



BRIEF REMARKS BY

PERMANENT SECRETARY

MINISTER OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**‘Sensitization Seminar on the Implementation of the
Gender-Sensitive Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
Results-Based Management System (RBM)’**

Friday 04th April, 2019
State Actors Sensitization Seminar

- Dr. Manorma Soeknandan, Deputy Secretary General, CARICOM Secretariat,
- Ms Hipolina Joseph Deputy Programme Manager, CARICOM Secretariat
- Mr. Evan Green, Results Based Management System Consultant of Le Groupe-conseil Baastel ltée (otherwise known as Baastel),
- Mr. Maurice Suite Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister (ag.)
- Mr. Raye Sandy, Chief Administrator, Tobago House of Assembly (THA)
- Deputy Permanent Secretary Ms Marie Hinds, Ministry of Planning and Development
- My fellow Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries
- Divisions of the THA
- Distinguished Guests,
- Members of the Media

A pleasant good morning to everyone.

It is my pleasure to be here giving these brief remarks at the *Sensitization Seminar on the Implementation of the Gender-Sensitive Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Results-Based Management (RBM) System*. I would like to take this opportunity to specially welcome the CARICOM team and thank them deeply in advance, for the work being done to unify the Caribbean Community on a common platform of Results-Based Management (RBM). We are aware that this Session is to inform and prepare us for the implementation of the Gender- Sensitive *RBM System* which is a mechanism to facilitate improvements to planning, monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on the status of implementation and the impact of projects and programmes on citizens.

Trinidad and Tobago is no stranger to the process of development, and the use of an RBM System to drive our development forward. Over the last decade, there has been an increasing concern about public sector performance by citizens and other stakeholders, which stems from the need for good governance as it relates to the use of public funds and the demonstration of *real* results through improved public service delivery.

In this regard, Government has recognized the need for the establishment of a *Results-Based Performance Management System*, and has made several serious attempts to build such a System and institutionalize a culture performance and results within the public sector through the implementation of several initiatives. These initiatives included the mandate to establish M&E Units in all Government Ministries and relevant Departments to provide support for evidence-based decision and policy making. Followed by the establishment of the National Transformation Unit (NTU) in the Ministry of Planning and Development, as the overarching M&E Unit to oversee and coordinate the function of M&E, and lead the process of institutionalizing a culture of RBM in the public sector.

Other key initiatives undertaken to build and develop an RBM System in Trinidad and Tobago included:

- The preparation of a *Medium Term Action Plan (MTAP)* to strengthen the practice of RBM in the public sector;
- *Building consensus* about the benefits and challenges of RBM within the public sector resulting in a much clearer understanding among stakeholders of the benefits of a results-based system;
- The hosting of four (4) *Annual Development Evaluation Forums* to share information, increase public sector capacity and encourage dialogue in M&E;
- The development of the *National Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Policy of Trinidad and Tobago*, the first of its kind to be developed for Trinidad and Tobago and in the wider region. The purpose of the Policy is to foster a paradigm shift towards a culture of performance management; to promote good governance which encompasses transparency and accountability in the use of public funds; to facilitate the demonstration of results of Government service delivery; and to provide general guidance for the practice of M&E in Trinidad and Tobago;

- The development of two (2) **National Performance Frameworks (NPFs)** 2012-2015 and 2017-2020, that links national policies and strategies, to results and outcomes. The NPF is a measurement framework, and it represents a new approach to performance measurement in Trinidad and Tobago that measures and assesses our efficiency and effectiveness in the achievement of expected goals and long term impacts on the citizenry;
- The development and publication of three (3) **Annual Reports on Performance** (for fiscal years 2012, 2013 and 2014) which tell a year-by-year development progress of Trinidad and Tobago based on the goals Government has set out to achieve. Most recently, the Ministry of Planning and Development also published the '*Vision 2030 Reporting on Progress Report (2015-2018)*', which highlighted the significant achievements attained thus far in the implementation of the National Development Strategy 2016-2030 (otherwise known as Vision 2030); and
- The **training of numerous public officers in Results-Based M&E** to ensure that M&E local practitioners are both competent and capable to operate within their respective Ministries/Agencies/Departments.

Alongside this significant work, other initiatives are in progress that lend critical support for the practice of M&E and the implementation of the wider RBM System in Trinidad and Tobago. One (1) such initiative is the transformation of the Central Statistical Office (CSO) to the National Statistical Institute of Trinidad and Tobago (NSITT) to provide the requisite data support to sustain the practice of M&E.

Our journey toward a culture of RBM in the public sector is not yet over, however we intend to use our past, current and future experiences in this area, to provide support in the development of this RBM System in whatever capacity required. As a result of deliberately developed regional synergies, the building of this RBM System will only serve to fuel our efforts as we continue to build the RBM System of Trinidad and Tobago.

To make this synergy a reality, we at the Ministry of Planning and Development look forward to working together with the Secretariat to clearly define the areas of commonality between the Community's five-year Strategic Plan and Vision 2030. Identified in Vision 2030, under the ***Thematic Area: 'Delivering Good Governance and Service Excellence'*** we remain committed to strengthening our RBM System and ensuring that a culture of performance and results is further enshrined in the public sector. This will only further aid in the development of ways to ensure the alignment of all components of both our RBM Systems and allow us to work together seamlessly.

Ultimately, we believe that the development and implementation of this *Gender-Sensitive CARICOM RBM System* is a timely and necessary initiative that will bring about a much needed paradigm shift. If we as a Community are able to implement this System in a cohesive and disciplined manner, it will improve the extent to which results are achieved and intended impacts realised within each Member State and across the Community as a whole.

It is my genuine hope that we will all leave here with a more profound appreciation for the current trajectory of our regional Community and with a deep desire to contribute, beyond words, to the achievement of our individual and collective goals through collaboration and hard work.

I thank you very much for your attention and I wish you all a good day.