STATEMENT

WE ARE A UNITED, resilient, productive, innovative, and prosperous nation with a disciplined, caring, fun-loving society comprising healthy, happy and well-educated people and built on the enduring attributes of self-reliance, respect, tolerance, equity, inclusion and integrity in which;

EVERY CITIZEN is valued and has equal opportunities to achieve his/her fullest potential;

ALL CITIZENS ENJOY a high quality of life, where quality healthcare is available to all and where safe, peaceful and environmentally friendly communities are maintained;

ALL CITIZENS ARE ASSURED of a sound, relevant education system tailored to meet the human resource needs of a modern, progressive and technologically advancing nation;

OPTIMUM USE IS MADE of all the resources of the nation, with due regard to environmental sustainability and making greater use of renewable resources while ensuring that we enjoy water, food and energy security;

THE FAMILY AS THE FOUNDATION of the society contributes to its growth, development and stability;

OUR ECONOMY SUPPORTS decent work for all and is conducive to entrepreneurship and innovation;

THERE IS RESPECT for the rule of law and human rights, and the promotion of the principles of democracy and there is confidence in our public institutions; and

THE DIVERSITY AND CREATIVITY of all its people are valued and nurtured.
At this critical juncture in our country’s journey, I am pleased to present to you the Vision 2030 Achievement Report 2018-2019, entitled ‘Realizing Our National Vision Together’ which reports on the key achievements aligned to the National Development Strategy ‘Vision 2030’ and by extension the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from October 2018 to September 2019.

When we began this journey in September 2015, we were aware of the efforts required to turn our country around and the work needed to achieve a sustainable future. This Report is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the Government and its key stakeholders, over the last fiscal year as we continue to push forward in our thrust towards the development of the nation and the prosperity and well-being of all citizens.

The Report presents the progress made against selected national performance measures, and highlights successes and achievements in the implementation of key projects, programmes and policies by Ministries, Agencies and Departments. While much has been done over this short time, the Report also highlights the challenges we have faced as a nation and the difficulties we overcame in order to reach where we are today. All of which have further strengthened our resolve to press on with even greater diligence and perseverance.

As we look back over the last year, we should all be proud of our accomplishments. Through the implementation of several significant initiatives, we continue to focus on placing people at the centre of development; ensuring good governance; providing economic stability; building world class infrastructure; and positioning the environment at the core of our socio-economic development.

As we move forward, I assure you that my Government remains committed and will continue to deliver on the mandate given to us by you - the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

I would like to thank all Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments for the remarkable work and contributions made over the period, and for their continued perseverance in realizing a better Trinidad and Tobago for all our citizens and the generations to come. We are truly realizing our national vision by the year 2030, with boundless faith in our destiny.

It is with great pleasure that I endorse the Vision 2030 Achievement Report 2018-2019: ‘Realizing Our National Vision Together’ and share with you the account of our achievements over the last fiscal year.

The key achievements highlighted in this Achievement Report 2018-2019 are classified under the five (5) thematic areas of Vision 2030, which signal our intention to become a resilient, productive, and more developed nation by 2030. These five (5) thematic Areas are:

1. Putting People First: Nurturing Our Greatest Asset
2. Delivering Good Governance and Service Excellence
3. Improving Productivity through Quality Infrastructure and Transportation;
4. Building Globally Competitive Businesses; and
5. Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development

The goals defined in Vision 2030 are also aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and hence, as we pursue the achievement of our national vision we are also pursuing the achievement of these 17 global goals. This commitment is further reflected in the positioning of the 17 SDGs across the three (3) pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental), five (5) thematic areas, and 56 national goals in Vision 2030.

As such, I am pleased to report that over the period being considered, through the sustained efforts of Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments, including the significant contributions of key stakeholders, such as the business community, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and you the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, we have made significant progress towards our national goals as well as the SDGs.

The continued successful implementation of Vision 2030 and achievement of the SDGs, demand persistence and steadfastness. So as we approach the year 2020, the final year of the first (1st) planning period (2016-2020) of Vision 2030, let me assure you that my Government remains focused and committed to working towards our shared vision.

I wish to specially recognize and thank the National Transformation Unit (NTU) of the Ministry of Planning and Development for their hard work and commitment in the publication of this Report. I will also like to sincerely thank all Ministries, Agencies and Departments for working together with us in providing the information of the success of their key initiatives included in this Report.


The Honourable Camille Robinson-Regis
Minister of Planning and Development
# Table of Contents

## Vision Statement

1. Prime Minister’s Statement
2. Statement by the Minister of Planning and Development
3. List of Boxes, Figures and Tables
4. Acronyms
5. Executive Summary

## Implementing Vision 2030

14 - 19

1. Chapter 1: Introduction
2. Chapter 2: Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals

## Vision 2030 Key Achievements 2018-2019

22 - 51

1. Chapter 3: Putting People First: Nurturing Our Greatest Assets
2. Chapter 4: Delivering Good Governance and Service Excellence
3. Chapter 5: Improving Productivity through Quality Infrastructure and Transport
4. Chapter 6: Building Globally Competitive Businesses
5. Chapter 7: Placing the Environment and the Centre of Social and Economic Development

## Looking to 2030

116 - 119

52 - 63

64 - 79

80 - 97

98 - 115

120 - 122

## Endnotes
LIST OF BOXES

Box 3.1    Achievements as at July 2019
Box 6.1    List of Business Advisory Services provided in Fiscal 2019
Box 6.2    Enhancement of the single Electronic Window (SEW)

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1    Alignment of SDGs to Vision 2030
Figure 3.1    Number of Beneficiaries of National Social Development Programme Grants
Figure 3.2    Number of Beneficiaries of National Social Development Grants Approved But Not Yet Funded
Figure 5.1    Percentage of Population with Access to Portable Water to their Homes
Figure 5.2    Map of Location of Wells being developed in Trinidad
Figure 5.3    Map of Location of Wells being developed in Tobago
Figure 5.4    Map of Catchment Area of the Malabar Wastewater Treatment Plant
Figure 6.1    Welcome Signage at Las Cuevas Beach Facility
Figure 6.2    Washroom Upgrade at Las Cuevas Beach Facility
Figure 6.3    Aesthetic Site Upgrades at Manzanilla Beach Facility
Figure 6.4    Desperados and Bishops Anstey Steel Ensemble at the Opening of Live Music District Phase III

LIST OF TABLES

Table 5.1    List of well completion rates in Trinidad
Table 5.2    List of well completion rates in Tobago
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAQM</td>
<td>Ambient Air Quality Monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADHD</td>
<td>Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AQI</td>
<td>Air Quality Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASD</td>
<td>Agricultural Services Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASD</td>
<td>Autism Spectrum Disorder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARICOM</td>
<td>Caribbean Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCP</td>
<td>Community Care Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCTV</td>
<td>Closed-Circuit Television</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAP</td>
<td>Chronic Disease Assistance Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDB</td>
<td>Caribbean Development Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEC</td>
<td>China Harbour Engineering Company Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIP-TT</td>
<td>Country Implementation Plan of Trinidad and Tobago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSD</td>
<td>Community Mediation Services Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNCMP</td>
<td>Comprehensive National Coastal Monitoring Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNG</td>
<td>Compressed Natural Gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO2</td>
<td>Carbon Dioxide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COSTATT</td>
<td>College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSME</td>
<td>CARICOM Single Market Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Central Statistical Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>Computerized Tomography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTDA</td>
<td>Castara Tourism Development Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIQE</td>
<td>Division of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECCE</td>
<td>Early Childhood Care and Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECCL</td>
<td>Export Centres Company Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELA</td>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMA</td>
<td>Environmental Management Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENT</td>
<td>Ear Nose and Throat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPPD</td>
<td>Environmental Policy Planning Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPS</td>
<td>Expanded Polystyrene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERHA</td>
<td>Eastern Regional Health Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERP</td>
<td>Emergency Response Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESS</td>
<td>Environmentally Sensitive Species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEF</td>
<td>Global Environmental Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHG</td>
<td>Green House Gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDC</td>
<td>Housing Development Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immunodeficiency Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HVIP</td>
<td>Housing and Village Improvement Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communications Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IADB</td>
<td>InterAmerican Development Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMA</td>
<td>Institute of Marine Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP</td>
<td>Intellectual Property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPPA</td>
<td>Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITES</td>
<td>Information Technology enabled Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IWECO</td>
<td>Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KMS</td>
<td>Knowledge Management System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KVA</td>
<td>Kilovolt Amperes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LABIDCO</td>
<td>La Brea Industrial Development Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIMS</td>
<td>Laboratory Information Management System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINAC</td>
<td>Linear Accelerator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### LIST OF ACRONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LMD</td>
<td>Live Music District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDGs</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIC</td>
<td>Metal Industries Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICS</td>
<td>Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIT</td>
<td>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOWT</td>
<td>Ministry of Works and Transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPU</td>
<td>Ministry of Public Utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRV</td>
<td>National Climate Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSMEs</td>
<td>Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCCCC</td>
<td>National Cancer Control Coordinating Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCD</td>
<td>Non Communicable Diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCPP</td>
<td>National Crime Prevention Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCRHA</td>
<td>North Central Regional Health Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDC</td>
<td>Nationally Determined Contributions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDS</td>
<td>National Development Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEDCO</td>
<td>National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEP</td>
<td>National Environmental Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIHERST</td>
<td>National Institute of Higher Education, Research and Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIS</td>
<td>National Insurance System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSDP</td>
<td>National Social Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTU</td>
<td>National Transformation Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NWRHA</td>
<td>North West Regional Health Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPM</td>
<td>Office of the Prime Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORF</td>
<td>Oral Reading Fluency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>Paris Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBRS</td>
<td>Property Business Registration System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEAPSL</td>
<td>Petrotrin Employee Assistance Programme Services Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIMS</td>
<td>Property Information Management System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP</td>
<td>Persistent Organic Pollutants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTSC</td>
<td>Public Transport Service Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVC</td>
<td>Polyvinyl Chloride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R&amp;D</td>
<td>Research and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RGD</td>
<td>Registrar General Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIC</td>
<td>Regulated Industries Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RITTR</td>
<td>Rehabilitating Inmates Through Training and Retraining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPPIA</td>
<td>Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RRU</td>
<td>Rapid Response Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA</td>
<td>Secondary Entrance Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEED</td>
<td>Sowing Empowerment through Entrepreneurship Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEW</td>
<td>Single Electronic Window</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIDS</td>
<td>Small Island Developing States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIM</td>
<td>Sectoral Innovation Mapping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOME</td>
<td>State of the Marine Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STARS</td>
<td>Student Transition and Remediation Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEM</td>
<td>Science, technology, Engineering and Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STI</td>
<td>Science, Technology and Innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWMCOL</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWRHA</td>
<td>South West Regional Health Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T&amp;E Tec</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCPD</td>
<td>Town and Country Planning Division</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Continued on page 8)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TDC</td>
<td>Transformation Development Centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THA</td>
<td>Tobago House of Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T&amp;T</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTBS</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTHTI</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTPS</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago Police Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTT</td>
<td>University of Trinidad and Tobago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UWI</td>
<td>University of the West Indies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VR</td>
<td>Virtual Reality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YAPA</td>
<td>Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTEPP</td>
<td>Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 1: IMPLEMENTING VISION 2030

In addition to the achievement of the national goals outlined in Vision 2030, Chapter 2 of the Report places strategic emphasis on the global agenda towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Driven by the principle of ‘leaving no one behind,’ this Report highlights the continued commitment of Trinidad and Tobago to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the efforts of Government to meet the targets of the 17 SDGs, while remaining focused on local developmental needs.

Section 2 provides details on the major achievements of Government in fiscal 2019 in pursuit of the implementation of the five (5) thematic areas of vision 2030.

In Chapter 3, the Report focuses on the key initiatives implemented under the thematic area- ‘Putting People First: Nurturing Our Greatest Assets.’ The main components of focus within this chapter are Health, Housing, Social Protection and Education.

Over the period, Health remained a priority for Government to address the growing demand for care, the increasing population size and the greater need to be on the cutting-edge of medical technology. As such, interventions were targeted which improved the physical public health infrastructure including the continued construction of the Arima Hospital and the Point Fortin Hospital.
Through a number of initiatives, a number of selected national performance indicators. For example, Trinidad and Tobago experienced tremendous success with the reduction of the Cancer Mortality Rate from 116.71 per 100,000 in June 2018 to 110.2 per 100,000 in July 2019 (Source: Ministry of Health). Another area of success was the decrease in the Communicable Disease Mortality Rate per 100,000 persons from 32.4 in June 2018 to 31.2 in July 2019. (Source: Ministry of Health).

As it relates to Housing, emphasis was placed on providing quality homes to all residents. As such, Government completed 77 homes under the Housing and Village Improvement Programme (HVIP); and distributed 982 homes to families in middle and lower income brackets over the period. It is expected that a further 1,797 families will benefit from housing units currently under construction throughout the country.

With respect to Social Protection, the Report highlights the achievements of Government to improve the standard of living for vulnerable groups in society in fiscal 2019. Such achievements included the provision of the Public Assistance (Food Card) Grant to 23,000 vulnerable households; the distribution of grants to 1,466 applicants who were adversely affected by natural disasters; and the distribution of 21 grant funding to 108 beneficiaries to start their own small businesses.

In the area of Education, the Report focuses mainly on Government’s emphasis on improving the education and training system, the governance and administration structure upon which it rests and the infrastructure of our educational institutions. During fiscal 2019, the Education Policy Paper 2017-2022 which will guide the education system, was approved. Additionally fifteen (15) schools successfully completed bother teacher and student training in technology with the intent of leading to greater levels of innovation. In terms of physical infrastructure upgrades, repair works to 83% of primary schools, and 90% of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Centres were completed.

Substantial achievements were also noted in Chapter 4, within the thematic area - Delivering Good Governance and Service Excellence. The key achievements within this thematic area included the production of the first (1st) Quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Estimates by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) which was previously produced annually. Other achievements include the commencement of the Juvenile Booking stations for the treatment of juveniles in the criminal justice system; and the completion of the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) at the Forensic Science Centre to aid in case backlogs.

(Continued on page 11)
Additionally, through the many interventions of Government, there was a marked improvement in the Violent Crime Rate which stood at 368.4 per 100,000 as at June 2019 compared to the same period as at June 2018, where the rate stood at 400.5 per 100,000. (Source: TTPS).

Chapter 5 of the Report focuses on the thematic area Improving Productivity through Quality Infrastructure and Transport. During the fiscal 2019, several major achievements have been attained as Government continues its efforts to improve the productivity of the country by investing in Trinidad and Tobago’s infrastructure and transportation systems. In particular, several major road rehabilitation initiatives continued to be funded, contributing to the improved access to rural communities in the areas of Valencia, Toco, Sangre Grande and Mayaro.

In addition, the road rehabilitation programmes in these and other areas have resulted in over 390,000 square metres of roadway being resurfaced, four (4) bridges reconstructed and 28 roadside landslips stabilized. These initiatives contributed to making the road networks in Trinidad and Tobago more resilient and safer for all citizens with increased accessibility and mobility for all commuters within these communities.

Regarding the provision of public transportation, the facilities at the PTSC South Quay Compound were improved and the construction of a Bus Repair facility at Arima was completed. It is expected to reduce the operating costs associated with transporting the buses for repairs to other facilities. Additionally, work was also undertaken to improve the daily availability of buses by 33%. These improvements resulted in an increased customer satisfaction rate of 66% in 2019, an increase of 20% from 2018 (Source: Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC)).

Another aspect of infrastructure that was improved was water and waste water infrastructure. Several key initiatives were undertaken to increase the storage capacity and reliability of the water supply in both Trinidad and Tobago. Work was undertaken to develop over eight (8) wells: six (6) in Trinidad and two (2) in Tobago. This resulted in an increased water storage capacity of over 500,000 gallons, and an increase in the daily water supply by over 4 million gallons of water per day.
Complementary to the work that is being done to improve access to water, is the work that is being done to improve access to central waste water treatment services. During fiscal 2019, the Malabar Wastewater treatment project which covers a 27 square kilometre area in the Borough of Arima and environs was completed and commissioned. Furthermore, the refurbishment works at the Scarborough Wastewater treatment plant and the plants at Samaan Grove and Bon Accord are all nearing completion with a completion rate of 88%, 99% and 95% respectively.

In Chapter 6 under the thematic area Building Globally Competitive Businesses, Government pressed forward in the areas of entrepreneurship, investment, trade and the development of the non-energy sector, while seeking to maintain national macroeconomic stability. Specifically, significant strides were made in the areas of trade facilitation and investment through projects such as the enhancement of the Single Electronic Window (SEW). In 2019 exports reduced from six (6) days in 2016 to four (4) days and for imports the time has reduced from nine (9) days (2016) to five (5) days (Source: Ministry of Trade and Industry).

Additionally, critical to promoting consumer rights and increasing trust in the business environment, the National consumer Policy 2018-2023 was developed and now being implemented.

Progress has also been made in the non-energy sectors such as tourism, agriculture, film, fashion and music as several initiatives were implemented. As such, through the strategic efforts of Government there was a significant increase in non-energy exports from approximately TT$4.3 billion in 2017 to TT$5.2 billion as at July 2019, representing an increase of over 20%.

Lastly, in Chapter 7 - Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development the environment continued to be a centerpiece of Government’s development agenda as a critical pillar that supports all sectors. Over the period, Climate Action and Waste Management initiatives remained the highest priority, both locally and globally and therefore steady emphasis and effort were dedicated to these areas.

As such, to treat with issues of climate change, Government completed the Climate Vulnerability Risk and Capacity Assessments for the Agriculture, Health, Tourism, Human Settlements, Coastal Resources and Water Sectors.

(Continued on page 13)
Additionally, to place awareness on the environment and its role at the centre of development, in fiscal 2019, Government vigorously expanded the ‘iCare programme’ throughout the country, including the nation’s schools. More than 500 Bins were established across schools in Trinidad and Tobago, with accompanying education and outreach at these schools.

During the period, policy changes would have also supported the many environmental achievements attained. As such, to ensure a modern, responsive policy to deal with constantly evolving local challenges faces such as controlling pollution, managing natural assets, tackling climate change, improving the natural environments, improving environmental consciousness and increasing the greening of the economy, the National Environmental Policy (2018) was updated.

This section takes a glance at the next steps for Trinidad and Tobago towards the achievement of the Vision 2030 goals. It discusses the importance of placing strategic focus on implementing several key actions to accelerate the achievement of the national vision and the SDGs. The section also highlights the importance of developing four (4) key areas which will underpin our progress: Performance Management; Increased Results Based Budgeting; Strengthening Institutions for Improved Delivery; and Data Collection and Management.
SECTION 1
INTRODUCTION
SECTION 1: IMPLEMENTING

VISION 2030

*SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS*

**REALIZING OUR NATIONAL VISION TOGETHER**
Since the development of the ‘Vision 2030’ National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016-2030, Government has been working assiduously to rebuild our country and economy; restore confidence, equity and social justice; and improve all areas of the quality of life for all citizens.

The Vision 2030 Achievement Report 2018-2019: “Realizing Our National Vision Together” aims to fulfil Government’s commitment to transparency and accountability to the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago as we track our progress towards our desired goals. This Report outlines the major achievements of Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments over the period October 2018 - September 2019 in the implementation of the Vision 2030, and by extension the corresponding goals of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Additionally, the Report highlights the developmental progress as well as the impact of Government initiatives on the lives of all citizens.
The period covered by the Report represents the fourth (4th) year in the implementation of Vision 2030 and highlights the key achievements in the implementation of Government policies, projects and programmes, and the performance of selected national indicators aligned to Vision 2030 under five (5) thematic areas. These five (5) thematic areas are:

- Theme I- Putting People First: Nurturing Our Greatest Asset;
- Theme II- Delivering Good Governance and Service Excellence;
- Theme III- Improving Productivity through Quality Infrastructure and Transportation;
- Theme IV- Building Globally Competitive Businesses; and
- Theme V- Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development.
As Government continues to guide the nation along the path towards national development by creating a sustainable future for all citizens, it remains steadfast in its commitment to the implementation of the people’s Vision 2030 and will continue to diligently move forward towards the fulfillment of the our nation’s development potential.

The Vision 2030 Achievement Report 2018-2019 was prepared by the National Transformation Unit (NTU) of the Ministry of Planning and Development in conjunction with all relevant Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments who provided all the relevant information with regard to the initiative being undertaken. This Report however does not fully represent the tireless work of the public sector in the pursuit of our goals, yet it does provide a closer look into the efforts of the Government to ensure the long term prosperity for all.
In September 2015, Trinidad and Tobago joined with the other 19 Member States of the United Nations (UN) to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which provided a roadmap for countries to strive for a world of sustainable prosperity, social inclusion and equality. Building on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) pursued from 2000 to 2015, the 2030 Agenda comprises 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets.

The SDGs seek to address the global challenges we face from poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation; to peace, and justice for all. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is driven by the principle of ‘leaving no one behind.’ The SDGs are ambitious, transformational and universal, and are expected to guide the global agenda on sustainable development through to the year 2030.

As it is critical for the international community to meet the SDGs and their targets, at the national level it is of utmost importance that national goals be developed to also address and deal with issues that citizens are faced with at a country level. As such, in an obligation to meet the SDGs, while at the same time addressing national issues, Government embarked upon a robust and prudent development agenda to successfully navigate the country towards socio-economic prosperity by the year 2030 in the development of the ‘Vision 2030’ National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016-2030.

As such, in our commitment to meeting the global SDG Agenda, all 17 SDGs were integrated and prioritized across all the five (5) thematic areas (See Figure 2.1) and national goals in Vision 2030. The realization of these national goals will inherently see the country meeting most of the agreed upon SDG goals and targets, while remaining focused on local developmental needs.

In this regard, the Vision 2030 Achievement Report 2018-2019 highlights the collaborative effort of all key stakeholders and the major successes attained thus far towards the achievement of national goals and the SDGs.

(Continued on page 21)
## SECTION 1: IMPLEMENTING

### FIGURE 2.1: Alignment of SDGs to Vision 2030

#### Vision 2030 Thematic Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Putting People First: Nurturing Our Greatest Assets</th>
<th>Sustainable Development Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. No Poverty</td>
<td>1. Clean Water and Sanitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Zero Hunger</td>
<td>10. Reduced Inequalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Good Health and Well-being</td>
<td>11. Sustainable Cities and Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Quality Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Gender Equality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Delivering Good Governance and Service Excellence

| 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth                | 10. Reduced Inequalities      |
| 17. Partnerships for the Goals                    |                               |

#### Improving Productivity through Quality Infrastructure and Transport

| 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure         | 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities |

#### Building Competitive Businesses

| 12. Responsible Consumption and Production        | 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities |

#### Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development

| 7. Affordable and Clean Energy                     | 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure |
| 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities             | 12. Responsible Consumption and Production |
| 13. Climate Action                                 | 14. Life on Land               |
| 15. Partnerships for the Goals                     | 17. Partnerships for the Goals  |
SECTION 2
PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST: NURTURING OUR GREATEST ASSETS
SECTION 2:

VISION 2030

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF VISION 2030

'REALIZING OUR NATIONAL VISION TOGETHER'

VISION 2030

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT 2018-2019

NOTE: This page contains an image of children holding signs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the SDG icons and titles visible.

- **SDG 1**: No Poverty
- **SDG 2**: Zero Hunger
- **SDG 3**: Good Health and Well-being
- **SDG 4**: Quality Education
- **SDG 5**: Gender Equality
- **SDG 6**: Clean Water and Sanitation
- **SDG 7**: Affordable and Clean Energy
- **SDG 8**: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- **SDG 9**: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- **SDG 10**: Reduced Inequalities
- **SDG 11**: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- **SDG 12**: Responsible Consumption and Production
- **SDG 13**: Climate Action
- **SDG 14**: Life Below Water
- **SDG 15**: Life on Land
- **SDG 16**: Peace and Justice
- **SDG 17**: Partnerships for the Goals

*Source: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by United Nations*
PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST: NURTURING OUR GREATEST ASSETS

This thematic area acknowledges that our development is centred on our citizens, as they are our greatest assets. We must create a society in which all the basic needs of persons are met and each individual is valued, and given the opportunity to contribute and to self-actualize. We must ensure that our society evolves into one in which ‘no one is left behind,’ where all citizens are afforded equal opportunities to access social services, and all our citizens, including the most vulnerable such as our children and youth, are cared for and treated with dignity and respect. The focus is on providing a nurturing environment that teaches, promotes and reinforces behaviours and skills needed to empower our people to become creative and productive citizens.

As such, our focus must be on eradicating poverty and inequality, discrimination, economic and social marginalisation, disease and poor health as well as substandard living conditions. We must therefore, build a society that shares the social attributes and cultural norms ‘inter alia’ of respect, tolerance, integrity, benevolence, civic pride, social justice and community spirit.
The Health and Well-being of the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago is paramount to national development. A nation with physically, emotionally and mentally strong people have a competitive advantage. As such, focus over the period was placed on reducing the number of cases of both Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases as well as ensuring that the health sector has the capacity and the capability to be responsive to the health needs of citizens.

In addition to focusing on meeting the current health care needs of our citizens, Government also placed strategic focus on implementing initiatives that would improve service delivery at the public institutions and also encourage citizens to engage in healthy life styles that would reduce the incidence of institutional intervention. In this regard, in fiscal 2019, Ministries, Agencies and Departments continued to work on achieving the Vision 2030 short term goals of ensuring that ‘the healthcare system will be sustainable and modern and deliver higher standards of healthcare’ as well as ‘citizens being empowered to lead healthy lifestyles’ which directly contributed to the achievement of SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being.

Public health infrastructure is the foundation of the public health system and comprises, the people, technology and the tools, essential to promote health as well as prevent disease and injury to the population. For Trinidad and Tobago, physical public health infrastructure, are those tangible assets that support the delivery of healthcare services such as public health facilities and equipment.

As such, with the growing demand for care; our increasing population size; changes in demographics; and the need to be constantly modernizing technologies, techniques, services and responsiveness to new emergencies in the medical field, the construction of new medical facilities continued to be a priority focus of Government in fiscal 2019. This period for continued construction of one (1) of the largest of these new facilities, the Arima Hospital.
This primary inpatient health care facility in the Borough of Arima has a 150 bed capacity and is expected to service not only Arima but, all its environs including D’Abadie, La Horquetta, Malabar and Arouca. With the closest major facility being the Mount Hope Hospital, this 24/7 emergency care and secondary services structure will provide a wide range of medical services including radiology, physiotherapy, psychiatry, orthopedics, burns, optical, ENT, obstetrics and gynecology and surgery. The new hospital will also offer ambulatory care, accident and emergency, pharmacy/ dispensary, laboratory/blood bank and mortuary services. Currently, the new Arima Hospital is 90% complete, and is expected to be opened to the public in fiscal 2020.

THE ARIMA HOSPITAL

Artist impression of the Arima Hospital.
Source: UDECOTT

(Continued on page 28)
As part of the national thrust to bring greater access to healthcare for persons residing in the southern peninsular of Trinidad, Government continued the construction the new Point Fortin Hospital. Though the Point Fortin Hospital is a smaller facility with a capacity of 100 beds, this three (3) story structure will offer internal medicine, general surgery, burns, psychiatry, pediatric/adolescent care, high dependency, obstetrics and gynecology, accident and emergency services.

More specifically, the Point Fortin facility will provide diagnostic services, outpatient clinical services, social services as well as support services. To date, the Point Fortin Hospital is 78% complete and progressing towards completion in 2020 to serve the southernmost part of the island along with the San Fernando General Hospital.

In addition to the construction of new hospitals, the expansion of existing hospitals is also part of Government’s plan to extend the services that can be received from the stock of our current public health infrastructure. As such, in fiscal 2019 preliminary works began on the new Sangre Grande Hospital with the engagement of contractor and commencement of initial design. A sod turning Ceremony for the project was held on October 4th, 2019. This

(Continued on page 29)
Facility will lend to the already existing infrastructure by offering a wider range of secondary care services to the public and reducing the distance needed for persons to travel to receive essential care.

Continuing along with the extension and expansion of existing hospitals, the redevelopment of the Central Block of the Port of Spain General Hospital continued, with Phase I being 60% complete and design works commencing on Phase II. The new Block will be integrated with the existing hospital campus in providing comprehensive health care services administered by the North West Regional Health Authority (NWRHA). The new facility is expected to have an in-patient bed capacity of 540.

With the inclusion of these new facilities into the system, the expected number of hospital beds available nationally is expected to increase. Given that the current number of hospital beds per 1,000 persons are 1.63, the expectation is that the targeted number of beds in the system per 1,000 persons will increase to 2.24.
While the construction of new hospitals is considered paramount to development in the health sector, the building of new primary health care centres is also important. Primary health care services focuses on delivering comprehensive promotive, protective, preventive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative care throughout the life course of citizens; it systematically addresses the broader determinants of health; and empowers individuals, families, and communities to improve their health status. Therefore, Government continued its efforts in the construction of the primary health care centres such as the Diego Martin Health Centre.

Currently, construction of the Diego Martin Health Centre is 33% completed and the culmination of works of this facility is expected by October 2020. The Diego Martin Health Centre when completed is expected to bring additional services to the residents of Diego Martin and its environs, and address all the health needs of the catchment area which includes improving access to care.

Throughout fiscal 2019, Government also placed strategic focus on rehabilitating, refurbishing and adding to existing health infrastructure to further expand and increase access to health care services. As such, key electrical upgrade works were undertaken at the Toco Health Centre and the Matelot Health Centre to ensure optimum electrical safety at the facilities. Upgrade works to increase power supply to the Sangre Grande Hospital from the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) were also completed to manage voltage, current and frequency fluctuations as well as establish new load centers throughout the campus to support future and current development. These completed electrical upgrades along with the installation of 1000KVA generator will provide service to the up-coming Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD)/ medical records and pharmacy building along with the newly commissioned CT service. From July 23, 2019 to September 19, 2019 approximately 1011 patients were scanned at an estimated cost savings of $6 Million.

Additions to the existing infrastructure also continued at the St. James Medical Complex with the addition of the Linear Accelerator (LINAC) Facility. This facility will house the Linear Accelerator and will offer advanced and modern radiation treatments to cancer patients. Presently, the project is 98% complete, and the service will be made available to the public in January 2020. The annual estimate of persons receiving radiation treatment is expected to be 2,800. Likewise, an intervention to relocate the Physiotherapy Department at the San Fernando General Hospital was undertaken in order to accommodate the increased patient volume as well as house new treatment tools that were sourced. During fiscal 2019, Government fully completed the upgrade of the space to move the Department, thereby expanding access to the service.

Support for the care of persons with kidney related illnesses, expand services to patients as well as, reduced downtime to those critically ill patients requiring hemodialysis requires new, upgraded and rehabilitated facilities to operate effectively. For the period 2015 to 2019, the number of chairs in the public sector has increased from 39 to 51 and Government, through its private contract arrangement utilises 200 chairs in the private sector. The North Central Regional Health Authority (NCRHA), South West Regional Health Authority (SWRHA) and the Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA) commenced the acquisition of dialysis machines for its facilities.

In addition, the SWRHA received a new Lithotripter at the San Fernando General Hospital to treat ailments that affect the excretory, gastrointestinal and biliary system. This new technology will be able to pulverize kidney stones, gallstones and bezoar masses using ultrasound waves. This new addition to the Urology Department will allow for better quality images, precise non-invasive approaches to treatment as well as reduced downtime of the lithotripsy service. The lithotripsy service at the San Fernando General Hospital commenced on 1st October 2018 and for the period October 1st 2018 to 30th September, 395 lithotripsy procedures were performed.

The Sangre Grande Hospital also received a Computerized Tomography (CT) Scan in this fiscal period which will improve access to treatment for persons requiring this service. The improved scanning capabilities and the reliability of delivering CT services to patients will greatly improve health care delivery in the eastern region of Trinidad.

Physical public health infrastructure also takes into consideration facilities developed for preventative care. Structures were constructed and rehabilitated to encourage citizens to access facilities so as to engage in healthy lifestyle behaviours (See Box 3.1). The access and use of these facilities are expected to increase the level of physical activity among citizens.

**Box 3.1 Achievements as at July 2019**

- One (1) Community Swimming Pool Completed
- Three (3) Community Swimming Pools Refurbished
- Swimming Pools were utilized by 9,329 persons
- Five (5) Indoor Sporting Arenas Refurbished
- One (1) Indoor Sporting Arena Completed
- Indoor Sporting Arenas were utilised by 12,791 persons

(Continued on page 31)
The residents of Laventille received a new facility, the Laventille Community Swimming Pool. This addition is expected to support exercise, recreation and the development of sportsmen and women in the various aquatic disciplines. Furthermore, swimming pools were also refurbished and upgraded in various other communities. Works were completed at the Couva and Sangre Grande facilities, while at the Cocoyea Community Swimming Pool works are still ongoing. These facilities have proved vital to the residents as shown by the data. Use of the pools as at July 2019 show that 9,329 persons utilized these services.

As it pertains to the Indoor Sporting Arenas 12,791 persons used these facilities in fiscal 2019. This will further increase due to the completed works at five (5) Arenas- the Maloney Sporting Arena, Eastern Regional Sporting Arena, Mayaro Indoor Sporting Arena, Central Regional Sporting Arena, and Southern Regional Sporting Arena. All five (5) arenas received upgrades to indoor halls, mechanical electrical and plumbing installations, and engineering and floodlight installations as well as the setting up of air-conditioning units.
HEALTH

REDUCED NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

MORTALITY & MORBIDITY

- Premature mortality from non-communicable disease

BEHAVIOURAL RISK FACTORS

- Harmful use of alcohol
- Physical inactivity
- Salt/sodium intake
- Tobacco use

BIOLOGICAL RISK FACTORS

- Raised blood pressure
- Diabetes and obesity

NATIONAL SYSTEMS RESPONSE

- Drug therapy to prevent heart attacks and strokes
- Essential noncommunicable disease medicines and basic technologies to treat major non-communicable diseases

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) are chronic illnesses that cannot be transmitted directly from one person to another and are considered to be lifestyle diseases. They are as a result of a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental and behavioural factors. The approach to address diseases of this nature tends to be multi-dimensional and requires action from various sectors of society. As such, Government developed the National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs, which outlines the strategic direction for the response to NCDs in Trinidad and Tobago as well as the strategic outcomes that partner agencies, the private sector, and civil society will collaborate towards achieving over the period 2017-2021.

According to the data, Trinidad and Tobago’s NCD Mortality Rate as at July 2019, was 768.7 per 100,000 persons. This figure includes, among others, those affected by hypertension, obesity, mental health and cardiovascular diseases. As such during fiscal 2019, Government through several strategic interventions sought to treat with a number of NCDs including: cardiovascular diseases; cancer related diseases; diabetes; and obesity.

During fiscal 2019, Government sought to address the issue of Cardiovascular Diseases among citizens through the continuation of the Adult Cardiac Programme. Through the Programme, persons were provided with access to cardiac services from private health

“Exercise energizes you, it gives you high self-esteem, it promotes better sleep and good sleep hygiene. It protects the brain from ageing, it improves your learning ability, it distracts you from negative thoughts, it increases creativity, it improves pain endurance and pain management and it fosters a good sense of accomplishment.”

Dr Katija Khan
Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of the West Indies (UWI)

(Continued on page 33)
Reduced Non-Communicable Diseases

care providers. Therefore, in an effort to reduce the number of cardiac related deaths, 1,037\textsuperscript{12} applicants were approved for treatments such as Angiograms, Angioplasty and Transesophageal Echocardiograms and Open Heart Surgeries.

As it pertains to surgeries, the Waiting List for Surgeries Programme continued in fiscal 2019 with the objective of reducing the number of persons on the waiting list. The programme focused on providing immediate relief to those who have been on the list for surgical procedures for a minimum of three months (3) at public health care facilities. During this period, 4,071\textsuperscript{13} applicants were approved for procedures.

Cancer is also another NCD that affects the people of Trinidad and Tobago and is treated as a top priority. As such, the National Oncology Programme continued with a focus on treatment, education, awareness, prevention and screening of this disease. Through the National Oncology Programme, cancer treatment was made available at four (4) major health facilities in the last year. The National Cancer Control Coordinating Committee (NCCCC) continued working in its capacity as the national body established to advise on policy, and to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the National Cancer Plan. In this regard, through the implementation of several strategic initiatives by Government, work in the area of reducing deaths associated with cancer continued and is evident as the Cancer Mortality Rate fell from 116.71 per 100,000 in June 2018\textsuperscript{14} to 110.2 per 100,000 in July 2019.\textsuperscript{15}

Another NCD affecting the populace is Diabetes. According to the International Diabetes Federation, there are about 117,400 cases of diabetes amongst adults in Trinidad and Tobago. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that diabetes was the seventh (7th) leading cause of death in the world in 2016. The data gathered shows that the Diabetes Mortality Rate in Trinidad and Tobago was 122.4 per 100,000 persons as at July 2019.\textsuperscript{16} Diabetes has also been identified as a major cause of blindness, stroke, heart attacks and kidney failure. In this regard, efforts continued to support patients experiencing renal failure with 426 additional applicants\textsuperscript{17} being approved for treatment through the Renal Dialysis programme.

Obesity has become an epidemic worldwide which most governments are now battling aggressively. Obesity is characterized as abnormal or excessive fat accumulation that may impair health. It is also measured using the Body Mass Index. The Obesity Rate in Trinidad and Tobago as at July 2019 was 27.4%\textsuperscript{18} and Government continues to implement several initiatives focused on education, awareness and lifestyle change.

(Continued on page 34)
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Communicable Diseases are infectious diseases or illnesses that spread from one (1) person to another through blood, bodily fluids, breathing in of an airborne virus or being bitten by an insect. Communicable Diseases cannot be fully eradicated in the world but, the number of people who die from these infections can be reduced. Trinidad and Tobago's Communicable Disease Mortality Rate per 100,000 persons were 31.2 which was a decrease from the June 2018 rate of 32.4. This may be a result of several initiatives that Government have implemented.

Over the period, Government sought to treat with the spread of infectious diseases through the continuation of the Immunization Programme. Public awareness campaigns to encourage parents to get their children vaccinated as well as to encourage adults to be immunized against key global diseases continued during the fiscal 2019. Further, the flu and measles vaccines were made available, free of charge, to citizens at both public and private institutions. These efforts have resulted in the Immunization Coverage Rate being 94% as at July 2019.

The treatment of persons with HIV/AIDS also continued in this fiscal year. Government continued its awareness campaigns on safe sex as well as offering free testing at the nation’s health facilities as a measure to curb the spread of the disease. The impact of the work being done is reflected in the country having an Adult HIV Prevalence Rate of only 1.1%.

As it pertains to insect borne diseases, the Insect Vector Control Division, of the Ministry of Health continued efforts to control the spread of mosquito carried illnesses. In this reporting period, 418,378 houses were treated with perifocal work, 27,667 houses received thermal fogging, 166,920 houses were sprayed via ULV and 26,971 houses received residual spraying. Furthermore, Government engaged in campaigns to encourage citizens to clean up their surroundings in an effort to curb mosquito breeding.

(Continued on page 35)
Improved administration of the health sector speaks to its organization and management towards better service delivery. This relies greatly on, ‘inter alia,’ having the optimum number of skilled personnel on staff at the nation’s health institutions; up to date information management systems; and increased access to pharmaceuticals.

As part of the effort to improve the administration of the health sector, focus was placed on ensuring greater access to cost effective pharmaceuticals in Trinidad and Tobago. Government worked to achieve this by opening a Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (CDAP) Pharmacy at the Couva Medical and Multi Training Facility in 2019. This new location is expected to serve the public in the environs of central Trinidad.

Another area where strategic focus was placed during fiscal 2019 was on addressing the number of health care professionals at our nation’s health care institutions. Physician Professionals per 10,000 persons were recorded at 35.7 in 2019, an increase from the 2018 figure of 33.2 and the number of Nursing Professionals per 10,000 persons were 34.8, an increase from June 2018 34.2.

The increase in the number of professionals along with the implementation of new policies, plans and procedures in the health sector has led to changes as it pertains to the quality of care. With respect to the mortality rate of pregnant women, children and infants. The data shows that Trinidad and Tobago has exceeded international targets in these areas. In 2019, the Maternal Mortality Rate per 100,000 live births was 17.2, the Under-five Mortality Rate per 100,000 live births was 11.0 and the Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births were 10.2.

Overall, clients of the Trinidad and Tobago’s public health sector are satisfied with the level of service they have received at the nation’s institutions. This is apparent by the Client Satisfaction Rate of 73% as at 2019, an increase from the 2018 rate of 72%.

“We must ensure that in our public system that the drug procurement process is robust enough so that we could guarantee our patients a safe, reliable, predictable supply of drugs throughout the year

Minister Terrence Deyalsingh”
Minister of Health

(Continued on page 36)
HOUSING

The availability of substantial high quality housing stock remained of critical importance in this fiscal period. Government continued to invest in providing this basic human need to the public with the intent of supporting the development of strong and safe families. Vision 2030 commits to ‘Citizens having adequate and affordable housing’ and Government has undertaken initiatives geared towards reducing the cost of housing units and ensuring that the demand is met by the supply. With regard to SDG 11: of developing Sustainable Cities and Communities, Government remains fully committed to constructing houses, while ensuring accessibility to goods and services, educational institutions and major roads and transport networks.

Beyond providing the structures, the focus is also on the quality of the homes available within our twin island state. In this regard, routine maintenance of units, remedial housing works, emergency repairs and infrastructural upgrades continued in this fiscal period. This was further extended to include the construction of recreational facilities and the provision of monthly services such as waste disposal, grass cutting and drainage cleaning services on Housing Development Corporation (HDC) sites.

(Continued on page 37)
Government has regularised squatters due to sensitivity to the conditions that have led to their illegal status; the number of years that they have occupied the property; and an understanding of the entrenched relationships developed in that community. The regularisation of squatter communities is meant to improve living conditions in these high-density urban areas as well as legalise the security of tenure for families living on state lands. Regularisation also ensures that the same maintenance that is afforded to other communities are carried out in squatter communities. In this vein, a total of 43 communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago saw development works in the form of early and emergency works that provided basic upgrade works to roads, footpaths, drainage networks and slope stabilization. This ensures that these communities have access to good transportation networks, proper waste water infrastructure, as well as access to water and electricity.

Access to quality housing includes access to new housing, as well as access to improved living conditions. This is evident with the continued work in the Housing and Village Improvement Programme (HVIP). This programme focused on improving the lives and living conditions of residents in selected rural and peri-urban communities affected by poor quality housing; lack of basic infrastructure, utilities and services; complexity regarding formalised tenure; limited income earning activities and deteriorating social environment. In fiscal 2019, Government completed 77 homes under the HVIP in areas such as Moruga, Sangre Grande, Marabella and St. Joseph, while an additional 55 homes are still under construction in these communities.

The accelerated housing programme is another intervention that saw affordable quality housing being delivered to persons in the middle and lower income brackets. A total of 982 houses were completed in this fiscal period, with 928 families being allocated homes. A further 1,797 families will benefit from the units that are actively under construction throughout the country.

Additionally, focus has not only been placed on providing completed structures but also on incentive measures which were instituted to encourage persons to become home owners. In fiscal 2019, 299 persons qualified and received mortgages at a 2% interest rate while 76 persons received mortgages at a 5% interest rate.
HOME IMPROVEMENT

Understanding that some citizens may not have the financial means to rehabilitate their dwellings but desire to undertake maintenance and repairs of their homes, programmes to encourage home rehabilitation continued. As such, the Home Improvement Grant, which assists low and middle income families to improve their living conditions, continued during this fiscal period.

Through the Home Improvement Grant, persons were given the finances needed to undertake basic structural repairs and therefore reduce their vulnerability and enhance their living conditions. Government provided grants to owners of both private and public housing. As at July 2019, 513 home improvement grants were distributed. From the data, it can be assumed that over 513 homes benefited from repairs in this fiscal period as works were also undertaken at various HDC communities nationwide.

Furthermore, through Emergency Shelter Efforts, which provides short term relief to citizens/families who have experienced sudden, unanticipated and unavoidable emergencies that have arisen from disasters, funds were expended to address reconstruction efforts of the affected homes. These efforts supported 66 families in Trinidad and Tobago in fiscal 2019.

These interventions were all geared towards maintaining the current housing stock by increasing the number of homes that underwent repairs and by extension reducing the annual national demand for new homes.

Toco/Sangre Grande Home and Village Improvement Programme
Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

(Continued on page 39)
According to Article 25 of the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights, everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living for his or her health and well-being. These rights include the ability to access the necessary social services and facilities that would allow them to improve their living conditions. In Trinidad and Tobago, Government remains committed to ensuring that all citizens enjoy a standard of living that meets or exceeds the basic UN standards by ensuring that all citizens, especially the vulnerable groups, have equitable access to social services and amenities that form the basis of the social protection net.

During fiscal 2019, Government worked assiduously to ensure all citizens, particularly the vulnerable groups had access to the social protection programmes that would help them to improve their standard of living. This was done through the provision of a targeted range of programmes aimed at providing housing and home repair assistance, subsidies and transfers as well as seed funding for micro-enterprise development.

Over the period, Government remained committed to its strategic vision of reducing the number of socially displaced elderly persons in society through the continued implementation of its Community Care Programme (CCP). The programme was established with the aim of helping to de-institutionalize elderly persons (55 and over) who previously resided at mental health facilities as well as place them in geriatric homes where they can continue to receive the social and healthcare support that they require.

As such, Government successfully continued the monitoring and management of 60 elderly persons across 18 geriatric homes. In addition, 30 additional elderly persons were removed from mental health facilities or neglected living conditions, and successfully placed in geriatric homes across the country. These 90 elderly persons are now able to enjoy an improved standard of living and continued access to the social and health care needed.
In addition to ensuring that the elderly socially displaced persons are provided with suitable accommodations, Government worked diligently to ensure that low income members of society are provided with the opportunity to improve their standards of living by improving their living accommodations. Through the continuation of the National Social Development Programme (NSDP), grants were provided for low income households to undertake infrastructural repairs to their homes, particularly in minor structural repairs, sanitation, plumbing and electrical wiring works.

During fiscal 2019, 58 NSDP grants totaling $866,417.06 were distributed to 171 beneficiaries across Trinidad and Tobago. A more detailed analysis revealed that of the 58 grants distributed, 42 were given out for minor house repairs to 125 beneficiaries, while 15 grants were distributed to 45 beneficiaries to carry out plumbing projects and one (1) grant was distributed for house wiring projects (See Figure: 3.1).

Apart from the grants distributed during the period, an additional 68 grants totaling $938,709.85 were approved for 193 beneficiaries. Over the fiscal year, 51 minor house repair grants were approved for a total of 149 beneficiaries, while 10 plumbing grants were approved for 32 beneficiaries. As it pertains to the house wiring grants, a total of two (2) grants were approved for 12 beneficiaries (See Figure: 3.2).

In addition to the provision of grants to improve the living accommodations of low income citizens, Government undertook the continuation and expansion of various initiatives aimed at ensuring that the elderly, differently abled and indigent members of society received a subsidy to supplement their income. These subsidies were provided in the form of the Public Assistance Grant (Food Card), the Senior Citizens’ Pension, and the General Assistance Grant.
PERSONS who were unable to financially support themselves or earn a living as a result of ill healthcare provided with financial support through the Public Assistance (Food Card) Grant. This Grant is specifically designed to target vulnerable families that require supplemental income for food. During fiscal 2019, Government provided support to ensure that 23,000 vulnerable households had the supplemental income required to purchase food for a healthy and balanced diet.

In addition to food support for vulnerable households, Government continued to implement interventions aimed at providing subsidies for one (1) of the often overlooked vulnerable groups within society, the elderly. Through the Senior Citizens’ Pension, Government worked diligently to ensure that the elderly was provided with the assistance necessary to improve their standard of living and quality of life.

Over the period under review, the Senior Citizens’ Pension was distributed to a total of 97,911 elderly persons, of which 7,252 were new recipients. Due to the concern for the standard of living of the elderly, and taking into consideration the rising cost of living, Government over the fiscal year increased the ceiling for senior citizens’ pension by $3,000 per month subject to certain criteria. The increase in the ceiling now allows persons to be in receipt of both National Insurance System (NIS) benefits and Senior Citizens Pension to a maximum of $6,000.00 per month.

During the fiscal year, Government also disbursed grants to persons who were adversely affected by emergencies and natural disasters. These disbursements were made through the General Assistance Grants, an initiative aimed at providing support to persons in times of natural or man-made disaster. At the end of the fiscal year, a total of 1,466 applicants who were adversely affected by disasters were approved and received disbursement. As a result of the financial assistance received through this grant, these persons are now better able to recover and rebuild their lives after these disasters.
IMPROVED ACCESS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

It should be noted that while significant efforts were placed on providing subsidies and grants to supplement the income of the vulnerable groups in society, strategic focus was also placed on creating income earning opportunities for these vulnerable groups so that they would not have to depend on supplemental income subsidies in the long run. These income earning opportunities were provided through the Sowing Empowerment through Entrepreneurship Development (SEED) programme.

The SEED programme was designed to provide seed funding to vulnerable members of society who are desirous of starting a micro enterprise. As such in fiscal 2019, a total of 21 grants were distributed to 108 beneficiaries who received funding to start their own small businesses. This initiative created opportunities for these 108 persons to increase their income earning potential and improve their standard of living.38

When examined collectively, these key social protection initiatives contribute to improving the lives of the vulnerable groups that they target as well as directly contribute to the attainment of SDG 1 and 2, No Poverty and Zero Hunger respectively.
As Government continues to work towards the sustainable development agenda outlined in Vision 2030, it is noted that the provision of social protection services is not sufficient to foster development that allows the citizenry to maximize their potential and lead empowered lives. As such, in order to ensure sustainable people focused development, Government sought to provide interventions that complemented the provision of social protection services to empower citizens such as training, self-development and employment opportunities. It is with this understanding that Government continued with the provision of services offered by the Transformation Development Centres (TDC) and the Export Centres Company Limited.

INCREASED TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

(Continued on page 44)
INCREASED TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

The TDC was developed to address the societal concerns of hunger, homelessness, limited training opportunities and under-employment in underserved vulnerable communities of Trinidad and Tobago. These centres provide persons with training and development opportunities to help them obtain employment, while providing meals and other forms of developmental assistance.

Over the fiscal year, Government provided training and development opportunities to persons attending these centres located in Port of Spain, Laventille and Cocorite as well as 46,561 meals. This amounted to approximately 172 meals daily in fiscal 2019 as compared to 184 in fiscal 2018.39

In keeping with the vision to provide the citizenry with the necessary skills to lead empowered lives, Government continued to offer training and development programmes through the Export Centres Company Limited (ECCL). This initiative was developed with the aim of not only providing training in artisanal areas, but also creating opportunities for these artisans to expand their repertoire with advanced training and development.

(Continued on page 45)
INCREASED TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

Through the training and development programmes offered at ECCL, approximately 132 trainees completed training programmes in December 2018 at nine (9) training facilities in the following areas: weaving, fabric design, wood burning, linen & drapery, costume jewelry, home furnishing (bed & bath), home furnishing (living room décor) and fabric design/beachwear. While another 114 trainees completed training programmes in May 2019 at six (6) training facilities in the following areas: natural jewelry, fabric design / bag making, home furnishing and soap and candle making, home furnishing/bead embellishment/bed and bath and upholstery and soap and candle.

The completion of these two (2) training cycles, resulted in a total of 246 trainees gaining valuable skills that they can now use to create their own businesses, thereby contributing to their own empowerment and sustainable employment. The results of these programmes were evident in the participation of past trainees at craft markets hosted by the ECCL.

Over the period, the ECCL provided past trainees with the opportunity to participate at both its Christmas 2018 and Carnival 2019 Craft Markets. At the Christmas Craft Market, a total of 25 artisans participated, while at the Carnival Market a total of 20 artisans participated in the event. These events introduced these trainees to the world of business with the intention that it would eventually lead to export opportunities for them.

To facilitate the preservation and expansion of the local handicraft industry, MOU was signed between ExporTT and Export Centres Company Limited on the 27th March, 2019. The main purpose of this MOU was to form an alliance to strengthen and further develop the industry by ensuring that trainees participating in training programmes acquire the knowledge and understanding required to start a business and become successful enough to enter into the export market.
As part of the community mediation programmes, interventions were implemented to better equip parents with the skills needed to raise successful, well-rounded children, as well as to successfully co-parent in instances where the parents are separated. Over the period, 53 parenting support group sessions were held at various communities across Trinidad and Tobago. These sessions focused on topics such as dealing with grief, parenting teenagers, and parenting in the technological age and were attended by over 576 persons.

In addition to improving how family members relate to each other, Government implemented mediation initiatives aimed at improving how members of communities relate to each other including...
Community empowerment initiatives and mediation and conflict resolution. During June and July, over 25 community empowerment sessions were conducted in over 23 communities across Trinidad and Tobago. These sessions covered a range of topics from anger management to emotional intelligence to effective communication. It should be noted that 921 persons attend these sessions over this two (2) month period.

Complementary to the community empowerment sessions, 77 outreach sessions on mediation and conflict resolution were held in 15 communities across the country. These communities were selected based on the types and patterns of conflicts being observed. This decision was based on available statistics either from the Community Mediation Service Division (CMSD) intakes or public records and the prevalence of reported incidents. Some of these Communities were underserved by community mediation as well as remote from mediation centres. These sessions focused on topics such as mediation and conflict management, behaviour modification, and peace building. As with community empowerment, the mediation and conflict resolution sessions were well attended with over 3,100 persons in attendance. These sessions highlighted the desire of the citizens to reduce conflicts amongst each other and build stable resilient sustainable communities.

While the majority of the community mediation programmes focused on addressing behaviours and patterns in adults, Government also placed strategic focus on the nation’s children. As such, in order to create in the future, a citizenry who are highly productive and empowered to contribute positively to society, strategic focus must be placed on instilling those values and behaviours in the children of today. It is with this understanding that Government facilitated community mediation initiatives aimed at teaching children the necessary peer mediation skills needed to transform them into contributing members of society. Over the period, 123 students across seven (7) schools and one (1) institution were selected as peer mediators and equipped with the skills to facilitate conflict management, engage in peaceful negotiation and effective communication, and foster good will and mutual respect among their peers.

School selection was based on the appropriateness of Peer Mediation as an intervention or approach to conflict management, and the probability that the Programme Could be successfully established and maintained at the institution.

Over the fiscal year, it can be seen that Government implemented several key community mediation interventions. A closer review of the participation rates indicates that sessions were well received and once implemented correctly these skills can lead to more peaceful cohesive communities that contribute to national development.
IMPROVED EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM

Vision 2030 speaks of ‘Trinidad and Tobago having a modern, relevant and accessible education and training system’. The intent is to ensure that there is access by citizens to the various educational levels while ensuring that the curriculum is relevant to the global job market needs. The use of technology and building competencies to function in a digital environment for global competitiveness, is at the centre of the emerging curriculum for education and training. This is further emphasized by Government’s commitment to the SDG:4 of ‘Quality Education’.

During this fiscal, several initiatives were implemented to improve the education and training system of Trinidad and Tobago given the importance of nurturing the minds of our people to secure the future prospects of our nation. One (1) such initiative was the approval of the Education Policy Paper 2017-2022, which is intended to guide the education system from early childhood to the tertiary level. The Policy is built on the pillars of three (3) strategic goals, which identifies the inputs and processes necessary to ensure graduates function at optimal level and contribute to 21st Century Trinidad and Tobago.

In order to improve the administration and governance of the education and training system, a Principals Leadership Training Programme was launched targeting all secondary school Principals, Vice Principals and School Supervisors III. This training is intended to improve competencies in leadership, management, planning, organizing and monitoring for continuous improvement.

As such, during this fiscal, 275 secondary school principals, vice principals and school supervisors were trained in several topics which included:

- Every School - A “Good” School-School Based Management: The Trinidad and Tobago Model;
- “Ready for Learning”- School Operations that Support Student Readiness for Learning;
- Using Data for Continuous Improvement -School Development Planning Review;
- “Leadership Monster or Leadership Mouse”: Leadership Regulation for Goal Achievement; and
- “The Anomaly of Analog in a Digital World”: Improving Administrative and Organisational Efficiency through ICT.

“Every child deserves the right to an education. It’s about providing the type of education in our country so that all children reach their full potential”

Senator Paul Richards  
Independent Senator

(Continued on page 49)
Providing support to vulnerable groups, as they move through the education system, is of great importance to Government. As a result, ECCE Transition Workshops were conducted to ensure that children transition seamlessly from Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Centres (both public and private) to Primary Schools. In fiscal 2019, 90 primary school infant year 1 teachers were trained in the Early Childhood Curriculum with a focus on numeracy and literacy along with 381 private providers, and 40 SERVOL teachers and facilitators. In addition, 151 parents of graduating children were provided with strategies to ensure that their children have a smoother transition from ECCE centres to primary schools.

In an effort to improve access to quality education and training, the provision of laptops to secondary schools continued during this fiscal. The programme ICT Readiness in Education, provides laptops to facilitate teaching and learning at the secondary school level and e-testing at the CXC examinations levels. As at October 2018, a minimum of 40 laptops were provided to each Secondary School. Notably, the percentage of secondary schools using modern learning technologies in classrooms was at 85% as at July 2019.41

The national education system caters for inclusion of all citizens including the nation’s prison inmates. As such, during fiscal 2019 the Rehabilitating Inmates Through Training and Retraining (RITTR) project was provided to convicted inmates with the intent of reducing re-offence and recidivism. The project also seeks to ensure that participants are trained and certified, thus increasing their opportunities of successfully reintegrating into society upon release from prison. As a result, in fiscal 2019, 90 trainees enrolled in the programme, which consisted of three (3) females who enrolled for the very first time. A mid-cycle review was also conducted and barbering classes were also completed.

The upgrade of the curriculum and curriculum delivery also continued through the further implementation of its Literacy Plan (2016-2020). The Literacy Plan targets the improvement in students’ literacy levels across the primary and secondary school levels. During fiscal 2019, Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) exercises were conducted at 104 primary schools which engaged 10,940 students. The data collected during these exercises were analyzed to provide feedback and support for the participating primary schools. Based on the issues identified from the ORF exercises an intervention entitled “Decode It! Read It!” was conceptualized and 99 primary schools were targeted for implementation. Subsequently, 629 Standard One (1) to Standard Four (4) teachers from seven (7) educational districts were trained for widespread implementation of the project. A post-SEA programme for remedial reading was also developed. This was then adapted in collaboration with stakeholders and implemented in all primary schools. The new Literacy Project Plan (2019-2022) which incorporates all the learnings from the previous Plan, was also developed.

The implementation of the National Numeracy Plan (2016-2019) (Continued on page 50)
also progressed during this fiscal. This Plan targets improvements in students’ numeracy levels at both primary and secondary schools. It is also designed to address the issue of low performance in Mathematics but, more importantly to create a numerate citizenry through the development of students’ mathematical skills. Accordingly, 775 Standard Five (5) teachers across seven (7) districts were trained in the use of the new Assessment Framework (2019-2023) for item writing, while 718 teachers were trained in the National Workshop for teachers of Standard Three (3).

Government has also been investing in cultivating creativity in Trinidad and Tobago by building and strengthening capacities in science education. This is being achieved through the Teach Me Project led by NIHERST. During fiscal 2019, 15 schools successfully completed both teacher and student training in technology with the intent of leading to greater levels of innovation. 33 teachers and 228 Science Club students were also trained, as detailed hereunder:

• 170 primary school students and 58 secondary school students were trained in the use of the 3Doodler pen and QuirkBot coding kit respectively; and

• 24 primary school teachers and nine (9) secondary school teachers, were trained in the use and application of the technology.

The Student Creativity Innovation Competition was also launched in 11 Primary and 4 Secondary schools.

In order to improve access to quality education and training for all students, the Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Initiative was conceptualized. This initiative aims to ensure that the needs of students whose learning and development may be impacted by ADHD of the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), are met by the educational system. During the period, a needs assessment exercise was completed in 238 schools and 76 Student Aides were assigned to diagnose students.

In addition to the ADHD initiative, Government also continued its Screening Programme for Children Entering Public ECCEs. This Programme aims to ensure that there was early identification and intervention for children displaying characteristics of special education needs at the ECCE level. During the 2018-2019 period, the following were achieved:

• Data collection exercise at all public ECCE Centres to identify students who were suspected or have been diagnosed with disabilities or developmental delays;

• Review and evaluation of possible online screening tools for the identification of learning and behavioural challenges among the school-aged population;

• The identification of seven (7) pilot ECCE Centres (one (1) per district) to conduct the Needs Assessment for the ADHD initiative; and

• Collection of current data on the prevalence of disabilities at ECCE Centres using the entire centre population.

As efforts continue to improve the quality of education provided at ECCE Centres, the percentage of Government and Government Assisted ECCE Centres which meet quality standards, moved from 60% in 2018 to 89% as at July 2019. In addition to this, 99% of ECCE teachers (Government, Government Assisted and SERVOL ECCE Centres) have been trained.
During fiscal 2019, electrical, sewer, plumbing, floor, ceiling, roof and air conditioning repairs were done on 62 primary schools. It is expected that repairs of a similar nature will continue next year to over 100 primary schools. During this fiscal, upgrades to physical infrastructure were undertaken to 83% of primary schools. The work also continued on tertiary level educational institutions with the intent of ensuring that students receive their training in the most conducive environment. At the UTT Corinth Campus, work to correct the water seepage problem in the tunnel area was completed while construction of the UTT Main Campus building in Tamana is 89% complete. Building work on the UWI South Campus building is also 68% complete.

The construction of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Centres also continued during this period. Several ECCE Centres were completed while others are still in the midst of construction. During this fiscal, physical infrastructure repairs to approximately 90% of ECCE institutions were undertaken.

In an effort to improve the curriculum and curriculum delivery to meet 21st century skills, Government is implementing the five (5)-year Student Transition and Remediation Support (STARS) project. The project involves the identification of vulnerable students and the proactive addressing of any possible threats to students’ growth and development to achieve successful transition of students from primary to secondary school. Over the 2018-2019 period, the following achievements were recorded:

- Instruments to monitor student progress, project implementation progress, and reward systems for overall student progress, were designed, developed and implemented;
- Modules in Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) based on core competencies and an assessment framework were developed, and distributed to targeted schools;
- Student Profiles were developed and analysed, and students were identified according to their critical needs (academic, special needs, socio-emotional, behavioural, etc.); a series of assessments were also carried out in order to facilitate specific interventions;
- Home visits for 1,244 specifically identified students were conducted and at least one orientation day was hosted by 100% of STARS schools over a one-week period.

Implementing the STARS programme also involved a number of activities related to literacy and numeracy which included:

- the adaptation of the English Language Arts Module One Term Three curriculum; and
- the provision of monitoring and support to 53 primary schools and 32 secondary schools in the use of the adapted Mathematics curricula (Modules One (1) and Two (2)) and use of relevant Mathematical strategies.
SECTION 2

DELIVERING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE EXCELLENCE
SECTION 2:

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF VISION 2030

“REALIZING OUR NATIONAL VISION TOGETHER”
DELIVERING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Good governance and service excellence are the pillars of strong and effective government. Our governance structures determine how we live, serve citizens and ensure fairness and equity in treatment of citizens. Building public trust in Government institutions through the promotion of strong and independent public institutions is therefore central to the success of this Theme under Vision 2030.

To ensure that good governance is maintained, focus will be placed on improving governance and service delivery by building modern, efficient and effective public institutions; restoring respect for authority and the rule of law; and rebuilding the nation’s confidence in the three (3) branches of Government - the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary.

Additionally, fostering partnerships at the global, regional and national levels, is an integral part of Government’s development policy framework. As such, Trinidad and Tobago remains committed to engaging in partnerships for the development of our country, especially as it pertains to strengthening our relationships with other small island developing states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).
IMPROVED PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURES

Governments around the world are constantly being challenged to improve public sector performance and be more accountable for achieving a higher quality of life for all its citizens. With increasing pressures on resources; more complex service delivery needs; the demand for transparency, responsiveness, and inclusiveness; citizen expectations of their governments continue to increase. As such, countries with strong institutions prosper and facilitate economic growth; deliver valuable goods and services; and earn the confidence of its citizens towards fulfilling SDG 16: ‘Peace and Justice and Strong Institutions’ by the year 2030.

In an effort to build modern, efficient and effective public institutions, Government continued to focus on improving public systems and structures to ensure strengthened service delivery; effective implementation; and better management of limited resources. Over the period, Government placed strategic focus on strengthening several key institutions that provide critical services which included the Town and Country Planning Division (TCPD); the Central Statistical Office (CSO); and the Registrar General’s Department (RGD).

To improve the efficiency and ensure modernization of the processes involved in the submission, assessment and approval of development proposals in the pre-construction phase, Government launched the Automation of the Construction Permitting System (which is expected to be fully implemented in 2020). This System will streamline the permitting system by ensuring that all regulatory agencies involved in the construction process, receive submissions and contribute to the assessment and advisory process simultaneously. However, inherent to the success of an Automated System is the integration of all of the Town and County Planning Division (TCPD) legacy data in a digital format. As such, during fiscal 2019 a Digitization Project in the TCPD was launched.

The digitization of TCPD records will facilitate faster application processing times and considerably reduce long waiting times between the pre-construction phases and actual project completion. As a result, during fiscal 2019, the Digitization Project successfully facilitated the scanning of 1,516 layouts and 546 plotting sheets; approximately 35,000 application files from the North Regional Office (with jurisdiction over Diego Martin, Port of Spain and Central). These records were made available to staff via the creation of a web based document repository. This repository is accessible anywhere, any time by all users, thereby solving the problems associated with poor vault and office conditions.
The CSO has been an integral institution in Trinidad and Tobago’s post-independence governance structure. This institution is recognized as the country’s official producer of statistics and serves as the primary repository for national statistical data. Thus, to support the timely provision of quality, relevant, user-oriented and dynamic statistical service, Government continued to be strategically focused on the transformation of the CSO. Signs of this transformation within the CSO became evident, especially with the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Estimates.

In fiscal 2019, for the very first time, the CSO submitted for publication the official Quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates which previously was only produced annually. This achievement provided for more timely data on the performance of the Trinidad and Tobago’s economy, and also contributed to key decision making by Government and key stakeholders.

Additionally, in a thrust to enhance the capacity of the CSO in the collection of critical developmental data, the CSO collaborated with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) for the implementation of the sixth (6th) round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS).

The MICS is the largest source of household survey of its kind, providing a wide span of data as it relates to children, adolescents, women and households. The areas that would be covered in the Survey include demographic characteristics, literacy and education, clean water access, reproductive health, nutrition, child development, HIV/AIDS and sexual behavior. As Trinidad and Tobago continues in the implementation of the SDG Agenda, the MICS survey will provide substantial data for effective decision-making and developmental planning towards the achievement of the SDGs; specifically SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Additionally, in August 2019, the CSO partnered with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for training purposes. This training saw the development of a questionnaire design and survey training for the implementation of a socio-economic assessment survey of protected areas for improving forest and protected areas management in Trinidad and Tobago. This survey is expected to provide key information to guide the management of six (6) important protected areas in Trinidad and Tobago: the Caroni Swamp, the Nariva Swamp, the Matura Forest, the Trinity Hills Game Sanctuary, the Main Ridge Forest Reserve and the North-East Tobago Marine Area. The results of the survey will provide data on the country’s socio-economic condition to policy makers, decision makers and citizens in an effort to support protected areas management.

As it relates to the RGD, over the period Government sought to streamline the property registration process managed by the RGD, including the automation of the land registry and creating an electronic register of land conveyance documents. To undertake this critical task, a consulting service contract was awarded in 2019 to engage a consultant for the development and establishment of a Property Business Registration System (PBRS). The PBRS will replace the existing Property Information Management System (PIMS) and will include all digitized Deeds and Real Property Act Titles to improve delivery of services within the Land Registry. It is anticipated that the PBRS will be launched in February 2020.

In addition to the previous initiatives, to further strengthen the nation’s public institutions and ensure that public officers are provided with a modern, safe and conducive work environment, the National Workplace Policy on Sexual Harassment 2019 was developed. In March 2019, the Policy was tabled in the Parliament to define and prevent sexual harassment in the workplace. The Policy will also provide guidance on actions that can be taken by key stakeholders namely, victims, observers, employers, workers and the Government in treating with sexual harassment issues within the place of work.

Additionally, another major element of strong institutions is its policy with respect to labour. During fiscal 2019, a National Steering Committee was appointed for the prevention and elimination of child labour. This Committee will guide the development of the National Child Labour Policy and contribute to the achievement of SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.
DELIVERING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE EXCELLENCE

IMPROVED PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURES

In Government’s thrust towards delivering good governance and service excellence, improving customer service delivery remains a critical factor. Customer service is a key component in transforming how the public sector operates and manages itself and by extension delivers its goods and services to the citizens. As such, over the period Government sought to improve customer service delivery and deliver on the SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions through several initiatives.

Over the period, customer service in rural communities were addressed through the use and availability of ICT Technologies. In May 2019, the community of Todd’s Road, Chaguanas saw the opening of the Todd’s Road ICT Access Centre which was outfitted with 10 computers, a training room with 10 interactive TV displays and internet services. It is expected that through the opening of this ICT Center, residents will be afforded easier access to online government services, printing facilitates and training in technical and applied ICT related courses.43 In fiscal 2020, Government will be working assiduously to open four (4) more ICT Centres throughout the country.

To further enhance customer service delivery, the Ministry of Social Development and the National Information and Communication Technology Company (iGovTT), signed a MOU to allow social welfare services to be made accessible through the seven (7) ttconnect Service Centers across the country.44

Furthermore, several government services were expanded and made accessible online. In 2019, one (1) additional service ‘ChatBot’ was added to the suite of online services, totaling 53 online services currently available to date. This has been a significant increase from the 2015 baseline of 35 services available online and surpassed the 2020 target of increasing the number of government transactional services online by 2%.45 For the period 2018/2019, of these online services, 47 were made available via TTBizLink, representing 15 additional services from the 2015 baseline of 32 available services. 46

Another key service provided to citizens is guidance and access to urban and spatial planning through services provided at the TCPD. As such, the TCPD saw ongoing improvements, over the period, in the refurbishment of their East Regional Office and the identification of preferred sites for the relocation of the North, South and Tobago regional offices. Surveys were also conducted to establish a baseline of Spatial Data Infrastructure readiness across agencies with work currently being undertaken to establish the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Council.
Maintaining law and order is a critical component of good governance and is key to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. As such, in the country's thrust towards improving public safety and crime prevention, a number of initiatives were undertaken to address crime prevention and public safety towards SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Crime Prevention

In fiscal 2019, Government engaged in several initiatives geared towards crime prevention and public safety by placing strategic focus on the treatment of juveniles in the criminal system, and improving infrastructure and services within national security. For fiscal 2019, efforts have been ongoing in the establishment of Juvenile Booking Stations within some police stations, with the Cumuto Police Station from the Eastern Division being selected as one (1) such location. To date, works are 75% completed and are scheduled to be fully concluded by the end of October 2019.

In an effort to improve public safety, Government in fiscal 2019 sought to address police response times to criminal activities, through the establishment of divisional command centres throughout the country. This endeavour sought to accommodate the high level of real time crime data and respond to the increased volume of inquiries and emergency calls. In this regard, works to the Command Centre at the Police Administration Building was completed and works commenced at the Chaguanas Police Station which is expected to be completed by October 2019. These efforts will allow the average time taken to respond to calls (Emergency Response Patrol) to be 10 minutes and 24 seconds in fiscal 2020.

Further, to better aid the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) in national security, divisional interview suites are currently being established within the various police divisions to assist in the effective interviewing and monitoring of persons. For this reporting period, works were completed on interview suites at the San Fernando and Chaguanas Police Stations. Works were also undertaken to upgrade the detention cells at police stations.

As it pertains to police stations, this period saw 60% of upgrade works being completed at the Chaguanas Police Station, Tunapuna Police Station, St. James Police Station and the Cedros Police Station with full completion expected by October 2019. Therefore through the many initiatives implemented by Government over the period, there has been some positive impact on the Crime Rate.

Additionally, to assist in crime fighting, the Mounted and Canine Unit procured eight (8) additional dogs in this fiscal period.

(Continued on page 60)
Efforts such as these previously mentioned did have an impact on the overall crime rate. As at June 2019, the Violent Crime Rate was 368.4 per 100,000 as compared to the 2018 period where the rate stood at 400.5 per 100,000.\textsuperscript{47} The Serious Crime rate also saw some improvement where as of June 2019 the rate was 938.8 per 100,000 as compared to the 2018 period of 1,012.4 per 100,000\textsuperscript{48}. The TTPS will continue its efforts to reduce these rates with the target for 2020 both the Violent Crime and Serious Crime as 340.4 per 100,000 and 845.0 per 100,000 respectively.

As of June 2019, the white collar crime rate was 50.6 per 100,000, slightly higher than the 2018 figure of 41.0 per 100,000.\textsuperscript{49} However, the TTPS continues to concentrate efforts to achieve its 2020 target of 36.0 per 100,000.

Critical to achieving the goals and targets of Vision 2030 reducing crime and improving public safety is improving our Crime Detection Rates. Through Government’s sustained efforts, as of June 2019, the Violent Crime Detection Rate stood at 20.6%\textsuperscript{50}; and Serious Crime Detection Rate stood at 29.7% which increased by 6.7% from 2015.\textsuperscript{51} White Collar Crime Detection Rate was reported at 26.2% as at June 2019, with the expectation of meeting the set target of 30% by 2020.\textsuperscript{52}

**Public Safety**

One (1) of the areas that the public can feel a sense of safety and security is on the nation’s roads. Government continues to embrace the prevention model to treat with road safety and has adopted a ‘Towards Zero’ policy meaning towards ZERO deaths and injuries due to road traffic collisions. As a result, during fiscal 2019, several initiatives were implemented towards achieving zero deaths on the nation’s road ways including the continued installation of a High Tension Cable Barrier Carriageway Crossover Protection System on the Sir Solomon Hochoy Highway; and improving pedestrian zoning that prioritises safety through a design approach to roadway construction.

In an effort to reduce road fatalities even further, Government engaged a number of stakeholders in implementing initiatives geared towards road safety in the nation. Over the period, significant efforts were made in ensuring that there was increased road policing. Efforts in this area included the:

- Introduction of United Kindom (UK) Styled Full Battenberg High Visibility Vehicle Wrapping into the Highway Patrol, and Rapid Response Unit (RRU) and Emergency Response Patrol (ERP) Units;
- Expansion of the TTPS CCTV camera network;
- Establishment of a new Traffic Warden Unit to enforce traffic laws; and
- Expansion of the MotorCycle Patrol Unit by 200 purpose built police motorcycles received via donation from the People’s Republic of China. This will also assist in a faster response time from the TTPS to reports of criminal activities.

TTPS new motorcycles from the People’s Republic of China.
Source: TTPS

Source: TTPS
Spot Speed Enforcement Zone
Source: TTPS

STRENGTHENED NATIONAL SECURITY SECTOR

IMPROVED CRIME PREVENTION AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Works also continued in the second (2nd) phase of implementation of the Speed and Red Light Enforcement Technology, where systems are currently being installed for Spot Speed Enforcement, Red Light Enforcement and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)/ANPR system.

Education also plays a major role in road safety. In this regard, the government through the TTPS piloted the iRoadsafe National Road Safety Awareness Campaign to educate users in making safer decision and exercise greater caution when using the roads. A voluntary testing system was also implemented at major events to help encourage drivers to test their alcohol reading before leaving events and encourage them to sober up before driving.

To further reduce the nation’s crime rate, Government embarked on a multi-pronged approach encompassing several entities to implement strategic initiatives to strengthen the national security sector. The following presents a comprehensive overview of the strategic initiatives undertaken over the fiscal 2019 period:

Prisons
To assist in reducing prison overcrowding and improving rehabilitation, efforts continued in the establishment of an Electrical Monitoring System. Over the period, 300 devices were acquired and training of administrators, operators and technicians are expected to begin by October 2019.

Defense Force
In order to develop the capacity of the members of the Defense Force, the Army Learning Centre’s Leadership Institute for Excellence Building was commissioned on August 27th, 2019. It is expected that this institute will create a modern environment to host training and development activities of the Trinidad and Tobago Defense Force.

Forensic Science Centre
Government pressed on with the computerization of the Forensic Science Centre. This initiative will aid in the reduction of case backlogs and reporting time of case work. Work was also completed on the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) which went live in March 2019. This addition has already shown a marked increase in the output of reports to support cases.
Training and Outreach

Training and Outreach programs remain key components in strengthening national security and reducing crime, particularly, through collaboration with communities in crime prevention and reduction initiatives. As such, through the National Crime Prevention Programme (NCPP), community prevention councils were established in Chaguanas, Diego Martin and Tobago. Three (3) youth outreach sessions were also conducted and 800 secondary students were engaged. Furthermore, approximately 1,000 students were sensitized while at the National Youth Symposium. There was also the hosting of three 2-week I CAN / WE CAN Camps in the NCPP target areas.

Trinidad and Tobago remains committed to engaging in partnership and strengthening its diplomatic relationships with countries around the world and more importantly with neighboring small island developing states, especially those of CARICOM which is consistent with Goal 17 of the SDGs: Partnerships for the Goals.

As such in fiscal 2019, Government engaged in several initiatives to strengthen bilateral relations between Trinidad and Tobago, and countries within the region and around the globe. Such countries included the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which focused on Trinidad and Tobago’s interest in advancing cooperation in the areas of national security, energy and economic relations53.

As part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen foreign relations within CARICOM and support the full implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), Trinidad and Tobago signed on to the CARICOM Multilateral Air Services Agreement which expanded the scope for airlines owned by CARICOM nations to provide air services throughout the Community54. When fully implemented, the Agreement will provide a major boost to the regional transportation sector. The Agreement allows for no restrictions on routes, capacity or traffic rights and would facilitate increased intra-regional travel and provide more cargo options for exporters and importers with resulting cost savings.

Additionally, to further collaborations and deepen diplomatic relations within the region, in fiscal 2019, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago signed an important MOU with the Government of Barbados for cooperation in energy development for hydrocarbons that extended across their single Maritime boundary. As such, both Governments have agreed to jointly develop any oil or gas that may be found on shared borders between the islands.

(Continued on page 63)
Notwithstanding the many achievements of Government in fiscal 2019 as it relates to foreign policy, strategic focus was also placed on engaging the Trinidad and Tobago Diaspora through the development of a National Diaspora Policy.

Over the period, Government sought to develop a national diaspora policy to support sustainable economic development and propel diversification for the economy of Trinidad and Tobago. Through the Policy, it is anticipated that Trinidad and Tobago will be positioned to advance our national interests abroad and harness the contributions of our diasporic communities in the promotion of tourism, trade and culture around the globe. As such, in fiscal 2019 the development of the national diaspora policy commenced with the acquisition of a consultant with expert knowledge in diaspora issues for the development of the Policy. It is anticipated that the Policy will be completed in before the end of 2019.
SECTION 2

IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT
SECTION 2: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF VISION 2030

'REALIZING OUR NATIONAL VISION TOGETHER'
A key feature of a developed country is the quality of its infrastructure and transportation services. High-quality infrastructure unlocks economic potential and ensures that growth and opportunities are distributed throughout the country. It also contributes to productivity and competitiveness, allowing businesses to create employment, collaborate and attract investment, as well as grow and prosper. It is therefore imperative that we adopt a systemic and comprehensive approach to building strong climate resilient infrastructure and transportation systems. Strategic focus will be placed on holistic investment in infrastructure, with an emphasis on transportation and public utilities built to internationally accepted standards that has the potential to positively impact the level of national development and ultimately the well-being of citizens.

Essential to the development of quality infrastructure and transportation is building a first class air, sea and land transport system that has the potential to increase efficiency, improve accessibility and improve the lives of all citizens. To improve accessibility through the transportation network, focus will be placed on combining smart investment, innovation and maintenance. Investment will be strategic, tackling issues associated with accessibility and building economic linkages to improve productivity.

In addition, developing a high quality public utilities system is integral to human and economic development. Water and sanitation, for instance, are fundamental to human sustenance, health and dignity, and by extension, to economic opportunity. Affordable and reliable energy is fundamental to social life, productivity, competitiveness of industries and the efficient and effective delivery of services. Policies will be adopted that utilize business model innovations and incentives that attract investors, and community partnerships that leverage social networks and institutions to administer the public utilities system effectively.

(Continued on page 68)
Transportation is one (1) of the key factors that impacts on multiple dimensions of a country’s economy. An efficient transportation system can be a powerful enabler and driver of economic growth and development while simultaneously improving the overall welfare of its citizens. The efficiency of the transportation system can bolster trade and industry by facilitating the easy and unimpeded movement of goods and services. Safe, reliable, affordable transportation assists in increasing the mobility of citizens, thereby allowing them to commute easily to pursue employment, education, and participate in social and recreational activities.

Conversely, an inefficient transportation system can restrain economic growth and development by impeding the factors and drivers that contribute to overall national development.

An efficient transportation system is reliant on several key factors, one (1) of which is an arterial network that is of a quality that can easily accommodate various modes of transport and is sufficiently geographically dispersed to reach both the urban and rural populations.

In Trinidad and Tobago, Government continues to make concentrated efforts to ensure that there exists an efficient and effective transportation system that increases the mobility and accessibility of all citizens by continuing works to expand and upgrade the arterial networks across the country. This focused effort is in alignment with the attainment of SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure which focuses on the development of reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure that facilitates and supports economic development, human well-being and equitable access for all citizens.

During fiscal 2019, Government undertook several major initiatives to upgrade the existing transportation networks, while working assiduously to expand the networks to reach more communities that may not have been well served by the existing infrastructure. In particular, Government embarked on several key transport infrastructure construction and improvement programmes such as road construction and rehabilitation projects, bridge reconstruction, slope stabilization, and the construction of pedestrian infrastructure, that have resulted in improvements to the network of transport infrastructure.

(Continued on page 69)
As it relates to the road construction and rehabilitation, Government engaged in three (3) major projects to improve access to rural communities and improve the mobility of the citizens of these communities. These three (3) projects were the upgrade of the Valencia to Toco Road, the Moruga Road Rehabilitation Project and the Sangre Grande Road Network Upgrade.

The upgrade of the Valencia to Toco roadway is one (1) of the main components of the Government’s overall vision to generate increased economic activity in the North Eastern region of Trinidad by stimulating new industrial, residential and commercial activity in the area. The Valencia Main Road was identified as a key segment of the transportation infrastructure network linking the village of Valencia to the proposed Toco Highway and the Churchill Roosevelt Highway Extension to Manzanilla via the Ojoe Road connector. This roadway has also been identified as a vital access road to the North Eastern coast of Trinidad and provides access to the communities of Matura, Salybia, Rampanalgas, Cumana, San Souci, Grande Riviere, Paria and Matelot.
During the fiscal period 2018/2019, several components of this upgrading programme were undertaken and completed. In particular, over 1.6 kilometres of roadway was widened, allowing for a more efficient flow of vehicles while contributing to a reduction in traffic congestion along the roadway. In addition to the widening initiatives, works were also undertaken to improve the safety of the roadway by reducing incidence of flooding and landslips, both of which pose considerable hazards to the commuters within this region. Over the period, efforts were made to improve the drainage infrastructure along the roadway by constructing over three (3) kilometres of drainage networks and two (2) culvert crossings. Slope stabilisation works also commenced along the roadway which is currently 20% completed.

In a similar vein, the Moruga Road Rehabilitation initiative which extends from Petit Café in the north to Marac Village, Moruga in the south comprises the rehabilitation of the Moruga Road and Moreau Road which entails the construction of adequate drainage systems, pedestrian infrastructure (sidewalks), bridges, resurfacing of roadways and the implementation of slope stabilisation measures. This project is intended to directly benefit the citizens living in the communities of the Moruga and environs by improving their mobility and improving access to and from the region. The project is also expected to improve access to the proposed fishing port and processing facility that Government intends to construct as part of its larger vision of generating economic activity in this community.

(Continued on page 71)
Over the fiscal period 2018/2019, several key components of the Moruga Road Rehabilitation were undertaken which included the reconstruction of two (2) bridges, 11 slope stabilisation projects and the rehabilitation of over seven (7) kilometres of roadway. These initiatives will not only improve the mobility of the citizens of these rural communities, it will also improve the quality of the infrastructure, making it safer for citizens to commute into and out of their communities.

In keeping with its vision of ensuring the mobility of all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago irrespective of their location, Government engaged in further rehabilitation of the transportation infrastructure networks by upgrading the transportation infrastructure networks in the Sangre Grande region. These roadworks included the rehabilitation of over six (6) kilometres of road surface and the construction of over 2.4 kilometres of pedestrian infrastructure (sidewalks) along the roadway. Combined, the aforementioned initiatives to upgrade and expand the arterial networks contributed to the resurfacing of over 390,000 square metres of roadway across various communities of Trinidad and Tobago.
In conjunction with the resurfacing of the roadway, 8,080 square meters of roadway which were impacted by landslides were stabilized. A total of 28 sites were addressed. Additionally, infrastructural works were undertaken which led to the reconstruction of four (4) bridges.

As part of Government’s commitment to making the roadways safe for all users, three (3) pedestrian overpasses were constructed including the Diego Martin Pedestrian overpass, Sea lots Pedestrian overpass and the Water Taxi Pedestrian Overpass. The Diego Martin overpass which serves the communities in the vicinity of the Diego Martin Highway extension allows for easier and safer movement of persons across the highway thereby reducing the risk of fatalities associated with highway crossing. During the period under review, the works being carried out on the overpass was 90% completed thus far with the superstructure, ramps and hand rails being installed and completed.
One (1) key component of an efficient transportation system is a mass transit system that is capable of efficiently and cost effectively facilitating the movement of people and goods across a geographical region. Government’s commitment to providing an upgraded and expanded arterial network, continued over the period, with work towards improving the components of the mass transit system being a priority.

Over fiscal 2019, several key initiatives were undertaken by Government to improve the operation of the Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC) and its associated facilities. The works undertaken included the upgrade of the power generation systems necessary to facilitate continual operations in the event of power outages, the construction of an additional vehicle repair facility, improvement to the daily bus schedule, enhancement of the terminal facilities and installation of digital display boards for commuters.

To ensure business continuity of the PTSC in the event of a disaster or disturbance the PTSC successfully commissioned a stand-by 100KVA generator in December 2018 at its South Quay Compound. This Generator which has an automatic transfer switch would guarantee the stability of the PTSC’s operations with an uninterrupted electricity supply. It would provide backup power for the entire South Quay Compound which includes the Passenger loading areas, the concessionaires, the bus fuelling station, and Maxi taxi areas.

To further enhance the customer service experience, in August 2019 activities were undertaken to refurbish and improve the look and feel of the commuter platform and waiting area at the Port-of-Spain Terminal. These refurbishment and enhancement works were undertaken to improve the safety and comfort of commuters.

In May 2019, work commenced on the operationalization of three (3) digital screens displaying scheduling information, i.e. bus arrival and departure times, in the Deluxe Coach passenger lobby areas at the Port of Spain and San Fernando terminals. These public information displays are aimed at communicating valuable information to passengers as they await transportation to their various destinations.
In addition to improvements works at the South Quay Compound works were also completed on the construction of a First Line and Bus Repair Facility at Arima. This Facility will assist with reducing the time taken to repair buses dispatched from the Corporation’s Facilities in East Trinidad and ultimately improve run-out levels. It will also result in reductions in the operating costs of transporting the buses to and from other depots to have minor repair works undertaken. An additional benefit of the construction of this facility is the employment opportunities that would be made available for mechanics and bus servicemen in the Arima area.

Complementary to the physical works undertaken at the terminals, efforts were also made to improve the reliability and operation of the bus services. During fiscal 2019, measures were undertaken to increase the daily availability of buses so as to improve the service delivery to the travelling public. Pursuant to Government’s commitment to provide a safe, adequate and economic public transportation system, adapted to the needs of the country, initiatives were undertaken to increase and sustain a daily bus availability. During the period under review, efforts to improve the efficiency of the system was realized with a 33% increase in the number of buses on the road servicing commuters.

The increase in the daily availability of buses was achieved as a result of the PTSC Engineering Division adopting a defect elimination strategy as part of its ongoing maintenance operations. This rehabilitation program started with vehicles with eight years in service being assessed and refurbished to prevent deterioration. Both the exterior and interior of the buses have been restored as part of the program which is expected to extend the vehicles useful life by eight (8) to ten (10) years. By September 2019, nine (9) buses were refurbished as part of this program with plans to continue refurbishment efforts to ensure that the PTSC provides commuters with improved service.

As a result of these interventions and more to improve the bus availability, reduce defects and improve the interior appearance of the buses and enhance the terminals, the PTSC realized an increase in customer satisfaction of 20 percentage points from 46% in 2018 to 66% in 2019. Given this trajectory, it seems highly probable that the PTSC will attain its target of 80% customer satisfaction rate once it continues with the completion of its planned interventions.
According to the UN, access to safe water and basic sanitation is a fundamental human right,⁵⁶ which is essential to the attainment of SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

In Trinidad and Tobago, these basic human rights have been central to the development agenda more so under Vision 2030. The sustainable supply of potable water is essential to ensuring that citizens enjoy a high quality of life. While 87% of the population has piped access to water at their homes,⁵⁷ and 93.6% (See Figure 5.1) of the population has access to potable water to their homes,⁵⁸ during the fiscal year 2019 efforts continued on upgrading and expanding the existing networks of water infrastructure to facilitate an improved supply of water to all citizens. To facilitate this expansion and upgrade of the water infrastructure network, several major interventions were funded and undertaken during the period under review.

During fiscal 2019, interventions to construct reservoirs, upgrade distribution systems, desilt dams, expand water supply to industrial estates, reduce water loss during transmission and develop wells were undertaken. As it pertains to the construction of Reservoirs, works were completed on the installation of a 500,000 imperial gallon water storage tank at the Four Roads Reservoir allowing it to be brought into service during the reporting period. This 500,000 gallons of water storage capacity has met the needs of approximately 3,000 residents of Diego Martin and environs.

To further increase the water development and storage capacity in Trinidad and Tobago, Government undertook works to develop wells in several areas such as Moruga, Avocat, Chattam, Granville, Santa Cruz in Trinidad and Les Coteaux and Signal Hill in Tobago (see Figure 5.2 and 5.3). Each of these wells are being strategically developed to meet the water needs and demands of the communities in which they are located.

The Moruga well is being developed to ensure that the Agro Processing and Light Industrial Park to be located at Saunders Trace in Moruga does not compromise the water needs of the population in the area. It is anticipated that when completed, the well will produce and additional 50,000 gallons of water daily which will meet the daily water needs of the Industrial park which is estimated to be 228 cubic meters or approximately 50,000 gallons. As such, during the period of reporting, a 1,749 meter PVC main was installed bringing the project to 48% completion.

---

Figure 5.1: 93.6% of population with access to potable water to their homes
Source: Ministry of Public Utilities

Figure 5.2: Map of location of Wells being developed in Trinidad

(Continued on page 76)
EXPANDED WATER AND WASTE
WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

The well development project at Avocat, Chattam and Granville while at various stages of construction will increase the level of services from a 24 hour two (2) day supply to a 24 hour four (4) day supply for communities in the South Western peninsula of Trinidad. The wells currently being developed in Santa Cruz will result in an increase in the level of service from a 24 hour two (2) day supply to a 24 hour four (4) day supply in the areas of Diego Martin and St. Ann's (See Table 5.1).

In Tobago, two (2) wells are currently being developed in the areas of Les Coteaux and Signal Hill that are expected to increase the existing supply by four (4) million gallons of water per day. This increase in water supply is anticipated to improve the level of service for over 40,000 persons within the areas of Les Coteaux, Carnbee, Signal Hill, Calder Hill, Scarborough, Mary's Hill and Roxborough; all areas that have a moderately high population density (See Table 5.2.).

In addition to the development of wells, Government has implemented interventions aimed at expanding the existing network of water infrastructure. These included the Water Supply to Labidco and Union Industrial Estate Project in Trinidad and the Upgrade of the Distribution System and the Desilting of the Hillsborough Dam in Tobago.

The Labidco and Union Industrial Estate Project is meant to increase the water supply to the industrial estate as well as to increase the reliability of the supply of water to communities in Southern Trinidad. This project has several major components that have to be completed which includes the construction or upgrade of several booster stations and the installation of pipelines that will facilitate the transmission of the increased supply of water. During the period under review, the Savonetta Booster Station was 100% completed and commissioned. The Savonetta Booster now has the design capacity flow of 1,420 litres per second and contributes to a more reliable supply of water to over 8,000 persons in the surrounding communities.

In Tobago, the upgrade of the distribution system will improve the reliability of the supply of water to residents of Carnbee, Mt Pleasant, Low Lands and Bacolet in Tobago as well as reduce the volume of water that is lost from the network. In fiscal 2019, the installation of a 900 meter pipeline at All Fields Trace was completed which brought the completion rate of the project up to 91%. In addition, the upgrade of the water infrastructure networks included the desilting of the Hillsborough Dam which is one (1) of the main water sources on the island. This desilting of the dam when completed will improve the security of the water supply and extend service to areas of Tobago that are either underserved or areas that are currently not being served at all. As at the time of reporting, the desilting process was 28% completed.
EXPANDED WATER AND WASTE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Complementary to the interventions to expand the water supply are the interventions to reduce water lost during the transmission through the networks. One (1) such intervention is the Reduction of Non-Revenue Water initiative. The main target of this initiative is to reduce the non-revenue water i.e. water lost during transmission, by 10% over a five (5) year period. To attain this reduction in water loss, several components of this initiative will need to be completed such as the replacement of high leakage transmission mains, replacement of high leakage distribution pipelines and the installation of water meters among other components. As at the time of reporting, implementation of this initiative was 19% complete.

In Trinidad and Tobago while access to basic sanitation in some form is almost universal, efforts are being made to upgrade and modernize the sanitation system. This upgrade and modernization is aimed at expanding the population’s access to central sewerage services for the safe offsite disposal of wastewater. Currently, approximately 37.5% of the population has access to central sewerage services, up from 30% in 2015.59 This 37.5% falls short of the 2021 target of 47.5% of the population having access to central sewerage services by only 10 percentage points.

In order to attain this target, several key interventions have been initiated to expand the wastewater network. These are:

- The Wastewater Network Expansion initiative,
- The Multiphase Wastewater Rehabilitation Programme (Featured Project), and
- The Rehabilitation of the Scarborough Wastewater Treatment Plant

The rehabilitation work being undertaken at the Scarborough Wastewater treatment plant is aimed at modernising the plant to meet the 2006 Water Pollution Rules. To date, the refurbishment works have been 88% completed.

In addition to the Rehabilitation of the Scarborough Wastewater treatment plant, work continued on the Wastewater Network Expansion, particularly on the project component that focused on the South West Tobago Wastewater Systems at Samaan Grove and Bon Accord. At the time of reporting, these projects were 99% and 95% completed respectively. When completed, these projects will improve the management of the wastewater at these plants so that they satisfy the Water Pollution Rules.

(Continued on page 78)
Combined these projects and initiatives contribute to the SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities by ensuring that communities and cities have access to basic services such as water and sanitation. The development of central sewerage systems contribute to the safe collection and disposal of solid waste and wastewater in the communities and cities of Trinidad and Tobago. The expansion of the water infrastructure networks ensures that all citizens are afforded access to clean potable water in quantities that exceeds their basic human needs.

The Multiphase Wastewater Rehabilitation Programme represents one of the largest investments in the wastewater sector in Trinidad and Tobago. The programme comprises two large scale wastewater treatment projects:

i. The Malabar Wastewater and Project
ii. The San Fernando Wastewater Project

It is expected that the completion of these two projects in combination with the other wastewater projects will result in an increase of the wastewater coverage from 30% in 2015 to 47.5% in 2021, which amounts to an additional 200,000 persons being able to access wastewater services. The project will also directly contribute to the attainment of the SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

The Malabar Wastewater component of the programme provides wastewater services for the Malabar Catchment, an area that covers approximately 27 square kilometres in the Borough of Arima and environs (see Figure 5.4). The plant was designed to replace the existing Malabar and Arima Wastewater treatment plants along with the smaller plants that were previously installed by residential housing developers. It can be expected that the treated effluents will exceed the water quality standard set by the EMA in 2006.
FEATURE PROJECT: THE MULTIWASTE WASTEWATER REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

The treatment scheme for the wastewater at this plant includes the following processes:

a. Influent Pumping  
b. Septage Receiving Station  
c. Fine Screening  
d. Grit removal  
e. Storm Water Storage  
f. Activated Sludge Aeration (Bioreactors)  
g. Secondary Clarification  
h. Return Activated Sludge Pumping  
i. Disinfection

The treatment scheme for solid waste from the activated sludge system includes the following processes:

a. Waste Activated Sludge Pumping  
b. Waste Activated Sludge Dewatering  
c. Solar Drying  
d. Safe Disposal

During fiscal 2019, the Malabar Wastewater component of the programme was 100% completed, commissioned and is now fully operational.
SECTION 2
BUILDING GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE BUSINESSES
SECTION 2:

VISION 2030

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF VISION 2030

"REALIZING OUR NATIONAL VISION TOGETHER"
Building Globally Competitive Businesses

An environment of sustained economic growth is necessary to safeguard our people’s opportunities to prosper. It helps secure the resources required to reduce poverty, improve healthcare, invest in education, build world class infrastructure and provide the goods and services that all citizens of this country need and deserve. As previous financial crises have shown, economies are more interconnected than ever before and as such, vulnerabilities now spread more easily across sectors and national borders. Government’s intention, therefore is to maintain economic stability mainly by pursuing sound monetary and fiscal policy, promoting healthy trade and payments balances and taking the necessary steps to contain inflationary pressures.

In order to deliver goods and services that we require to move forward, our economy must continue to grow and be stable. This will allow businesses, individuals and Government to plan as well as improve the quantity and quality of long-term investments in physical and human capital. Competitive businesses are integral to this thrust of sustained economic growth as they innovate, create employment and generate revenue, especially foreign exchange earnings. Government has therefore, set out to create an environment that encourages open and free competition as well as a favourable culture and climate for entrepreneurship and innovation towards creating the economy of tomorrow.

More specifically, building more competitive businesses requires that our environment attract the right investors and entrepreneurs and that our businesses and people are more agile and creative enough to seize new opportunities as they present themselves. As a result, Trinidad and Tobago must work smarter, by creating new high-value added products through the more strategic use of research and development (R&D). It is expected that as we continue to apply the planned initiatives, we will continue to experience improved economic growth which once sustained will produce the overall impact that we seek by the year 2030.
This thematic area shares actions and principles engendered in the SDGs related to human prosperity through economic, social and technological progress while still being in harmony with the environment. As such, strategies and actions in this thematic area are aligned to SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

Government has sought to develop entrepreneurship over the last fiscal year, given its ability to improve standards of living through innovation; and to create wealth and jobs while contributing to a growing economy. During this fiscal, start-ups and small businesses continued to receive much-needed support from the Government through the Grant Fund Facility which is geared towards providing working capital and/or seed capital through grant funding. Eight (8) companies in various sub-sectors such as Printing and Publishing; Cocoa Processing, including the manufacture of chocolate; Food and Agro-Processing; and Manufacturing of packaging materials, received a total of approximately TT$1.57 million.

In addition to this, to create an enabling environment that facilitates and promotes e-commerce for local businesses to serve domestic and international consumer markets, Government commenced a series of e-commerce training sessions for 180 entrepreneurs during this period. The sessions were tailored to specifically address capacity related gaps that were identified by stakeholders, for example “How to go Online” and “How to Market your Goods/Services Online.”

Over the period, Government also provided training to equip new and existing entrepreneurs in key areas such as Introduction to Entrepreneurship; Steps to Starting Your Business; Recordkeeping and Cash Management; Savings and Investments; and Costing and Pricing. Eight (8) training courses were held and 60 persons were trained.

Entrepreneurship outreach was also conducted to foster an interest in entrepreneurship among persons of all ages. Over the period, the following outreach activities were conducted:

- COSTATT’s Human Resources Employee Fair – 31 persons
- Carapichaima East Secondary School Career Day - 150 persons

(Continued on page 85)
CHAPTER 6

BUILDING GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE BUSINESSES

IMPROVED ENTREPRENEURIAL ENVIRONMENT

- Women’s Career Day - Jesus Elam Revival, Barataria - 10 persons
- Petrotrin Employee Assistance Programme Services Limited (PEAPSL) Exhibition for Petrotrin - 700 persons
- National Flour Mills Small Business Seminar - 31 persons
- “Meeting You Home” – Sangre Grande - 18 persons
- Presentation at YTEPP Fyzabad Campus - 15 persons
- Presentation at YTEPP South Campus - 15 persons
- Queen’s Royal College Career Day - 30 persons
- UWI Entrepreneurship Workshop – 100 persons

A total of 1,100 individuals have benefitted from the sessions.

The Business Advisory Services programme also continued in fiscal 2019 to provide support to entrepreneurs in the areas of business structure, planning and growth. See Box: 6.1 for Services provided.

In addition, the ‘Fab Lab’ initiative continued. The Fab Lab emerged from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Center for Bits & Atoms Fab Lab Program and provides users, including existing and potential entrepreneurs with affordable access to tools and resources for creativity, design, innovation, development of prototypes and learning. It also provides the public with education and training in the areas of innovation and invention, ‘technopreneurship’ (innovation-driven entrepreneurship) and the use of rapid prototyping technologies. As part of the Fab Lab initiative the “Meet The Entrepreneur” series and IP (Intellectual Property) Clinics were both launched in 2019 and are now quarterly events hosted at the Fab Lab.

NIHERST also continued the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Mapping and Priority Setting Programme which is intended to:

- Map innovation within priority industries of the national economy;
- Identify the drivers and impediments to innovation in the targeted industry;
- Identify the intensity and types of interactions (linkages) that exist among actors within the targeted industry;
- Offer policy prescriptions that strengthen linkages evaluated as moderate and weak;
- Identify the current skills gaps and also the future skills/capabilities required by targeted industries;
- Identify the gaps within the current enabling environment that impede innovation and in so doing, make feasible recommendations to close these gaps and strengthen the support for innovative firms.

Box 6.1 : List of Business Advisory Services Provided Over Fiscal 2019

- University of Trinidad and Tobago’s (UTT) 2019 Fashion Week - 14 Final Year Fashion Students
- Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business - 40 First Year Undergraduate Students
- Training and Consultations for Trinidad And Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute
- The Timely Entrepreneur Book Launch & Learn 2019 – 100 Persons
- 42 Potential and Current Entrepreneurs were provided with Advisory Services on their business ideas and operations in private advisory consultations. Ninety seven percent (97%) became NEDCO clients.

A total of 296 persons received business advisory services.

(Continued on page 86)
BUILDING GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE BUSINESSES

IMPROVED ENTREPRENEURIAL ENVIRONMENT

During this period, the Energy Services Sectoral Innovation Mapping (SIM) Study was completed and the corresponding booklet published and disseminated. The Study included an action plan which once implemented, will improve the environment that promotes innovation.

NIHERST also continued the Innovation Camps which provide students ranging from age 11 to 17 years, with an opportunity to learn scientific principles and their application in technology and innovation through fun, hands-on activities and interactive exhibits. Students developed skills in the use of technologies and software application, promoting creativity, design, innovation and prototype development. Seven (7) one (1) week camps facilitated 185 campers who were exposed to the areas of technological innovation and entrepreneurship. Over 88% of the students attending the Camps indicated a greater interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) towards Innovation, Invention and Technopreneurship (innovation-driven entrepreneurship).

The promotion of consumer rights has also been on the agenda of the Government as part of the effort to enhance the business environment. The increased trust and availability of avenues to seek recourse by consumers is expected to redound to an increase in willingness to spend. As such, the new National Consumer Policy 2018-2023, was developed and is now being implemented. The Policy is intended to facilitate the:

- Establishment of modern harmonized Consumer Protection Legislation;
- Establishment of a mechanism or system to effectively address consumer complaints and issues;
- Execution of public country-wide consumer educational campaigns; and
- Establishment of formal structures to enhance joint collaboration on consumer issues among agencies responsible for various areas of consumer protection.62

As part of the implementation of this Policy, the computerized Consumer Complaints Management System was updated to address complaints in a more efficient manner. The Consumer Education Plan was also developed and is being implemented to the public via awareness sessions on a monthly basis.
An improved trade environment is crucial to increasing trade opportunities and thus enhancing the earning potential of local exporters. Considering this, Government continued to work on the enhancement of the Single Electronic Window (SEW) which has improved the trade performance and the business facilitation environment in Trinidad and Tobago. As a result, over the period, several initiatives were completed (See Box 6.2):

Government also maintained all e-services that have been offered under the SEW, such as the e-Company Registration, e-Goods Declaration and the e-Import Duty Concession, among several others, all aimed at reducing business transaction time. As a result of these measures, there has been a reduction in the number of days for document preparation and customs clearance for both import and export activities. In 2019 exports have been reduced from six (6) days in 2016 to four (4) days in 201963 and for imports, the time has been reduced from nine (9) days to five (5) days for the same period.64

The Customs and Excise Division has also contributed to the enhancement of the trade environment through the implementation of Non-Intrusive Inspection at the Port of Port of Spain. This project:

- enables the Customs and Excise Division to clear cargo via non-intrusive inspections resulting in faster clearances;
- prevents unnecessary damages to cargo caused by other methods of inspection;
- allows for easier inspection and faster delivery times as verification of the contents of the containers can be more easily done; and
- reduces the man power requirement in determining the contents of containers which allows for staff to be deployed to other functions.

This system also verifies manifests to reduce occurrences of duty and tax fraud; identifies weapons of terrorism; reduces the flow of illegal drugs and arms; and intercepts other illegal goods.

In addition to this, the Trinidad and Tobago Trade Policy was approved by Cabinet during the 2018-2019 period. This is expected to:

- increase the value and volume of non-energy exports of goods and services;
- create an improved facilitative and enabling environment for trade, business and investment;
- grow the production and export of high value-added goods and services; and
- increase the country’s share of CARICOM trade, inclusive of trade in services.
BUILDING GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE BUSINESSES

IMPROVED TRADE ENVIRONMENT

In order to further improve the trade environment and thus build the export capacity and competitiveness of local exporters, Government also continued to develop and implement a Capacity Building and Training Plan for Exporters, in particularly for medium sized businesses. As part of this strategy:

- eight (8) co-financing disbursements were made;
- two (2) seminars were completed;
- six (6) companies have completed the implementation of specific international standards; and
- twelve (12) training programmes were conducted.

The seminars and training programmes covered areas such as Foreign Exchange; Food Safety; Identifying and Assessing Export Markets; Developing an Export Plan; and Export Marketing.

Initiatives which sought to increase market penetration and country promotion were also areas of focus for the Government during fiscal 2019. As a result, three (3) companies received a total of TT$1.14 million from the established R&D Facility to conduct necessary research and to develop the means to achieve their goals as it relates to improving trade prospects. In addition to this, trade missions were conducted from which further business opportunities are expected to develop. One such mission is the Inward Buyers Mission which resulted from the Trade and Investment Convention (TIC) 2019. As at September 2019, more than US$50 million in foreign sales was recorded. This figure is expected to rise as the business ventures resulting from the TIC are established.

(Continued on page 89)

IMPROVED INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT

To promote and facilitate the growth and expansion of foreign as well as domestic investment in Trinidad and Tobago, several initiatives were implemented over the period. One (1) such initiative is Trinidad and Tobago’s model Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA) which was updated to effectively negotiate with other countries in which Trinidad and Tobago have investment opportunities. As a result, in fiscal 2019, Government agreed to enter into a Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments Agreement (RPPIA) with the Government of the Republic of Ghana. The RPPIA aims to facilitate further investments between the two (2) countries, particularly in the non-energy and services sectors. It will also provide the additional support and investor protection needed to increase investment flows between the countries.

(Continued on page 89)
CHAPTER 6

IMPROVED INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT

Also of note, was the Investment Promotion Act, which was developed and implemented in this fiscal, to promote foreign direct investments to Trinidad and Tobago.

A stable macroeconomic environment is also an important element when seeking to create an attractive investment environment. The Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago has therefore implemented a new Portfolio Management System geared towards improved management of the international reserves to maximize on returns.

The state of the financial system will also influence the level of investment into the economy. As part of the effort to ensure a sound financial system, the E-Money Policy and the Fintech Virtual Currency Policy were finalized during fiscal 2019.

For many years Trinidad and Tobago has been pursuing the enhancement of our non-energy sectors in order to diversify the economy away from the reliance on the volatile energy sector. These efforts continued during this fiscal, some of which resulted in a significant increase in non-energy exports since 2017 from approximately TT$4.3 billion to TT$5.2 billion as at July 2019 representing an increase of over 20%. Several initiatives may have contributed to this increase, some of which are described in the following sections.

Tourism
Government continued efforts to further develop the ‘Destination Trinidad’ tourism product over the last fiscal year. This involved strategic marketing, actual product development for example, the upgrade of our leading beach facilities; in addition to education and awareness programmes.

More specifically, the Las Cuevas Beach Facility received a significant upgrade (See figures 6.1 and 6.2). Upgrade works were conducted in the following areas:

- refurbishment works to the Restaurant Building;
- refurbishment works to the Washroom Facility;
- construction of pedestrian walkway from the upper car park to the facility;
- installation of CCTV Surveillance System;
- installation of LED Lighting;
- painting of parking demarcations of existing car park;
- construction of Welcome Signage;
- aesthetic Site Upgrade Works including landscaping and painting; and
- refurbishment of the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant.

(Continued on page 90)
BUILDING GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE BUSINESSES

ENHANCEMENT OF NON-ENERGY SECTORS

Upgrades were also completed at the Manzanilla Beach Facility (See Figure 6.3) which included the following: drainage system for car park:

• extension of concrete ramp to ground level;
• repair of existing solar lighting;
• roof repairs;
• servicing of generator;
• installation of additional seating, welcome signage;
• aesthetic site upgrades;
• plumbing and electrical upgrade; and
• other Minor Works.

Figure 6.1 Welcome Signage at Las Cuevas Beach Facility

Figure 6.2 Washroom Upgrade at Las Cuevas Beach Facility

(Continued on page 91)
There are also many premier tourist attractions scheduled for upgrade and refurbishment in the upcoming months namely the Vessigny Beach Facility, the La Brea Pitch Lake Facility, the Galera Point LightHouse Project and the Maracas Beach Facility.

In addition to the infrastructural work, there is a need to transform the mindset connected to the local tourism sector as well as highlighting the many opportunities for sector development and expansion within the Trinidad landscape and internationally. As such, an Education, Awareness and Sensitization Campaign was launched. As part of this Campaign, a Tourism Column was published in the Guardian Newspaper and the Tourism Minute aired on four (4) popular radio stations reaching an estimated 40,000 persons and 240,000 local and 600,000 international listeners, respectively.

Through the many interventions of Government, the average visitor expenditure in Trinidad and Tobago has grown over time to approximately TT$9,180 at July 2019, an increase of over 10% over the 2015 figure.765

(Continued on page 92-96)
BUILDING GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE BUSINESSES

ENHANCEMENT OF NON-ENERGY SECTORS

Information Technology enabled Services (ITeS)
Government has continued its work to develop and propel the local ITeS industry into the global market. Under the Global Services Promotion Programme, a range of Internationalization Training and Support Services were made available to companies and entrepreneurs in the ITeS industry. These companies and entrepreneurs are either currently exporting and intend to expand, or local companies who wish to compete globally. Thus far, ten (10) training programmes have been held with approximately 200 beneficiaries.

Agriculture
Agriculture is one (1) of the oldest economic sectors in Trinidad and Tobago. The Central Experiment Station exists as part of the effort to revitalise and grow this sector through the use of research. The Station provides professional services to the farming community and the general public such as soil testing services. As such, during the period, the facilities at the Station were upgraded. Upgrade works included the installation of a new roof and an upgrade to the electrical system of the Analytical Services Building, which have both been completed. Further upgrades are planned for the next fiscal year as the Station prepares to continue supporting the progress in the agricultural sector.

In addition, high quality planting material was provided to the farming community through the Redevelopment of the Seed Production Infrastructure Project at Chaguaramas. While the Project is 70% complete, it has resulted in the production of 6,401 kg of assorted local food and vegetable seeds for corn, pigeon peas, bodi, bean, ochro, sorrel, pumpkin, hot pepper, melongene, seim, jhingi and lauki. It has also resulted in the generation of TT$1.7 million in revenue for all commodities sold at the Agricultural Services Division (ASD) and Regional South Stations.

Manufacturing
In fiscal 2019, the Manufacturing Policy for Trinidad and Tobago 2019-2023 was completed. This Policy is expected to transform the manufacturing sector so that it becomes more globally competitive, productive and innovative through the utilization of advanced technologies and environmentally friendly practices. Key strategies under the Policy include:

- increased targeted training programmes in export promotion;
- establishing Trade Facilitation Offices in selected overseas embassies/missions;
- conducting a comprehensive Quantitative and Qualitative Labour Market Report on selected Manufacturing sub-sectors in Trinidad and Tobago to identify the skills gap;
- developing and enhancing technology infrastructure to support companies seeking to improve their technological capabilities and competitiveness;
ENHANCEMENT OF NON-ENERGY SECTORS

- enhancing and upgrading existing technological capacity of MSMEs;
- developing “Green” infrastructure;
- developing industry specific standards for the Manufacturing Sector;
- facilitating access to capital and credit for investments in new technologies; and
- upgrading and expanding cargo-handling equipment.

Cocoa
Cocoa remains a high value product of the country and continues to evolve and improve at the national and micro-lot scale so that the local variety of beans and products maintain their high value on the international market. Trinidad and Tobago is one (1) of ten (10) countries in the world recognized by the International Cocoa Organization for having 100% high quality cocoa. Despite the challenges of labour, small farmers’ returns on investment and challenges to maintain quality, as of 2019, there have been many successful projects being completed that have created a strong local tapestry of initiatives to improve the overall quality of cocoa production.

Farmers now have access to a comprehensive certification system and digital traceability system, allowing them to brand, certify and trace their beans from farmers to manufacturers. As part of the cocoa farmers’ “toolkit”, a fertility map and cadmium (a toxic metal) map for Trinidad and Tobago is also available; and, coupled with the establishment of the International Fine Cocoa Innovation Centre, designed to support building a value-added sector surrounding cocoa, farmers and the industry now have a few more mechanisms that will support improving and maintaining high quality product.

Two (2) new cocoa standards have been developed by the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS), these are intended to improve the quality of locally produced cocoa beans, enhance its competitiveness and improve access to international markets. The standards - TTS 646:2019 and TTS 647:2019 which specify the requirements for sampling, test methods, classification, packaging and marking for cocoa beans, positively impact the quality parameters of locally produced cocoa, but also facilitate the national drive towards a trusted, fair, national certification system for quality cocoa. These initiatives are centered around the establishment of a sustainable, globally recognized brand for Trinidad and Tobago Cocoa that would allow both small and large farmers strategic opportunities to fetch US$3,500 to US$10,000 per metric tonne for raw high-quality cocoa beans. Farmers of Central Trinidad are currently poised to increase exports from 24 in 2018 to 36 tonnes, signaling positive trends in the burgeoning industry.
**Film**

On the heels of FilmTT’s approved strategic plan as of 2018, development of the film industry has continued during the 2019 period. Trinidad and Tobago facilitated eight (8) international television production crews which allowed for the creation of employment opportunities for over 300 nationals of Trinidad and Tobago. An additional six (6) foreign film productions took place during this period. Together, these initiatives have generated a total of over TT$12.6 million and created over 500 jobs as at July 2019. Moreover, as a result of incoming film productions, 980 room nights were booked in Trinidad and Tobago; TT$16.4 million was generated and 481 locals were hired. FilmTT also launched a series of tools to improve the film production process in Trinidad and Tobago. These tools include the following:

- an updated Production Directory - a searchable directory which allows producers to find professional production services and non-creative supplies for upcoming productions;
- a Locations Database - a searchable online database of locations and festivals across the country;
- a Production Guide - 30-page publication which provides useful details on shooting films in Trinidad and Tobago including the use of the Production Expenditure Rebate Programme and how to access it.

Altogether, the suite of digital tools is targeted at film makers both local and foreign, particularly for improving the ease of production.

**Fashion**

During fiscal 2019, Government continued to implement the fashion distribution, capacity building and marketing and promotion plan to grow and promote the Creative Industry sectors. One (1) specific initiative under this plan is the Non Global Fashion Value Chain Investment Programme and Incubator Fashion Value Chain Investment Programme. Fifty (50) fashion designers were mentored to enhance business capability and financial support for equipment and operations; an increase just shy of three (3) times the 2015 enrolment of 18 designers. Additionally, 40 of the previously trained designers have since begun to export their products, an increase of 300% since 2015 where 10 began exporting after having completed the Programme.67

Further development of the fashion industry took place as the first (1st) cohort of bespoke tailors from the One (1) Year Certificate Programme in Ultra Bespoke Tailoring, Pattern Drafting, Cutting and Fitting graduated this year. This Programme forms part of Government’s strategy to build export capacity in the fashion industry and successfully position products made in Trinidad and Tobago in international markets. Its implementation was as a result of a collaboration between Government, the MIC Institute of Technology and the Savile Row Academy of the United Kingdom.
Twenty-six (26) students graduated from the Programme and received their certificates in July 2019. Since the completion of the Programme, it has been reported that the graduates of this Programme have generated more than TT$100,000 in sales. Additionally, tailors from the Programme formed a company called “The Caribbean Guild of Bespoke Tailors” on August 2, 2019, to serve as a platform for training aspiring individuals in Trinidad and Tobago in the field of tailoring; and an association to communicate to private and public stakeholders on behalf of the tailoring community.

There were also other initiatives such as the 10-day fashion accelerator programme undertaken by UTT in collaboration with Caribbean Export Development Agency, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Cultural and Creative Industries Innovation Fund. The programme focused on building capacity and expanding their understanding of what is required for effective trade and export within the region and beyond. The programme enabled 20 designers, selected from an application pool of 78, to strengthen business skills and technical ability to meet international quality levels.

Music
Efforts to develop the music industry also continued throughout the period. This involved the continued implementation of the Live Music District (LMD) which saw 54 performances at 11 venues. The opening of the LMD Phase III took place on March 30th, 2019 at Adam Smith Square featuring local acts such as Desperadoes and Bishops Anstey Steel Ensemble (See Figure 6.4). The Live Music District has provided local artists with opportunities to showcase their talent at various events and locations throughout Port of Spain and environs. Forty-one
percent (41%) of the artistes registered have been hired to perform on multiple occasions during the LMD by the registered venues thus increasing their visibility, earnings as well as further earning potential.

The Artiste Portfolio Development Programme, now called Spotlight, also continued over the period. The Programme aims to prepare artistes for global distribution by ensuring that the quality of their offering was ready for export. During this period, ten (10) artistes were trained under the Programme while a further nine (9) were selected for training in the next cohort.

In addition to the previously mentioned initiatives, a software application called the Music Tech Platform was launched, which provides a fully functional booking site and app with a star rating system for evaluating both artistes and venues, displaying feedback in real time. It is expected that this real time access will help to boost the local music scene and the revenue generating opportunities for our venues and our artistes.

**Yachting**

Given Trinidad and Tobago’s geographic location, the yachting sub-sector has been deemed as economically viable and is being developed and nurtured to contribute more significantly to the economy through the areas of yacht repair and maintenance services. Since the development of the Yachting Policy 2017-2021, several initiatives have been undertaken. During fiscal 2019, Government signed a MOU with the China Harbour Engineering Company Limited (CHEC) for the development of dry-docking facilities at La Brea. Cabinet has also agreed to the guidelines for the legal, institutional and administrative framework for the expansion of transshipment and cold stacking of vessels in Trinidad and Tobago.
FEATURE PROJECT
THE INVESTMENT APPROVAL FACILITATION FRAMEWORK

Tobago. These initiatives, among others, are expected to improve the capacity and sustainability of the local yachting industry. In April 2017, Cabinet agreed to the new Investment Approval and Facilitation Framework. The Framework was designed to reduce the bureaucracy faced by current and potential investors. The key objectives of this Framework are to:

- facilitate investors in need of regulatory compliance with laws and/or regulations at the national level;
- simplify the regulatory decision processes (registration, licensing, permitting, land allocation) by increasing transparency, clarifying regulations and improving quality and timeframe of service;
- provide pre-approval services (market and business data, investment opportunities etc.) to investors; and
- facilitate post-approval services (permits, approvals, import of equipment & raw materials, work permits, etc.) to investors.

A key component of the Framework is the Inter-Ministerial Committee appointed by Cabinet and chaired by the Minister of Trade and Industry. This Committee improves the processing times involved in approving and facilitating investments in the non-energy sector. More specifically, in the short term, the Committee reviews, approves and facilitates investments in the non-energy sector worth over US$5 million. The Committee has set a temporary standard of a maximum of 60 days for approvals for simple projects (those not requiring environmental approvals) and 180 days for complex projects (those requiring environmental approvals).

In the medium to long term, the Committee rationalizes current regulatory processes to meet international best practice. This facilitates expedited approvals by the various Ministries and regulatory agencies for all investments.

During this period, as a result of this Framework, non-energy investments in Trinidad and Tobago were approximately TT$384 million, which provided 310 employment opportunities for nationals of Trinidad and Tobago. These investments were primarily domestic investments made in the following sectors: Manufacturing, Agri-Business, Construction and Maritime.
SECTION 2

PLACING THE ENVIRONMENT AT THE CENTRE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF VISION 2030
SECTION 2: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF VISION 2030

CHAPTER 7

PLACING THE ENVIRONMENT AT THE CENTRE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development a critical priority for the nation for many reasons, namely because (i) the environment is the common thread that supports all sectors which contribute to the social and economic development of the nation and, therefore, must be managed; (ii) unsustainable exploitation of our resources can severely affect our society, threatening our food security, energy security, livelihoods and human health, among other impacts; (iii) there is the burgeoning impact of climate change and renewable energy, as well as (iv) Trinidad and Tobago’s adoption of the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its commitments under various multilateral environmental agreements requires placing the environment at the heart of this country’s development focus with clear strategies and modes of action.

As the country and likewise the rest of the world places the environment at the centre of their focus, there must be continuous national efforts to protect the environment, respond to climate change and promote overall sustainable development so that we will be better able to experience a clean and healthy environment - one where all ecosystems function properly, supported by effective environmental-based institutional arrangements, with climate resilient communities, effective waste management, protection, wise use, and effective natural resource management, as well as the use of alternative fuel, clean and renewable energy.
Seven (7) critical SDGs are aligned with this thematic area, these are SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production SDG 13: Climate Action; SDG 14: Life Below Water; and SDG 15: Life on Land. SDG 9 and SDG 11 are two additional SDGs that the government believes align with the Thematic area while the others are the five (5) key SDGs represent the “Planet”.

The future of all development efforts depend on what climate action is taken locally and globally. There has been continued devastation inflicted on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by the adverse impacts of climate change, including increasing frequency, scale and intensity of disasters. These have resulted in the massive loss of life, destruction of infrastructure, displacement of housing communities and other grossly negative economic, social and environmental impacts. Given the level of threats and devastation that undermines national sustainable development

Government remains committed to climate action by addressing issues as it pertains to climate change vulnerability and risk assessments; reducing fossil fuel use; improving energy efficiency; increasing the use of renewable energy; reducing ozone depleting substances and staying committed to its obligations under the Paris Agreement. 69

IMPROVED RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

(Continued on page 103)
Climate Change Mitigation

In fiscal 2019, Government continued to pursue low-emissions, climate-resilient, developmental pathway for the country, while improving the management of natural resources in the country.

One such initiative is the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Support Programme which is helping facilitate the development of an enabling framework for reducing our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In 2019, as part of the NDC Support Programme on of the key outputs was the the launch of a Knowledge Management System (KMS) for the National Climate Mitigation Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) System which is intended to facilitate the collection, analysis and transparent reporting of accurate data on GHG emissions, mitigation initiatives and resources dedicated to the initiatives. A pilot project testing the efficacy of the KMS is underway. Furthermore, a gender analysis and Action Plan were developed to support NDC implementation.

“If you don’t mitigate then you will have greater and more catastrophic impacts and then you will have more adaptation work to do after.

We need to develop in a climate-smart way.

Kishan Kumarsingh”

Head Multilateral Agreements Unit
EPPD 2019

(Continued on page 104-105)
Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk Assessments

Pursuing climate change adaptation actions is a key strategy to provide protection and enhance the resilience of the nation’s vulnerable sectors from the negative consequences of climate change. Climate vulnerability risk and capacity assessments, were completed for eight (8) sectors in Trinidad and Tobago. These sectors included

- Agriculture and Food Security,
- Water Resources
- Human health
- Biodiversity
- Infrastructure and Human Settlements
- Finance, and
- Tobago.

These results can now be mainstreamed into national development in that the country can understand and lower the risks; adopt the most practical adaptive responses; as well as systematically and effectively integrate the recommended climate actions into national and local developmental plans. Another way in which results are being further used to support decision-making is via a visual (geospatial) format which provide a bird’s eye picture of the impacts of climate change and climate variability. An engagement strategy is being developed to roll out the recommendations.

Instrumental to the national climate change initiatives are also pilot projects that demonstrate resilience and highlight the transition required to mitigate against the realities of climate change and adapt to its impacts. One (1) such example can be found in the Health Care System. The Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA), in partnership with the Ministry of Planning and Development and the European Union is retrofitting the first health care facility in the country towards achieving climate resilience. In 2019, the Toco Health Facility undertook upgrades toward becoming climate resilient by installing a rainwater harvesting system, upgrading its sewer system and will soon install a photovoltaic system. The overall aim is to
provide a degree of self-sufficiency and short term sustainability of function in the event of being isolated as a result of climate-related disaster event. This project, coupled with many other pilot projects such as UTT’s Electric Bus Pilot Project, Sustainable Alternative Fuels Study, Renewable Energy Projects and Airport Solar Feasibility, clearly demonstrates Government’s commitment to finding feasible and tangible solutions that can be built upon in pursuing resilience to climate change.

**Reduced Fossil Fuel Use**

Trinidad and Tobago’s exceptionally high motorization level (vehicles per capita) demands that substantial changes be made to the transportation sector not only because of its major contributions to GHG emissions but also its significant impact on air quality. Urgent transition from fossil fuels are required along with a more strategic, focused and aggressive emphasis on reducing carbon emissions. The cheaper, greener and more efficient Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) alternative continues to gain momentum even in this fiscal period. The expansion of the CNG network continued with:

- The upgrade of PTSC’s CNG Bus fueling hub station in Port of Spain. This facility caters for the expansion of the CNG-based Bus fleet as well as;
- The construction of one (1) of the largest CNG fuelling stations in the Caribbean at the Preysal Interchange in Couva. The Preysal Station, which is near completion, will be benefiting North and South commuters along the Sir Solomon Hochoy Highway with its 20 filling lanes of which 10 will be for CNG customers. This facility specifically catered for extra heavy-duty trucks, buses, maxi taxis, light duty trucks and sedans.

The number of vehicles that have undergone Gasoline to CNG conversions have continued to grow steadily with a population of about 7,000 CNG converted vehicles. This has shown a slight transitional shift and growth in the use of cleaner fuels along with the fact that the price of CNG remains the lowest, greenest option at the moment at $1.00 for a litre gasoline equivalent (lge) as compared to other fossil fuels.

In the same vein, the cost of electricity is very low in Trinidad and Tobago which makes charging electric vehicles as low as $5 to $20 per week. Our country saw its first public unveiling of an electric vehicle charging station at Regulated Industries Commission’s (RIC) office on Wrightson Road, Port of Spain in fiscal 2019. This exercise promoted the utility of electric and hybrid vehicles as well as demonstrated their benefits such as lessening the country’s carbon footprint and gasoline imports. Furthermore Government continued to impress the utilization of electricity through the use of renewables; through demanding amendments to legislation to allow homeowners to install solar panels for personal use.
PLACING THE ENVIRONMENT AT THE CENTRE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF WASTES AND CHEMICALS

In fiscal 2019, Trinidad and Tobago continued to pursue work toward the phasing out of Styrofoam (or expanded polystyrene (EPS)) food and beverage containers through a collaboration among the Ministries of Attorney General and Legal Affairs; Trade and Industry; Planning and Development as well as Finance. They have been actively involved in the final stages of developing the legal framework to give effect to the ban on the importation of the finished EPS products for the Food and Beverage Sector into Trinidad and Tobago. Since the announcement, a timeline of the last quarter of 2019 has also been identified for current manufacturers to have ongoing production safer products.

Revisions to customs duties are also being pursued to encourage the use of alternatives to Styrofoam. Local manufactures have also been pursuing the addition of a biodegradable resin to make their products more environmentally friendly. There still remains need to improve the culture of conservation and respect for the environment. None the less, the culture of conservation is growing as evidenced during the Tobago Environmental Partnership Conference of 2019. Excellent outcomes resulted from the public sector, private sector, environmental stakeholders and members of civil society who demonstrated support towards a globally progressive initiative of a ‘Plastic Free Village.’ Stakeholders with vested interest in the Castara community have completed workshops, educational outreach, stationed recycling bins and equipped businesses with compostable food and beverage containers in the ongoing drive for moving toward this plastics-free village.

“We don’t have the luxury of time as regards to our environment. We have to take action now.”

Kwesi Des Vignes

Secretary of the Division of Infrastructure, Quarries, and the Environment (THA) - Environmental Partnership Conference in praise of the work of the Castara Tourism Development Association (CTDA) and the Castara community.

The Natural, non-commercial and picturesque Community of Castara poised to be global leaders in the country’s first Plastic-free Village

(Continued on page 107)
The iCARE Project is also one of the vehicles through which the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago advances National Sustainable Development Goals that are aligned with the 17 International SDGs established by the United Nations.

Hayden Romano
Managing Director (EMA)

These have been some of the approaches that have been engendered towards waste management, and recycling. It has been further transitioned to focus mainly on youth education with the roll out of the school programme for ‘iCARE.’ The Recyclable Solid Waste Collection Project, iCARE, is the first national recycling initiative in Trinidad and Tobago.

Operational since 2015, this Green Fund-sponsored project has been steadily progressing key objectives of expanding recycling infrastructure into schools and communities, to increasing public awareness and participation in recycling and to preparing the country for the passage of the country’s Waste Rules. Public sensitisation continued to support the correct usage of the bins with 72 public outreach events, starting with a baseline of 11 in 2015, reaching the targeted number for 2020.

In collaboration with the regional councils, the number of iCARE bins established in public locations for collecting recyclable beverage containers has also increased from 72 bins in 2015 to 142 as of July 2019. Three (3) pilot recycling collection depots were established in Claxton Bay, Sea Lots and Guanapo at the SWMCOL.

The Sorting Depots are chiefly established for processing recyclable beverage containers and in 2015 there were on average 7,978 bags collected. As of July 2019 there have been 34,872 bags collected and the increasing trend is expected to continue as efforts intensify. Public outreach efforts continued with one of the largest Carnival Bands, Tribe, partnering with iCare to introduce and create a more environmentally friendly Carnival experience which was consequently highlighted at UN Environment Assembly and the 2019 UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment.

The roll out of the school programme was launched in January 2018 and placement of bins commenced in October 2018. The number of iCARE bins established in schools for collecting recyclable beverage containers has grown from nine (9) in 2015 to a remarkable 516 as of July 2019.
Monitoring of air pollution is another area that was addressed. In January 2019, a third (3rd) station was established in Tobago at Signal Hill bringing the total number of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring (AAQM) stations established to three (3), with a fourth planned for South Trinidad.

In June 2019 the National Air Quality Index (AQI) was also launched which reports and provides information to the general public on how clean or polluted the air is and can be used to guide those with health concerns.

To date, the analyzed AQI 2018 data showed Acceptable Air Quality at two (2) of the stations, Port of Spain and Chaguanas, with the occasional exceedances of Particular Matter and increases (but not exceedances) of air pollutants during peak traffic. The results showed that the occasions of poor air quality (exceedances) coincided with days that experienced Saharan dust occurrence.

There have also been efforts to manage chemicals through the conduct a national inventory of Persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Additionally, there has been a supplementary effort through the Agricultural Extension Training programmes to engender safer farm practices and chemical use. Courses on the Proper use of Agro-Chemicals including Pesticides, Weedicides, Nematicides, Fertilizers and Environmentally friendly chemicals have been conducted, as of July 2019 24 courses conducted benefitting 405 participants.

(Continued on page 109)
IMPROVED INLAND BIODIVERSITY

There has been an increase in the number of species designated as an Environmentally Sensitive Species (ESS). Most notably, the Scarlet Ibis was the latest addition to the list of ESS since the proclamation of the ESS law in 2001, and it has been one of the most important, necessary designations to treat with issues of poaching, particularly in 2017. Work is also continuing for the designation of the Red Howler Monkey and the White-Fronted Capuchin as ESS in 2020. From an ecological point of view, the eleven (11) species that have been designated thus far as Environmentally Sensitive Species (ESS) signals great progress as a nation regarding the management of our wildlife.

There has been success in creating both plans and legislation to protect our sensitive animals. The legislation also provides exceptionally steep accompanying fines that protect and treat our wildlife with much more respect, consideration and understanding that we have ever had in our past.

"The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated"  
M. Ghandhi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birds</th>
<th>Scarlet Ibis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White-tailed Sabrewing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Humming Bird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>面板</td>
<td>Ocelot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>面板</td>
<td>Manatee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Growing List of Environmentally Sensitive Species Designations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amphibians &amp; Reptiles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olive Ridley Turtle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawksbill Turtle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Turtle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loggerhead Turtle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leatherback Turtle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Golden Tree Frog</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

The development and approval of a National Protected Area System Plan was completed in the last fiscal under the project “Improving Forest and Protected Areas Management in Trinidad and Tobago”. This allows for approximately 20,000 square kilometres (sq km) of protected land and marine space in Trinidad and Tobago - approximately 1,933 sq km of land and freshwater protected areas that amount to – 1,866 sq km in Trinidad and 67 sq km in Tobago. The existing protected areas consist of a mix of formally designated areas including 36 forest reserves, 13 wildlife sanctuaries, environmentally sensitive areas and a marine protected area.

The six (6) Management Plans are:
1. Caroni Swamp Draft Management Plan
2. Main Ridge Forest Reserve Draft Management Plan
3. Matura Forest and Coastal Zone Draft Management Plan
4. Nariva Swamp and Coastal Zone Draft Management Plan
5. North East Tobago Marine Pilot Protected Area Management Plan, and

The new Protected Area System Plan places an emphasis not only on important terrestrial areas, but, also includes marine and freshwater ecosystems. Of the 136 proposed Protected Areas, 92 are terrestrial/freshwater (79 in Trinidad and 13 in Tobago), 40 are coastal/marine (18 in Trinidad, and 22 in Tobago) and 4 are deep-seas marine areas. Draft versions of Management Plans for six (6) pilot protected areas were developed after extensive consultation. These preliminary outputs are expected to support a stronger management approach that could be implemented for the site over a ten-year period that is informed by baseline biological surveys, conservation objective statements and site-specific communication strategies.

The signaling of the Scarlet Ibis as an ESS also comes with the completion of a large scale study of the Caroni River Basin that sought to find the sources of land-based pollutants and their paths of transport to the ecosystem. The project has successfully developed information about sources of pollution, bacteria and heavy metal risks in oyster and crab harvested at the swamp, fresh and saltwater mixing and flow patterns, all of which can now be used systematically to support and inform decisions on policy and law. It will also help direct the national budget towards more focused investment into environmental programmes that treat with issues within the catchment area.

Coastal Protection
Trinidad and Tobago has a coastline length of just over 700km and the issues of coastal erosion and flooding continue to be of significant threat to communities along the coastline. In 2019, the Comprehensive National Coastal Monitoring Programme (CNCMP) began, which aims to support the monitoring of the state of Trinidad and Tobago’s coastal areas and promote the adoption
of environmentally and economically sustainable solutions to preserve and protect the coast began. For this reporting period, Phase 1 of the project saw the establishment of a framework for the successful implementation of the programme and the signing of a letter of intent between the Ministry of Works and Transport and CNCMP project partners, the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) and the Tobago House of Assembly (THA), Division of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment (DIQE).

**Restoration and Reforestation**

From the late 1980s to 2018, at least a quarter million acres (more than 100,000 hectares) of forest were burnt. Most of this damage has been as a result of man-made fires. The rising temperatures associated with climate change; acts of deforestation on private land in the Northern Range; and unmanned and illegal burning activities; places additional pressure on the total forested area of Trinidad and Tobago. Therefore, negligent acts of setting fires have been met with increased fines from $1,500 to $20,000 in January 2019, as deterrents, notwithstanding the need for improved policy and updated legislation.

Despite the indiscriminate burning of thousands of hectares every year, there has been an increase in the area of land reforested from the 2015 baseline by 710 hectares. Even though land use depleted the area of forested lands, namely via mining and quarrying, restoration of about seven (7) hectares of abandoned quarry pits at the National Quarries Sand and Gravel Division at Turure, Guaico, was maintained by a team of trained community rehabilitation officers twice a week. The three (3) demonstration sites involved interventions such as soil nutrification, replanting of mixed forest species; constructing of live check dams; planting of vetiver for soil stabilization and the introduction of small scale agro-forestry, and plans are also being implemented to rehabilitate another three (3) hectares with agro-forestry along with a further one (1) hectare demonstration site at another sand pit in lower Matura. This Global Environmental Facility’s Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems (GEF IWECO) project commenced with the aim to restore 40 hectares of abandoned or exhausted quarry pits throughout the North East of Trinidad and is due to be completed by August 2023.
The management of the marine environment is critical as there is about 15 times more sea space than land space in and around Trinidad and Tobago. The development and approval of a National Protected Area System Plan as aforementioned also allowed for proposed coastal and marine protected areas of approximately 580 sq km of which 14 sq km is in Trinidad while the majority, 566 sq km, is in Tobago. Likewise, there are proposed open-ocean waters and deep-sea marine areas that cover 15,600 sq km under the National Protected Area System Plan which altogether contribute to the total of 20,000 square kilometres. The new plan proposes 40 coastal and marine areas, 18 in Trinidad and 22 in Tobago; and four deep-sea marine areas, which contribute to the 136 protected areas under the Plan.

The people of Trinidad and Tobago share a very special connection with our coastal and marine environment. If we don’t want to lose these many benefits, we must engage in activity that protect our marine and coastal environment.

Lester Doodnath
Institute of Marine Affairs

The large sea space in and around Trinidad and Tobago, and proposed number of protected coastal, marine and deep-sea areas This necessitates that management should be undertaken using scientifically grounded tools that aid decision-makers in understanding the condition of some of Trinidad and Tobago’s important coastal and marine ecosystems, habitats and species. As such the biennial, State of the Marine Environment (SOME) 2018 has been completed and will be soon be published.
As such the SOME 2018 report highlights key interventions intended to treat with marine degradation and support marine development and sustainability. The SOME 2018 suggests the need for relevant policy and legislation to enhance our coastal and marine governance framework to promote sustainable development and improved use of the coastal and marine resources while simultaneously protecting the integrity of critical systems and the services they provide.

Another initiative to raise awareness on the vital importance of the country’s marine ecosystems and environment titled “Beyond the Blue” was uniquely tailored to create an underwater/immersive experience through its display layout; use of Virtual Reality (VR) technology, mechanical models, and engaging presentations. This was meant to engage, inspire and influence visitors to heed the call to action to protect the marine and coastal environment as well as foster a special connection particularly with secondary school students.

Additionally, work has been done to strengthen the data and statistical capabilities aspect of fisheries via the Country Implementation Plan of Trinidad and Tobago (CIP-TT) The Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean component has allowed the Trinidad and Tobago Sampling protocol to be reviewed for better integration of Tobago data in statistical models of fisheries The improvement to the models included a review of statistical methodology for better incorporation of Tobago’s data. The project has also allowed slight improvements to the population data of the Trinidad and Tobago Fisheries Management Information, of which the beta version is completed.
The key to effective environmental management is the development of a comprehensive and well-coordinated system to address the many interconnected environmental issues. As such, improving the institutional framework and prevailing landscape of environmental standards to better support environmental management and governance actions, has remained an area of focus.

The 2018 National Environmental Policy (NEP) represents one of the country’s biggest environmental accomplishments and sets the stage for environmentally sensible decisions. The policy using a very wide consultative process involving local environmental stewards from public, private, governmental and non-governmental sectors and was informed by a nationwide environmental awareness/literacy survey completed in 2016.

In 2018, Standards & Guidelines for Hillside Development in Trinidad and Tobago, was completed. to protect against and manage potentially adverse land use and change to the natural environment. The guidelines direct which development can take place on hillside areas throughout the twin-island. The country will now be directed by an established set of criteria for which development can take place on sloping lands with gradients more precipitous than 1:10, through a comprehensive understanding of applicable development standards, suitable land use categories, and the respective land capability classifications. Competing land uses in Aranguez North has also led to the development of localized policy to treat with the loss of prime agricultural lands to residential and commercial activity. The Aranguez North Policy Review has identified flood risk mitigation measures for the area and developed land use guidelines as well as site development standards for the agricultural lands in question.
CHAPTER 7

PLACING THE ENVIRONMENT AT THE CENTRE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND OTHER

The development of policy, legal framework and stronger deterrents to treat with haphazard land use practices remain critical in reducing the social, environmental and economic costs experienced over the last few decades.
LOOKING TO
Over the last four (4) years, Government has worked assiduously towards making Vision 2030 a reality. Through the implementation of several initiatives, significant strides have been made in each of the five (5) thematic areas. However, Government is mindful of the fact that the journey to the full implementation of Vision 2030 and the SDGs is not for the fainthearted and demands consistency.

So as the nation looks to the future in its quest to become a more developed and prosperous nation by the year 2030, it is imperative that we remain focused and devoted to the task that lies ahead. As such, in the upcoming final year of the short-term plan (2016-2020) of Vision 2030, strategic focus will be placed implementing several key actions to accelerate the achievement of the national vision and the SDGs.

These key actions will include the implementation of significant policies, projects and programmes aligned to each of the five (5) thematic areas and the SDGs.

To support the acceleration of Vision 2030, Government will create a system built upon four (4) PILLARS, and EXECUTE KEY ACTIONS to ensuring the success of our national goals. These four (4) pillars are:

**PILLAR 1: Improved Performance Management**
- ensuring that the actions taken achieve the intended goals efficiently and effectively.

**PILLAR 2: Increased Results-Based Budgeting**
- ensuring that funds are awarded based on the results to be achieved.

**PILLAR 3: Strengthening Institutions for Improved Delivery**
- ensuring that public services reach the designated target group.

**PILLAR 4: Data Collection and Management**
- strengthening the system to collect timely, quality and reliable data.
KEY ACTIONS TO ACCELERATE VISION 2030

- Completion of the Arima and Point Fortin Hospitals
- Construction of state of the art lab facilities
- Re-development of the Scarborough Esplanade
- Refurbishment of Safe Houses
- Modernization of primary school facilities nationwide

- Transformation of the CSO to the National Statistical Institute of Trinidad and Tobago (NSITT)
- Execution of Population, Housing and Agriculture Census
- Rehabilitation of the Hall Of Justice, POS
- Construction of Video Conferencing Centre at Golden Grove, Arouca

- Upgrade of the Water Taxi Service
- Purchase of an Inter-Island Fast Ferry
- Increase in PTSC Bus Fleet
- Implementation of Port of Spain East/West Corridor Transportation initiative
- Completion of Solomon Hochoy Highway Extension to Point Fortin

- Establishment of the Moruga Agro-Processing and Light Industrial Park
- Cocoa Industry Rehabilitation
- Agricultural land management
- Development of a Live Music District
- Strengthening the SEW
- Development of National Tourism Policy

- LED Lighting for nation’s play parks
- Full implementation of Environmental Management Policy
- Upgrade of Security Infrastructure at Landfill Sites
Chapter 3

2. Source: Ministry of Health
3. Source: Ministry of Health
4. Source: Ministry of Health
5. Source: Ministry of Health
6. Source: https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/primary-health-care
7. Source: Ministry of Health
8. Source: Ministry of Sport
9. Source: Ministry of Sport
11. Source: Global Status Report on NCD 2018
12. Source: Ministry of Health
13. Source: Ministry of Health
14. Rates forecast based on the trends from 2002-2012 and improvements in the service
15. Source: Rates forecast based on the trends from 2002-2012 and improvements in the service
16. Source: Hospital Utilization Reports 2018 (Forecasted), Ministry of Health.
17. Source: Ministry of Health
18. Source: Pan American STEPS Chronic Non-Communicable Disease Risk Factor Survey; 2012 (Forecast)
20. Source: Ministry of Health
22. Source: Ministry of Health
23. Source: Ministry of Health
24. Source: Ministry of Health
25. Source: Ministry of Health
27. Source: Central Statistical Office (provisional figures and forecasted figures for July 2019)
28. Source: Central Statistical Office (provisional figures and forecasted figures for July 2019)
29. Source: Hospital Satisfaction Rate 2019
30. Source: Hospital Satisfaction Rate 2018
31. Source: Ministry Social Development and Family Services
32. Source: Ministry Social Development and Family Services
33. Source: Ministry Social Development and Family Services
34. Source: Ministry Social Development and Family Services
35. Source: Ministry Social Development and Family Services
36. Source: Ministry Social Development and Family Services
37. Source: Ministry Social Development and Family Services
38. Source: Ministry Social Development and Family Services
39. Source: Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts
40. Source: Ministry of Education
41. Source: Ministry of Education.
42. Source: Ministry of Education.
Chapter 4

43. Source: Ministry of Education.
46. Source: Ministry of Public Administration.
47. Source: Ministry of Public Administration.
48. Source: Ministry of National Security, TTPS
49. Source: Ministry of National Security, TTPS
50. Source: Ministry of National Security, TTPS
51. Source: Ministry of National Security, TTPS
52. Source: Ministry of National Security, TTPS
53. Source: Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs website (www.foreign.gov.tt) accessed

Chapter 5

55. Source: Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC) Customer Satisfaction Survey
56. Source: Ministry of Public Utilities
57. Source: Ministry of Public Utilities
58. Source: Ministry of Public Utilities
59. Source: Ministry of Public Utilities

Chapter 6

63. Source: Ministry of Trade and Industry
64. Source: Ministry of Trade and Industry
65. Source: Ministry of Trade and Industry
66. Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries
67. Source: Ministry of Trade and Industry
69. The Paris Agreement (PA) is an all-nation agreement and effort to strengthen the global response to climate change to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Under the PA, in it’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Trinidad and Tobago has committed to an overall reduction in cumulative emissions from the power generation, transport and industry sectors of 15% or 103 million tonnes of CO2 emissions (MtCO2e); reduction in public transport emissions by 30% or 1.7 MtCO2e by 2030.

