focus on six (6) of the seven (7) strategic business clusters identified for economic diversification;
- The Used Car Policy which was approved and implemented at the end of 2011, aimed at regulating the used car industry. The MTII is scheduled to hold discussions with CARICOM on the importation of used tyres.

In March 2012, the Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (FIU), under the Ministry of Finance and the Economy (MOFE), in collaboration with the British High Commission and the Government of Canada, hosted a week of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) training. Its overall objectives were to educate and enhance the practitioner's knowledge and skill in the rudiments of AML/CFT, as well as guide the classification of sensitive material relating to public interest. Topics covered during the course included Case Management, Recording and Evaluation of Intelligence, Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing.

The Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) facilitates competitiveness and sustainability of local businesses through development and promotion of quality and standards in all aspects of the national economy. In fiscal year 2012, the Bureau developed and implemented 19 standards, as well as established a National Building Code Committee and commenced discussions for the development of a National Building Code including codes for structures, mechanical, occupancy and fire safety, and small buildings, as well as the revision of the National Plumbing and Electrical Wiring Codes.

The TTBS also conducted stakeholder consultations and continued sensitisation sessions in preparation for the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) through the implementation of National Quality Policy (NQP) project.

The tourism sector is another avenue through which the business environment of the country can be capitalised and expanded. There have been initiatives to enable this sector to become ideal for investment and business ventures. These initiatives include:

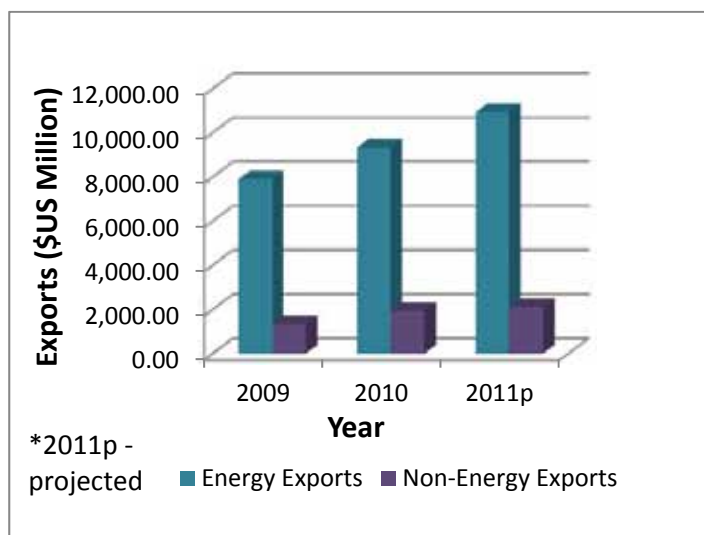
- Establishing relevant sectoral partnerships;
- Engaging in educational and public awareness programmes through media and public exhibitions; and
- Conducting continuous research and monitoring of air transportation, the environment, climate change, product development, market activity, competitors, visitor arrivals and other key factors affecting the industry through the use of public surveys.

Government is moving towards the establishment of a Social Dialogue Process in Trinidad and Tobago as a mechanism for promoting good governance, resolving important economic and social issues, building consensus on social and economic issues and advancing social and

economic prosperity and sustainability. In January 2012, an initiative towards developing a Social Dialogue Process commenced. This initiative includes the establishment of a Task Force comprising representatives of Government, business, trade unions and civil society, to serve as the technical arm of the Social Partnership arrangements responsible for its conceptualisation and operationalization. Additionally, the International Labour Organisation Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean provided technical support for workshops hosted on Green Jobs and Green Business, Labour Market Information Systems and Social Dialogue.

STRATEGICALLY MANAGE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

FIGURE 5.VII
ENERGY EXPORTS AND NON – ENERGY EXPORTS FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



**Source Central Bank Balance of Payments Report 2011*

Government is giving priority to the development of a more focused and coordinated approach to the management of international economic relations and the development and expansion of trade relations towards economic diversification. Additionally, improved economic relations will facilitate increased market opportunity allowing for greater trade and export. This in turn would facilitate increased revenue and economic growth through exports.

The MTII continued to pursue opportunities to expand existing markets and secure new markets for non-energy exports through negotiation of trade agreements, conduct of trade missions and development and integration of related policies. The Ministry's initiatives are expected to encourage investment and increase exports by providing stable, predictable and transparent access advantage to overseas markets.

Consistent with the pursuit of a more aggressive trade strategy with Central and South America, and to create greater market access with the Republic of Panama, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the MTII negotiated a Partial Scope Trade Agreement

(PSTA) with Panama which provided for reductions of tariffs in approximately 250 tariff lines with respect to goods traded between the two (2) countries. The Government also signed a Memorandum of Understanding Establishing Cooperation in the Energy Sector with the Panamanian Government which will see the export of propane, bitumen, natural gas, cement, ceramic and clay tiles, steel products and other goods to Panama under preferential tariff arrangements. In addition, in April 2012 preparations began for the commencement of negotiations with the Government of Guatemala with a view to concluding a Partial Scope Agreement. Negotiations are now at a very advanced stage and should culminate in an agreement in short time.

Additionally, Government engaged in several strategic initiatives to increase investments in the non-energy sector. These initiatives included:

- The negotiation of a new fishing agreement with Venezuela to be completed in 2013;
- Increased involvement in joint oil and gas exploration efforts with Venezuela; and
- The conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with India on mutual investment and trade in textiles.

Critical to creating new partnerships for encouraging new trade and investment partnerships, Government sought to enhance global visibility and facilitate market penetration for local business participation through trade missions. Several strategic trade missions were conducted to Panama and El Salvador in October 2011 to gather market information including the ease of gaining market access, the level of technology used in production and presence of trade barriers.

Creating new trade agreements and maintaining existing ones are a vital component for the facilitation of trade and economic growth. Securing our borders, land and ocean is imperative for creating an ideal, safe and secure business environment to attract foreign direct investment. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) engaged in a major initiative to regulate the small arms trade within the CARICOM region. The Ministry will host a Conference in Trinidad and Tobago in collaboration with the Government of Australia, to inform CARICOM members of the role and importance of the Small Arms Treaty. Additionally, the MFA will attend preparatory meetings on the negotiations leading up to the Arms Trade Treaty Conference in November 2012.

Trinidad and Tobago is seeking a 10 % increase in market penetration in CARICOM markets for its goods by 2015 and targets a 5 % increase by 2013. To achieve this Government continued to monitor various cooperation initiatives with CARICOM, and facilitated access to funding, technical cooperation and assistance available. Trinidad and Tobago proposes to engage in high-level bilateral discussions with selected leaders in September of this year towards strengthening its diplomatic position with international organisations. In this regard, the MFA participated in the Commonwealth meetings and the 65th United Nations General Assembly and for the series of other meetings was held in September 2012 in New York.

The CARIFORUM (Forum of the Caribbean Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States) - European Community (EC) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Bill, 2011 was finalized and laid in Parliament. The impending CARIFORUM-EC EPA Act will give effect to the EPA signed in October 2008 which provides a new permanent arrangement for trading services, for example, cultural and entertainment service. The EPA also supports a favourable investment climate; ensures a predictable and permanent trading arrangement for exports of primary and manufactured goods; sets a foundation for negotiations in new trade areas including competition policy, public procurement and intellectual property; and facilitates development through cooperation, including financing of €165 million under the 10th European Development Fund 2008-2013 for the CARIFORUM Region.

During the last fiscal year, the Government embarked on major venture to secure Trinidad and Tobago's position internationally through the finalisation of the Cross Border Treaty between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. This Treaty would allow us to leverage our resources and build partnerships to influence the direction of decision-making in the global gas business for the benefit of Trinidad and Tobago. Additionally, this Treaty is expected to provide greater technical and economic cooperation between Trinidad and Venezuela and initiate the process of production from cross border fields.

POVERTY REDUCTION & HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

POVERTY REDUCTION AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

*Access to
Adequate and
Affordable
Housing*

*Self-Reliant
and Sustainable
Communities*

*An Efficient
and Effective
Social System
for the Poor
and Vulnerable*

Reducing the incidence of poverty in Trinidad and Tobago remains a priority for the Government. To achieve this requires effective social transformation through the creation of conditions which will engender greater equity and inclusiveness in the society. This can be accomplished with expanded opportunities for wealth generation and accumulation; and participation in the national development process for each individual, community and region in the country, while also building the knowledge and talent of our human resources.

Building a poverty-free society is possible with the improvement and sustenance of quality living conditions of individuals, families, communities and society through prudent investment in, and effective use of human, physical, institutional and productive resources, while fostering social and economic integration nationally and internationally.

The thrust of the poverty reduction programme for Trinidad and Tobago is rooted in a programme of social transformation which involves not only changing values and attitudes but undertaking strategic reform measures within the social sector such as:

- Restructuring of the economy to provide meaningful income-generating opportunities for sections of the population that have traditionally operated on the margins of the economy;
- Increased access to adequate and affordable housing;
- Empowerment of the poor and targeting the most vulnerable groups in society for social support with direct impact on a family by family basis;
- Strengthening social capital at the community level; and
- Building our human capital through education, training and skills building.

TABLE 6.I
CURRENT PROGRESS OF PRIORITY TARGETS FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

PRIORITY AREA	TARGETS TO 2015	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	BASELINE 2010	ACTUAL 2012
POVERTY REDUCTION	Reduce Poverty (Target: 2% per year to 2015)	% population living in poverty (below the poverty line)	18.9% (2009)	14.8%
	Reduce the Gini coefficient (Target: 0.39 to 0.21 by 2015)	Gini Coefficient	0.39	0.39
	Improve HDI Ranking (Target: By 15 points by 2015)	HDI Ranking	T&T ranked 59 out of 169 countries (2010)	Trinidad and Tobago ranked at 62 out of 187 nations (2011)

Trinidad and Tobago understands the importance of providing accurate and timely data to measure progress towards targets and to assess goals. As such, efforts are being made to encourage and strengthen the collection of quality data related to the poverty gap and the progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This will allow for a more comprehensive assessment of progress towards the attainment of Poverty Reduction goals.

Creating a sense of belonging and ensuring that the minimum needs of the population are met allow individuals to aspire to higher levels of self-actualisation. In this respect, social

safety net programmes for the poor and vulnerable must be designed and structured using a developmental approach, better targeting, and with clear exit strategies. Significant interventions should include the reduction of regional disparities by investing in basic infrastructure, including housing and amenities and opportunities for investment that create an environment for sustainable communities. In addition, the mainstreaming of gender into development planning is fundamental to allow more women to effectively participate in economic activities and raise their families out of the poverty cycle.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the groups identified as most vulnerable to poverty are:

- Persons with low levels of education;
- The unemployed, underemployed, unskilled and semiskilled workers;
- Single parent households;
- Female headed households;
- The elderly; and
- The differently-abled.

PROVIDE MEANINGFUL INCOME-GENERATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION THAT HAVE TRADITIONALLY OPERATED ON THE MARGINS OF THE ECONOMY

Supporting diversification, encouraging entrepreneurship and investment in small and micro enterprises, as well as community-based businesses, while simultaneously investing in capital infrastructure are some of the key elements of Government's strategy to restructure the economy. These elements can be achieved through initiatives such as the Micro Enterprise Self Help Programme, Export Centres Company Limited and the Refurbishment of Civic Centres and Complexes and the Boardwalk facility.

To encourage economic activities in targeted communities such as squatter settlements and low income communities, a micro enterprise project proposal was developed through the Self-Help Programme which resulted in the introduction of 25 different types of economic activities within squatter settlements.

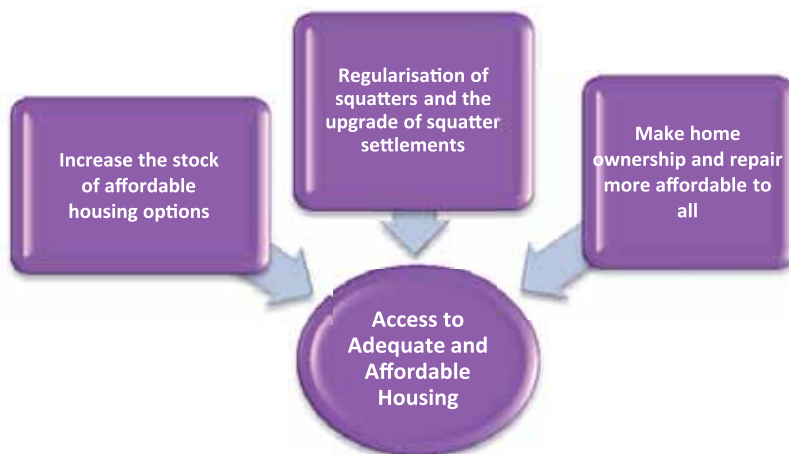
In order to increase employment and earning potential of citizens as well as generate foreign revenue for the country, Export Centres functioned as venues for training programmes and export businesses. In fiscal 2012, these Centres provided more than 375 low-skilled, and

poor and vulnerable young persons between the ages of seven (7) and twenty (20) with the opportunity to gain skills in wood burning, balloon craft, tie-dye, basketry, jewellery and confectionery. The Government also continued its drive to refurbish and upgrade Centres throughout the country which included Fyzabad, Palo Seco, Mausica, Diego Martin, Piarco, Tunapuna and Bon Air Centres. Efforts were also undertaken to refurbish and upgrade the Civic Centres and Complexes which support lifelong learning, skills building and institutional strengthening in communities.

In addition, the Government continued to encourage entrepreneurial initiatives for commercial opportunities through the creation of the Boardwalk which provides a platform for tourism development as well as serves in producing an enabling environment for growth and expansion of businesses. In this regard, seven (7) Business booths were created for entrepreneurs along the Boardwalk.

INCREASE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

FIGURE 6.1
STRATEGIES TO INCREASE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE
AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING



A significant contributor to poverty is the conditions under which a person in society lives. These conditions impact the outcome of a person's life, for example, health, educational levels, employment opportunities and role in society. The Government is aware of this phenomenon and has provided access to

improved living conditions and increased access to adequate and affordable housing through a number of programmes and projects, particularly for the poor and vulnerable.

Increase the Housing Option Stock

BOX 6.I **SERVICED LOTS**

- Las Lomas
- Guayaguayare
- Moruga
- Gran Couva
- Freeport
- Golconda
- Penal
- Valencia
- Cocorite
- Point Fortin

The Ministry of Housing, Land and Marine Affairs, through initiatives such as the Land for the Landless Programme and the Accelerated High Density Housing Programme, sought to increase the number of low and middle income housing options available for rent or purchase through the Housing Development Corporation (HDC). In fiscal year 2012, there was an increase in the number of houses constructed and ready for occupation as well as opportunities for low and middle income families to purchase residential lots for the construction of homes.

Forty two (42) major housing projects on 52 sites yielded a total of 1,165 new housing units that are ready for occupation, bringing the total housing stock up to approximately 26,000 units. New housing projects in five (5) areas are expected to increase the access to affordable housing by producing an additional 9,480 housing units over the next five (5) years. This will increase the housing stock to approximately 35,000 for low and middle income groups.

In addition to the provision of housing for low income families, land was provided for those families who are able to construct their own homes but are unable to acquire affordably priced land. In July 2012, approval was granted for the Land for the Landless Programme which allows persons to purchase residential lots, particularly low income families and potential first-time land owners. In the fiscal year 2012 work commenced on several sites to develop serviced lots. Additional provisions will be made for persons earning below three thousand dollars (\$3,000) monthly to purchase starter homes, comprising of a lot of land, a foundation and sanitary infrastructure.

Collectively, these initiatives will increase the ability of the poor and vulnerable to attain improved living conditions so that they are able to change their circumstances.

BOX 6.II **HOUSING SETTLEMENT AREAS**

- Carlsen Field
- Corinth
- Valsayn
- Fort George
- Princes Town
- Moruga
- La Brea
- Point Fortin
- Malabar
- Rio Caro
- Tarouba
- Bon Air
- Couva North
- Chaguanas
- Pineapple Smith Land
- Trestrail Land

Making Home Ownership and Repair More Affordable

Financial support in the form of a reduction in the mortgage rates, and disbursement of a number of subsidies and grants are primary strategies geared towards making home ownership or home repair more affordable for the low and middle income families.

FIGURE 6.II
REDUCED MORTGAGE RATES



The Ministry of Housing, Land and Marine Affairs over the last fiscal year has been actively engaged in discussions with the Ministry of Finance and the Economy to facilitate the process, whereby prospective home owners will be able to access mortgages at reduced rates from any of the financial institutions to purchase HDC homes. The proposal is that the mortgage rates be reduced from six (6) % and eight (8) % to five (5) % and seven (7) % respectively.

The provision of subsidies to assist with construction costs is one of the components of the Neighbourhood

Upgrading Programme that makes the construction of new homes more affordable to low and middle income families. Bills of quantities have been developed for this component of the Programme for five (5) housing models that can be constructed within the loan ceiling price of two hundred thousand dollars in Trinidad and two hundred and twenty thousand dollars in Tobago. Fifty seven (57) subsidies have been expended since disbursement commenced in May 2012.

BOX 6.III HOME GRANTS

	Disbursement
Home Improvement Grants	140
Emergency Grants	121
Home Improvement Subsidies	901
Total	1,162

The Home Improvement and Emergency Grants and Subsidies provided low and middle income families with financial assistance to make critical repairs to their homes after natural disasters, or to low income families for the repair or completion of construction of their homes. For fiscal 2012, a total of 1,162 home improvement

subsidies, home improvement grants and emergency grants were disbursed.

Upgrade squatter settlements and regularise squatters

One of the priorities to which Government remains committed is the improvement of the conditions within squatter settlements. Regularisation and upgrade of squatter settlements and communities with basic utilities and infrastructure and the relocation of families to safer communities is essential to improving living standards, and allowing them to be elevated from the cycle of poverty.

Through the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Committee (SILWC) Programme, utilities and infrastructure within the communities of Picton, Orange Field and Tarouba housing developments were developed, upgraded and maintained in areas that were in disrepair. The works at the Orange Field settlement are expected to benefit a total of 37 residential lots and five (5) community purpose lots, while at least 50 of the families in the Tarouba settlement are expected to see an improvement in their living conditions, as a result of the upgrades.

FIGURE 6.III
CONSTRUCTION WORKS COMPLETED IN PICTON,
ORANGE FIELD AND TAROUBA

Picton	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completion of drainage systems• Completion of road networks
Orange Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Road networks 96% completed• Water and sewage systems under construction
Tarouba	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Road networks being completed• Drainage systems being completed• Sewage systems being completed

BOX 6.IV

SQUATTER SETTLEMENTS TO BE RELOCATED

- Aripo Savannas
- Damarie Hill Valencia
- Long Stretch Valencia
- Train Line Corinth
- Train Line Marabella
- Bangladesh St. Joseph

Efforts are also being made to relocate squatters who do not fall within the ambit of the SILWC Programme, but live in areas that are less than acceptable for housing settlements.

To ensure that all squatting communities benefit from the upgrade and relocation efforts, site profiling exercises of all squatter settlements were conducted throughout the country. To date, a total of 326 squatter settlements have been mapped by the Land Settlement Agency (LSA), and a

total of 30,035 residential structures were identified for mapping. Additionally, over the last

two (2) years, a total of 1,200 certificates of comfort were issued to squatters in communities across Trinidad and Tobago. These certificates offered recipients the stability necessary to improve their lives and become independent, productive members of society.

A review of the State Lands Act No. 32 of 1918 was conducted, and recommendations for its amendment were developed. The introduction of containment provisions in the State Lands (Regularization of Tenure) Act No. 25 of 1908 was completed during the fiscal year.

EMPOWER THE POOR AND TARGET THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS IN SOCIETY

Central to the approach of addressing the prevention of poverty is empowering the poor and targeting the most vulnerable groups in society through early intervention strategies that would break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. Several social services programmes were instituted by various Ministries to provide the poor and vulnerable with financial assistance in the form of welfare grants and subsidies to allow them, in the interim, to improve their standard of living, while other programmes provided training and counselling to allow them, in the long term, to improve their skills level. These programmes assist individuals to be more competitive in the job market and eventually graduate out of poverty.

BOX 6.V NSDP ASSISTANCE

NSDP Assistance	Total
House wiring grants	756
Material assistance for house wiring	138
Sanitary plumbing assistance	166
Utilities assistance	348
Total	1,408

Social Assistance

Through the National Social Development Programme (NSDP), citizens with low incomes were able to access financial assistance for house wiring, sanitary plumbing assistance and utilities assistance.

The Government continued to enhance and provide maintenance works on HDC apartment complexes through the Colour-me-Orange Programme. This Programme also provided seasonal employment opportunities for the persons living in the targeted communities. During fiscal year 2012, 2,500 persons were employed to undertake maintenance, landscaping and

environmental clean-up works on the HDC compounds and buildings at Beetham, Laventille, Morvant, Maloney and San Fernando.

Efforts to empower the poor and vulnerable members of society included the proposed establishment of three (3) new safe houses for victims of domestic violence and two (2) new transition homes for children who grew up in orphanages. These safe homes are intended to allow victims the opportunity to re-establish themselves in society by offering them the protection and counselling needed to cope with the after effects of the abuse. The transition homes aim to enable children who grew up in orphanages to make the transition from being dependent on the state for their survival to becoming individuals who can maintain an acceptable standard of living.

BOX 6.VI

60

Boys enrolled at the
Resource Centre
for Men and Boys

Agreements were entered into with National Insurance Property Development Company Limited (NIPDEC) to begin the construction of both the safe houses and transition homes.

Initiatives to empower men to become more productive members of their families and communities and to empower women to actively participate in the job market and engage in economic activities included the Defining Masculine Excellence

Programme and the Resource Centre for Men and Boys. These initiatives provided training and counselling to adolescent and adult males in society, particularly those in 'at risk' communities, to acquire the tools and skills necessary to develop self-esteem and positive

attitudes to become role models and leaders in their communities and in society.

BOX 6.VII

DEFINING MASCULINE
EXCELLENCE
PROGRAMME

- 35 men graduated from Macoya
- 39 men graduated from San Fernando
- 40 boys graduated from Persto Praesto

In fiscal 2012, the Defining Masculine Excellence Programme was conducted in Macoya, San Fernando and at the Persto Praesto youth camp where 114 men benefitted from the programme, while the Resource Centre for Men and Boys enrolled 60 boys.

Through programmes such as the Women in Harmony and the Non-Traditional Skills Training, women, particularly low income earners and those with limited or no skills, were provided with the tools and skills set necessary for social and economic empowerment.

These Programmes increased the opportunities for women by offering them training in the areas of agriculture and elderly care, as well as in areas that women do not traditionally participate.

BOX 6.VIII

FEMALE TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Programme

Women in Harmony	320
Non-Traditional Skills Training Programme for Women	190
Total	510

In order to encourage and empower young adults to become productive members of society and enter into the agricultural sector, the Ministry of Agriculture's Youth Apprenticeship Programme provided training in farming techniques and an opportunity to pursue farming as a career. During fiscal year 2012, 615 trainees graduated from YAPA Phase I, and 57 trainees enrolled for YAPA Phase II.

Other initiatives such as the Direct Impact and Direct Outreach Programmes provided the opportunity for the range and mix of services offered to be tailored to suit persons most in need. Direct impact and outreach initiatives took key personnel and services from the Ministry of the People and Social Development straight to the heart of communities where they conducted assessments, and allowed citizens to apply for services on-the-spot. Such outreach activities, allow the Ministry to acquire information about the extent of poverty in an area and craft the services necessary to address it.

During the fiscal year 2012, the Women in Harmony Programme was conducted in 11 centres across the country and the Non-Traditional Skills Training Programme trained women in 13 non-traditional disciplines, as well as provided them with a one (1) month On-The-Job Training (OJT) after completion.

BOX 6.IX

DIRECT EFFECT INITIATIVES

- Sea Lots (Two Occasions),
- Bagatelle/Diego Martin,
- Maloney,
- Beetham Estate,
- Port of Spain South Constituency – John John, Laventille – Cottage Meetings
- Caroni
- Central Constituency – Carlsen Field and Cashew Gardens, Couva, Edinburgh 500
- South Constituency – Windsor Park, Rivulet Road, Calcutta Settlement, Dow Village, Rivulet Road, Indian Trail, Basta Hall Village, Beaucarro Village, Uquire Road, Milton Village and Mc Bean, Moruga/Tableland, Barrackpore

The Government also continued to provide financial assistance/grants to vulnerable groups such as the aged and the differently-abled with the intention to develop and empower them as well as to reduce the psychosocial barriers to development. Transfers offered include:

BOX 6.X SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AND GRANTS		
Transfers as at July 2012	No. of Recipients	No. of Recipients of Transfers Receiving Free Bus Passes
Senior Citizens' Pension	79,942	
Public Assistance Grant	24,798	1,554
Disability Assistance Grant	23,797	1,121

- Senior Citizens' Pension;
- Public Assistance Grant;
- Disability Assistance Grant; and
- General Assistance Grant for persons in urgent need of assistance, either due to abject poverty or disasters

The Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (TCCTP) continued to provide short-term food assistance and developmental opportunities for vulnerable persons and families in need. As part of the intervention, recipients are mandated to join one of Government's social empowerment programmes, which aim to promote skills training that facilitate gainful employment, allowing participants to gradually transition out of the programme. An average of 76,320 Clients accessed services at the TCCTP offices annually, and over 500 General Assistance Grants were approved and processed by the TCCTP offices.

BOX 6.XI FOOD GRANTS DISBURSED

TT Debit Card

- Over 200 parents of children with cerebral palsy receiving assistance
- Over 2,000 families whose children are receiving special child grants will be receiving assistance wef September 2012
- Over 35,000 families benefitted from the Card

Temporary Food Card

- 7,000 vulnerable households receiving assistance
- Over 6,400 households receiving TTCard assistance are undergoing soft skills training and received psycho-social support

This programme was extended to include a Temporary Food Card which was made available to deprived households for up to three (3) months. Recipients of this programme benefit either through the TT Debit Card or the Temporary Food Card:

- **TT Debit Card** enabled families in need to purchase nutritionally sound basic food items, thereby enhancing the health and dignity of these households and reducing the incidence of poverty.
- **The Temporary Food Card** provided immediate food relief to the extremely vulnerable, by bridging the gap between eligibility determination and actual receipt of the TT Debit Card. The TCCTP is currently accessible at 13 regional offices throughout the country.

More than 5,200 persons who have enhanced their income earning capacity and are no longer deemed indigent were identified through the programme's Systematic Review process and they have all been taken off the programme.

The TCCTP participated in over twenty successful (20) outreach programmes to identify/target the indigent throughout the country. These outreach sessions were aimed at moving persons from social exclusion into social inclusion and was able to conduct pre-test for over 12,000 persons throughout these various communities.

BOX 6.XII RISE UP

- 900 clients received psychosocial support and are waiting to graduate.
- Over 4,100 Christmas Hampers were provided to vulnerable families
- More than 5,500 families affected by floods received food hampers

The Rights to Individuals to Social and Economic Security, Universal Prosperity ("**RISE UP**") is a holistic approach to poverty reduction which takes into consideration the conditions that circumscribe the family's effort to move out of poverty. The programme provided psychosocial, development opportunities and financial support to the poor and vulnerable.

The Unemployment Relief Programme (URP) Social provided short term employment opportunities for

persons who were unable to secure permanent employment. It focused on the upgrade of the physical and social infrastructure and human development through skills enhancement and offered the participants an income, decent work and the opportunity to build marketable job skills.

Through this Programme, housing and employment for the poor and vulnerable will also be addressed. Achievement under the programme included the production and distribution of crops to homes for children and senior citizens; employment of over 200 mothers of children with cerebral palsy to work in social centres. This approach allowed these mothers to earn an income and provide care for children with special needs, as well as allowed other parents of children with special needs to seek employment; and the provision of support through the 'Ray of Hope' programme which targeted groups within distressed communities through clean-ups and general maintenance of property to more than 200 persons with disabilities, 43 convalescent homes and 26 homes and centres for persons with disabilities.

A total of 40 crews were employed under the URP Social and were deployed in 13 areas throughout the country, to undertake various environmental upgrade projects. At present, the award of tenders is in progress for contractors to construct homes for 52 families in desperate need of housing and other basic amenities. These contractors will be required to employ persons from the thirteen 13 areas where Direct Impact campaigns were conducted, as well as to provide training in the construction field for those persons. In addition, the Ministry of the People and Social Development has oversight for short term crops being produced by URP Social in the Carlsen Field area. Also, the URP Social provides training and skill enhancement opportunities for individuals enrolled in the Programme while simultaneously acting as a crime prevention strategy. The URP has also trained 40 workers in crop production, hydroponic cultivation and landscaping.

The Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme (GAPP) and the Retiree Adolescent Partnership Programme (RAPP) continued to provide care-giving service and companionship for the elderly, while equipping young people with care-giving and self-development skills and attributes.

The staff and volunteers of the RAPP Centre have tutored

BOX 6.XIII GAPP AND RAPP

GAPP

- 600 elderly persons
- 600 caregivers

RAPP

- 5 RAPP Centres
(Belmont, Couva, La Horquetta,
Shekinah and Valencia)
- 23 Volunteers

and assisted participants in various activities that included academics, arts and craft, RAPP Sessions, sports, life skills and counselling, better equipping them to become contributing members of society.

Other activities at these Centres include a savings plan initiative, seminars, field visits, workshops, official visits by police officers, a parent support group, local movie producer and the commemoration of national holidays.

Over the period 2011 to 2012, the following positive results were recorded that suggests the need for an expansion of this initiative:

- Commencement of “The Shekinah Homework Academy’s ‘sister’ Programme”. This Programme assists and provides guidance to children with their homework. At present there are two (2) facilitators working full time with a total of 15 children;
- Former RAPP participants joined the Air Guard and Coast Guard. One participant is on training at the National Energy Skills Centre (NESC);
- An at-risk participant received professional psychological counselling at the office of Families in Action; and
- Positive feedback was received about the programmes through a parent meeting held to give feedback on the respective RAPP programmes.

BOX 6.XIV ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

Assistance	Total
Counselling	3026
Placement	50
Referral	309
Advocacy	324
Advice	1176
Total	4885

Transformation and Development Centres operated by the Ministry of Community Development in conjunction with community-based organisations (CBOs)/ non-governmental organisations (NGOs)/ faith based organisations (FBOs) provide daily meals, training and counselling services for persons living below the poverty line (as defined by the People and Social Development), i.e. with an income of less than \$1,200 per month. Currently there are three (3) centres located in Port of Spain, each providing 200 meals per day.

In an effort to promote healthy functioning families, the Remedial and Developmental Intervention to Families in Need Programme provides material, financial and psychosocial assistance to families. For the period, October 2011 to June 2012, 4,885 cases received attention

by the Ministry. The main concerns addressed were child abuse, domestic violence, family dysfunction, financial issues, inadequate social support and communication issues.

Social Inclusion

In addition to supporting individuals through programmes that offer transfers, employment and life skills, the Ministry of the People and Social Development also worked towards the protection and inclusion of core vulnerable populations. These programmes have ensured that persons with disabilities and persons living with HIV/AIDS are fully integrated into all aspects of national life.

Contributing to the attainment of social inclusion will be the establishment of a National Development Centre for persons with disabilities at Carlsen Field which will provide diagnostic and rehabilitative services for persons with disabilities. To date, a user brief has been developed by a committee comprising of officers from the Government and the NGO sector on the furniture, equipment and staff requirements for the Centre.

Also, Day Activity Centres for Persons with Disabilities were proposed which will provide stimulating, therapeutic activities for the differently abled to enhance their ability to have independent fulfilling lives. Consultations sessions were conducted in May 2011 to elicit the views of stakeholders on the establishment of these Centres. A follow-up session was held in September 2011 and the final stage of discussions with the Lady Hochoy Home in Gasparillo to establish a Day Activity Centre is on-going.

The International Day for Persons with Disabilities and Disability Week were observed in December 2011, and as part of this activity, public awareness events were held throughout the country to disseminate information and increase awareness of persons with disabilities. A concert and award ceremony was hosted and the talents of persons with disabilities were showcased. Additionally, 38 NGOs received financial assistance for various activities related to persons with disabilities.

Stigmatization continues to be a great challenge for many socially disadvantaged persons. Greater understanding of the plight of the poor and vulnerable, along with a change in

BOX 6.XV

THE SOCIAL NORMS AND VALUES REPORT FINDINGS IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

- Parenting – 75% of the respondents admitted experiencing varied levels of physical punishment at the hands of their parents. Love and affection, good communication and good morals/values were the most popularly identified contributors to raising good children.
- Disability – The population appears quite accepting and positive about their interaction with disabled individuals
- Domestic Violence – Respondents felt that domestic violence has 89% prevalence.

the social attitudes and sensitivity toward these persons must be constantly addressed. In order to maintain a viable and operational multidisciplinary team that plays a pivotal role as gatekeeper for the implementation of the HIV/AIDS Work Place Policy, the Ministry of the People and Social Development continued to educate and sensitize staff and stakeholders on HIV/AIDS through:

- Execution of six (6) Community mobilization fairs in collaboration with key stakeholders throughout Trinidad;
- Implementation of the HIV Unit and partnership with the Cyril Ross Nursery to host a holistic programme to address the psychosocial needs of young residents of the home through a Life Skills Programme for teenagers living with HIV/AIDS; and
- Hosting of the annual HIV/AIDS quiz for out of school young adults. Young persons from St. Michaels Home, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE), Multi-Sector Skills Training Programme (MUST) were targeted: Approximately 80 young people participated; 29 of which took the HIV test as facilitated by NWRHA.

Work continued towards the establishment of a partnership with a relevant NGO to develop a support group for adolescents living with HIV/AIDS. The Ministry of Community Development also assisted persons in the community in becoming more informed on the issue of HIV/AIDS and its effects on the society at large by conducting seven (7) workshops throughout the country.

The Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development also contributed to increasing awareness and sensitization to the issue of HIV/AIDS in the workplace through the HIV/AIDS Advocacy and Sustainability Centre (HASC). The HASC has conducted 17 workshops in the public, private and informal sectors during the year in order to promote understanding of the National Workplace Policy on HIV and AIDS. Additionally, in September 2012, the Centre signed a Memoranda of Understandings (MOU) with 13 organizations developing HIV/AIDS workplace policies, and will be provide training and advisory services to these organizations as they embark on developing their workplace-specific HIV and AIDS policies.

Social Displacement

Street dwelling is a perennial issue, especially in the nation's cities. The Government is committed to providing the opportunity for these individuals, both in the city centres and

suburban areas, to access the resources and facilities that will assist them to transition from being street dwellers to contributing to the productive development of the country. In this regard, collaborative efforts between Ministries such as People and Social Development; Local Government; and Health and several Non-Governmental organisations are on-going.

Services such as temporary residence, assessments, referrals to out-patient clinics and monitoring the general health status of clients at the Centre for Socially Displaced Persons (CSDP) are on-going. As a result of this initiative, the New Horizons Centre was established for the rehabilitation of socially displaced persons leaving the CSDP.

The Community Care Programme also provided living accommodation at residential care facilities throughout Trinidad and Tobago to persons who were decanted from hospitals after long periods and who would otherwise be homeless. In fiscal 2012, the Ministry of the People and Social Development assumed responsibility of covering the cost for residential care of 60 patients.

The Foster Care Programme provides a safe environment to rehabilitate vulnerable children who are in harmful or critical situations. Thirty- three (33) children have been placed in foster care, nine (9) have been reunited with relatives and six (6) have been adopted. Currently there are 15 active providers in the Programme.

The Life Skills for Adolescents in Various Communities Programme aimed to develop young persons in communities through skills training to reduce incidences of deviant behaviours. To date, three (3) programmes were completed in Point Fortin, Diego Martin and Tunapuna, a total of 44 children completed the workshops.

The Ageing Population

The Government values the contribution of senior citizens to national development and therefore caters for their overall well-being. The Ministry of People and Social Development, in conjunction with other government agencies, has been consistently catering to the needs of the ageing population via project, programme and policy development. To cultivate respect and appreciation for our senior citizens, two (2) new initiatives were introduced; Intergenerational Conversations featuring a panel comprising seniors as well as adolescents and the Inaugural Sitting of the Senior Citizens Parliament to further give our revered elders a voice and ensure their continued participation in society.

Intergenerational Dialogue - The event was held as part of the information dissemination drive and increased awareness of intergenerational solidarity issues. The first in a series of four (4) intergenerational discussions targeting the general public were held in May 2011 on the theme: "Engaging Youth and the Elderly to bring about change". The second session which was presented as the "The Inaugural Sitting of the Senior Citizens Parliament" was held in September 2011. These discussions were videotaped for delayed broadcasts on radio and television. The other two (2) are expected to be held in fiscal 2013.

Senior Activity Centres - In partnership with several Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), the Division of Ageing, operates eight (8) Senior Activity Centres in Trinidad in the areas of: Woodbrook, Maloney, Barataria, Chaguanas, Rio Claro, La Horquetta, Princes Town, and Pointe-a-Pierre, with the aim of: providing older persons with a safe and enabling environment; encouraging social inclusion; and allowing participation in a range of educational/recreational activities and programmes to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle. The Woodbrook Centre was launched on June 18, 2012. Two (2) Senior Centres operate in Tobago with financial assistance from the Tobago House of Assembly.

Public Education on Ageing

The Director of the Division of Ageing delivered Feature Addresses & Guest Lectures during January-June 2012 for T&T Women Police Retirees; FITUN Forum on Pension Reform; Ministry of Health International Women's Day; UWI Health Economics students; Islamic Symposium; Ministry of Public Utilities; Administrative Professionals Day; teachers of Success Laventille at a staff development workshop; UWI Retirees; SEA Graduants at St. Agnes Anglican School; TTUTA Retirees; Holy Faith Sisters; Neal & Massy Retirees; UNATT Panel Discussion; & senior staff of Treasury Division.

Resolution of Issues from the Citizenry

The People's arm of Ministry of the People and Social Development seeks to facilitate a bottom-up and participatory approach to governance. The voice of the citizen is encouraged and issues to be addressed in the national developmental agenda are secured through data collection, dialogue and citizen's complaints and feedback on services and systems.

This initiative targeted 15 members of each of the 41 constituencies across Trinidad and Tobago who is differently-abled, aged or underprivileged. Six hundred and fifteen (615) healthy food hampers as well as 205 wheel chairs were distributed during this initiative during the fiscal year 2012.

STRENGTHEN SOCIAL CAPITAL AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

In an effort to attain a society free from poverty, measures such as creating self-reliant and sustainable communities should be encouraged and nurtured. Sustaining a community entails improving the quality of life of the residents not only socially but economically, psychologically, and spiritually. Self-reliance in community development demands that community members improve their standard of living with little or no incentives from the state.

Technical expertise and financial assistance are therefore essential to assist and empower members of communities to undertake projects to improve their surroundings. Providing access to basic services and utilities; establishing, expanding and developing community infrastructure and recreational facilities to foster the building of community spirit; and empowering individuals, households, and communities with skills and educational facilities, builds social capital and enables persons to satisfy their basic needs thereby minimising dependence on government/agencies.

Several programmes/projects were undertaken to enhance and develop the mobilization and engagement of communities throughout the country.

Community Based Training and Skills Development

As a catalyst for social change where everyone is given the opportunity to contribute towards the growth and development of their community, the construction and upgrade of Community Centres/Facilities continued throughout the country via the Community Centre/Facilities Construction and Refurbishment Programme. It is the focal point of activities in the community where citizens meet, plan and execute programmes to generate growth, promote and facilitate community cohesiveness and development.

During the fiscal year 2012, the Ministry of Community Development set out to construct 25 community centres and refurbish 11. To date, six (6) centres have been opened or re-opened, 22 centres are currently being constructed or refurbished and five (5) centres are scheduled for opening before the close of the financial year.

The Community Education Programme (CEP) aimed at enhancing the skills of individuals through training in vocational and technical skills, while sustaining economies and communities has been on going. This project intends to target, train and make employable 8,000 persons, via 358 courses which are projected to be implemented in various technical and vocational skills training at community venues throughout the country in 2012. A draft Assessment Report was completed in March 31, 2012, and as at July 2012, 12,141 persons participated in CEP.

Through the Community Volunteer and Apprenticeship Programme (CVAP), the Government provides an enabling environment that efficiently delivers to civil society, programmes and services that address poverty alleviation continued. In fiscal year 2012, 21 volunteers have provided their technical assistance to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in 11 districts and are currently assisting these groups in developing their project ideas.

Another initiative developed to provide community based training and skills development is the Community Enhancement and Regeneration Programme (CERP) which has made a direct intervention in small and depressed communities using a multi and trans-disciplinary approach.

Six (6) communities have been targeted for CERP interventions. Two (2) of these interventions are currently being implemented in Tobago: one (1) in Bethel and one (1) in Parlatuvier. In Bethel, 20 students are being trained at the Empowerment and Skills Training Centre, while at Palatuvier, Phase II of the CERP intervention has been approved by the CDF Steering Committee. In the Icacos community, a Visioning exercise has been completed and as a result, an aquaculture project is currently being developed to address one of the community's objectives identified in its Community Action Plan. Fifteen (15) groups have received technical

BOX 6.XVI **NEW COMMUNITY CENTRES**

- North eastern (Duranta Gardens)
- Sister's Road (upgraded)
- Malabar Phase IV
- Second Caledonia
- Mango Rose Home -work Centre
- Upper Malabar

support to strengthen their proposals and the knowledge base of staff has been expanded through action learning processes.

BOX 6.XVII **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 40 classes in the areas of dance, music, drama and drumming were held in 10 districts between November and December 2011 where 500 persons were trained.
- 157 communities participated in Clean and Beautify project held in ten administrative districts.
- 30 finalists qualified from preliminaries of National Arts and Craft programme.
- 79 finalists were included in the Folk theatre / folk presentations.
- 40 finalists in the areas of cricket, football, net ball, basketball in the Village Olympics
- 14 finalists qualified from preliminary Village chat/poetry/short stories programme.
- 25 finalists from national La Reine Rive semi-finals.
- 120 communities participated Food and folk fair
- 600 persons between 8-16 years participated in the Junior best village.
- 66 groups participated in January, 2012.

The Ministry of the People and Social Development also contributes to community development through its regional Multi-Purpose Tele-centres, which are aimed at improving access to communications technology, especially in rural areas. Recently, the programme has expanded to include a special Videography Project for at-risk youth from select rural areas, which exposes youths between the ages of 16 and 19 to the elements of professional videography. Internships with media companies are offered as additional incentives to those who top the programmes. As at April 2012, 5,140 clients have accessed the services of the Telecentres. The Penal/ Debe Telecentre has been outfitted and completed, while a building was sourced for the La Brea Centre. Upgrading of computer systems is being continued in all Telecentres.

The Prime Minister's Best Village Trophy Competition is an annual developmental programme with a competitive element. Its overall

purpose is to discover and develop latent talent and traditions of all Village/Community Councils, youth groups, women's groups, sporting and cultural organisations and other groups within communities in Trinidad and Tobago. This programme was conceptualised to build cultural, environmental and sporting skills of people within the context of indigenous traditions. The main objectives are to provide an opportunity for communities to be more conscious about their environment and to participate in exercises that will enhance their surroundings, at the same time developing a sense of self-worth and encouraging a sense of national pride, community spirit and community development through healthy competition and social interactions.

Community Self Help

The National Commission for Self Help Limited (NCSHL) implemented infrastructural projects such as roads, drainage, retaining walls, bridges and house repairs throughout the country. These projects were implemented with community resources, supplemented by technical services and materials from the Government and have been successful in ameliorating hardships, especially in rural communities; giving the residents better access to their homes, stimulating cottage industries and promoting sustainable development.

The NCSHL has been mobilizing citizens nationwide through collaborative works with Community Action Groups/Village Groups/NGOs and provides the building materials and technical expertise while the community provides the required labour. Based on requests for the period October 2011 to January 2012, the NCSHL approved 554 projects for implementation.

Programmes under this initiative include:

- **Minor Repairs/Reconstruction Grant (MRRG):** This Programme provided funding for senior citizens and destitute families to improve their living conditions by making minor repairs to their owner occupied homes, which may have been damaged by fire, flooding or other disasters. The maximum funding provided was ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00).
- **Emergency Repair/ Reconstruction Assistance Grant (ERRAG):** The Emergency Repair/Reconstruction Assistance Grant provided increased funding to persons whose homes have been severely damaged by floods, storms, fires, or other natural disasters. This grant prevents families from falling into poverty by providing them with the funding to return to a sense of normalcy after natural and man-made disasters.

BOX 6.XVIII MRRG AND ERRAG GRANTS

MRRG

1,106 projects approved
827 projects in progress

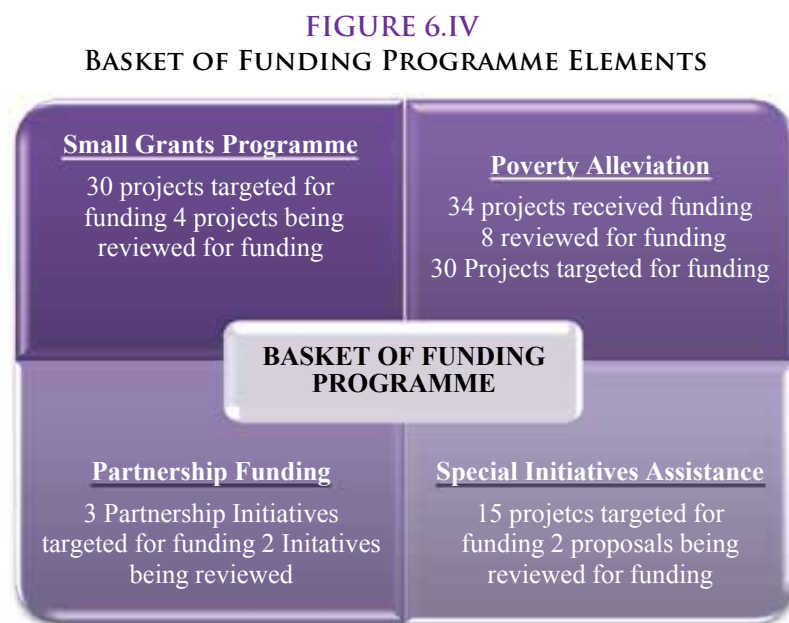
ERRAG

421 projects approved
205 projects in progress

The focus of Community Development Fund (CDF) programme under the Ministry of Community Development continued to assist in the delivery of social services and infrastructure to low income and most disadvantaged sections of the population using non-governmental (NGOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs). It seeks to strengthen and build the capacity of NGOs and CBOs and to increase beneficiary participation in poverty alleviation initiatives such the Basket of Funding Programme (BOFP).

Currently, the Basket is made up of the following four (4) programmes:

- (1) The Small Grants Programme;
- (2) Project Funding for Poverty Alleviation;
- (3) Partnership Funding; and
- (4) Special Initiatives Assistance.



As at May 2012, five (5) new BOFP projects were approved in five (5) communities for 100 beneficiaries in the areas of Hermitage, Matura, Grand Riviere, Princes Town and Embacadere.

The Decentralisation of Social Services programme provides integrated one-stop shops that seek to improve the quality of

services provided by the Ministry of the People and Social Development. The main intent is to increase access to the social services clientele and their families. To date, two (2) centres have been established and are operating in Tunapuna and Sangre Grande.

Thirty- five (35) Radio Programmes aimed at providing counselling to listeners were aired as part of the National Family Services Division's 'It's Family Time, Let's Talk' initiative. Additionally, counselling and support services regarding healthy lifestyle behaviours/choices assist the underprivileged in making better and informed decisions. At the Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo Centre, 51 underprivileged persons have accessed counselling and support services. Several health fairs were also held within these communities to provide basic health services to residents. In this regard, 150 persons, which included 50 males and 100 females, were exposed to the programme in the various regions.

The National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP) coordinates drug abuse prevention initiatives in Trinidad and Tobago and supports the efforts of non-

governmental organisations involved in the struggle to rid the nation of the scourge of drug abuse. NADAPP's goal is to reduce both legal and illegal drug abuse through a preventative approach. This involves informing the public of the health and social consequences of substance abuse as well as the benefits of adopting healthy lifestyles.

The Government continued to educate and sensitize specific target groups on the effects and impact of drugs/substance (legal and illegal) use and abuse. For the period October 2011 to June 2012, NADAPP embarked on a number of drug abuse public information dissemination initiatives at various venues across the country. A total of 1,015 persons benefitted from these public information initiatives. Moreover, six (6) initiatives aimed at reducing the use of drugs in the workplace were conducted in various organisations, where a total of 218 employees benefitted.

To provide a forum for the dissemination of public information on a multiplicity of relevant subjects, the Ministry of Community Development developed the Community Awareness and Sensitization Programme. This programme is a mechanism for the Ministry to interface with stakeholders to jointly develop projects, empower communities and strengthen links with community partners. Programmes are implemented through a number of media including lecture discussions, public meetings, seminars and workshops, marches, parades and demonstrations. During the fiscal year, there were 3,595 participants of this programme and communities are sensitized on the areas such as; Government Services available, Health and Wellness, Agriculture Practices, Environmental Awareness and Poverty Eradication.

Community Based Enterprises

The Ministry of the People and Social Development through their community development programmes expanded the Community Based Micro Credit Systems, not only to equip individuals with knowledge and skills, but to provide financial assistance to individuals to earn income and improve the economic well-being of individuals and communities.

The following microfinance programmes not only equipped individuals with skills and knowledge but also empowered and provided individuals with financial assistance or capital to start their own businesses, earn income and improve the economic well-being of their communities:

- ***Micro Enterprise Grant (MEG)*** - This Grant seeks to assist necessitous persons who are capable and willing to undertake a micro business venture or skills training.

- **Regional Micro-Project Fund (RMPF)** - The RMPF provides micro-grants to Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and Non- Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to carry out poverty reduction projects within their communities. The grants can also be used to fund joint projects between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Government Organisations.
- **Micro Enterprise Loan Facility (MEL)** - This facility is a community empowerment and poverty reduction initiative which equips CBOs to engage in micro-credit to small entrepreneurs.

BOX 6.XIX

DISBURSEMENT OF GRANTS

PROGRAMMES	Disbursements
<i>Micro Enterprise Grant (MEG) as at June 2012</i>	4
<i>Regional Micro-Project Fund (RMPF)</i>	2
<i>Micro Enterprise Loan Facility (MEL)</i>	200

To further assist with the development of community based enterprises, the Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro-Enterprises Development implemented the Community Based Business Incubators (CBBIs) which aims to leverage business activities based on the resources of the target community. Over the fiscal year, four (4) CBBIs have been established

in the areas of Siparia, Sangre Grande, Point Fortin and Laventille/San Juan/Barataria. Thirty six (36) candidates from the areas of Siparia and Sangre Grande enrolled in the pre-incubator phase of which, 24 graduated. Nineteen (19) of these graduates are set to enter the incubator phase in September 2012. In the Laventille/San Juan/Barataria and Point Fortin, 70 persons are currently enrolled in the pre-incubator phase.

Additionally, the Government through the National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited (NEDCO) has continued to provide opportunities for the establishment of community based enterprises in the Tourism sector. During the fiscal year, 330 loans were granted to persons seeking to purchase new or used maxi taxis, make repairs to their maxi taxis and to acquire maxi taxi insurance. NEDCO also provided general and skills-based training programmes, lecture series and outreach activities, all aimed at promoting entrepreneurship. A total of 1,919 persons benefited from these initiatives.

HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

A QUALITY EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT CATERS TO THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF 21ST CENTURY LEARNERS

*Improved learning
environment*

*Improved students' overall
performance*

*To improve the alignment
of students to their
prospective best-fit jobs
and promote career
establishment*

*Improve the institutional
strength and capacity
of the Ministry*

A KNOWLEDGE-DRIVEN AND SKILLED POPULATION

*Quality graduates in
tertiary education and
technical vocational
programmes in sufficient
numbers*

*Synchronisation of labour
market requirements with
skills and tertiary education*

*Improved System of
Entrepreneurship,
Apprenticeship and
Internship*

Building human capital is a key strategy to becoming a knowledge-based, innovation-driven and creative society. The investment in human capital development is a critical success factor for transforming both the economy and society. Development of human capital is an integral component of the formula for growth and development because it provides citizens with the ability to create and generate knowledge, and transform this knowledge into beneficial goods and services. It is therefore important that the right support systems and structures are in place to appropriately nurture the human resource.

An important element in building human capital is education. Trinidad and Tobago has achieved the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for Universal Primary Education and continues to strive towards meeting the standards for the pre – primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Moreover, as at 2010, the Net Enrolment Ratio for secondary education was 78 per cent. This places Trinidad and Tobago ahead of the regional declaration made at the 5th Summit of the Americas in 2009. During fiscal year 2012, a total of 271,948 students participated in the education system, from the pre-primary to the tertiary level. This figure represents approximately 21 per cent of our country's total population²⁰. See Table 6.II for a summary of Total Enrolment for 2012 by education level.

²⁰ CSO - Total population estimate of 1.3 million.

Investing in the human resource development continues as a major thrust for the national agenda. Government's focus for this area over the medium-term is to strengthen the inputs into the education system, from the pre-primary to tertiary level. The resulting system will help to ensure that our graduates are well-balanced, both academically and socially, and are able to successfully enter the world of work and contribute as productive and innovative citizens.

Table 6.III below provides some recent data on the indicators for Human Capital Development. It depicts steady improvement in the participation rates in education and academic performance.

TABLE 6.II
ENROLMENT IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

ENROLMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012	
LEVEL	Total Enrolment as at Sept 2012
Pre-primary (Government & Government -assisted) ¹	3,395
Primary	129,675
Secondary	97,996
Tertiary	40,882 ²
TOTAL	271,948
21 % of Trinidad and Tobago's population	

- ** 1 ECCE Centres that are identified and accounted for by the Ministry of Education
 2 Source: Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training; Tertiary Institutions – University of the West Indies-St. Augustine, University of Trinidad and Tobago, College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago

In 2011, 43.3 per cent of students writing the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) Examinations were able to obtain 5 subjects or more inclusive of Mathematics and English. Baseline data recorded a statistic of 48.95 per cent in 2010 for this indicator. Data for 2012 is currently being processed and targets are to be determined.

TABLE 6.III
CURRENT PROGRESS OF PRIORITY TARGETS FOR HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

PRIORITY AREA	TARGETS TO 2015	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	BASELINE 2010	ACTUAL 2012
HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT	Increase to 60% by 2015	% Students attaining 5 or more subjects at CXC (including Math and English)	48.95%	43.3%
	Increase to 92% by 2015	% Students passing SEA	88.4%	90.87%
	Increase to 60% by 2015	% Participation rate in Tertiary Institutions	42%	46.4%
	Increase to 50% by 2015	% Graduation rate from Tertiary Institutions ²	NA	38%

****1** Source: Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training; Tertiary Institutions – University of the West Indies-St. Augustine, University of Trinidad and Tobago, College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago

Also in 2010, 88.4 per cent of students writing the Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) Examination scored 30 per cent or above. Government remained committed to increasing this proportion and in 2012, this figure rose to 90.87 per cent. By 2015, it is expected that a target of 92 per cent will be achieved.

Further to this, the level of participation in tertiary institutions, the rate increased steadily over the past recent years. Consequently, the participation rate at present is just over 46%. Government remains confident that it will achieve the 60 per cent participation rate by 2015.

With respect to the graduate rate, the UNESCO methodology is used which incorporates statistics for the 3 major tertiary institutions - The University of the West Indies-St. Augustine, University of Trinidad and Tobago and College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago. In 2012, the graduation rate was 38 per cent, and with trends in the participation rate, we are confident that the target for the graduation rate of 46 per cent by 2015 will be achieved.

A sound education is the foundation for a sound future and improved standard of living. Many people have not been able to afford a better life because they have not had good opportunities for education. As a result, a high priority is being placed on the education system of Trinidad and Tobago and several key programmes have been initiated. It is expected that these initiatives will result in the creation of a cadre of critical thinkers, learners, innovators and global competitors to effectively lead all aspects of national development.

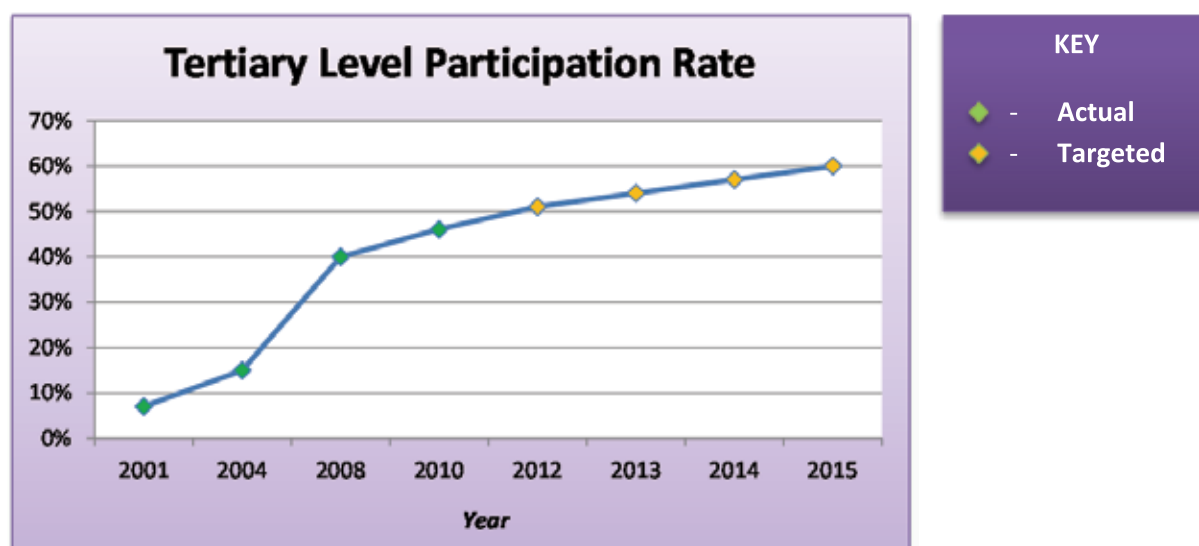
IMPROVED ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Ensuring access to education for all citizens is the first step of the process in the developing a universal education system. Access continues to be improved through the introduction of online course delivery and continued provision of financial assistance, as well as through the construction of new centres of learning.

Access to Tertiary Education and Skills Training

Government has reported significant increases in the tertiary education participation rate during the past years from approximately 7 per cent in 2001 to 46.4 per cent in 2010. Government remains committed to achieving its target of 60 per cent participation by 2015. See Fig. 6.V for trend data on the tertiary education participation rate, as well as targeted rates for 2012 to 2015.

FIGURE 6.V
TREND DATA AND TARGETED RATES ON
TERTIARY EDUCATION PARTICIPATION RATES



Admittedly, the environment shapes our experiences and the Government recognises that a student's experience is impacted by their surroundings, which should be one of development and learning. Annually, a student spends over 1,000 hours in their school environment. It is therefore important that the environment is safe, nurturing, healthy and stimulating. The fundamental building block of creating an inspiring and learning environment is ensuring that the physical environment is designed to support learning needs.

Significant progress has been made towards the goal of enhancing the effectiveness of course delivery through the use of technologies. Access to tertiary education programmes has been expanded through the introduction of online courses.

One hundred and twenty eight (128) full-time and part-time faculty members at the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT) were trained in the design and delivery of online courses, the production of videos for the online learning environment and in the use of software and hardware to ensure academic integrity in the online environment. COSTAATT is now able to offer one third of its core curriculum in a fully online mode and the remaining core courses in blended mode, that is, a combination of face-to-face and online delivery methods.



Furthermore, in order to facilitate the delivery of the online programmes, a two-way audio-video interactive distance learning system was installed to link the Port of Spain and the Tobago COSTAATT Campuses. This distance education system will enable students in Tobago to access a wider range of degree programmes than what is currently available at the Tobago Campus. The launch of this system is

carded for December 2012 and will be fully operational by the start of January 2013.

Further to the above, the Master of Science (MSc) Project Management post-graduate degree which is offered by the University of the West Indies (UWI) was brought to Tobago for the first time. The course commenced in the second week of October 2011.

BOX 6.XXI GATE-APPROVED TVET PROGRAMMES

- Diploma in Aerodrome/Approach Control
- Diploma in Cosmetology
- Diploma in Professional Therapeutic Massage
- Diploma in Medical Ultrasound (Abdomen & Gynaecology)
- Diploma in Massage Therapy
- Diploma in Cosmetology
- Diploma in Aesthetics

The Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses (GATE) Programme and the Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) continue to be instrumental in improving access to tertiary education and in increasing the national participatory rate in tertiary education. Over the last fiscal

year, the number of students accessing GATE funding was approximately 50,000 while the number of students accessing funding through the HELP was 1,847. Additionally, the GATE Programme continues to improve access to tertiary education by increasing the number of GATE-approved Tertiary Level Institutions and programmes. For the fiscal year, two new Tertiary Level Institutions were granted GATE approval along with seven new Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes. Also, for the period, 348 students received Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) Scholarships.

Further to the above, Government has undertaken enhancements to school infrastructure. For the fiscal year 2012, the following was done in order to improve the quality of the tertiary-level learning institutions:

- The COSTAATT *Sangre Grande Campus* was completed and outfitted with modern, state-of-the-art learning resources and equipment. It is expected to be officially launched in September 2012. At present, there are over 400 students enrolled



COSTAATT CAMPUS PORT OF SPAIN

and pursuing programmes in a range of disciplines. The Campus has the capacity to accommodate an additional 600 students.

- The construction of a *COSTAATT Open Campus Facility* in Chaguanas will commence shortly. A total of 8.4 acres of land, north of the Diviali Nagar Site, was allocated for this purpose. Preparatory works for design and construction of the building are in progress.
- The outfitting of state-of-the-art Patient Simulation and Science Laboratories was completed at the South and North Trinidad COSTAATT Campuses. Both laboratories were fully commissioned and are functional. At the Tobago Campus, the science laboratories are 95 per cent complete and all Faculty and Staff are fully trained to facilitate these labs.
- The establishment of a *Nursing and Health Care Education and Training Facility* at the El Dorado Girls Youth Camp is in progress and an official launch is carded for September 2012. It will be shared by COSTAATT and UWI-St. Augustine.
- The construction of the *University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) Signature Building* at Tamana InTech Park, Wallerfield, is in progress. The Project consists of the construction of buildings for classrooms, laboratories, offices and ancillary services to facilitate a student population of approximately 5,000 students in two shifts. The property covers a net area of 66,915 m². Works include the design, construction, installation of amenities, testing and commissioning and handover of the following facilities: East Block (six-storey), West Block (five-storey), Graduation Pavilion and Central Plaza, Central Ancillary Installations, Main Plant Building, Parking Area (under Central Plaza) and Infrastructure Works. Overall, the project is estimated to be approximately 70 per cent complete based on the original scope of work.

In addition, UTT undertook the following infrastructural improvements at other key training facilities:

- o Valsayn Teachers College: design works are in progress for the construction of the Cafeteria Building, Library Extension, Laboratory Upgrade and replacement of the roof of Block A, while Scope of Works are being developed for the Agri-Science Block and renovation and refurbishment of Blocks C and E;
- o Corinth Teachers College: the upgrade of the Auditorium has been completed; the conversion of Classroom 1E to Guild Office is 80 per cent complete and the upgrade of Kitchen and Dining Areas are 30 per cent complete. Other structural improvements are at the contractual stages;
- o O'Meara Campus: the upgrade of sports field irrigation system is completed while other improvement works are at contractual stages; and

- o Chaguaramas Campus: this project is approximately 98 per cent completed with works continuing on the Pre-Engineering Building; equipment for the Marine Science Lab Equipment Simulator Upgrade has been acquired and the dormitory has been completed.
- Construction of the *Teaching and Learning Complex* at the University of the West Indies (UWI) continues with services, finishes and external works. The outfitting of the building (auditorium seats, furniture, data & telephone cabling and equipment) is currently being tendered. Further, the construction of the Building for the *Health Economic Unit* is completed and was handed over to the Health Economic Unit which currently occupies the ground floor. Additionally, UWI has secured a site for the *Centre for Geography, Environment and Natural Resource Management*. Additionally, the development of the South Campus of UWI in Penal-Debe is underway. Land space of one hundred and forty two (142) acres has already been dedicated for this project and the contract with the main and sub-contractors was executed in August 2012.
- Construction of *Tobago Technology Centre* at 79 Milford Road, Canaan, Tobago is completed and outfitting is continuing. The Centre is the largest training facility of its kind in Tobago, and includes Main Centre Buildings a Car Park and Recreation Ground and an Air-conditioning Workshop. This Technology Centre was established to provide training in developmental areas such as Computing, Entrepreneurship, Patient Care, Dress Making and Design, Cosmetology, Data Operations, Commercial Food Preparation, Electrical Installation, among others areas. The Centre has been formally opened and classes have commenced.



TOBAGO TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
- 79 MILFORD ROAD, CANAAN, TOBAGO

- Construction of the *YTEPP Waterloo Centre* is also in progress. Works consist of the refurbishment of concrete structures and the erection of pre-fabricated buildings to serve as offices and classrooms on approximately 2 acres of land. The Centre will operate as a campus where other training providers will be allowed space to offer classes in

various courses. Phase I of the project, which includes activities such as the demolition of an unsafe building, renovation of the Administration Building and construction of a Plant Nursery, is 98 per cent complete. Further, courses are ready to be conducted at this Centre. These include Television and Video Production (Level 1 – YTEPP Retraining), Aquaculture (Level 2 – YTEPP Retraining) and Amenity Horticulture Nursery Operations (Level 2 – YTEPP Retraining), among others.

- On-the-Job Training (OJT) Programme has also undergone major structural changes to improve the efficacy of training delivery. The establishment of 9 new regional sub-offices (Point Lisas, St. Madeline, Point Fortin, Sangre Grande, Rio Claro, Princes Town, Debe, Fyzabad and Roxborough Tobago) will now ensure that the programme is accessible to additional communities.

Access to Secondary Education

Government has articulated a vision for the children of Trinidad and Tobago, where all children will achieve their full potential, be adequately prepared educationally to fulfil their potential, be adequately developed socially and culturally, be healthy and growing normally and be emotionally developed, mature and happy. As indicated earlier, a stimulating and learning environment is necessary to achieve this.



The Minister of Education Dr Tim Gopeesingh dabs a fresh coat of paint to announce the start of restoration work at Biche High School. Looking on is the Minister of National Diversity and Social Integration Mr. Clifton De Coteau

Over the last year, several infrastructural developments were initiated and/ or completed:

- The construction of four (4) secondary schools was completed including the Biche High School, Marabella South Secondary and Aranguez North Secondary schools;
- Construction works continue at eight (8) additional secondary schools including the Aranguez Secondary, St. Augustine Comprehensive and Princes Town East Secondary Schools with completion rates ranging from 30-97 per cent;



On Wednesday, May 9, 2012, Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar (2nd left) opened the Marabella South Secondary School (above) in which she is seen sitting in a classroom together with Government Ministers Senator the Honorable Fazal Karim, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training and Senator, the Honourable Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan, Minister of Public Administration (1st left)

- Additional classroom space and specialist areas were provided at two secondary schools – Queen’s Royal College and Palo Seco Secondary School – in order to ease over-crowding; and
- 350 schools have undergone repairs and maintenance over the past two years.

Access to Pre-primary and Primary Education

Expanding the number of school spaces also remains a priority at the primary level. During the fiscal year:

- Eleven (11) new primary schools were completed including the Palo Seco Government Primary (600 capacity), Penal Rock Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha (SDMS) School (210 capacity) and Lengua Presbyterian Primary (210 capacity). Included here is the completed construction of the first phase of the St. Barbara’s Shouter Baptist Primary School which was officially handed over on the 30th 8.March, 2012 in time for the Shouter Baptist Holiday; and
- Construction works continue for an additional ten (10) schools including Rose Hill RC and Monkey Town Government School.

BOX 6.XXII
TARGET-EARLY
CHILDHOOD CARE
AND EDUCATION
(ECCE)

**At least 97% of the children
between the age of 3 and 4 years
have equitable access to quality
educational services by 2015**

A good education System also ensures access for persons with disabilities so they can participate meaningfully in their communities as productive members of society. In recognition of this, and in keeping with its inclusive education policy, Government continues to maintain the 12 public and 10 private special education schools (Schools for the differently-abled children) and intends to build five additional schools by 2015. The children attending these schools will benefit from

specialised teachers and counsellors that will cater to their learning needs—be it visual, hearing, speaking impediments, autism, down syndrome, physical disabilities or learning disorders. It is expected that when children emerge from these schools, they will be able to take their place in society and the workplace as citizens who enjoy equal rights. In pursuit of this, lands have been allocated and designs drawn up for the Tobago School for Special Needs Children.

Government continues to work towards achieving universal Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in order to ensure that at least 97 per cent of the children between the age of 3 and 4 years have equal access to quality educational services by 2015. A three-pronged approach has been adopted for increasing the number of ECCE Centres throughout Trinidad and Tobago. This approach includes carrying out construction of new centres, identifying and upgrading spaces in existing Government and Government-assisted primary schools and upgrading private ECCE centres through public-private partnership agreements.

Currently, there are 109 Government and Government-assisted ECCE Centres throughout Trinidad and Tobago. Government will continue to construct new centres and register private ones to ensure that the target is achieved.

During the period under review, access was provided to over 800 new pre-schoolers with the completed construction and opening of 29 ECCE centres. The construction of 24 Centres are currently in progress and 80 more centres is expected to begin shortly. Furthermore, Government plans to engage the private sector to identify 200 additional ECCE centres through public-private partnerships agreements by 2015. Funding has already been allocated for 100 of these centres.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) INFRASTRUCTURE

The increasing use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and its impact on the learning process and environment cannot be ignored. The use of technology brings limitless opportunities to both the teacher and the learner.

Under the eConnect and Learn (eCAL) Programme, Government continues to ensure that each student entering secondary school receives a laptop. For the academic year 2011/2012, 16,849 laptops were distributed to Form 1 students. The students received Lenovo laptops with carrying cases and 14 software packages provided by Microsoft. These software packages include Office 2010 Professional, the visualization of Mathematics from basic to pre-calculus and the Laws of Trinidad and Tobago. The laptops were also equipped with improved security and monitoring features. Additionally, a total of 467 and 3,000 laptops were distributed to primary school principals and teachers, respectively, to assist them with their administrative duties. The NESC also conducted ICT Curriculum Delivery Training for School Supervisors, Curriculum Officers, Vice Principals and Head of Departments.

IMPROVED EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

Government must ensure that the monies invested in the education system produce acceptable returns. The importance of administration of the education system cannot be over emphasised. Viability, transparency and good governance must be preserved.

It is with this in mind that Government has implemented the Student Performance Policy. This Policy was initiated by the growing concern over the poor academic performance of students accessing GATE funding. The implementation of this policy requires that GATE recipients maintain a minimum performance standard in order to continue receiving GATE funding for tertiary level studies. The Policy will be enforced from September 2012 and is expected to bring about an improvement in student performance at public tertiary level institutions.

Additionally, Government also undertook a review of the GATE Programme in order to ensure its continued relevance and viability as a tool for national development. The main thrust of the review exercise was to ensure the alignment of the Programme to the National Budget Statement of 2011/2012, Trinidad and Tobago's Medium-Term Policy Framework (MTPF) and

the National Development Human Resource Needs of Trinidad and Tobago. Three days of consultation were undertaken and several recommendations were made for the revision of the Programme which covered the areas of tuition fees, student's academic performance and a re-structuring of the Administering Unit.

In addition to the above, Government continues to improve the quality of programmes with a re-structuring of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Programme. It is intended to reposition the TVET Programme in the education system so that it acts as an engine for economic growth. The programme will also be rationalised to avoid duplication and overlapping which exist with other programmes. The modernised TVET Programme will ensure a leaner service offering and an improved delivery of vocational training.

BOX 6.XXIII
ADMINISTRATIVE SCHOLARSHIP
POLICIES DRAFTED

- Extension Policy
- Placement Policy
- Suspension & Reinstatement Policy
- Deferral & Bonding Policy
- Breach Policy

Another important tool for national human development is the Scholarships Programme. This Programme currently serves approximately 5,500 scholars which are at various stages in fulfilment of their scholarships either as a *new entrant, scholar during tenure* or

rendering of obligatory service. The following administrative policies were drafted in order to better administer the scholarship process.

At the pre-primary to secondary level, the Seamless Education System (SES) Programme was initiated. The SES evolved from a loan agreement between Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. This Programme is multi-faceted and expected to transform various aspects of the Ministry of Education and the education system. For fiscal 2012, procurement was completed for consultancies for each of the following projects under the SES:

- Organisational Structuring - This involves developing institutional capability and capacity to effectively pursue the vision, mission and strategic objectives of the Ministry. This area places a strong emphasis on the development and management of the Ministry's human resources.

- Inclusive Education - Inclusive Education for Trinidad and Tobago means that no child should be excluded from education and that each child should be able to actively participate in all domains of society. Therefore, our education system must be receptive to diversity and be physically, pedagogically and socially accessible to all children.
- Business Process Transformation and Organisational Transformation – involves establishing best practices for leadership, governance strategies, business processes, monitoring and evaluation systems, business planning and policy development.
- Overall Strategy for ECCE - Providing universal early childhood care and education by 2015;
- School Supervision and School Based Management - supporting the enhancement of the learning environment at schools; transferring greater autonomy to school personnel; fostering deeper commitment to the institution; and forging stronger links between schools and their communities;
- Baseline study of Representative Sample of Primary and Secondary Teachers to inform Model for Professional Development - to facilitate the evaluation of the effectiveness of intervention strategies geared towards enhancing the quality of teaching.; and
- Ministry of Education's Communication's Strategy – which seeks to establish a comprehensive communication strategy that assures community engagement and participation in its transformation initiatives.

ALIGNMENT OF TERTIARY EDUCATION PROGRAMMES TO DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

BOX 6.XXIV

NEW PROGRAMMES
OFFERED BY COSTAATT
IN 2012

LEVEL	PROGRAMME
BSc	Environmental Health
BSc	Geographical Studies for Sustainable Development
BSc	Information Technology-General
BSc	Supply Chain Management
BA	Information and Library Sciences
BA	Early Childhood Care and Education
BA	Graphic Design
AAS	Earth Sciences
AAS	Physics for Engineering
AAS	Paralegal Studies
Postgrad Diploma	Forensic Investigations and Auditing
Cert	Early Childhood Care Education
Cert	Criminal Justice
Cert	Supervisory Management
Cert	Pre-Medical Sciences
Cert	Public Sector Management

Strengthening the alignment between the supply and demand for labour requires partnership with training institutions and employee organisations. In an effort to bridge the existing gap between labour supply and demand, COSTAATT has introduced 16 new programmes - 7 new baccalaureate programmes (BSc, BA), 3 associate degrees (AAS), 1 postgraduate diploma and 5 certificate (Cert) programmes. All programmes have been internationally benchmarked and aligned to market and manpower needs and are relevant to national development. Further to this, UWI has also introduced four (4) additional programmes that are on our Developmental List of priority programmes developed by the Ministry of Public Administration. These are PhD in Project Management, Post Graduate Diploma in the Management of HIV Infection, Postgraduate Diploma and MSc in Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Caribbean and Pre-Service Postgraduate Diploma in Education for entry into Secondary School Teaching.

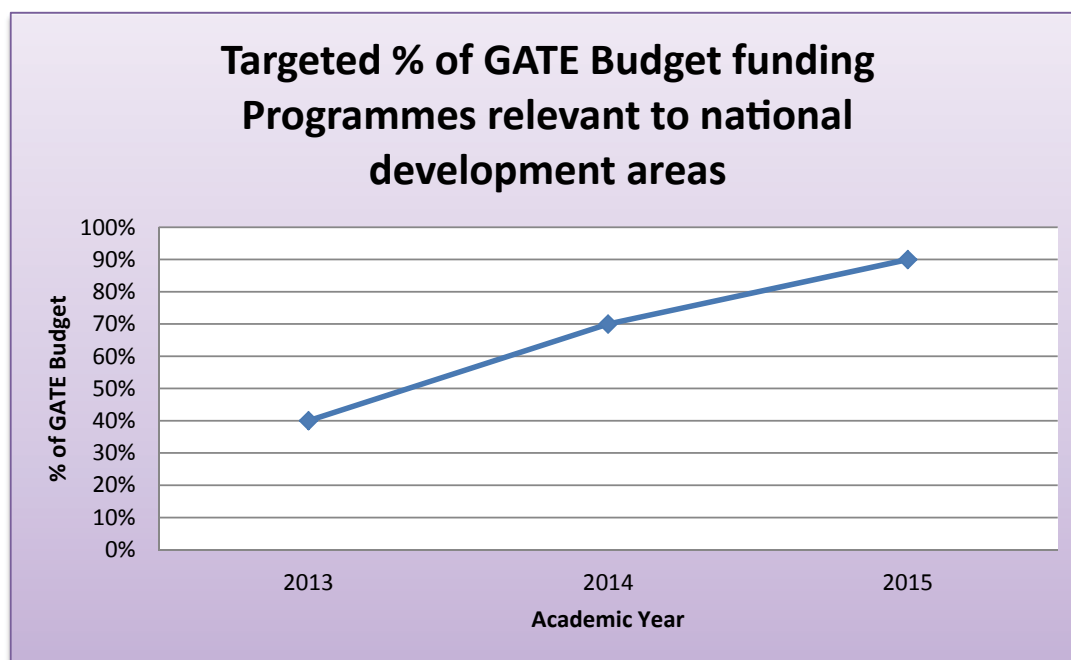
In addition to the above, the Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro-Enterprises Development (MLSMED) has a programme to enhance the Labour Market Information System (LMIS) which was developed with the intention of improving the match between the demand and supply of labour. It is expected that this programme will provide accurate, timely and reliable labour market information to

guide national policy formulation. As such a pilot survey on the “impact of the increase in the national minimum wage from \$9.00 to \$12.50 on economic indicators in particular employment

levels, hours of work, prices of goods and services” has been completed. Also, a Job Vacancies Survey was conducted in the public service, with a second one in progress for the private sector. A consultancy firm was contracted to conduct the survey of private establishments and it is intended that the survey will be repeated every six months.

Government remains committed to providing for our developmental needs and has set targets for the number of GATE-funded programmes that are to be aligned to national development areas. The targets are expressed in terms of the GATE Budget. It is expected that the number of GATE-funded programmes that are relevant to national development will increase from 40 per cent of GATE’s Budget in 2013 to 90 per cent in 2015. See Figure 6.VI for a graphical depiction of this data.

FIGURE 6.VI
TARGETED PERCENTAGE OF GATE-FUNDED PROGRAMMES
ALIGNED TO NATIONAL ECONOMIC PRIORITY AREAS



BOX 6.XXV

PROGRAMMES OFFERED AT THE KEN GORDON SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES

- AAS in Graphic Design
- AAS in Journalism and Public Relations
- AAS Journalism
- BA in Graphic Design
- BA Journalism
- BA Mass Communications

Government continues to be committed to the development of people with the opening of the Ken Gordon School of Journalism and Communication Studies at COSTAATT. This school is expected to be the choice for all students, both locally and regionally, who are interested in pursuing relevant studies in journalism, communication,

media, graphic arts and advertising. Current enrolment stands at 750 students, including 22-25 students in Tobago. Total student capacity is 1,000. The programme offerings of the Ken Gordon School of Journalism and Communication Studies are listed in Box 6.XXV.

In addition, the OJT Programme has also been refocused on sectors that have been earmarked as national developmental priorities which include Agriculture, Health, Environment, Education and Hospitality and Tourism.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY DEVELOPMENT

Improving the numeracy and literacy skills continues to be a priority for the Government. The Ministry of Education has approved a project for improving literacy and numeracy skills among students enrolled in Infant Year 1, Infant Year 2 and Standard I. This Plan aims to reduce the number of Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) students scoring thirty per cent or less in the SEA. As at 2012, this figure stood at 2,100 students or 11.6 per cent.

Additionally, the hiring of 80 Literacy and 40 Numeracy coaches is being proposed and 128 primary schools were selected to participate in the Pilot Programme. Also, the Ministry has commenced discussions with tertiary institutions to prepare these literacy and numeracy coaches for the pilot programme.

Further, during the last year, reading workshops were held for 300 teachers and 100 principals. They were trained in the use of strategies that can be used in the classroom to improve the reading skills of students in primary schools.

CURRICULA IMPROVEMENTS

The development of a modern and relevant curriculum is at the core of an effective education system that aims to produce modern and relevant learners.

A number of emerging areas are being identified, two of them being *Renewable Energy* and *Energy Efficiency*. Collaborations are in progress to include *Renewable Energy* and *Energy Efficiency* in schools through the curriculum. Approval has been obtained for a Pilot Project/Initiatives to introduce *Renewable Energy* in Community Centres and Secondary Schools. Discussions to engage the UWI and UTT to develop training programmes in these areas have also commenced.

BOX 6.XXVI CURRICULUM TARGET – SECONDARY SCHOOLS

**Expand and diversify
secondary school
curriculum**

BOX 6.XXVII CURRICULUM TARGET – PRIMARY SCHOOLS

**Strengthen primary school system
to prevent leakages and deepen
curriculum**

Moreover, a consultant was engaged to assist with the overall reform of the Primary School Curriculum. This consultancy is due to be completed by August 2013. Works continue towards implementing programmes aimed at enriching the primary school curriculum. The Ministry of Education officially launched the restructured Continuous Assessment

Component (CAC) of the Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) in the second quarter of fiscal year 2012. Under this initiative, curriculum will be delivered to Standard 4 and 5 students in the following subject areas. Refer to Box 6.XXVIII below for revised subject areas.

BOX 6.XXVIII CAC SEA CURRICULUM

- Language Arts
- Physical Education
- Visual and Performing Arts (Music, Visual Arts, Dance, Theatre)
- Health and Family Life Education
- Mathematics
- Citizenry Development
- Social Studies
- Morals
- Agri-Science
- Values and Ethics

The CAC will be introduced for the first time in the academic year 2012-2013 and will initially contribute 20 per cent of student's marks to gain entry into secondary schools. From the academic year 2013-2014 onwards, the

CAC will contribute 40 per cent to the SEA, which will comprise 20 per cent from Standard 4 and Standard 5 assessments respectively.

To date, the following achievements have been noted under this initiative:

- A total of 828 Standard 5 and 609 Standard 4 teachers have been trained to deliver and assess the 10 subject areas;
- A total of 557 primary schools have been resourced, that is, training manuals & CDs have been provided to support the delivery of the CAC in September 2012;
- Physical Education and Visual And Performing Arts (VAPA) were included as part of the primary school curriculum; and
- A framework was developed for the introduction of Continuous Assessment Programme (CAP) in primary schools.

QUALITY TEACHING AND TRAINING

The teacher plays a critical role in the development of the student. Modern teaching practises, teacher training and development are critical to deliver the new curriculum, as well as be able to appropriately respond to the student in the school environment. The aim is to produce a teacher who possesses the necessary abilities and competences, such as emotional intelligence, adaptability and resilience, to effectively teach the modern learner.

The COSTTAT's Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) has launched its first Faculty Development Programme. The programme provides for the conduct of short-term workshops and also certificate and diploma certification at the tertiary level. To date, over 250 full- and part-time Faculty members, representing approximately 50 per cent of the Faculty body, have been trained in competency areas such as college teaching, academic advising, classroom assessment and effective group work.

Further to this, the standardisation of teaching practices and systems in the Early Childhood Care Education Centres in accordance with those established by the Organization of American States and CARICOM remains a priority for Government. Through collaborations with the then Ministry of Science Technology and Tertiary Education, the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago and six tertiary level institutions including UTT and UWI, the harmonisation of training of ECCE teachers at the Certificate Level has commenced. Additionally, discussions

for the alignment of the Curriculum for ECCE Teacher Training and Certification at the tertiary level has been concluded. A similar discussion has commenced to harmonise training at the Bachelor of Education level for all primary school teachers as well.

IMPROVING STUDENTS' OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Improving students' overall performance in the areas of academics, innovation, ICT and life skills is the focus of the education system. The objective is to produce an individual who can manage and balance both academic and non-academic activities and create a graduate who has acquired the relevant skills to meaningfully participate in society and contribute to its economic and social development.

Further to the above, Institutional Accreditation by the ACTT to five (5) indigenous Tertiary Level Institutions was conferred. For the first time in the history of Trinidad and Tobago - and the wider Caribbean region – a national quality assurance body has conferred Institutional Accreditation to local higher education institutions. These institutions are:

- College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT)
- University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT)
- University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus
- Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business (ALJGSB)
- University of the Southern Caribbean (USC)

Further, 218 primary school teachers received a scholarship to pursue a Bachelor in Education.

Guidance and support was provided to students and parents to improve the overall standards of performance in all the 2012 CXC Examinations. The following were undertaken by the Student Support Services of the Ministry of Education:-

- Provision of examination materials (past papers and study guides);
- Monitoring and support towards the completion of School Based Assessment by students; and
- Provision of guidelines and strategies for assisting students about preparing for examinations and coping with examination stresses and anxieties.

Also, in keeping with the policy of inclusive education, the provision of support to children diagnosed with special education needs continued as follows:

- 1,517 students received special education services, such as testing for ailments, at public and private special schools;
- 483 students received special education services at 63 primary schools;
- Direct guidance services provided to students at 138 primary schools;
- Direct guidance services provided to students at 58 secondary schools;
- 2,600 secondary school students received counselling services; and
- 1,162 primary school students benefitted from social work services. Major issues included aggressive behaviour, chronic absenteeism, fighting, class disruptive behaviour, relations with parents, and emotional distress.

Making the school environment safe and conducive to learning is one of the pillars for creating a positive the learning environment. Consequently, the Task Force on Violence and Indiscipline in schools was established. The Task Force comprises representatives from the Ministries of Education, Sport, People and Social Development, Community Development, National Security, the Solicitor General's Office; as well as the National Parent Teachers Association (NPTA), Association of Principals of Public Secondary Schools, Association of Principals of Assisted Secondary Schools, Association of Denominational Boards, and Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers' Association. This Task Force has been established to collaborate and work jointly with representatives of various Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to create a holistic approach in addressing the indiscipline and violence in our nation schools. The target group for this programme is students who are suspended in excess of one day. The intention is to ensure that there is no interruption in learning as a result of suspension. The Task Force is overseeing the implementation of two (2) Student Development Centres. The project, which is currently being rolled out in collaboration with the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in the Port-of-Spain Education District and Mariama Children's Museum & Teen Turf (St. George East District), is intended to improve the psycho-social skills of the students, while ensuring there is no interruption in their classroom instructions, while on suspension.

Making the link between education and the workplace is another key pillar for developing our human capital. Career Guidance and Development in Secondary Schools is therefore a critical phase of the learning process. Sixty per cent of secondary schools have participated in the 2011/2012 Career Guidance Programme.

PROMOTE AND INSTIL POSITIVE VALUES AND ATTITUDES THROUGH THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

Preliminary studies show that high quality mentoring has the potential to be a successful intervention strategy to address risk among youth and to promote positive behaviours and attitudes. Researchers have not yet sufficiently distilled the specific impacts of mentoring alone from the impacts of the programmes in which they take place, but have suggested that close, consistent, and enduring mentoring relationships are likely to have positive benefits. Some benefits of mentoring are better academic performance and school attendance and positive attitudes.²¹

The Ministry of Education has partnered with the Ministry of National Security to implement the National Mentorship Programme (NMP). The National Mentorship Programme is geared toward positive youth development, and is aimed at young people between the ages of 9 to 25 years, from primary to tertiary level, as well as youths in general who may not have had the opportunity to be exposed to a stable mentor. Participants will be paired with role models who teach them fundamental life skills, civic responsibility and positive ways of relating to their peers. Among the many positives, a long-term benefit of the project is expected to be a reduction in youth offences.

At present, there are 190 mentees (150 males and 40 females) with mentors registered in the programme and 104 mentees awaiting mentors. Further 114 mentors have completed the training programme.

LIFE-LONG LEARNING AND SELF ADVANCEMENT

Lifelong learning is the "lifelong, voluntary, and self-motivated"²² pursuit of knowledge for either personal or professional reasons. As such, it not only enhances social inclusion, active citizenship and personal development, but also competitiveness and employability²³.

In support of this, the opening of libraries on Sundays in San Fernando, Couva, Debe and Sangre Grande was initiated and the Books on Wheels to Housebound Outreach Service to

²¹ <http://www.federalmentoringcouncil.gov/benefits.asp>

²² Department of Education and Science (2000). Learning for Life: White Paper on Adult Education. Dublin: Stationery Office. <http://eric.ed.gov/PDFS/ED471201.pdf>

²³ Commission of the European Communities: "Adult learning: It is never too late to learn". COM(2006) 614 final. Brussels, 23.10.2006.

the elderly was implemented in eight (8) senior citizen homes. Further, libraries have been introduced at St. Jude's School for Girl, St. Michael's School for Boys and at the Women's Prison and Maximum Security Prison. Here, library and information services are available to all staff and inmates at the Prison. Additionally, to meet the needs of certain areas of the population, all approvals have been secured for construction of libraries in Chaguanas, Rio Claro, Mayaro, Arouca, Siparia, Couva, Penal, Moruga, Toco, Morvant, Diego Martin, San Juan and Arima. Works have commenced in Mayaro, Rio Claro and Couva. Fifteen (15) Memoranda of Understanding were drafted to establish a framework to manage special libraries and facilitate access to information resources in Ministries and Agencies.

In addition to the above, discussions were held with the Commissioner of Prisons regarding the provision of tertiary level courses / programmes to enhance the professional development opportunities of Prison Officers. Consequently, COSTAATT submitted a proposal for the development of a Certificate in Criminal Justice, which commenced in February 2012 with an enrolment of 26 Prisons Officers.

HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT – A STRUCTURED APPROACH

Government's commitment to developing the people of this nation remains a high priority. Government recognizes that, in order to develop the people in a comprehensive manner, a comprehensive developmental strategy is needed.

With this in mind, UWI has commenced work on the establishment of a Centre for Workforce Research and Development (CWRD). This Centre will collaborate with all existing repositories of Labour Market Information to address the issues of unemployment, underemployment and lack of absorptive capacity within the local economy and conduct research on manpower requirements for national development.

In addition to this, a policy on Science, Technology and Innovation was developed. This policy is expected to establish a framework to govern science and technology development in Trinidad and Tobago. To date, a draft has been completed and a consultation with critical stakeholders has also been completed.

The introduction of a more extensive, national programme of inclusion to assess and certify informal and non-formal competencies was also undertaken. The establishment of the

innovative Workforce Assessment Centres (WACs) provides a walk-in venue for skilled workers to obtain certification using Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR). Over the last year, 500 persons were assessed by the Metal Industries Company Limited (MIC) in carpentry, masonry, electrical installation, plumbing and welding and 1,064 persons were assessed by the National Energy Skills Centre (NESC) in Automotive Services, Welding, Pipefitting, Electrical Installation and Data Operations. To support the drive to increase opportunities for uncertified nationals, additional WACs have been established by National Training Agency (NTA) at critical service agencies including the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) and Vehicle Management Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (VMCOTT).

THE WAY FORWARD

Government continues to move towards the fulfilment of its mission of *achieving 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*. This mission continues to be made possible with the adoption of a Results Based Management (RBM) approach. The core of this approach focuses on measurement related to policy/projects/programmes, and the creation of 'public value'. Public value essentially refers to observable and measurable social changes that are effected through Government in response to the demands or needs of citizens.

In order to achieve Government's ultimate goal of '*Prosperity for all*', social change in society will be critical. It is important to note that this social change not only refers to social policies, but also to the delivery of services including citizens' security, agriculture, health care, employment, competitiveness and the administration of justice. Additionally, the implementation of RBM does not only rest on Ministries that deliver goods and services to the public, but also on central Ministries such as Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Finance and the Economy. These Ministries are critical in regulating the national public management system which is important in creating public value.

The adoption of RBM will ensure that current as well as future decision-making is based on reliable information about the impacts of Government's interventions on the lives of citizens. As we move towards this approach however, it is important to note that the implementation of such a system will demand innovation and a re-engineering of processes and procedures in the public sector. It will also require a sustained effort over the medium and long term; modifications to the legal and or institutional arrangements; alignment of all elements of the public management cycle, as well as consensus and coordination between and among the various Ministries/Department/Agencies.

Essentially RBM will require a transition from reporting on activities and compliance with procedures to one that is results-oriented. This will therefore demand that State institutions take direct responsibility, not merely for carrying out roles and functions, but for the achievement of results. As we move towards building a more robust results based system, the public sector must also set the standards that we will use to measure change.

WHAT IS NEEDED? – CONTINUED COLLABORATION

- Monitoring of Budget execution – *Ministry of Finance and the Economy*
- Monitoring of Multi-lateral agencies funded projects – *Ministry of Finance and the Economy and Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development*
- Monitoring of PSIP performance – *Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development*
- Monitoring of performance on Ministerial Strategic priorities and Strategic Plans - *Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development*
- Monitoring of performance on National Priorities as identified in the Medium Term Policy Framework - *Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development*
- All Ministries monitoring their own performance through the establishment Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Units.

To date, the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development has developed the National Performance Framework (NPF) to monitor the performance of the Medium Term Policy Framework (MTPF) 2011-2014. In order to track implementation progress as well as to monitor and evaluate the attainment of national outcomes, Standard Results Chain has been developed for each of the five (5) priority areas set out in the MTPF. Furthermore, within the NPF, Key Results Areas; expected outputs; outcomes; key projects and programmes, together with the responsible Ministries/Agencies were identified for all priority areas.

As we move forward, it is important that all outstanding Strategic Plans of Ministries/Agencies be developed in alignment with both the MTPF as well as the NPF. Additionally, Ministries/Agencies should identify the key projects/programmes they are required to implement towards the achievement of the five (5) priority areas outlined for the medium term.

A critical area of focus of Government will also be on enhancing data collection, not only through the strengthening of the Central Statistical Office (CSO), but within Ministries/Agencies, to ensure that national indicators can be populated and reported on in a more precise manner. Alongside data collection, the supply of quarterly reports to the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development on the implementation of Strategic Plans and the MTPF must also be viewed by Ministries/Agencies as crucial in order to accurately record our progress.

In addition to the challenges of designing and implementing a results-based system, a key component to ensure success will be the commitment of Government leadership, especially

as it relates to the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery to the population. This Government therefore remains committed and dedicated to ensuring that there is creativity, innovation and collaboration between and among Ministries/Agencies in order to achieve the highest level of performance.

This report is the first report and evaluation of performance in the context of the five (5) priorities for the nation as articulated in the Medium Term Policy Framework (MTPF) 2011-2014. It therefore provides the base to assess future progress. Much has been achieved in fiscal year 2011/2012 and we anticipate significant progress going forward. It is important therefore to proceed with action for results. Results that can be measured and effective monitoring and evaluation and measurement for results will allow us to manage better, deliver more, and govern more effectively.

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